



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Strengthening democracy: Toward coherent stronger support for resilient parliaments,
jointly organized by the IPU and the UNDP

Geneva, 24 October 2025

Honourable members,
Dear Colleagues, and friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to this meeting on ***Strengthening democracy: Toward coherent and stronger support for resilient parliaments*** which we have the pleasure of organizing with UNDP. A big thanks to them for a very fruitful cooperation.

I recognize a lot of very familiar faces and am very glad to see the parliamentary support community get together in such a way for what I think will be very thought provoking sessions and exchanges. And I am very glad as well that we have with us today honourable members of parliament who will certainly enrich the debates with their experience and views.

This meeting today will discuss an issue that lies at the very heart of our collective work. It is a commitment to build resilient parliaments and to strengthen democracy. This is not just an aspiration. It is a necessity for the future.

In our ever-changing world, we face challenges that test the very foundations of parliamentary democracy. We are witnessing the rise of division, misinformation, and discontent, conflict, uncertainty around new technologies, climate crisis and an increasing divide between poor and rich.

I am a firm believer in democracy, so amid this turbulence, I see an opportunity. An opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to democracy, to empower our parliaments, and to cultivate resilience where it is needed most. Resilient parliaments are the backbone of strong democracies.

As we all know, Parliament is not merely an institution designed to legislate. It is a living entity that reflects the will of the people. It is the place where ideas collide and converge. It is places where voices, no matter how small, can be heard. It is the guardian of our rights, and the architect of our future.

Yet, what does it mean to be resilient? It means being adaptable in the face of adversity. It means remaining resolute especially when faced with challenges that seek to undermine our democratic values.

To support parliaments to become more resilient, I would like to highlight two opportunities. I believe a first response lies in building a supportive and conducive ecosystem. And at the heart of that is collaboration; collaboration between parliaments, and collaboration with and between parliamentary support organizations, all working hand in hand, sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices. This is an objective I believe we can realize together. Let us remember that collaboration is not just about working together. It is about recognizing that each one of us brings unique expertise and added value to the table. By combining our efforts, we can amplify results and impact and be a force for positive change.

The second opportunity is also a challenge. We must recognize the role of technology in this journey. It is a source of tremendous change, but this needs to be change for the better. In an age where information flows freely, we have the potential tools to enhance transparency and accessibility and also combat misinformation and disinformation. We have the tools to enhance citizen engagement; we have the potential to address many current challenges faced by Parliaments by making use of technology for

stronger, more inclusive, representative and effective Parliaments. But this is a fast evolving world and I think it requires even more so our strong cooperation so as to ensure that it is for the broader good.

Democracy is a shared value across the globe. I therefore very much look forward to the discussions during this meeting. This will be an opportunity to support and learn from one another and build synergies. Let us inspire one another to push through the challenges and emerge even stronger. We must remember that resilience is not about avoiding difficulties. It is about learning from our experiences and emerging wiser and more determined.

We are all champions of democracy and I am convinced that together, we can make a difference.

Thank you