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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES
MR. LI JUNHUA
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS

Remarks
IGF 2024 Parliamentary Track

16 December 2024, 14:00-15:00
Parliamentary Track room/Press Conference room

Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of Parliaments,
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Parliamentary Track of the IGF 2024
here in Riyadh.

In a digital and interconnected world that shapes every facet of our lives, this
5th edition remains focused on the aim to bring parliamentarians together
with all other stakeholders to develop policy, regulatory and legislative
frameworks that guarantee an open, accessible, inclusive, and secure Internet.

Under the IGF 2024 overarching theme "Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future", the programme of this year's Track places its attention on digital cooperation. Indeed, the need for collaboration across borders, industries, and sectors has never been more important.

From cybersecurity to privacy, misinformation to the ethical use of AI, the digital landscape is full of pressing issues that affect us all, and it is our responsibility to collaborate in ways that are thoughtful, trustworthy, enabling, and inclusive. This will ensure that our continued digital transformation journey is people-centred and in line with the development aspirations of all global citizens.

By being active contributors to the Forum, you help shape our digital future and bring us closer to these global aspirations.

Indeed, as key actors in the development of legislations, Members of Parliaments can build a digital space:

- That does not leave anyone behind from your community and beyond,
- That fosters economic growth through innovation, while ensuring human rights are upheld, and
- That is safer, more secure, and trustworthy.

I truly believe that we can create a common digital future where technology serves as a force for good and global stability.

Distinguished Members of Parliaments,

While the Global IGF is a unique occasion for Parliamentarians and other stakeholders from around the world to come together, I take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of continuing the discussions at regional and national levels.

By responding to a call for increased integration of legislators in digital public policy discussions, we further extended our dedicated Parliamentary activities to local IGFs.

Many of you present today participated this year in Central Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean and African forums, and we are eager to hear from you about the parliamentary outcomes and priorities from your respective countries and regions.

I would like to invite you to further strengthen your engagement with the IGF, cooperate meaningfully at National and Regional forums with representatives from all stakeholder groups and consider the work carried out in these forums as valuable resources for your national parliamentary discussions and activities.

I wish you a successful Parliamentary Track, fruitful exchanges and productive meetings.

Your participation truly matters.

I thank you all.
