



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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+41 22 919 41 11
+41 22 919 41 60
postbox@ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

**Office of the
Secretary General**

2016 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Since 2002, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament have jointly organized the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (WTO) - a permanent mechanism of parliamentary oversight of this intergovernmental body, its de facto parliamentary dimension. The main objective of the Conference is to enhance transparency of the WTO and hold it accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people.

I am pleased to inform you that the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be held in Geneva on 13 and 14 June 2016. As in the past, the session will take place on the premises of the WTO, Centre William Rappard. I invite your parliament to send a delegation to this important event which will come at a moment when the multilateral trading system is facing with new powerful challenges.

In conformity with the Conference Rules, the annual session is intended primarily for parliamentarians who specialize in matters of international trade in their respective parliaments. The Conference will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on recent developments in the Doha Round negotiations, including the outcomes of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, and consider ways of contributing to the revitalization of this process. It will also be an occasion to exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments, interact with government negotiators and WTO officials and engage in a dialogue with civil society representatives.

I enclose the provisional programme of the session. To advance practical preparations for the session and allow sufficient time for the delegates to make relevant logistical arrangements, I also enclose the session's registration form and practical information note. We urge your parliament to reserve hotel rooms for your delegation as soon as possible. This can be done either through your country's diplomatic mission in Geneva or through the Geneva Tourism Office (<http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/en/accommodation/hotels/>).

I very much hope that your parliament will be represented at the 2016 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General