



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, IPU Secretary General

7th plenary session of the Union Parliament of Myanmar

5 February 2025

Mr. Speaker,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

There are not many ‘silver linings in a conflict like yours, where communities are exhausted by years of destructive conflict and the civil war is having a devastating effect on the country’s economy four years on from the military coup of February 2021.

While many will see the conflict in Myanmar as one between democracy and authoritarianism it is also and fundamentally a struggle for identity and finding what Myanmar as a nation will look like in the future.

As elected representatives of the people you may ask yourself what kind of political unity and solidarity you can promote and sustain, and how all of you can use the oppressive past to frame common perspectives for the future of Myanmar.

I believe that many of you hope 2025 will be a decisive year as stated by your Acting President Lashi La last month, and all at the IPU shares this hope for you. The IPU for its part has and will continue to support the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), as we work together to build a Myanmar where every Myanmar counts and where their lives are respected and protected.

After the coup in Myanmar in 2021 the IPU Governing Council decided to recognize the CRPH as the legitimate interlocutor of the IPU. It has re-affirmed this decision at all sessions of the Governing Council since then.

Throughout 2024 we have supported the CRPH in several ways including:

- ✓ A workshop with your International Relations Committee on Advocacy and Parliamentary Diplomacy in February 2024.
- ✓ A workshop with the International Relations Committee to provide advice on helping young Myanmar MPs set up a network of young parliamentarians in May 2024. This workshop included the active participation of the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Mr Dan Carden.
- ✓ A Myanmar MP attending the 149th IPU Assembly participate as a panel on the Common Principles entitled: Parliamentary development, a defence against democratic backsliding.
- ✓ Also, at the 149th IPU Assembly an MP from the Myanmar Women MPs Network made a video presentation to the panel discussion during the IPU Forum of Women MPs on ensuring justice for women and girls, showcasing the role that can be played by networks of women MPs in the context of conflict-related gender-based violence.

As you continue your internal negotiations and planning for what Myanmar will look like during a future civilian government I wish you strength, courage and patience. My ardent wish is that your efforts result in an inclusive Myanmar that reflects the diversity of all its peoples.

The promotion and protection of democracy and human rights is at the very heart of everything the IPU stands for and does, and as you mark this four-year anniversary of the coup, the IPU will continue to be a friend of Myanmar.

Thank you