



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Inaugural Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference (ISC) on the theme *Peace, Security and Development*

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Excellencies,
Honourable Speakers of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to provide a video message to the maiden meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference, on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I am sending my best wishes to you in Islamabad from Geneva, where the headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union are located.

As many of you may know, the Inter-Parliamentary Union is the global organisation of national parliaments. It was founded in 1889 as the first political, multilateral organisation in the world. 136 years later, our membership has grown to be near universal, with 183 national parliaments representing around 46,000 MPs around the world.

I was pleased to hear about the theme of this inaugural Conference on *Peace, Security and Development*, which strongly aligns with the IPU's mission and ongoing work. The IPU promotes democracy, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, climate action, and sustainable development through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action.

All our work is grounded in the desire to foster peace and security. The IPU encourages a *human security* approach to peace, which is about creating an enabling environment for human development where basic needs are met. This is complemented by a *common security* approach, which is based on the understanding that one country's security is inseparable from that of its neighbours and the broader international community.

We strongly believe that peace and security are intertwined, and very much bound up in achieving good development outcomes for all people.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this moment in time, where the world is beset by many conflicts and trust in multilateralism and democratic institutions is declining, the importance of inter-parliamentary dialogue, cooperation and diplomacy for peace, justice and prosperity for all cannot be underestimated.

This was highlighted during the 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which took place in July of this year and convened over 100 Speakers of Parliament and 34 Deputy Speakers, including several of you at the present gathering. The high-level declaration of that colossal gathering conveyed the message that global challenges required coordinated responses. It committed Speakers, in particular, to “help inspire public debate, uphold democratic practices in our parliaments and engage in parliamentary diplomacy to advance peace and understanding among peoples. Above all, we can exercise moral leadership and serve as role models for our fellow parliamentarians and citizens at large.”

I wish you a successful meeting. May you leverage the good work of parliamentary diplomacy in your discussions to promote peace, security and development.