



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 December 2015

Excellency,

As you know, the General Assembly has welcomed the annual Parliamentary Hearings at the United Nations organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) (A/RES/68/272) and has decided to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments (resolutions 65/123 and 66/261).

I wish to inform you that the 2016 IPU Parliamentary Hearing at United Nations Headquarters will take place on 8 and 9 February 2016. It will be entitled: "*The world drug problem: taking stock and strengthening the global response*"

As indicated in the attached letter, the Hearing proposes to review parliamentary follow-up to the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action. It also aims to bring a parliamentary contribution to the preparatory process for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (UNGASS 2016) which will be held from the 19 to 21 of April 2016.

A program and background note will be circulated in the upcoming weeks. To confirm the participation of your delegation and for more information, kindly contact the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentarian Union at ny-office@ipu.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



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 event of the IPU and the UN, 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*"

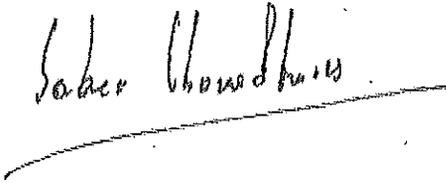
The IPU Parliamentary Hearing proposes to review parliamentary follow-up to the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.¹ It also aims to bring a parliamentary contribution to the preparatory process for UNGASS 2016. The new Sustainable Development Goals call for a strong development approach in tackling these difficult issues.

In keeping with past 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. IPU will circulate a draft programme of the hearing to your parliament in mid-December.

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

As in the past, the summary report of the Parliamentary Hearing prepared by 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, it should reflect the political configuration of the parliament in order to provide the widest possible perspectives to the discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Saber H. Chowdhury
President of the IPU



Mogens Lykketoft
President of the General Assembly