



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, Secretary General

Opening Session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP)
“A Quest for Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance”

Phnom Penh, 24 November 2024

Madam President Sudary,
Your Excellency Mr. Al-Jarwan,
Excellencies,
Fellow Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address the Opening of the Plenary Session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace, and I would like to thank the organizers for this invitation, and extend my appreciation to the gracious host, the National Assembly of Cambodia.

This conference proposes that we embark on a *Quest for Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance*. At this pivotal moment in our shared history, when global peace and security face unprecedented threats, this conference is both timely and essential. This is a quest of *necessity*, at a time where we see that our world is not going round as it should.

The proliferation of conflicts, an accelerating arms race, growing inequalities, climate change and cyber insecurity—the numerous challenges we are facing—transcend borders, affecting all nations and communities. Yet, within these challenges lies an opportunity—a chance to unite, to rethink our approaches, and to reaffirm our shared commitment to building a world where peace, reconciliation, and tolerance are not abstract concepts, but rather tangible possibilities.

The development of a global architecture for peace and the consolidation of multilateralism as the cornerstone of coexistence and inclusion require actions guided by clear principles and supported by the collective will of governments, parliaments, civil society and communities.

Two fundamental principles can inspire us in our endeavours: human security and common security.

Allow me to state (loud and clear) that peace is not merely the absence of conflict. It is the presence of opportunity, dignity, and well-being for every individual. Human security reminds us that the true measure of peace is found in the health of our communities, the resilience of our economies, and the protection of our shared environment.

To state it simply: It is about ensuring that no one goes hungry, no one lives in fear, and no one is left behind. It is about empowering civil society to be active agents of peace and fostering reconciliation through dialogue and inclusion. It is about building systems that anticipate threats to human welfare and addressing them before they escalate into conflict.

In this spirit, to establish the Global Architecture of Peace, we need to call on our governments, parliaments, and civil society to unite their efforts. Together, we can craft frameworks that prioritize the well-being of our citizens and empower local communities. In so doing we will ensure reconciliation and guarantee that every day is marked by respect, acceptance and inclusion.

I would like also to make clear that in today's world our fates are interconnected: No nation, no people, can achieve true security in isolation. Our safety depends on that of our neighbours, our allies, and even those with whom we may disagree or dislike. *Tolerating*, ladies and gentlemen, does not necessitate liking.

Recognizing this reality requires us to embrace multilateralism, ensuring that our international frameworks reflect cooperation, mutual respect, and trust. Similarly, shared challenges such as climate change, the arms race, and cyber threats should be tackled by all states, not as isolated actors, but as united partners. They require responsible governance that prioritises transparency, accountability and respect for international law.

Investing in joint solutions strengthens multilateralism, allowing us to build—and sometimes repair or rebuild—bridges of trust, and to create a world where coexistence and inclusiveness are not just tolerated but celebrated.

The IPU's commitment to peace is very much in line with the priorities outlined the *Peace Charter for People and the Planet* and the *Phnom Penh Declaration on a Quest for Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance*, and I congratulate you for these efforts.

If I may issue a call to action at this stage, I would like to recommend that we adopt a balanced approach that follows the human security and common security approach. To this end, we must ensure that the fundamental needs and rights of all people are met, creating stable and harmonious communities that are resilient to conflict. We must also renew our commitment to multilateralism and partnerships that reduce tensions, build trust and bring mutual benefits to all nations. Finally, we must empower parliaments and civil society to work together to promote these principles, ensuring that peace efforts reflect and address the diverse challenges facing the world's citizens.

By following the path of the human security and common security approach, we will create a world where dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect pave the way toward a peaceful, secure, and just future for all.

Thank you for your attention.