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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

## Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda

Djibouti, 29 November 2022

Mr. Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Mr. Abdel Shafi, Regional Hub Director of the Bureau for Arab States of the United Nations Development Programme,

Honourable Members of Parliament,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to the Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda, which, this year, focuses on the importance of strengthening parliamentary engagement in climate action.

Let me start by thanking our partners, UN ESCWA and UNDP, for the precious collaboration and work done in organizing this meeting at the UN House.

Honourable Members of Parliament,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me restate what is already known to us all. Climate change is a threat that is not just limited to one country or region. Its catastrophic repercussions transcend the natural and political borders of our world. They are destroying ecosystems, harming the health of populations, keeping people in poverty, jeopardizing economies, and wiping out years of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Never in history has it been more pressing to address climate change and its interlinked crises.

To be credible and effective, international commitments—like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement—must be transposed into national legislation, supported by appropriate budget allocation and robust oversight of government performance.

Parliaments must play a crucial role in these efforts.

They are not only well placed to scrutinize how governments are responding to these issues, but they can also use their powers to influence policies and budgets, and ensure they incorporate the SDG framework in its entirety.

Parliaments should contribute to strengthening national ownership and make sure that the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups are duly addressed.

Political will, regional cooperation and strategic action plans to accelerate the realization of the SDGs through parliaments' work, are not only very much welcomed but also indispensable.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Given the urgency to act, IPU Members have stressed the need to contribute to global efforts to restore the planet's ecological health and ensure that all people benefit from sustainable development.

Parliaments are key actors in translating international commitments into national legislation and action. The Parliamentary Meetings we organized around the COP conferences are intended to spur parliamentary action.

At the last one held in Egypt during COP27, I was very much pleased to see that parliamentarians reaffirmed their commitment and recommended several practical measures to confront this serious phenomenon, like for example:

- a) working to adopt laws and legislative models that support climate change mitigation and adaptation and the transition to a green economy;
- b) widening the use of tools such as green budgeting;
- c) strengthening parliamentary oversight in this area
- d) fostering global and regional cooperation to ensure well-coordinated activities in response to climate-related challenges.

I hope that you will seize the precious opportunity given by this Forum to benefit from the rich knowledge of experts, share your experiences, and discuss tangible ways to ensure that the wellbeing of people and planet is at the centre of national plans.

The IPU is fully committed to supporting your parliament, in collaboration with our partners ESCWA and UNDP, also at the national level. It is only through cooperation and partnerships that we can succeed.

I wish you a very successful meeting.

Thank you.