



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

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Distinguished Chairpersons,

To fulfil the promise of “leaving no one behind” we must urgently advance sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions, and we must do it together.

Various are the international agreements and resolutions that highlight the importance of collaboration. The Pact for the Future and United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/159 on enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals provide meaningful recommendations to strengthen partnerships, including among governments, parliaments and the IPU, to deliver on existing commitments and address new and emerging challenges.

The IPU, the global organization of parliaments, works for sustainable development by mobilizing parliaments around the achievement of the SDGs through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action.

We are delighted to have been collaborating with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) for several years now in organizing parliamentary events leading up to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. In February we co-hosted a webinar, also in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as an associated event of the Forum. The discussion centred around investing in strong public health and care systems while addressing gender inequalities. Parliaments, governments and relevant stakeholders were invited to discuss on how to: advance gender-responsive socioeconomic policies and legislation; promote evidence-based decision-making; and last but not least, foster collaboration and information-sharing. We were pleased to see that this kind of discussion was of interest to countries from the ECE and ESCAP regions, and beyond.

All in all, the discussions showed that evidence-based decision-making was and is crucial, as it ensures that decisions that will affect the society are rooted in reliable and accurate data rather than in assumptions. Equally important is inclusivity. Inclusive decision-making promotes social cohesion and addresses inequalities by taking into consideration the needs of all.

To enhance these approaches, collaboration among governments, parliaments, civil society and other stakeholders is crucial. Parliamentarians can provide an essential contribution to this joint endeavour.

As members of the highest representative body, parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to create the bridge between institutions and the people, and make sure that the needs of all are duly taken into account. As overseers of government action, they can help identify problems and seek corrective measures that can help put the SDGs back on track.

Parliamentarians can also shape policy priorities and improve legislation to ensure that they effectively contribute to SDGs. The IPU recently produced a toolkit for parliamentarians on “SDG-informed legislative scrutiny” which can also be a useful resource for governments, other State institutions, as well as other stakeholders.

The toolkit offers practical guidance for scrutinizing legislation across its life cycle through an SDG lens, thanks to the collection of data and engagement with relevant stakeholders inside and outside the parliament.

I would like to encourage you to consult this publication as it can help strengthen synergies to implement the SDGs and the recommendations mentioned in the Pact for the Future effectively.

Cooperation is the only sustainable way to achieve the SDGs better, faster and truly for all.