



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

Pre-Summit meeting to prepare for the Third Global Parliamentary Summit against
Hunger and Malnutrition

10 November 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. We are grateful to partner with FAO in the lead-up to the Third Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition. I would like to thank FAO for convening this pre-Summit to build ownership and a shared understanding of priorities and challenges.

The IPU strives to strengthen parliamentary institutions for democracy, equity and sustainability. Food systems are central to that. What we eat affects our health, our ability to learn, to work, and to contribute meaningfully to society. But we must also ask: How is our food produced? Who has access to it? And what are the broader consequences of our food systems? These questions take us to the heart of development. The way we produce, distribute, and consume food has profound implications for the environment, for equity, and for the well-being of future generations. Without sustainable, inclusive food systems, we will not achieve any of the Sustainable Development Goals – not on health, not on climate, not on poverty, and certainly not on hunger.

It is of deep concern that hunger remains a persistent challenge, compounded by conflict and humanitarian emergencies. Women and children are among the groups disproportionately affected by agrifood systems shocks and rise in food prices, increasing food insecurity, child malnutrition and gender inequalities.

Parliamentarians have a powerful role to play in driving transformation. Through legislation, they can enshrine the right to food and make it a reality through more equitable and sustainable food production, healthier diets and better food education. In the midst of concurrent crises at different levels – and the budgetary constraints that follow – parliamentarians can shift the narrative to invest in food systems to build a more resilient and prosperous future.

But food systems are complex and sit at the intersection of multiple issues. The IPU's work on health and climate change has shown that climate-induced food insecurity is a major concern for parliamentarians and it requires us to embrace that complexity. Climate change is already disrupting food production through droughts, floods, and extreme weather events. But food production is also a major contributor to climate change.

Methane for example, particularly from areas like livestock, rice production and food waste, is more powerful than carbon dioxide and has contributed around 30% of the global warming we experience today. Addressing methane is therefore crucial for climate and food systems alike.

Unfortunately, too often sectors operate in silos. We must break down these barriers. The transformation of food systems demands cross-sectoral collaboration, and parliaments can lead the way by scaling up coordination among parliamentary committees and integrating policy and legislative responses across sectors.

The most important ingredients for success are dialogue and solidarity. We must not work in isolation. Sharing knowledge, learning from peers, building coalitions across parliaments and with other

stakeholders – this is how we mobilize political will, shape leadership and collaboration at every level. The IPU is committed to continuing its collaboration with FAO and other partners to offer a platform for collective parliamentary action. Together we can craft a path towards development, sustainability and equity.

Thank you.