



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Video Message by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

International Day of Parliamentarism

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International Day of Parliamentarism on 30 June is a timely opportunity to reflect on how parliaments around the world are faring.

The good news is that many parliaments are becoming stronger, more resilient and more representative of the people.

For example, according to our latest figures, the proportion of MPs who are women stands at an all-time high of just above 26%.

In another all-time high, the proportion of young parliamentarians, those under 45 years old, has also increased – to close to 30%.

Indeed, engaging with youth is one of the important ways that parliaments can remain relevant.

Public engagement is also one of the key themes of our recent Global Parliamentary Report., a substantial piece of research that we have just published jointly with the United Nations Development Programme.

However, the bad news is that we have also seen, in the past few years, a growing number of parliaments under assault or dissolved.

The parliaments of Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Myanmar and Sudan are no longer functioning.

We are also monitoring major political crises affecting the parliaments of Guinea, Libya, Mali, Tunisia, and Venezuela.

And we are also tracking the circumstances of a record number of 700 parliamentarians, whose rights are being allegedly abused.

International Day of Parliamentarism is also the anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

On 30 June 1889, a group of visionary parliamentarians came together for the first time in Paris, France.

They realized then that the only way to solve global issues was through dialogue and diplomacy.

Today, 133 years later, those foundational values have never been so relevant, when the world grapples with multiple crises and conflicts.

Now, more than ever, parliaments and parliamentarians must step up, be ambitious and take bold action to deliver a better future for the people.

The IPU, as the global organization of parliaments, will continue to empower them, as we have done for the past 13 decades, to meet the challenges of the world today.

We wish you a happy International Day of Parliamentarism.