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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Climate Vulnerable Forum Parliamentary Accountability Summit at COP28

Dubai, 4 December 2023

Chair of the CVF,  
Representatives of partner organizations and parliamentarians,

I am honoured to stand before you today as the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at this Climate Vulnerable Forum Parliamentary Accountability Summit here at COP28.

I extend my gratitude to the CVF Global Parliamentary Group and the CVF partners, the Global Center on Adaptation, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Global Renewables Congress (GRC), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), for their collaborative efforts in organizing this important event.

As we convene today, I know that this audience is keenly aware that, at this very moment, the most vulnerable people in the most susceptible countries are grappling with the direct and immediate impacts of climate change.

This includes rising sea levels, intensified extreme weather events, and unpredictable shifts in precipitation patterns, food and water scarcity, increased disasters, and threats to biodiversity. The socio-economic consequences, such as displacement, loss of livelihoods, and exacerbated health risks, are pressing heavily on vulnerable populations as we speak. These communities, lacking the necessary resources to adapt effectively, are at present, contending with significant and enduring environmental and social disruptions.

And yet, as the first-ever Global Stocktake exercise concludes here at COP28, it will reveal, unsurprisingly to the participants in this Forum, that the global community is off course in achieving the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.

This stark reality signals not only a lack of progress but a profound failure to address the urgent and immediate needs of those currently bearing the brunt of climate change. The disheartening truth is that the gap between awareness and action persists, leaving vulnerable people and nations stranded in the face of escalating crises.

I therefore welcome today's timely focus on parliamentary accountability. The array of stakeholders involved in climate action is many and varied. While collaboration from all stakeholders is fundamental in addressing the complex and interconnected challenges of climate change, it's essential to recognize that while parliamentarians constitute just one component, your actions carry unique significance and substantial responsibility.

This recognition serves as a powerful call to action, emphasizing the imperative for parliamentary leaders to not only acknowledge the challenges but to actively contribute to bridging the gap between awareness and impactful climate action.

Recognizing the broader scope of your role as leaders, it is essential to extend accountability beyond the typical functions of parliamentary service. Leading by example and personifying the ideals you champion are crucial steps as we navigate the complexities of addressing climate challenges.

This commitment is particularly vital in demonstrating to vulnerable populations, that our true dedication to their wellbeing and resilience goes beyond words. In the face of environmental challenges, it is only through tangible, meaningful efforts that we can make a lasting impact on their lives.

The IPU campaign 'Parliaments for the Planet' empowers parliaments worldwide to adopt sustainable practices, advocating for greener parliamentary operations and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This initiative reaffirms our commitment to translating awareness into transformative actions and contributes to bridging the gap between awareness and meaningful change that has long prevailed in climate action.

In conclusion, I urge you all to embrace the responsibilities of parliamentary accountability and recognise that our actions, both individually and collectively, must align with the urgency of the climate crisis. By doing so, we not only fulfil our roles as leaders but also pave the way for a more sustainable future, ensuring that no one is left behind in the face of rapidly escalating climate challenges.

I wish all of you engaging and productive discussions for the remainder of this crucial meeting. May the dialogues and collaborations sparked here contribute significantly to our shared commitment to address the pressing issues at the intersection of parliamentary accountability and climate action.

Thank you.