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Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean



Meeting the SDGs while reducing inequalities in and among countries: The role of parliaments

Seminar for the Parliaments from Latin America and the Caribbean, jointly organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

1 and 2 December 2016, Panama City (Panama)

26 September 2016

Dear Mr./Madam Speaker,

It is our pleasure to invite your parliament to a regional Seminar entitled *Meeting the SDGs while reducing inequalities in and among countries: The role of parliaments*. The event is to be held in Panama City on 1 and 2 December 2016 and is designed for parliaments from Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to provide a forum to examine progress on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Parliaments have a major role to play in implementing the SDGs. The IPU and PARLATINO are therefore providing a platform to exchange ideas about the opportunities and challenges associated with achieving the SDGs. The Seminar will discuss how parliaments can effectively engage in policymaking to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs and to share successful experiences from their own countries. Particular emphasis will be placed on the issue of economic, social and environmental inequalities and how they impede progress towards sustainable development. The Seminar will allow participants to develop specific strategies, actions and recommendations to advance parliamentary engagement on the SDGs in the region.

We trust that your parliament will be represented at the Seminar. Parliaments are encouraged to send up to four members in their delegations, which should be balanced in terms of gender and can include parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. Delegates should be directly involved in sustainable development issues and should represent different political affiliations. The working languages of the seminar will be English and Spanish. Participants are asked to make their own arrangements for visas, accommodation and travel.

The draft agenda, general information note and registration forms for the event are enclosed. The registration forms should be completed and returned to the PARLATINO with a copy to the IPU Secretariat by **15 November 2016** at the latest. All information about the Seminar will soon be posted on the internet at: www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm and www.parlatino.org/es/.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
IPU Secretary General

Blanca Alcalá
President of the PARLATINO