



## CONGRESSO NACIONAL

26 March 2004

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

It is my great pleasure to invite representatives of your Parliament to take part in a Parliamentary Meeting, to be organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Brazilian National Congress in São Paulo on 11 and 12 June 2004 on the occasion of the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI).

As you are no doubt aware, UNCTAD XI is widely considered to be an event of major political importance, an unrivaled opportunity for the global community to focus on the needs of the developing countries striving for development-friendly integration into the world economy. This forum is all the more significant given the lack of consensus at the recently held WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún and the subsequent generalized stalemate in multilateral trade talks.

It is imperative therefore that parliamentarians as legitimate representatives of the people are present in São Paulo at the time of UNCTAD XI. By hosting a Parliamentary Meeting on the eve of the intergovernmental forum, the Brazilian National Congress aspires to contribute to the success of UNCTAD XI and to advance the parliamentary involvement in matters of international trade and development. We shall be very pleased if you and other members of your Parliament who have an active interest in this field, such as Chairpersons of relevant parliamentary committees, can come to São Paulo to attend UNCTAD XI and the Parliamentary Meeting to be held in conjunction with it.



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The Parliamentary Meeting will take place on the premises of the Latin-American Parliament. Information on the Meeting's practical arrangements will be provided by the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It is my understanding that the latter has already informed you that, as far as possible, parliamentarians should travel to São Paulo as part of their country's official delegation to UNCTAD XI. Among other things, this would allow them to have their travel, visa, accommodation and accreditation to UNCTAD XI taken care of in a centralized way by the competent governmental authorities. While this option is the preferred one, all members of parliament are welcome to the Parliamentary Meeting on 11 and 12 June irrespective of their accreditation to UNCTAD XI.

I look forward to welcoming members of your Parliament in São Paulo next June and am confident that they will enjoy our country's hospitality.

Accept, your Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'José Sarney', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of a vertical line that extends downwards from the end of the signature.

Senator José Sarney  
President of the Senate