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Geneva, 12 June 2019

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to inform you that the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament will be held from 17 to 21 August 2020, at the United Nations Office in Vienna (Women Speakers Summit on 17-18 August, followed by the World Speakers' Conference on 18-21 August). A formal letter of invitation, accompanied by practical information, will follow in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you could pencil in this major global summit in your busy agendas.

As you are aware, since 2000 the IPU, in close cooperation with the United Nations, has been convening the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament every five years, with a view to strengthening parliamentary democracy and advancing the parliamentary dimension to international cooperation. Traditionally, the Speakers' Conferences have informed the outcomes of the corresponding UN Summits, from the Millennium Declaration of 2000 when for the first time Heads of State and Government acknowledged the need for systematic cooperation between the United Nations, parliaments and the IPU, to the SDG Summit of 2015, where parliaments played a major role in helping to shape the new 2030 Development Agenda (in particular in connection to SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong and effective institutions at all levels).

A Preparatory Committee composed of fellow Speakers of Parliament designated by their respective IPU Geopolitical Groups has been set up to guide preparations for the summit next year—more information, including a background note on the Speakers' Conferences and other substantive reports, is available at [www.ipu.org/event/fifth-world-conference-speakers-parliaments](http://www.ipu.org/event/fifth-world-conference-speakers-parliaments). The Preparatory Committee will meet again in mid-November to examine and take decisions regarding the format, content and expected outcome of the 2020 Speakers' Conference. In order to make the process as inclusive as possible, we are inviting all Speakers to kindly share their ideas and suggestions, if possible by 15 September at the latest.

We thank you for your attention to the above and look forward to working closely with you towards a very successful and meaningful World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Vienna next year.

Yours sincerely,

Gabriela Cuevas Barron  
President

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General