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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General

150th IPU Assembly  
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Tashkent, 5 April 2025

Dear Madam President,

I am pleased to join you today as you get together to prepare for a very promising session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

2025 is a year of multiple milestones – we are marking 40 years of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians, 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 25 years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and 10 years of Sustainable Development Goal 5.

As you know, the IPU has already kicked off some of these celebrations, with a parliamentary event on Beijing +30 at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, followed by a memorable Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Mexico which resulted in the adoption of an ambitious Plan of Action. And here, I want to pay tribute to you, Madam President, for being the driver – or should I say locomotive – of this conference.

Here in Tashkent, we will continue to take this agenda forward, with the celebration of the 40-year anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

I look forward to taking part in the special segment of the Assembly on Monday that will serve to mark this anniversary, but also to present key IPU publications and launch the IPU Gender Equality Campaign that we are all very much looking forward to.

We need to raise awareness and show commitment at the highest level of decision-making. I invite you to champion the Campaign and bring on board your male colleagues and disseminate in your respective parliaments the latest IPU publications on women in politics.

In 2025 we can't continue to do business as usual any longer. It is our hope that 2025 will serve a wake-up call, as we witness multiple threats to hard-won gains in women's human rights. And this includes the continued resistance to women's leadership, be it in the form of misogynous remarks, online threats, intimidation or violence, which is a trend that our new IPU study on violence against women in parliaments in Asia-Pacific confirms.

Our women in parliament report shows that in 2024 less than half of parliamentary renewals saw progress in women's representation. And overall, progress is slowing down and threatens to be reversed. So, we must remain vigilant.

So let us seize the momentum in 2025 to continue to show the way as IPU. And we turn to you, the women's movement of the IPU, to push us to aim ever higher until we reach gender parity in decision-making.

Here, I want to highlight the amendments that your Bureau has put forward some of which are being presented for adoption at this Assembly. If they are adopted, we will be able to say we are the first international organization that clearly sets out the gender parity objective. This is a legacy that will long be remembered.

You can count on my full support as your Bureau continues to aim always higher and take the gender equality agenda forward.