



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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United Nations Ocean Conference

Geneva, 2 May 2017

Office of the
Secretary General

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President

It is my pleasure to forward to you the summary of this year's Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, entitled *A World of Blue: Preserving the oceans, safeguarding the planet, ensuring human well-being in the context of the 2030 Agenda*.

As a joint event of IPU and the UN, represented by the President of the General Assembly, the Annual Parliamentary Hearing is designed to engage parliamentarians on key issues on the international agenda. This year's hearing provided a parliamentary contribution to the UN Ocean Conference that will take place on 5-9 June in New York. All information about this major event is available online at <https://oceanconference.un.org/>

The ocean ecosystem is key to sustainable development in all its dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Taking stock of the many risks facing the ocean today, all of which originate from human activity, the parliamentarians in attendance were unanimous in recommending that this issue must become more prominent on the policy agenda of every government. This applies equally to landlocked countries that are the source of the water carrying a variety of pollutants and toxic materials to the ocean.

As recommended in the hearing's report, parliamentarians are strongly encouraged to attend the UN Ocean Conference as part of their national delegations. The conference will conclude with the adoption of a **Call for Action** that will articulate further past commitments to the ocean, including those of goal 14 of the global Sustainable Development Goals. IPU is working to make sure parliaments will be referenced in the Call for Action as one of the actors that need to be engaged with this issue.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to remind you of **World Ocean Day**, on **8 June**. As recommended in the report, parliaments are encouraged to mark this day each year with a special debate or some other events. These will help raise awareness of the many issues related to the ocean among legislators and with the public at large.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General