



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

150th Assembly and related meetings
Forum of Young Parliamentarians

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Mr. President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians
Madam President of the IPU,

Dear young parliamentarians,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be back at the Forum of Young Parliamentarians again to speak with you all and to mark a new chapter in the Forum.

First allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians on their accomplishments during their two-year term. Your vision has gone a long way towards strengthening this Forum and ensuring that it remains at the forefront of youth empowerment both at the IPU and beyond. And I am happy to report that this Bureau has been the most active one yet. You have been present and have participated actively at every Assembly. It is a testament to your dedication, and I very much hope that this will continue with the next Bureau.

One of the most inspiring aspects of this Bureau has been your sense of collaboration and partnership. At a time when the world is facing many difficulties, the Bureau has shown that it can achieve much by working together. One of these successes is your work in advancing changes to the IPU Statutes to make the Forum younger and stronger. I applaud you for these achievements which I'm sure will have lasting impacts at the IPU.

I also am pleased that the Forum's rules require gender parity in the election of the Bureau, with one man and one woman elected to represent each geopolitical group, and with the presidency rotating between a man and a woman after each term. These innovations for equality are what the Forum is all about.

At the IPU, I am proud that we are walking the talk for youth leadership. You are represented at our Executive Committee, and in the Bureaux of our Standing Committees. And time and again, when a young MP has been given an opportunity, they have stepped up to the challenge and delivered.

This is also why I am especially happy to be here today to mark the first Forum of Young Parliamentarians where the age limit has been reduced to 40. Like with all changes, there will be a period of transition. But I am convinced that this important change will encourage even more young leaders, both women and men, to step forward, take up leadership roles and make significant contributions towards our Organization.

As we move ahead, let us carry this momentum forward. I have no doubt that the future of this Forum, and the future of the IPU, is in good and capable hands.

Thank you.