



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

136th Anniversary of the IPU and International Day of Parliamentarism

Olympia, 30 June 2025

Madam Vice-President of the IPU,
Dr. Dionysia, Excellencies,
Honourable Members of the Executive Committee,
Distinguished dignitaries of Ancient Olympia,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, in the historic setting of Olympia, we come together to celebrate the 136th anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Day of Parliamentarism

This special day and anniversary not only honours international parliamentary cooperation – as we saw in the film just now – but it also highlights a year of significant milestones for gender equality, the IPU's theme for 2025.

Indeed, this year marks several landmark anniversaries for gender equality both at the international level and at the IPU, notably:

- the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,
- the 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda,
- and, at our 150th IPU Assembly, the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

As Secretary General, I am proud of the IPU's role as a global custodian for monitoring women's participation in parliament.

The progress since 1995 is undeniable. In 30 years, the percentage of women in parliaments has risen from 11.3% to 27.2%.

Six parliaments worldwide have now achieved gender parity, and parity is no longer a distant ambition.

Yet, despite these gains, we are witnessing a slowdown in progress.

Gender equality is not just a women's issue. It is a democracy issue, a human rights issue, and a sustainable development issue.

It demands action from all of us—especially men in leadership.

The IPU has always been at the forefront of revealing the realities of women's political participation, offering guidance and inspiring change.

With women's representation stagnating and pushback against women's rights in some places, the time for action is now.

That's why, I am pleased to launch today the latest product of the IPU campaign: *Achieving gender equality, action by action*.

This new product *10 actions for gender equality* is designed as a handy guide for parliaments - grouped around three main pillars:

- Achieving parity in parliament and politics
- Making parliaments gender-sensitive
- Creating a world free from gender-based discrimination and violence

Each action is presented with a clear rationale ("Proof point"), guidance and resources for implementation ("Support and resources point"), and an inspiring example of success ("Inspiration point").

The guide is also ready in French and we are preparing the Spanish and Arabic versions.

Let's not just talk about change—let's make it happen, piece by piece, law by law, action by action!

Together, let's ensure that the next chapters of the IPU's history are defined by true gender equality and lasting progress!

We now have a short film about the IPU's campaign before we open the floor for you to share your actions on achieving gender equality.

Thank you.