



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Speaking Points for Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Regional Seminar for Parliaments of the Western Balkans

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Honourable Speakers and Members of Parliament,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you today at the opening of this Regional Seminar for Parliaments of the Western Balkans. The Inter-Parliamentary Union is honoured to organize this event together with Parliament of Montenegro, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. Indeed, I remember fondly my discussion with parliamentarians of Montenegro on this matter. I am glad our collective dream has materialized.

We meet at a decisive moment for climate action. Climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is already affecting the lives, livelihoods and security of people across the globe, including in the Western Balkans. Rising temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events, increasing pressure on natural resources, and growing risks to food, water and energy systems are becoming realities that require urgent and coordinated responses.

Parliaments play a critical role in shaping these responses. Through legislation, budgetary decisions, oversight and representation, parliaments are truly in the driver's seat. They translate international commitments into national action, ensure that policies are effectively implemented, and give voice to the concerns of their constituents.

Regional cooperation is essential to advancing these efforts. Climate change does not respect national borders. It does not have a national passport. Shared water resources, infrastructure and energy systems require joint solutions. Stronger parliamentary cooperation across the Western Balkans can facilitate the exchange of good practices and strengthen regional resilience. It is encouraging that enhancing regional cooperation on climate change will be a central focus of this seminar.

Parliaments can work together to advance the green transition, which is both a necessity and an opportunity. Moving towards low-carbon, climate-resilient economies can stimulate innovation, attract investment, create jobs and enhance energy security, while improving environmental outcomes. For the Western Balkans, this transition can drive economic opportunities and strengthen regional competitiveness.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This seminar provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen partnerships, share experiences and identify practical solutions that support sustainable development across the region. The IPU stands ready to support you in these efforts. We are dedicated to ensuring that you have a regular platform for these rich exchanges as they are essential for promoting effective climate action.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Addressing climate change requires decisive and forward-looking leadership. By working together, parliaments can help build resilient economies, protect natural resources and secure a sustainable future for the next generation in the Western Balkans and beyond.

I wish you productive discussions and successful outcomes during this seminar.

Thank you.