



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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**Office of the
Secretary General**

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO). The Assembly meets every May in Geneva. It is attended by delegations from all Members of WHO and is where the work of WHO is reviewed, where new goals are set and new tasks are assigned. The 70th WHA will take place in Geneva from 22 to 31 May 2017.

I am pleased to announce that the IPU will organize a parliamentary session during the 70th WHA. The side event *Bridging the gap between evidence and policy: the role of Parliamentarians in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* will take place on 29 May 2017 from 18:00 to 19:30 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. It is open to parliamentarians attending the 70th World Health Assembly as members of their national delegation.

The side event will provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to contribute to the global health agenda. Parliamentarians will be able to discuss how to make the best use of science and evidence in the world of health in order to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants will also have the chance to consider potential ways to strengthen cooperation with relevant health actors.

The parliamentary session will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. I am pleased to attach the concept note for the event. In order to be included in their national delegation to the WHA and attend the parliamentary event, members of parliament should contact their national Ministry of Health, as WHO has designated them as the focal point for organizing the composition of national delegations.

I am looking forward to welcoming members of your parliament to this important event. I would be grateful if you could communicate their names to the IPU at the following address: postbox@ipu.org.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General