



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

75th World Health Assembly

Geneva, 23 May 2022

Dear Mr. Director-General – Dear Dr. Tedros,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, representing 179 national parliaments and more than 46,000 parliamentarians worldwide, enjoys a long-standing collaboration with the World Health Organization. This collaboration has enabled us to bring the parliamentary and scientific communities closer together to better deliver on health, equity and human rights.

We know that unfortunately too many people do not have the privilege of living in peaceful societies. In addition to ongoing conflicts, the climate change crisis and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated poverty, inequalities and exclusion, that can lead to social tensions and violence.

We are committed to even stronger parliaments that must create pathways for peace, safeguard fundamental rights and ensure inclusive development. The IPU has been serving as the hub for worldwide parliamentary dialogue for over 130 years, while strengthening parliaments' capacities to serve and represent the people. In the face of today's complex challenges, ensuring a dialogue between the people and their parliament is crucial. The latest Global Parliamentary Report shows how public engagement can ensure communities get their voices heard in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Parliaments must join all other stakeholders to guarantee progress. We look forward, therefore, to strengthening our ongoing partnership with WHO.