



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

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Theme: The urgency of revitalizing the global peace movement

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Distinguished participants, colleagues and fellow peacebuilders,

It is a pleasure to join you today on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), an organisation founded over 135 years ago by parliamentarians who, like us today, believed that dialogue must triumph over war. In many ways, the IPU and the International Peace Bureau are sister organisations, born from the same conviction that diplomacy leads to lasting peace, and driven by the same belief in peaceful multilateralism.

Today, we meet at a time of great urgency. War and armed violence are spreading. Global military spending is soaring. Nuclear risks are rising. Technologies intended to serve humanity are now being weaponised. Authoritarianism is gaining ground. Inequality, climate breakdown and pandemic threats are pushing millions into insecurity.

And yet, there is hope. A renewed global peace movement is necessary and entirely possible. However, to succeed, we must transition from fragmented resistance to coordinated global action.

The IPU believes that part of the answer lies in reimagining security itself. This is why, with your help, we have developed a toolkit on human security and common security to build peace. This approach invites parliaments and partners to prioritise people over weapons in peacebuilding efforts.

'Common security', as you know, recognises our interdependence: no one is safe until everyone is safe. 'Human security' builds on this by shifting the focus from state power to human dignity and from national dominance to collective well-being.

We must stop viewing arms races as inevitable and start viewing human suffering as unacceptable. Every dollar diverted from healthcare or education to tanks and missiles is a step away from peace.

Therefore, the community of peacebuilders must evolve. Addressing military spending and disarmament is, of course, crucial. However, there is also an urgent need to address the underlying causes of violence, such as poverty, injustice and exclusion. We must join forces with climate defenders, human rights advocates, champions of gender equality, supporters of young people, and democracy movements. Peace is their cause too.

Of all the stakeholders working towards peace, I believe that parliaments have a particular responsibility. They are the voice of the people and have the power to decide where public money goes, and where it doesn't. Through oversight, legislation and diplomacy, they can restrain the impulse to go to war and instead fund peace, inclusion and resilience within society.

Together, let us promote peace with courage, clarity and compassion, not just through ideas, but through actions. The world does not need another Cold War, but a warm peace rooted in common security, sustainable development, justice and shared humanity. Please rest assured that the IPU stands ready to work alongside you.

Thank you.