



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Address by the IPU Secretary General, Mr. Martin Chungong, on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> PAM Plenary Session

Monaco, 2 February 2015

HRH Prince Albert II of Monaco,  
Honourable PAM President, Mr. Francesco M. Amoruso,  
PAM Secretary General, Mr. Sergio Piazzi  
Distinguished Speakers of Parliament,  
Distinguished members of parliament,  
Excellencies,  
Good friends, dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to thank the organizers of this meeting for inviting me to address such an august gathering. I have the distinct honour of doing so on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): the world organization of national parliaments and the grandfather/grandmother of political international organizations, having been established in 1889.

I am proud of the longstanding ties of cooperation we enjoy with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. Many of you will remember those days back in 1990, when the IPU decided to set up a parliamentary mechanism for promoting peace and security in the Mediterranean. That process came to be known as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (CSCM). It was based on the very same principles underpinning the IPU's own creation and existence – that peace and prosperity could be achieved through cooperation and dialogue.

I recall with pride the transformation of that unique process in 2005 into your Assembly – the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean – in a bid to give more stature to parliamentary diplomacy in the region. We have witnessed the PAM grow from strength to strength, serving today as a dynamic regional parliamentary forum for examining and taking action on the most pressing issues on the Mediterranean's agenda.

I note that one of the major issues on the PAM's agenda is terrorism. Indeed, terrorism has become a cause for global concern. While your region is gravely affected by this scourge, it has also spread its tentacles to all parts of the world as we heard earlier in the message from the UN Secretary General.

Given the global reach of this devastating phenomenon, we believe strongly that it requires a robust global response to get rid of it. I am pleased to see that you have decided to focus on it at this session.

As you reflect on the efforts required to weed out this scourge, I wish to put it to you that we need to come to a universally accepted definition of terrorism. That definition has unfortunately eluded us all thus far, it would seem.

Like you, the IPU is extremely preoccupied by terrorism and extremism, with the attendant devastating consequences on innocent people worldwide. Most recently, in October 2014, the IPU Executive Committee issued a statement expressing deep concern over the spread of terrorism throughout the world.

The Executive Committee deplored the formation and proliferation of terrorist groups and organizations and was unanimous in stating that “terrorism in any form is indefensible”. A chill runs down my spine when I read of unspeakable acts of terror perpetrated against fellow human beings. For all the progress and development humankind has made, we have failed to learn from the mistakes of the past. History keeps repeating itself and there is no end to human folly.

The time has come for the world to speak with one voice and act as one united front. The time for double standards is over, as recent events have shown. Terrorism must be fought wherever it rears its ugly head. The reality of the situation is that the arms industry is a multi-billion dollar one and not likely to go away anytime soon. Another sad fact is that some countries wage war by proxy in other countries and contribute to the spread of terrorism by supplying funds and weapons to terrorist groups.

From this rostrum, I urge all countries to implement effectively the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and to cease fuelling terrorism by not providing any form of support to uncontrollable and uncontrolled armed groups that contribute to instability and untold suffering.

Furthermore, I wonder whether the time has not come to organise a global conference of parliaments on terrorism where legislators from around the world would resolve to take action at national level to stem the tide of terrorism. I was heartened to hear President Amoruso refer to plans by PAM to convene a regional conference on terrorism. PAM has our full support in this endeavour. As parliamentarians, you have the freedom to tread on ground where governments fear to venture. If we were to convene the said global conference, I am sure PAM would be a ready partner and that the outcome of your proceedings at this session and at the planned meeting in Italy would feed into the conference.

Excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I also note that climate change features prominently on your agenda. As you may know, the IPU is committed to bringing a parliamentary perspective to the global debate on the matter. We are committed to helping secure a global pact on this issue of global concern. That is why I echo HRH Prince Albert's comments that we are pinning a lot of hopes on the Paris Conference in December this year. We are pushing for the adoption of a parliamentary plan of action that would accompany such a pact and which would help parliaments implement measures that address the effects of climate change and put in place mechanisms for reversing negative trends and their nefarious effects on our environment, our global public good. In Paris, we plan to mobilize parliamentarians from all over the world to this end. We are counting on the commitment of the member parliaments of the PAM represented here.

As you will have realised, there is great scope for fruitful co-operation between the IPU and the PAM. I am looking forward to pursuing and strengthening that co-operation. Meanwhile, I wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you.