

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION
ANNUAL PARLIAMENTARY HEARING
"RE-THINKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE QUEST FOR A
TRANSFORMATIONAL GLOBAL AGENDA IN 2015"
New York, 14-15 November 2013**

I am pleased to send greetings to all participants at this important Annual Parliamentary Hearing. I welcome your forward-looking perspective and focus on sustainable development.

The Millennium Development Goals have the great virtue of being compelling enough to rally nations and the international community, and immediately understandable by people who can hold their governments accountable. The Goals have improved millions of lives.

As we redouble our efforts to reach the MDGs and forge a new vision for development beyond 2015, we must ensure that sustainable development is at the core, with poverty eradication as the highest priority. We must also take a holistic, integrated approach to addressing social, economic and environmental challenges.

We can already see the broad contours of a new agenda. It should be ambitious and universal in nature, yet attuned to the needs and capacities of each country. It must leave no one behind while protecting the planet's resources and supporting actions to address climate change.

This agenda must be bolstered by a new global partnership that is built on mutual trust, engages more players and involves new forms of cooperation. My recent report, "A Life of Dignity for All," sets out my sense of the transformations we need.

Parliaments will play a central role in shaping and implementing our new agenda. They can help to gear national policies, programmes and resources towards the achievement of sustainable development goals. The IPU and parliaments can be especially critical in helping us reach MDG 3, including the target to increase the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments.

Advocacy on international issues begins at the national level. Parliaments can bring the views and aspirations of their citizens into global deliberations. They are uniquely placed to ensure financing for sustainable development efforts through official development assistance and domestic resources.

The United Nations values its partnership with the IPU and parliamentarians. I count on you to engage in this historic campaign for global progress, and I wish you great success.