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Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations

17 and 18 February 2020
United Nations Headquarters
New York



Education as a key to peace and sustainable development: Toward the implementation of SDG 4

New York, 2 December 2019

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are happy to announce that the 2020 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, ***Education as a key to peace and sustainable development: Towards the implementation of SDG 4***, will take place on 17 and 18 February 2020 in New York.

This joint IPU-UN hearing will call for greater political resolve to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goal on education, SDG 4, is fully realized by 2030. As a priority theme of the 74th General Assembly, education is an important part of a series of events at the United Nations that will include the observance of the International Day of Education on 24 January. We therefore encourage you to mark this day in your Parliament with an appropriate initiative.

Education has long been recognized as a necessary precondition for sustainable development in all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental. Without an educated people there can be no democracy, no peace and no prosperity.

Yet still today too many girls and boys lack access to public education or education that delivers quality outcomes, and the agenda of lifelong education for all, including working-age adults, is far from realized. The poor, women and girls, migrants, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups have less access to educational opportunities than those who are better off. Around the world, education is often underfunded and unaffordable. While higher education is no longer a guarantee to a good job, in many countries there is a growing mismatch between workers' knowledge and skills and actual employment opportunities in the real economy.

This hearing is a great opportunity for the IPU and the United Nations to work together in the spirit of the General Assembly resolution, *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU*, with a renewed resolution expected in the second quarter of 2020. This resolution will be particularly relevant in the context of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, which will culminate with a major summit in September 2020.

The registration form and information note for the meeting are enclosed. A preliminary draft programme will be available in early January. All information, including background documentation, will be posted on the IPU website at www.ipu.org.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We look forward to welcoming your delegation to New York.

Yours sincerely,

Gabriela Cuevas Barron
President of the IPU

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
President of the 74th General Assembly