



## Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations

14-15 November 2013  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York



1 October 2013

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite you and your parliamentary colleagues to this year's Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, which will take place in New York on 14 and 15 November under the theme *Re-thinking sustainable development: The quest for a "transformational" global agenda in 2015*.

As you know, following last year's Rio+20 Conference, the international community has been engaged in consultations on new and more ambitious commitments to replace the current Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015. A new generation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will need to be agreed for all countries - developed and developing - so as to galvanize action on the economic, social and environmental emergencies of our time. The SDGs will constitute the centrepiece of a new post-2015 development agenda, which all agree must aim at the root causes of our problems and not just their consequences.

Governments and parliaments are essential partners in the design of this new agenda as well as in its future implementation together with the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders. We very much hope that the inclusive consultation process that is now well underway will lead to a post-2015 agenda that will resonate with all people and that will help them come together in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity.

This year's Parliamentary Hearing will be an important milestone in this global process. It will build on a number of high-level reports and other deliberations during the year at the United Nations and at the IPU. As shown in the attached provisional programme, the event will focus on three critical questions: how to reconcile the growth "imperative" of our development model with the more fundamental need for increased human well-being; how to capture the multiple dimensions of discrimination against women, which underpins so many development failures, into a comprehensive gender goal; and how to conceptualize democratic governance so that a common understanding can be built and a distinct goal further developed.

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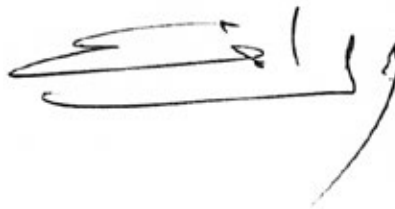
In keeping with past practice, the report of the meeting will be channelled into the relevant deliberative processes of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. To allow for a rich and interactive debate, the Hearing will once again follow an interview format with a distinguished panel of UN officials, parliamentarians and experts.

Given the importance of this discussion, and the possibility of making a real difference in the final outcome, we look forward to robust participation and a substantive contribution from the parliamentary community.

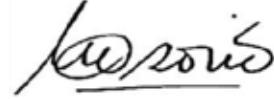
With our best wishes,



John William Ashe  
President of the United  
Nations General Assembly



Abdelwahad Radi  
President  
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Néstor Osorio  
President of the Economic and  
Social Council