



Geneva, 12 October 2019

## Regional seminar for Parliamentarians of Latin America and the Caribbean

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite you to a regional seminar entitled *Addressing trade-related challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Making parliamentarians fit for action*. It will take place in the National Congress of Argentina on 21 and 22 November 2019.

Trade is a powerful engine of development. It contributes substantively to the well-being of citizens and ensures lasting social peace. However, for some years now, global trade and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been facing an unprecedented crisis; it is jeopardizing the significant contribution that trade makes to the economy.

The Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (PCWTO) is a permanent parliamentary oversight mechanism of the WTO and the Organization's *de facto* parliamentary dimension. The PCWTO aims to give the WTO access to the wide range of parliamentary prerogatives available so as to promote global trade, support the WTO's work and make trade beneficial to all.

The regional seminar in Argentina is a joint initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament, in collaboration with the WTO and the support of the National Congress of Argentina. The seminar will aim to provide first-hand information on the functioning of the WTO and the PCWTO, both of which require the support of parliamentarians to follow up on their recommendations.

Participants will also be able to explore a number of trade-related challenges the region is confronting with and identify solutions, including through exchanging of good parliamentary practices.

Please find enclosed the provisional agenda, the concept note and practical information.

We very much hope that your parliament will participate in the regional seminar and look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Emilio Monzó  
Speaker  
Chamber of Deputies  
National Congress of Argentina