

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

Biographies of speakers

Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNECE



Ms. Molcean brings to the position twenty years of experience in the public sector with extensive international cooperation and development experience, and in-depth knowledge and expertise across the entire UNECE membership. Prior to her appointment, she was the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office, World Trade Organization and other international organizations in Geneva (since 2020).

Ms. Molcean served as State Secretary and Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Bilateral Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (2017-2020), Deputy Director General for European Integration and Head of the Division for Economic and Sector Cooperation with the European Union (2012-2017) and Head of the Division for Economic Cooperation and Sectorial Coordination at the General Directorate for European Integration (2004-2008). A career diplomat, she has also served as Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to Sweden (2008-2011).

Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination and Programme Results



Ms. Gumbonzvanda assumed her role as UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination, and Programme Results on 6 February 2024. She brings over 35 years of experience in development, human rights, peace and security, high-level advocacy, civil society engagement, and policy development. Her work focuses on women's empowerment, gender equality, and the rights of women and children. Her personal experiences growing up in challenging environments fuel her commitment to ensuring that all women, girls, and their families fully enjoy their rights. Before her current position, she founded and served as Chief Executive of the Rozaria Memorial Trust, an organization established in memory of her

mother. Since 2007, the Trust has supported girls and women in rural Zimbabwean communities through innovative initiatives that promote education, health, and entrepreneurship. Ms. Gumbonzvanda was the first African Union Goodwill Ambassador on Ending Child Marriage (2014- 2022). She holds a Doctor of Laws degree (Honoris Causa) from the University of Massachusetts, a Master of Laws from the University of South Africa, and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Zimbabwe. She also holds a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Transformation from Uppsala University, Sweden.

Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Chair of the International Gender Champions Global Board



Mr. Martin Chungong made double history in 2014 by becoming the first African and first non-European to be elected as IPU Secretary General. In 2022 he was re-elected to a third term of office. With more than four decades of experience and knowledge of parliaments at national and international levels, he has dedicated his professional life to promoting and building democracy

worldwide. He is highly committed to rejuvenating democracy, its processes and institutions and is driving the IPU's efforts to bring more young people into parliaments worldwide.

Since 2012 Mr. Martin Chungong has pushed to strengthen parliamentary engagement on sustainable development and accountability – initiatives that have brought about sizeable impact. He is also a leader in the field of developing programmes to help parliaments become more transparent, accountable, representative, and effective democratic institutions and has further contributed to establishing governance benchmarks to strengthen democracy.

Mr. Martin Chungong sits on the Board of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health and he was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as one of the global leaders committed to fighting malnutrition through the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. He also is member of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up, as well as a Commissioner on the Club de Madrid's Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies. In addition, he chairs the Global Board of the International Gender Champions; a network of decision-makers, male and female, who have committed to breaking down gender barriers.