



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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## IPU Address

**Senator Laura Angélica Rojas Hernández  
President of the IPU Standing Committee  
on Peace and International Security**

**Pledging Conference for the  
Secretary-General's  
Peacebuilding Fund**

**New York, 21 September 2016**

### Invest in sustaining peace

Ladies and gentlemen,

We parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the main parliamentary counterpart of the United Nations composed of 170 national parliaments, are very much aware of the important linkage between peace and sustainable development, as well as the contribution of parliamentarians to efforts aimed at achieving both.

Since our Parliamentary Hearing in 2012 held right here at the United Nations, we have been discussing the need to promote parliamentary efforts that focus on conflict prevention, peace-building and reconciliation.

Parliament must be seen as the natural forum for political dialogue, mediation and the inclusion of all stakeholders in society in the quest for identifying lasting and stable solutions able to change the focus from one of merely reacting to conflict.

But stable and sustainable peace requires not only strong political will but also extraordinary economic effort. On the one hand, we are pleased to see how the UN Peacebuilding Fund is currently supporting more than 200 projects in 27 countries by delivering fast, flexible and relevant funding.

On the other hand, we note with some concern the reduced financial pledges by some countries to the Fund, and, ultimately, the critical situation that it will face in guaranteeing its future operation in the stringent conditions of a world in which conflicts are multiplying in the face of violent extremism, recurrent and worsening civil war and the tenuous humanitarian situation that many societies experiencing fragile peace are facing.

As a Mexican, I am deeply proud that my country is co-sponsoring this Conference. As a member of parliament and President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I am committed to promoting among my parliamentary peers a new concept of sustaining peace as a criterion for allocating financial resources in each of our countries and to promoting the direct allocation of budget lines to national conflict-prevention activities and to this UN Peacebuilding Fund.

The onus is on us to disseminate among the parliamentarians of the world the extraordinary work the Fund is doing to attract more financial contributions to help tackle the enormous challenges of our time.

Thank you.