



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly Global Parliamentary Dialogue
Closing session

Geneva, 21 May 2025

Honourable Members of Parliament,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come to the close of today's important discussions, I want to extend my appreciation to all of you. This event has reminded us that while the challenges we face are complex, our shared values and collective determination are powerful tools for progress. But as we conclude, one thing must be clear: our work does not end here. We have, for instance, heard about the expectations of MPs in terms of the newly adopted pandemic treaty.

To the parliamentarians, I wish to highlight that commitments made at the World Health Assemblies must come alive through action at the national level. That transformation does not happen automatically. It requires leadership. It requires accountability. And it requires ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

To all of you, I wish to share a call: that our parliamentary dialogue at the World Health Assembly is not a once-a-year checkpoint. It must serve as a blueprint for continuous engagement. We need to create stronger, more structured bridges between health stakeholders and parliamentarians throughout the year, so that policymaking is informed, inclusive, and grounded in the lived realities of the people it is meant to serve.

The world we live in is facing unprecedented challenges—from the growing impacts of climate change to protracted conflicts and economic instability. These crises are putting enormous pressure on our societies and our systems. In such a context, it can be tempting to deprioritize health, to view it as just one issue among many.

But we know better. Health is not a standalone goal. It is a foundation for peace, for development, and for resilience. When we invest in health—especially for the most vulnerable—we are investing in stable, inclusive, and just societies.

The IPU remains highly committed to this work and to our partnership with WHO. This extends beyond the World Health Assembly and the global stage. We are supporting parliaments at the national level to facilitate their access to latest knowledge and data and to strengthen their capacities in terms of legislation, budgeting and oversight. We need strong parliaments to build healthier societies, and we need to walk this path together.

Let us leave here not just inspired but mobilized. Let us take forward today's energy, insights, and ideas into our parliaments, our ministries, our communities. Thank you again for your participation and dedication.