



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Laureates and Leaders for Children: Fair share to end child labour:
Survivors and leaders on social protection

22 September 2021

Excellencies,
Dear Kailash,
Dear friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me renew my warm thanks to my friend Kailash for giving me, and the IPU, the opportunity to become part of this growing call for action against child labour. I wish to pay tribute to his untiring efforts to foster a range of coordinated and targeted actions, needed to eradicate this scourge from our modern society. I would like to reassure you of my personal commitment, and that of the parliamentary community, to support this campaign.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Recent figures from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) indicated an increase of 8.4 million children involved in child labour in the last four years. This growth is undermining our efforts and forcing us to reinvent strategies to adapt to the ever-changing challenges we face.

This alarming situation compels us to renew our efforts and creativity to contain the impact of the pandemic on our collective actions, including those of parliaments, against this scourge.

Indeed, it is of the utmost importance for us to invest substantively in **social protection**, including for marginalized children. To this end, a number of related measures and mechanisms should be put in place. These include:

- Ensuring that all children, especially those from marginalized groups are guaranteed access to basic social services;
- Mechanisms to provide social protection for children without parental care;
- Strengthening existing social networks that meet the needs of families, in particular those in marginalized groups;
- Monitoring mechanisms to prevent more children falling into extreme poverty that feeds child labour networks;
- Collecting comprehensive data on families in precarious situations in order to help to define robust and targeted strategies.

All these arrangements fall within parliaments' constitutional prerogatives of law-making, budget allocation and oversight. In this light, the IPU is continuing its awareness-raising work among parliaments, in collaboration with the African networks

of the Fair Share campaign. Our objective is to put in place regular collaboration between parliaments and the national Steering Committees of the campaign. The actions I mentioned will be included in this planned collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I also believe that it is high time to support existing promising initiatives such as the *Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth* – under the leadership of the ILO – which encourages innovative national and regional solutions that could help to eradicate child labour; and *Alliance 8.7*, which supports the implementation of target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Partnership is the name of the game and the IPU stands ready to contribute.

I thank you for your attention.