

# Presidential statement on the recent attack on the Paraguay Parliament

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 200<sup>th</sup> session  
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

The IPU strongly condemns the recent attack on the National Congress of Paraguay. It has learned that following street protests over a controversial bill that may extend the limit on presidential terms, demonstrators set fire to the National Congress in the capital, Asunción, and ransacked the offices of the members of parliament who supported the bill.

It is saddened by the death of at least one opposition protestor and the injuries sustained by others, as well as by the extensive damage caused to the parliament building.

The IPU reiterates that the institution of parliament is a forum for peaceful debate and deplores any attack on parliament, which it considers to be an attack on democracy itself. The use of violence to express public discontent cannot be tolerated or justified under any circumstances. Disenchantment should be expressed through peaceful and lawful means only.

The IPU calls for a return to calm by protestors and restraint by the authorities in order to preserve peace and order in Paraguay. The Paraguayan authorities are urged to uphold the rule of law and make every effort to preserve the hard-won democracy in Paraguay that has been in place since 1992.