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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

WHA77 parliamentary dialogue: Closing session
The role of parliamentarians in moving the global health agenda forward

Geneva, 29 May 2024

Honourable Members of Parliament,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of this parliamentary dialogue. We have heard of the importance of the decisions taken at the World Health Assembly for countries – and parliaments. We have heard of how parliamentarians can strengthen the link between the global and the local. We have heard of the importance of working together. And we have heard of the commitment of having more of this.

I wish to thank Dr. Tedros and WHO for their commitment to organizing this meeting and for initiating a regular dialogue with parliamentarians in the context of the World Health Assembly. We will work closely together to boost parliamentary participation at the Assembly and meaningful engagement of parliamentarians in global health processes.

I hope this meeting has shown you that the IPU-WHO collaboration can provide a platform to support and empower you to advocate for health. It can also provide a toolbox with a number of resources to unpack health issues and learn of successful examples and parliamentary actions. In this regard, I would like to remind of our latest production, already mentioned by Senator Clifford-Lee, namely a new series of podcasts that features conversations with parliamentarians and parliamentary experts on issues that impact citizens and democracies – and it is not by chance that we are starting the series discussing health.

A big thank you to the panellists and to all of you for your participation. I hope to see you, and more parliamentarians, again here next year. But in between, there is a lot of work to do to follow up on key WHA discussions.