



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

T +41 22 919 41 50
F +41 22 919 41 60
E postbox@ipu.org
www.ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland

Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the
Commonwealth of Independent States

14 April 2023

Mr. Dmitriy Kobitskiy, Secretary General of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS),

Parliamentarians,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to speak to you today at this Plenary Session of the IPA CIS. The focus of this session on the improvement of the legal framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the field of ecology and environmental management is incredibly timely.

It is evident that climate change is now affecting every country around the globe. Increasing temperatures, floods, extreme droughts and more intense weather have become all too common. Irreversible damage is already taking place. Biodiversity is being lost. People are being displaced. Livelihoods and human health are increasingly under threat. The time to correct this and prevent further harm is now.

Parliamentarians must assume a special responsibility when it comes to environmental action. Given their legislative function, parliaments must ensure that strong laws are put in place that prioritize environmental protection and that safeguard the needs of populations who are the most at risk of experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change.

Strengthening the legal framework to advance environmental management requires both a short- and long-term understanding of climate impacts. In order to be comprehensive, environmental legislation must consider a broad range of issues: from waste management to biodiversity protection to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental legislative frameworks must also ensure coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Given limited resources, policy coherence is essential.

As representatives of the people, parliamentarians must also raise the voices of their constituents in the legislative process, particularly those who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of environmental degradation, such as the poor, women and children and minorities. It is also the role of parliaments to exercise oversight and to ensure that existing environmental laws and standards are enforced.

The IPU is committed to supporting parliaments on environmental action. We stand ready to help parliaments acquire the knowledge and skills needed to address the growing climate crisis. The IPU regularly provides tailored technical support on climate and environmental issues at the national and regional level and is a partner on leading climate resources including the Climate Change Laws of the World database in partnership with the London School of Economics.

At COP28 in Egypt later this year, the IPU will co-organize a Parliamentary Meeting with the Parliament of the United Arab Emirates that will bring together the global parliamentary community to jointly identify solutions to climate change. I encourage you to join this important gathering.

The IPU also recently launched the *Parliaments for the Planet* campaign to mobilize parliaments to become greener. The campaign provides parliaments and parliamentarians with the opportunity to lead by example when it comes to becoming environmentally sustainable. You can consult the '*10 actions for greener parliaments*' publication on the IPU website to understand what actions you can take right away to contribute to a more sustainable planet.

The IPU looks forward to further collaboration with IPA CIS, an Associate Member of the IPU, on driving environmental action forward. I wish you very interesting and fruitful discussions and a successful meeting.

Thank you.