



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

International Conference on Science, Ethics, and Human Development,
Opening Session

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Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you all at this opening session of the International Conference on Science, Ethics and Human Development.

As Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of national parliaments, I consider your deliberations during this week highly relevant to our work.

Indeed, parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, construct the legislation, vote in the budgets and provide the oversight to guide the way in which science is developed, regulated, and used.

The IPU is very keen to promote the role of parliamentarians as key stakeholders in science, ethics, and human development. In this way, we can bring the perspective of parliamentarians to this important subject, relevant to all of us as citizens.

We are, therefore, increasing the dialogue between legislative and scientific communities around the globe, which is essential in solving current and future challenges in our societies.

I also speak to you today as a Diplomacy Moderator of the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator and Co-Chair of the Core Task Force on Anticipatory Science and Diplomacy.

The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator brings together different communities to jointly anticipate scientific and technological advancements to develop inclusive and global solutions for a sustainable future.

This search to anticipate current and future innovations in both science and technology is important for both scientists and politicians, in view of unprecedented pace in scientific advancement that we are witnessing today

It is essential that we begin discussing the ethics of such advancements, both current and anticipatory, now.

Doing so can allow us to guide these innovations with well-planned legislation, framed by both communities, ensuring that the wellbeing of humankind is at the centre of science and politics.

However, if we choose to wait until these advancements come upon us, the pace of these innovations might submerge us, leaving us ill-prepared for future challenges, which is why the dialogue between science and politics you will be having in the coming days is so important.

At the IPU, we recognize the immense value of this dialogue for both parliamentarians and scientists.

In 2021, a dedicated body, the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology, was established, bringing together 21 parliamentarians from across the globe to discuss important topics related to science and technology.

The Working Group on Science and Technology is currently working on drafting an International Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology, which can be used as a framework for parliamentarians around the world relating to the ethics of science and technology.

During this conference, participants will have the opportunity to discuss with this Group, allowing us to ensure the dialogue between science and politics is an integral part of the drafting of this Charter.

At the IPU, we also recognize the potential of science as an area of political neutrality, in creating conditions conducive to peace.

I deeply value our partnership with CERN, with whom we are to hold the Science for Peace Schools in November 2022, an advanced training programme designed to encourage parliamentary staff from around the world to work together and experience models of scientific cooperation.

Your discussions this week will mark the beginnings of our combined and sustained efforts in fostering and mobilizing dialogue between scientific actors and policymakers, surmounting traditional silos.

I wish you all success and fruitful deliberations and discussions.

Thank you.