



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

83rd meeting of the Committee on Middle East Questions

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Ladies and gentlemen,
Esteemed members of the Committee,

It is an honour to address you today as we convene for the 83rd meeting of the Committee on Middle East Questions.

This Committee has long been at the heart of the IPU's parliamentary diplomacy efforts, offering a dedicated space for dialogue, understanding and engagement, regarding one of the most complex and enduring regions of concern for our global membership. We meet at a moment of profound gravity. We are witnessing the emergence of a new era shaped by endings of conflicts, destruction and ongoing wars across the Middle East — foremost among them, the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and the war in Gaza.

The Middle East remains at the forefront of the world's conscience and, once again, our Committee is called upon to live up to its responsibilities — not only to bear witness to crisis, but to help shape what comes after. For over 135 years, the IPU has been a platform for parliamentary solidarity and multilateral dialogue. During that time, few issues have mobilized this Organization more than the situation in the Middle East. Through its many resolutions and debates, this Committee has carried the hopes and concerns of parliaments across the globe.

Let us remember this: the work of parliamentarians does not end in times of conflict — it intensifies. It is in moments of reconstruction — of rebuilding peace, institutions and coexistence — that the parliamentary voice becomes ever more indispensable.

The IPU offers not only a forum for discussion, but a toolbox for cooperation: resolutions that give voice to international law and shared principles, dialogue platforms that build trust, and concrete support for parliaments facing hardship or transition. We must mobilize this toolbox in service of a just, lasting peace.

It is time to look beyond the present crisis and prepare for what lies ahead. I believe the moment has come to begin reflecting seriously on the convening of a Global Parliamentary Conference for Peace in the Middle East. Such a conference would not be a substitute for political negotiations — but it would affirm that the voice of parliamentarians is essential to peacebuilding. It would create a shared parliamentary vision, grounded in coexistence, legality and mutual respect.

One thing is clear: both Palestinians and Israelis seek safety, security and dignity.

As parliamentarians, your role is to preserve life through diplomacy, dialogue and creative solutions. We must ensure that the hope of a peaceful future is not lost, and that parliaments can become spaces of transformation, not polarization.

In this spirit, the IPU stands ready to:

- Support the work of this Committee;
- Provide technical, legal and institutional tools;
- And engage the global parliamentary community in concrete contributions to peace.

This is also a moment for us to reflect on the future role and format of this Committee. How can we strengthen its impact? How can we ensure it remains not only a forum for discussion, but a driving force for parliamentary diplomacy in the region?

Let this meeting mark not only a recommitment to our shared principles — but a renewed determination to act.

Thank you.