



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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For the Presidents  
of all IPU Groups

Geneva, 16 July 2014

Office of the  
IPU Secretary General

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The International Day of Democracy will be celebrated on 15 September, as it has been every year since 2008. This International Day provides a special opportunity for parliaments around the world to engage citizens, particularly young people, in discussions about parliament and democracy.

The theme for 2014 is “Engaging youth on democracy”. I believe that this theme will resonate with many people, and is relevant for countries throughout the world. It is no exaggeration to say that the future of democracy (and of everything else, for that matter) really is in the hands of youth.

The theme will be used by the IPU, the United Nations and hundreds of other groups to celebrate the International Day. I would also warmly recommend it to your parliament, for the activities that you may organize on this occasion. As in previous years, the IPU has created a poster to help parliaments promote their activities on the International Day of Democracy, which can be viewed at <http://www.ipu.org/idd/poster14.pdf>. Parliaments who wish to print, translate or reuse the poster design can obtain the necessary files by writing to [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org).

Youth participation has a special meaning at the IPU, where a programme to promote young men and women’s involvement in the democratic process is getting underway, in follow-up to the resolution adopted by the IPU Assembly in 2010 (<http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/122/Res-3.htm>). Accordingly, the IPU will organize the first Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians on 10 and 11 October 2014 and has invited all parliaments to attend.

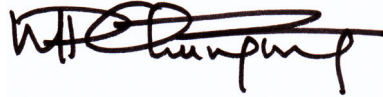
Close to 100 parliaments have organized activities for the International Day in previous years, ranging from open days to essay-writing competitions in schools, radio and television programmes and plenary debates in parliaments.

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In keeping with previous practice, the IPU will track all parliamentary events. You may find some interesting ideas from the reports on the International Day in 2013, online at [www.ipu.org/idd](http://www.ipu.org/idd). You may also wish to approach the local offices of the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to explore the possibilities for partnership on the International Day.

I hope that you will use this opportunity to reach out to young people. I would be grateful if you could inform the Secretariat in due course of activities carried out by your Parliament, so they can be included on the IPU website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Chungong', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Martin Chungong