



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

T +41 22 919 41 50
F +41 22 919 41 60
E postbox@ipu.org
www.ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland

Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

151st IPU Assembly – Closing session

Geneva, 23 October 2025

Madam Vice-President of the IPU and President of this Assembly,
Honourable Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliament,
Distinguished parliamentarians,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing my sincere thanks to Ms. Morawska-Stanecka. I am sure that when she was elected Vice-President of the IPU at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent last April, she was not expecting so soon to have to take the reins of a whole Assembly, but she has executed that role with dignity and flair – thank you, Gabriela. And of course, we again extend our best wishes to IPU President, Dr. Ackson, for the elections in Tanzania and hope to see her again soon.

At a time when conflicts and crises continue to rage around the world, it is once again a great comfort to me that IPU Assemblies – your Assemblies, as IPU Member Parliaments – remain beacons of hope. Over the past few days, I have witnessed a renewed spirit of cooperation among the IPU membership, and the evidence of that spirit is all around us in the decisions and outcomes you have adopted today.

The Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis* is a landmark document and it reaffirms some key commitments that I believe we all hold dear – that international humanitarian law is vital in protecting human dignity and tempering the worst excesses of war, and that humanitarian action must be preserved and expanded to preserve the lives of millions. In adopting this Declaration, you have reiterated your humanity and your compassion, and I hope that your actions going forward will live up to the fundamental principles set out in the document.

It has also been a great pleasure for me to see the lively cooperation, across multiple geopolitical groups, that led to the adoption of the emergency item resolution on the scourges of transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security. These constantly evolving threats more than merited the renewed attention of the global parliamentary community, and I am pleased that the emergency item mechanism offered an opportunity for the IPU membership to discuss and convey its response to these issues.

You have adopted an important resolution on illegal international adoption. Children's rights are never far from our thoughts at the IPU and I am pleased to see such a comprehensive document on this complex issue. The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs is also making its voice heard again, saying loud and clear that the time has come, after 80 years of male leaders, for the next UN Secretary-General to be a woman.

Of course, away from the plenary and the Standing Committees, the IPU's parliamentary diplomacy efforts have continued on multiple fronts. The Committee on Middle East Questions has continued its discussions on reform with a view to bolstering its capacities to deal with the constantly evolving situation in the region. Likewise, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine continues to look for new areas of common ground between the two parliaments whose countries continue to be in conflict.

And through bilateral meetings and informal consultations, we continue to ensure that the IPU is lending support to the resolution of conflicts.

During the Assembly, I have been privileged to host the Speakers of the Parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan as they pursue their laudable and notable efforts to mobilize their parliaments in support of the ongoing peace process between their two countries.

I have also been pleased to advance a similar process with the leadership of the parliaments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo following a mission I paid to their region earlier this month.

As this Assembly closes and we look forward to the next, I would like to remind you that the IPU never sleeps. Just next month, we will hold a Parliamentary Forum at the Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar and a Parliamentary Meeting at COP30 in Brazil, and we are co-organizing, with the UNDP, a Conference on AI in Malaysia. We have already begun to prepare for next February's Parliamentary Hearing at the UN in New York, and of course, as you may know, 2026 will be a bumper election year for the IPU...

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to the country, Switzerland, that not only hosts the headquarters of our Organization, but also stands ready to welcome our Assemblies to Geneva year after year. I would also like to thank the unsung heroes of our Assemblies: the staff of the CICG, this Conference Centre, my colleagues in the Secretariat, the temporary staff, the interpreters, the staff that accompany the delegations, the Permanent Missions here in Geneva, the drivers, the caterers. You all keep the wheels of our Assemblies turning and we are grateful for everything you do.

I wish you all safe travels and look forward to seeing you again in Istanbul next April.

Thank you.