



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations

8-9 February 2016
United Nations Headquarters
New York



1 December 2015

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

In April 2016, the General Assembly will hold a Special Session on the world drug problem, known as UNGASS 2016.

This special session will review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on international cooperation towards an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, tasked by the UN General Assembly to lead the preparatory process, is working closely with the Office of the President of the General Assembly to ensure an effective and coordinated approach leading to the UNGASS.

As you are aware, the General Assembly has welcomed as a joint IPU-UN event the annual Parliamentary Hearings at the United Nations organized by the IPU. We are therefore pleased to announce that the 2016 IPU Parliamentary Hearing at United Nations Headquarters in New York will take place on 8 and 9 February 2016. It will be entitled: ***The world drug problem: Taking stock and strengthening the global response.***

The IPU Parliamentary Hearing proposes to review parliamentary follow-up to the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action¹. It also aims to bring a parliamentary contribution to the preparatory process for UNGASS 2016. The new Sustainable Development Goals call for a strong development approach in tackling these difficult issues.

In keeping with usual practice, the Hearing will include a rich and interactive dialogue, with a distinguished panel of parliamentarians, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, UN officials and experts. The IPU will circulate a draft programme of the Hearing to your parliament in mid-December.

As in the past, the summary report of the Parliamentary Hearing prepared by the IPU will be circulated as an official document of the UN General Assembly. Your parliament is invited to be represented in this Parliamentary Hearing with a delegation of up to six Members of Parliament. Ideally, the delegation should reflect the political configuration of the parliament in order to provide the widest possible perspectives to the discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Saber Chowdhury
President

Mogens Lykketoft
President of the General Assembly

¹ www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/V0984963-English.pdf