



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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146TH IPU ASSEMBLY
المنامة، البحرين
MANAMA, BAHRAIN
11-15 MARCH 2023 - ١٠-١١ مارس ٢٠٢٣

146th IPU Assembly Manama (11–15 March 2023)

Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Preparing young people for a safe, healthy, fulfilling life: parliamentarians advancing comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) with and for their communities

Manama, 14 March 2023

It is a pleasure to address you at the end of a rewarding workshop on Comprehensive Sexuality Education. I would like to thank the IPU's Advisory Group on Health for putting this issue on the Assembly agenda. I would like to equally extend my thanks to the MPs from Argentina and the Netherlands for accepting the invitation to join the discussion on CSE. Special thanks to the co-organizers of this event, WHO.

As a Member of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up, I call for ambitious, deliberate, and comprehensive action to achieve sexual and reproductive justice for all, in particular women and girls. Sexual and reproductive justice is not negotiable. All work on sexual and reproductive health and rights must consider human rights and fundamental freedoms as universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated. Universal health coverage with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights must be considered essential services.

I hope that you will leave this workshop motivated to do everything in your power to ensure that the future work of Parliament will take steps to promote CSE.

Each of us has a responsibility to move further and prioritize the groups facing the worst disparities in sexual and reproductive justice. On our side, IPU will continue working on issues related to sexual and reproductive health with a focus on addressing discriminatory legislation and improving access to health for marginalized populations. IPU will also keep mobilizing parliaments on ending gender-based violence and harmful practices, by helping to ensure that sound institutional frameworks exist and are implemented, including through the necessary funding.

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