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Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP20/CMP10)

Advance Information Note

Dear Madam President, Dear Mr. President,

The 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, commonly known as COP20/CMP10, will take place in Lima, Peru, from 1 to 12 December 2014. The annual sessions of the United Nations Climate Change Conference attract thousands of participants from government, parliament, business, academia, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations.

The IPU has taken the lead in mobilizing parliaments to take an active part in this process. Bearing in mind the growing importance of climate change negotiations and the particular role of the Lima session in the elaboration of elements for a universal climate change agreement, to be hopefully adopted in 2015 at the UNFCCC session in Paris, the governing bodies of the IPU have decided to hold a Parliamentary Meeting in Lima, in line with the positive experiences of similar events organized by the IPU in conjunction with UNFCCC sessions in Copenhagen (2009), Cancún (2010) and Durban (2011).

I am pleased to inform you that the IPU and the Congress of the Republic of Peru, with the support of the geopolitical Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), have already embarked on the practical preparations for the **Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of COP20/CMP10**, which will be held in Lima on 8 December 2014, on the premises of the Congress of the Republic.

The Meeting will be held with a view to providing parliamentarians with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and orientations of COP20/CMP10, interact with government negotiators directly involved in the Conference decision-making process, gain better knowledge of the recommendations adopted by the IPU with regard to parliamentary action on climate change, and exchange views on parliamentary follow-up to the Climate Change Conference in Lima.

As on past occasions, the Meeting is intended for parliamentarians who will be present in Lima for the UNFCCC session as members of official national delegations or in any other capacity, such as observers representing civil society organizations. To ensure the success of the Meeting, it is of paramount importance to ensure that each parliament nominate MPs who are directly involved in activities dealing with environmental protection and climate change.

Geneva, 6 May 2014

In the run-up to the Parliamentary Meeting in Lima, the IPU intends to make the most of its forthcoming 131st Assembly (Geneva, 12-16 October 2014) to hold broad consultations on the content of a possible parliamentary message to be addressed to COP20/CMP10. A pre-draft of this document, to be prepared by the Peruvian Congress, will be discussed at the session of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.

The programme of the Parliamentary Meeting and relevant practical information will be circulated to all parliaments closer to the date. At this stage, we urge you to ensure that members of your parliament are included in your country's official delegation to COP20/CMP10. To this end, you may wish contact your country's relevant ministry.

We must stress that the IPU and the Congress of the Republic of Peru are not in a position to facilitate accreditation to the UN Climate Change Conference and cannot provide visa assistance for entry into Peru. These matters should be dealt with by each delegation individually, as part of the overall COP20/CMP10 accreditation procedure.

Likewise, hotel accommodation in Lima at the time of the UN Conference will be subject to severe restrictions and may be difficult to obtain. All parliamentary delegates are therefore advised to use the official COP20/CMP10 hotel booking service. The organizers of the Parliamentary Meeting cannot provide hotel accommodation in Lima.

I sincerely hope that members of your parliament will take part in the forthcoming UNFCCC session in Lima and will also attend the Parliamentary Meeting on 8 December.

Yours sincerely,

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Anders B. Johnsson Secretary General