



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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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

2025 Geneva Gender Debate: This house believes that digital and new emerging technologies are catalysts for accelerating gender equality

Geneva, 6 March 2025

Dear fellow Champions, dear guests, dear friends,

As we conclude this year's Geneva Gender Debate, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your presence, engagement, and thought-provoking contributions.

This annual debate serves as a platform for dynamic and informed discussion. It reminds us that progress is not built on agreement alone, but also on the ability to challenge perspectives, critically assess opportunities and risks, and learn from one another.

At a time when gender equality is facing significant pushback on multiple fronts—through legislative rollbacks, the spread of misinformation, and growing resistance to inclusive policies—engaging in constructive dialogue is more crucial than ever.

We cannot afford to be complacent over the progress we have made over decades. Without robust action, the digital transformation could become another arena where inequalities are reinforced rather than dismantled. We must remain vigilant, proactive, and committed to ensuring that digital and new emerging technologies are leveraged to empower rather than exclude.

I want to thank our debaters for their sharp insights and compelling arguments, which have enriched our understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead. A warm thank you also to our excellent moderator. And of course, my heartfelt gratitude to the organisers of this event, our valued partners at the Geneva Graduate Institute, and the dedicated team at the International Gender Champions Secretariat, for making this important conversation possible.

Let us leave today's event with a renewed commitment to building a world that is inclusive and safe for all—both online and offline. Whether through policy, advocacy, education, or innovation, each of us has a role to play in shaping a future where technology serves as a true catalyst for gender equality.

Thank you.