



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Workshop on reducing methane emissions: A critical pathway for addressing the climate crisis.

Tashkent, 8 April 2025

Distinguished colleagues, partners, and friends. It is a great pleasure to address you at today's workshop on reducing methane emissions - a topic of urgent importance in our collective efforts to address the climate crisis.

As many of you in this room will know, over the years, the IPU has made climate change a central pillar of its work, reflecting the strong political will expressed by our Member Parliaments. Building on that foundation, the IPU is now working to bring more attention and support to the issue of methane emissions, an area that we believe has enormous untapped potential.

The science is telling us that methane reductions are one of the most powerful levers we have to slow the pace of global warming in the short term. It is central to keeping the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach and methane is increasingly receiving the attention it deserves - not only from scientists and technical experts, but increasingly, from political leaders who recognize its significance in the climate fight.

While some progress has been made, methane remains under-addressed in many national political debates. In many countries, it has yet to find its place in climate legislation, public discourse, or policy priorities.

That is why we have launched a new initiative in partnership with the Andean Parliament and funded by the Global Methane Hub, aimed specifically at building parliamentary engagement on methane. The project is designed to help parliaments step into a more active role, raising awareness, strengthening capacity, and making methane part of national climate strategies.

Fortunately, we do not need to start from zero. In Latin America, the Andean Parliament and partners have already laid important groundwork. The platform has brought together parliamentarians and partner organisations from across the region to elevate the political profile of methane. Together we want to build on that momentum, and we want to take it global.

The initiative will extend the lessons of the Andean Parliament's experience to other regions, supporting regional workshops, creating new knowledge tools tailored to parliamentarians, and providing ongoing technical assistance to those parliaments that would like to take action on methane.

Through these actions we aim to create the political space for methane to rise up the agenda and we invite your parliaments to be part of it. If this is something your parliament would like to explore further, I encourage you to connect with our moderator Juan Pablo Letelier or members of the IPU Secretariat here today. We are here to collaborate and to support your efforts.

Methane is not an abstract problem. It is linked to issues our constituents all care about health, food systems, energy, air quality. Reducing it can deliver immediate benefits to communities while helping us meet our climate targets. But only if political leaders choose to make it a priority.

Today is part of that process - an opportunity to listen, to learn, and to spark the kind of conversations that can lead to real action,

Thank you for being here, for your commitment, and your willingness to explore new approaches to addressing the climate emergency. The IPU stands ready to work with you in this effort, to amplify voices, connect regions, and help bring methane into the heart of parliamentary climate action.

Thank you