



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Closing of the 150th IPU Assembly

Tashkent, 9 April 2025

Madam President of the Assembly,
Madam President of the IPU,
Honourable Speakers and Members of Parliaments,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the inaugural ceremony, I spoke of the many challenges the world is facing. I was hopeful that this week the IPU membership could come together, find consensus and propose solutions to them. In some cases, as you know, that has not proven possible. But we must not lose hope. Many delegates have pointed out that they come to IPU Assemblies not just to hear views that chime with their own, but to hear all sides of the argument. To be challenged, to break free of their echo chambers, to look at the world through different eyes. And even when an Assembly doesn't end with everyone on the same page, we are all still enriched by what we have learned along the way. We all want concrete outcomes, but sometimes it takes more time than expected. I am sure the IPU will come back from this experience stronger than ever.

In the meantime, let us accentuate the positive results of this landmark 150th Assembly:

- After an inclusive, exhaustive – and often impassioned – process led by our Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, we have finally passed a resolution on the situation in Israel and Palestine that underscores the role of our institutions in advancing the two-State solution;
- We have also adopted an important resolution coming from our Standing Committee on Sustainable Development on strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts on sustainable development;
- The subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council, including the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, and the Committee on Middle East Questions have all held very successful meetings;
- We have allowed more space in the programme for coordination between the geopolitical groups, the Standing Committees and the IPU's specialized bodies;
- We have had substantive discussions on beliefs and social norms, advocacy for climate action, weapons of mass destruction, and reducing methane emissions, among many others;
- We have launched an exciting new campaign on *Achieving gender equality: Action by action*, promoting concrete actions to achieve parity in parliament and politics, to encourage institutions to become gender-sensitive, and to combat gender-based violence and discrimination.

We have all heard that gender equality is our priority theme of this year. I was gratified to see that just over 37% of MPs at this Assembly are women – not quite reaching our record of 39%, which we had at the Madrid Assembly in 2021 and Nusa Dua in 2022 – but still a sign that we are going in the right direction.

And we kicked off the Assembly with the Forum of Women Parliamentarians celebrating its 40th anniversary, a milestone that also coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. In short, this Assembly – following hot on the heels of the hugely successful Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Mexico – has got our year of focus on gender equality off to a fantastic start.

But this is a bumper year of events for the IPU more broadly – in June, we will have our Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Rome, on the theme *Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future*, and I hope to see many of you there for this important event. And then in July we will have the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva, preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers – a rare opportunity for as many Speakers of Parliament as possible from every corner of the world to gather together, since we only hold this Conference every five years.

I am also happy to see that our IPU family is continuing to grow; we have welcomed Belize as a new Member Parliament, along with two new permanent observers. Delegations from Barbados and Dominica have joined us here in Tashkent to explore possible affiliation too. We are keeping on top of the difficulties some of our Member Parliaments are facing, whether it be in paying their contributions or in transitioning back to democracy after political upheaval. And once again, we have taken steps to modernize and strengthen our Statutes and Rules and we will continue exploring more ways to do so.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to bring the IPU Assembly to Central Asia for the first time, and I could not imagine a better place for our first visit than Tashkent. We were honoured to have President Mirziyoyev's patronage and support for this event and indeed his presence here on Monday, when I know in addition to addressing the plenary he was able to meet several delegations. Thank you, Madam Narbaeva, for presiding over the Assembly and for all your support in the organization of this event. And thank you to everyone at the Oliy Majlis, the staff of this Conference Centre, and indeed everyone who has welcomed us so warmly to Uzbekistan and created the perfect conditions for this very special Assembly.

I wish you all safe journeys home.