

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

**MESSAGE TO THE 128th ASSEMBLY OF
THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
Quito, 22 March 2013**

*To be Delivered by Alicia Bárcena,
Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

I am pleased to send greetings to the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I commend you for your longstanding commitment to key international development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for choosing sustainable development as your theme. The results of your discussions will provide an important contribution to deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals that Member States are currently working to define.

“Buen Vivir” encapsulates the principle that well-being and happiness lie in development that is in harmony with Nature, and that does not depend on relentlessly increasing consumption and production. We can make extreme poverty history, bring clean water and energy to the millions who lack it, provide basic healthcare and improve the well-being of all without degrading the environment or eroding social protection. The answer lies in new approaches and commonsense solutions.

The venue for your Assembly is the beautiful and historic city of Quito. Ecuador’s innovative actions to advance sustainable development have generated concrete benefits to local communities and have inspired much global and regional interest. Five years ago, Ecuador made a landmark commitment to enshrine the “Rights of Nature” in its constitution. That historic act is among a growing number of important sustainable development initiatives that are coming increasingly from the South. The current discussions on the post-2015 development agenda can benefit greatly from these ideas.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations have a close working relationship on many fronts: from peace and security to democracy and human rights; from gender equality to sustainable development. I am committed to further strengthening our cooperation as we engage in the common undertaking to realize a more equitable, prosperous and sustainable future.

I wish you a rewarding meeting.