



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Parliamentary Forum at the Second World Summit for Social Development

Doha, 4 November 2025

Honourable Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar,
Honourable parliamentarians,
Distinguished delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this parliamentary forum on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, bringing together 183 national parliaments globally. I would like to thank the Shura Council of the State of Qatar for their warm welcome in Doha and for their leadership in convening this event to bring a distinctly parliamentary perspective to the Second World Summit for Social Development.

The IPU serves as a platform for parliamentary collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mutual learning — fostering greater solidarity and shared benefits for people across the globe. As the oldest political organization in the world, we stand as living proof that dialogue and cooperation can withstand the test of time. Even in moments of global uncertainty, mutual respect and collective purpose can prevail.

Parliaments are not always the traditional actors in multilateral processes. Yet, they occupy a unique position — sitting at the interface between citizens and the state, and between global declarations and local implementation. Parliaments can be powerful agents of change: translating international commitments into budgets, legislation, and oversight that make a tangible difference in people's lives.

But to truly fulfil that role, parliaments must be meaningfully engaged as partners and as advocates in shaping global governance. When parliaments participate fully, they help bridge the gap between vision and action, between what we aspire to achieve globally and what people experience daily in their communities.

Ultimately, strong, inclusive parliaments are essential to equitable global cooperation. They ensure that our shared efforts — whether in health, employment, or social protection — are anchored in democratic legitimacy, accountability, and public trust.

Today, our world faces a complex and troubling landscape, marked by rising inequality, weakening social cohesion, and increasingly precarious employment. Against this backdrop, the Second World Summit for Social Development is a key milestone to renew our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In April, at the 150th IPU Assembly, our member parliaments adopted the Tashkent Declaration that underscores several vital messages. It emphasizes that people are the most valuable resource in any society. It calls for governance reforms and inclusive decision-making processes that leave no one behind. And it highlights the need for economic policies that benefit all.

It is in this spirit that I hope today's event will serve as a space for genuine exchange — of ideas, of practical experiences, and of lessons learned. Let us use this opportunity to bring stakeholders together to build common understanding and identify shared solutions.

Together, we can ensure that the outcomes of this Summit are not just words on paper, but living commitments that resonate in parliaments, in policies, and most importantly, in people's lives.

Thank you.