



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Internet Governance Forum 2022 | Parliamentary track

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Dear Mr. Under-Secretary General,
Dear colleagues,

The Parliamentary Track at the 2022 Internet Governance Forum is focusing, and rightly so on “Addressing cyberthreats”. It comes at a troubled time when our system of international governance is under pressure. This is evident from the IPU’s work every day when we are called upon to contribute to seeking peaceful resolution to conflicts around the world. Ukraine, Yemen, Libya, Venezuela, Mali are just some of the countries where we are using the tools of parliamentary diplomacy to try to facilitate dialogue and political solutions.

And so, it is appropriate that this Forum takes up the issue of cyberthreats, as one of the causes of instability in our digitally connected world. It is clear that we need a higher level of awareness at the political level of the threats that exist and coordinated action to counter them. We need to make good use of the international instruments that have been developed, such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and the Malabo Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection.

The IPU is also making an active contribution to the discussion on a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of ICT for Criminal Purposes. On 6 December we will hold an online discussion to hear the views of parliamentarians from around the world, as part of our role to provide a parliamentary voice to this UN process. We are keen to ensure that this new instrument is grounded in human rights principles. I would like to note that the title of the IPU event on 6 December is “Creating a safe cyberspace for democracy”. Because this is truly what is at stake, whether we are able to have a cyberspace in which democracy can flourish and international governance can be strengthened.

Meanwhile, the IPU’s Committee on Peace and International Security is preparing a resolution that will express the position of the international parliamentary community on the new risks to global security that represent cyberattacks and cybercrimes. I acknowledge the participation in the Parliamentary Track at the IGF of one of the rapporteurs of that resolution, Mr. Jose Cepeda of Spain. He will certainly want to make the connections with the discussions taking place this week.

I want to believe that the conclusions from today’s roundtable and the three sessions of the Parliamentary Track that have already taken place will form another step in the process of building the political will to take action to address cyberthreats and create a safe internet for everybody.

Thank you.