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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Closing of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP29

Baku, 17 November 2024

Honourable Speakers of Parliament,
Parliamentarians,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the privilege of delivering these closing remarks as we conclude a remarkable two days dedicated to advancing parliamentary action on climate change here in Baku.

First, let me express our gratitude to Speaker Sahiba Gafarova and the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan for graciously co-hosting this Parliamentary Meeting alongside the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The warm hospitality we have received in Azerbaijan has contributed to the success of our gathering, and we are incredibly appreciative of the hard work of everyone involved in organizing this event.

I also extend our thanks to Mr. Soltan Mammadov, for guiding us through the adoption of the Outcome Document. The discussions among IPU Members leading up to this moment have produced a roadmap that outlines clear and actionable parliamentary commitments. This document symbolises the strength and unity of parliamentary voices in the climate movement.

This gathering in Baku, with over 300 participants underscores the responsibility felt across parliaments worldwide to confront climate change with urgency. Your strong presence here reflects a commitment to take decisive action before it is too late.

For the second year, this meeting took place here in COP's Green Zone. Parliaments are increasingly being recognised as essential partners in the global climate discourse. Moving forward, it is vital that parliaments have a formal seat at the negotiating table at every COP. In these turbulent times, with the world's climate commitments facing potential challenges, the role of parliamentarians has never been more important. Parliaments must remain collaborative, evidence-driven, and unwavering in our leadership.

As we conclude this meeting, we find ourselves confronting an all too familiar message: the urgency for climate action has never been clearer. Over the past two days, we've reflected on the reality that, despite years of warnings, commitments, and efforts, the gap in implementing the Paris Agreement remains wide. This call for urgent action isn't new, but its importance grows with each passing moment. Climate change is increasingly impacting all aspects of our lives and societies. We have heard how climate change is driving food and nutrition insecurity, which in turn affect health, livelihoods, and ultimately people's and communities' ability to survive and thrive. Integrating nutrition into climate policies and Nationally Determined Contributions is essential to ensure resilient populations.

Throughout our meeting we have heard how parliamentarians must not only advocate for ambitious climate commitments but also ensure that they translate into measurable, impactful results. We cannot afford for these commitments to remain on paper. Parliaments' role is to drive accountability, ensuring that governments take decisive steps toward their climate goals. Our unity and collaboration are essential to sustaining global climate efforts, regardless of shifting global priorities.

The IPU's "10 Actions for Stronger National Climate Commitments" offers a roadmap for this, complemented by a new toolkit that offers targeted guidance on overseeing national climate commitments in mitigation, adaptation, and finance. Together, these resources will help ensure our climate commitments lead to real, lasting change.

Over the past two days, we have heard many compelling examples of the power of parliamentary leadership in climate action. These actions show the impact that parliaments can have. Yet, as we look ahead, we should recognise that much work remains. Let us build on this momentum together bridging the gap between ambition and reality, making a lasting impact in the fight against climate change.

The IPU stands resolute in its commitment to supporting parliaments in this endeavour. Through the Parliaments for the Planet campaign and other initiatives, we will continue to offer resources and foster inter-parliamentary dialogue to equip parliaments with the tools they need for climate action. The IPU will prioritize creating spaces for debate, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, as demonstrated during this meeting and I encourage each of you to carry this spirit of cooperation back to your countries.

As we adopt the Outcome Document of this meeting, I encourage you to take its insights and proposed actions back to your countries. Let Baku be a milestone in our collective climate journey—a turning point that strengthens our resolve and enhances our actions toward fulfilling the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In conclusion, thank you for your active participation, dedication, and invaluable contributions. With that, I officially close the Parliamentary Meeting at COP29. Let us carry forward the spirit of cooperation and determination from these two days to drive global climate action.