



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

The birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Non-Violence

3 October 2022

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to say a few words on this special day, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Non-Violence.

I wish I could be with you in person to celebrate this milestone and to contribute to the discussion on the contemporary relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts.

This year in particular, Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy of non-violence take on even more importance when we consider the war raging in Ukraine and its terrible repercussions around the world.

Indeed, Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence is also at the heart of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Since our foundation in 1889, the IPU has been steadfast in bringing together parliamentarians to resolve their issues through parliamentary dialogue and diplomacy.

Mahatma Gandhi urged us never to resort to violence to settle differences between peoples, religions, races or nations.

"Non-violence is the weapon of the strong" is one of his most powerful quotes.

As we celebrate the 133 years of the IPU and 152 years since Mahatma Gandhi was born, these words resonate louder than ever and also offer us hope for the future.