



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Strengthening Parliamentary Engagement in UN Human Rights Mechanisms: Focus on
the UPR and the CEDAW Committee

Two-day workshop organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the
Parliament of Mongolia
Opening session

23 June 2025

Dear Chairman of the State Great Hural,
Dear members of parliament,
Distinguished guests,
Dear participants,

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all of you. I thank the State Great Hural of Mongolia for their collaboration in organizing this workshop, which aims to strengthen parliamentary engagement in the Universal Periodic Review and the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Mongolia is no stranger to democratic transformation. In just over three decades, your country has built and fostered institutions that reflect the will of the people and a Parliament that increasingly champions the values of inclusion, accountability, and rights-based governance. Today, the State Great Hural stands not only as the legislative body of Mongolia—but as a symbol of your nation's enduring commitment to human rights and democratic governance. Since 2024, your Parliament has become even more representative of its people, with over 1 in 4 MPs currently being a woman. And you have charted a path to further increase this proportion.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is proud to have accompanied you on this journey. Our partnership, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2022 and renewed in 2024, is rooted in shared principles and a common purpose: to strengthen parliaments as protectors and promoters of human rights and gender equality.

The self-assessment on human rights and gender sensitivity conducted in 2023 stands as a landmark achievement, making Mongolia the first Parliament to use the IPU's new toolkit to undertake a human rights self-assessment, and it did so by also applying the gender-sensitive parliament toolkit. This reflective exercise demonstrated your commitment not only to evaluate but also to act, ensuring that your parliamentary structures, practices, and policies reflect the highest standards of equality and inclusivity. Your initiative was followed by a focused workshop on the UPR earlier this year and now by this national seminar, which builds on those foundations and addresses the role of your Parliament in engaging in both the UPR and the work of the CEDAW Committee.

Parliamentary engagement in UN human rights mechanisms such as the UPR and CEDAW is essential, because parliaments are at the crossroad where international commitments meet domestic reality. On the one hand, the UPR enables parliamentarians to assess national progress across all human rights, propose reforms, and hold government accountable for implementing recommendations. The CEDAW Convention, on the other hand, offers a vital framework for eliminating discrimination and ensuring gender equality in all spheres of life. In both cases, parliament's leadership and participation can significantly strengthen transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance.

You, parliamentarians, have the power of putting human rights and gender equality at the centre of political action. This workshop therefore aims to bring parliamentarians together not just to learn, but to lead. Over the next two days, you will deepen your understanding of the UPR and CEDAW mechanisms, explore Mongolia's progress since its last reviews, and identify concrete priorities for the way forward. Through working groups, peer exchanges and expert discussions, you will assess how the State Great Hural can help fulfil the recommendations of international human rights bodies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In November 2025, Mongolia will undergo its next UPR cycle. This is a crucial opportunity to showcase your efforts, acknowledge remaining challenges, and renew your pledges before the international community. The Parliament's active contribution to the national UPR report, due in July, is essential.

Equally important is Mongolia's implementation of the CEDAW Convention and preparation for the next CEDAW report which is due in 2026. As the 2022 CEDAW review has made clear, efforts must continue to eliminate gender-based violence, promote women's political participation, and advance equality in education and employment.

Let us, therefore, seize this opportunity to move from commitment to implementation, from plans to action. You can count on the unwavering support of the IPU in this shared journey to help parliaments like yours become champions of human rights, equality, and justice.

I wish you a very successful meeting.

Thank you.