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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Climate Vulnerable Forum Global Parliamentary Group Dialogue

Kigali, 11 October 2022

Chair of the CVF, President Akufo-Addo,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to speak to you today at the Climate Vulnerable Forum's (CVF) Global Parliamentary Group Dialogue which is taking place alongside the 145th IPU Assembly here in Kigali. This meeting provides an important opportunity for parliamentarians from the world's most climate vulnerable countries to come together to advance climate action and foster South-South cooperation.

It has been stressed time and again that climate crisis is the biggest threat currently facing humanity. I share this view. All around us and across the world, heatwaves and droughts are becoming more intense and fueling wildfires. Flooding and storms are intensifying. Low-lying coastal areas are facing the increasing threat of sea level rise. Irreversible damage is already taking place. We know far too well that it is developing countries that suffer the hardest, despite having contributed the least to climate change.

The science is clear: the planet can no longer handle 'business as usual'. We must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions now if we want to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The clock is ticking with each day that passes.

Climate change is indeed an emergency, implementing the Paris Agreement is more critical than ever. While the Paris Agreement is an international agreement, it must be supported by strong national level-action to be effective. Parliamentarians have and must play a key role in this process through their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representation functions.

Parliaments also have the opportunity to use their powers to ensure that climate action is equitable. The Nusa Dua Declaration adopted at the 144th IPU Assembly earlier this year in Indonesia recognizes that inadequate climate finance remains a major obstacle to effective climate action, particularly for developing countries.

The Declaration calls on developed countries to fill this funding gap and to scale-up adaptation investments for least developed countries, small island developing states, and other high-risk countries, including those that are landlocked, mountainous or low-lying. Obviously, many of CVF's Members come from such countries. Greater support for these countries is essential.

The IPU is committed to supporting parliaments, including those from the world's most vulnerable countries, in their fight against climate change. The IPU will continue to work with key partners to ensure that parliaments have access to the latest knowledge and skills to make sure they can support the realization of their national commitments under the Paris Agreement. The IPU will also continue regularly to foster inter-parliamentary dialogue on climate change. At COP27 in Egypt next month, the IPU is co-organizing a Parliamentary Meeting with the Egyptian House of Representatives to bring together the

global parliamentary community to jointly identify solutions to the climate crisis. I encourage you to join this important gathering.

The IPU looks forward to further building a partnership with the CVF and its Global Parliamentary Group. As we know, climate change does not recognize national borders. Therefore, international cooperation, especially among the world's most vulnerable countries, is absolutely critical. We are pleased to support the cooperation, in keeping with the strong focus placed on climate change in our current Strategy.

I wish you every success during this meeting and in your future work through the CVF's Global Parliamentary Group.

Thank you.