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IPU Statement

**Senator Laura Rojas,
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Committee
Senate of Mexico,
Member of the Bureau of
the IPU Committee on
Peace and Security**

**High Level Meeting of the General
Assembly on Peacebuilding and
Sustaining Peace
Dialogue 3 on Strategic Partnerships
with the United Nations
New York, 25 April 2018**

Chairman,

As the UN moves forward in re-organizing itself to better deal with conflict or the risk of conflict around the world, it is a matter of concern how parliaments and parliamentarians are often missing from key UN debates and reports, which are more focused on the partnership with civil society and the private sector, even though Parliament is the central institution through which the will of the people is expressed.

Just yesterday, in the opening statements of this High Level Meeting both the Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly mentioned several stakeholders, but not parliaments. Mentioned as well was the need for more money for the Peacebuilding Fund. Aren't parliaments precisely the state bodies responsible for budgeting?

We certainly could be strategic allies.

The IPU has long argued that parliaments have a key role to play in peacebuilding in their own right, as political actors, as well as in partnership with the UN globally and in the field. Indeed, a closer partnership between the UN and parliaments at the national level has enormous potential that should be explored and further harnessed at all stages of the peace building process.

In practice, this calls for more direct interaction between UN political missions and UN Country Teams and the parliament of countries at risk of conflict, as well as during and after conflict. The IPU stands ready to work with the UN to facilitate this interaction.

The IPU Standing Committee on Peace and Security has a particular interest in this issue and prepared a resolution on Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development which was adopted unanimously by the 138th IPU Assembly. This resolution provides guidance as to what Parliaments and parliamentarians can do to help achieve sustaining peace and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The resolution underscores that parliaments are powerful agents of change, responsible for allowing the ratification of international agreements ensuring sustainable peace and development and their translation into enforceable national laws. They are also in charge of monitoring the implementation of these laws and of ensuring government accountability.

Finally, the resolution calls on Parliaments to identify specific measures of implementation, in accordance with their national context, to implement at national level the concept of sustaining peace as a contribution to achieving the SDGs.

Thank you for your attention