



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

Nineteenth meeting of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Geneva, 19 October 2025

Honourable members of the High-Level Advisory Group,
Distinguished panellists,
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure to be here with you once again and to see that this Group is continuing its important work with such commitment and dedication. Each time we meet, I am reminded of the remarkable role that this High-Level Advisory Group plays in bringing together parliamentarians from around the world to address one of the most complex and enduring challenges of our time.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to our Chairperson, whose energy, leadership and enthusiasm continue to inspire the work of this Group. Her dedication has been instrumental in keeping the HLAG active and forward-looking, ensuring that your discussions lead to meaningful outcomes.

As we continue to confront the evolving threat of terrorism, it has become clear that this challenge is increasingly linked to the social, economic and environmental crises of our time. Whether in cyberspace or in conflict zones, terrorist and extremist groups continue to exploit inequalities, instability and despair.

In regions such as the Sahel, we see how environmental degradation, insecurity and a lack of opportunity combine to fuel displacement, erode trust in institutions and undermine human dignity.

Parliamentarians embody the values of representation, dialogue and accountability, the very principles that violent extremism seeks to destroy.

The IPU established this Group to strengthen that voice and to provide a space for political dialogue, knowledge exchange and parliamentary action. Since its inception, the HLAG has become a trusted platform connecting parliamentarians, experts and partners in the shared pursuit of peace and security.

Today's agenda builds on that legacy. You will examine how climate change and resource scarcity interact with violent extremism, how parliaments can support education, rehabilitation and resilience, and how we can advance the implementation of the Call of the Sahel, an initiative that symbolizes parliamentary solidarity with one of the world's most fragile regions.

I am encouraged that this Group is broadening its vision beyond traditional counterterrorism approaches. Security cannot be achieved by force alone; it requires inclusion, opportunity and resilience: what we call "positive peace". The proposals before you, including parliamentary visits to the Sahel, the Positive Peace framework, and education and rehabilitation initiatives, show that this Group is moving from ideas to action.

Your work here resonates far beyond this room. It supports the broader United Nations agenda for peace, sustainable development and human security, and reinforces the belief that the most powerful antidote to extremism is good governance, equality and hope.

As you begin your deliberations today, I urge you to think and act collectively. Let us outline the next steps to support affected communities, strengthen prevention efforts, and ensure that our work yields tangible results.

I wish you a productive and inspiring discussion.

Thank you.