



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

United Nations Security Council
Open Debate on Leadership for Peace

New York, 26 September 2024

Mr. President,

We are meeting at a crucial time marked by escalating conflicts, rising geopolitical tensions, and emerging threats to international peace and security.

For over 135 years, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the international organization of national parliaments, has worked for peace, dialogue, and cooperation. Our goal today remains the same: to build a world where democracy thrives and peace prevails.

Democracy puts the people in control of their own lives and of their destiny. And it is among the people that the conditions for lasting peace must come together.

Leadership for peace is central to the IPU's mission. It means ensuring that people live not just without conflict but free from oppression and fear; it means fostering peace through justice for all, mutual understanding, and social cohesion. To be successful, it must include the perspectives and meaningful participation of women, youth and minorities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Parliamentarians play a vital role as peace leaders, acting both as lawmakers and opinion-makers. As representatives of the people, they are uniquely positioned to promote dialogue, mediation and reconciliation. They can hold governments accountable to international norms, such as the Geneva Conventions and the UN Charter, as well as to development commitments such as the SDGs.

Our work for peace pursues two approaches: *human* security, which focuses on protecting individuals from threats by addressing the root causes of insecurity; and *common* security, which emphasizes cooperation, reciprocity and multilateralism, stressing that no nation can achieve security alone, at the expense of another. These frameworks complement the more traditional concept of *national* security and provide parliamentarians with practical tools to prevent conflict by improving people's lives.

A pillar of the IPU's peace mission is parliamentary diplomacy, which seeks to bring together into dialogue parliamentarians from opposing countries or factions. This year alone, we dedicated two major debates on this, including our Parliamentary Hearing here at the United Nations.

Beyond words, we support concrete actions involving parliamentarians such as the Call of the Sahel initiative, which aims to pre-empt terrorism by addressing poverty and insecurity in the region. As well, we support dialogue between parliamentarians from countries in conflict, such as in Armenia-Azerbaijan, Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine.

We cannot remain indifferent to the human suffering caused by war in so many places around the world – most recently in Gaza, Lebanon and Sudan – and we strongly call for reason, de-escalation and the cessation of hostilities

Thank you for your attention.