



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends High-Level Meeting

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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to share some remarks on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organisation of national parliaments, at this important gathering. There was hardly a more pressing time to promote solidarity and what unites us as a human family, while the world is witnessing so much suffering and division.

The IPU has been working for peace, democracy, human rights and the rule of law since it was founded in 1889.

We are grateful for the cooperation with UNAOC and congratulate it on its 20th anniversary. The IPU was pleased to attend the 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais, Portugal, last year, and contribute the parliamentary perspective to the multistakeholder conference on Safeguarding Religious Sites.

In 2025, the IPU organized, with the Parliament of Italy, the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, which took place in the Italian Parliament in Rome and was accompanied by an audience with Pope Leo XIV during the Jubilee of Governments. We were honoured by the important contributions of H.E. Mr. Miguel Moratinos and Ms. Nihal Saad to the Conference sessions.

The Conference concluded with the Rome Communiqué, in which parliamentarians affirmed that interfaith dialogue, when it is grounded in human dignity and rights, inclusivity and respect for the rule of law, can be a powerful tool to prevent division, foster healing, strengthen trust between communities and institutions, and nurture hope to build a shared future. The Rome Communiqué recognizes the important role of multi-stakeholder action and identifies action points for parliaments to contribute to a more peaceful and inclusive future.

The Rome Communiqué was circulated to the UN General Assembly under agenda items 14 and 126, Culture of Peace.

This year, the IPU also launched Part Two of the Parliamentary Report on Religion and Belief, looking at good practices for how parliaments and parliamentarians promote religious freedom, counter intolerance and build inclusive societies, and we highlight the contribution of UNAOC in this latest report.

We look forward to continuing our cooperation with UNAOC by highlighting the contribution and role of parliaments and legislators to upholding individual rights and freedoms, celebrating diversity, and building solidarity and peace.

Thank you for your attention.