



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Promoting Parliamentary Action for a Green COVID-19 Recovery
Remarks provided during Activity 1: Capacity Building Workshop for
Members of the National Assembly of Seychelles

Virtual presentation, 9 September 2021

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to address this capacity building workshop for Members of the National Assembly of Seychelles. On behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union I would like to thank our partners of the National Assembly of Seychelles and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for co-organizing these important capacity building activities for parliamentarians and for the parliament Secretariat with us. Today's event marks a continuation of a long cooperation between the IPU and the National Assembly of Seychelles, which I am pleased to see continues evolving.

In 2020, the IPU in collaboration with UNEP published a policy note that outlines a green approach to COVID-19 recovery and highlights actions parliamentarians may wish to consider for a sustainable recovery and resilient economies while adhering to commitments made under the Paris Agreement. The policy note outlines a number of green economy approaches, including in relation to clean energy, green jobs and biodiversity, and proposes parliamentary actions within each of these areas. The note also recognizes the challenges faced by poor people, women, indigenous people and other marginalized groups, illustrating the need for recovery legislation that is not only green but also gender-responsive and socially-inclusive.

The IPU and UNEP have offered parliaments technical support in promoting sustainable development and climate change action, including by ensuring COVID-19 responses are aligned with environmental and development objectives. I trust today's workshop will provide a deeper understanding of the role of parliaments in ensuring a green recovery in the context of Seychelles and enhanced capacity to strengthen legislation with a focus on clean and renewable energy.

Since 2009, Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and many others have been calling for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels to prevent the worst of climate change impacts. The inclusion of a 1.5°C temperature limit in the Paris Agreement was a major victory for vulnerable countries. The recently launched IPCC report, however, has spoken loud and clear: humans' role in the climate crisis is unequivocal and the 1.5 C target is slipping beyond reach. Immediate, rapid and large-scale cuts to greenhouse gas emissions are mandatory to keep the Paris Agreement goals and parliamentarians have a critical role to play in ensuring the implementation of the Paris Agreement through their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representation functions. Recovery packages for

restarting the economy offer an opportunity to push for climate ambition and shift to clean and renewable energy by promoting low-carbon investments.

The importance of parliamentary engagement in promoting a coherent response for a sustainable recovery from the pandemic cannot be stressed enough. As the members of the representative body, parliaments and parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to lead the path towards sustainability in the post-pandemic era. Strengthening legislation for a green recovery is a key vehicle for countries to transform the climate commitments into realities on the ground. The IPU has worked to strengthen parliamentary involvement in climate action for over a decade and supporting parliaments and parliamentarians in their efforts to tackle climate change is a priority.

I thank you for your leadership on these important issues. I wish you a successful workshop and look forward to further engaging on tackling climate change going forward.

Thank you very much.