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# Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Regional Seminar for Parliaments of Eurasia  
Opening session

Dushanbe, 22 May 2026

Mr. Vice-Speaker of House of Representatives of the Republic of Tajikistan,  
Members of Parliament,  
Distinguished representatives,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you at the opening of this Regional Seminar for Parliaments of Eurasia on *Addressing climate change and sustainable development through parliamentary action*.

On behalf of the IPU I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting this important gathering in Dushanbe, and for its excellent cooperation with the IPU in organizing this seminar.

At a time when our world faces growing environmental, economic and social pressures, this meeting could not be more timely. Across Eurasia, communities are already experiencing the impacts of climate change in very tangible ways. From water scarcity and melting of glaciers to extreme weather events, air pollution and threats to food security and public health, climate impacts are already being felt. These challenges do not stop at national borders. They affect the stability, prosperity and well-being of entire regions.

At the same time, climate change is closely linked to the broader sustainable development agenda. It affects our ability to eradicate poverty, ensure access to clean water and health services, build resilient economies, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

This is why sustainable development and addressing climate change are core priorities of the IPU.

As the global organization of national parliaments, the IPU firmly believes that parliaments have a central role to play in shaping effective responses to these shared challenges. Through legislation, oversight, budgeting and representation, parliamentarians can help ensure that climate and development policies are ambitious, inclusive and effective.

The IPU is committed to supporting parliaments in this work.

We do this by convening parliaments from across regions to exchange experiences and good practices, by promoting dialogue and cooperation on common challenges, and by providing tailored support to strengthen parliamentary action on climate change and sustainable development. This regional seminar reflects exactly that mission.

During this seminar, you will discuss some of the most pressing issues facing the Eurasian region. This includes the overall climate and sustainable development landscape, the safeguarding of water resources, the urgent need to tackle air pollution and methane emissions, and opportunities for stronger collective parliamentary action.

These are deeply interconnected issues. They require not only national solutions, but also regional solidarity and cooperation.

I am particularly encouraged that this seminar places strong emphasis on interactive dialogue and peer exchange. Parliamentarians bring unique perspectives grounded in the realities of the people they represent. By learning from one another's experiences, including both successes and challenges, you can help identify practical pathways forward.

I also welcome the focus on mapping the way forward for collective parliamentary action in Eurasia. The IPU stands ready to continue accompanying you, as representatives of Eurasian parliaments, in these efforts.

We will continue to provide platforms for dialogue, support parliamentary capacity-building, and facilitate cooperation between parliaments and key partners at the national, regional and international levels.

Ladies and gentlemen, the scale of the climate challenge can sometimes appear overwhelming. But we should also recognize that this is a moment of opportunity. It is an opportunity to accelerate the transition towards more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies.

Parliaments are indispensable actors in making that transition a reality. Your leadership matters. Your decisions matter. And your cooperation across borders matters.

This seminar provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen partnerships, share experiences and identify practical solutions that support sustainable development across the region.

I therefore encourage all participants to engage actively in the discussions over the coming days, to share openly your experiences and ideas, and to use this seminar as an opportunity to strengthen parliamentary partnerships across Eurasia.

The IPU is dedicated to ensuring that you have a regular platform for these rich exchanges as they are essential for promoting effective climate action and for truly achieving sustainable development in Eurasia and beyond.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and every success for the seminar. Thank you.