



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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**Office of the
Secretary General**

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to write to you in connection with the recently concluded 2018 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization, organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament (Geneva, 6-7 December 2018).

The Conference was attended by 250 participants, including 134 parliamentarians from 54 countries. Topics discussed included challenges and opportunities facing the WTO, solutions for a more deliverable and transparent WTO by 2030, the contribution of parliamentarians in bolstering free and fair trade, parliamentary support to making new technologies benefit the people.

The Conference called for urgent action to address the impasse of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, to improve the work of the WTO in light of the significance of the multilateral trading system, to define more concrete strategies to achieve higher standards globally through coordinated efforts to address the basic issues of poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the developing countries and LDCs.

I am happy to share with you this substantive Outcome Document of the PCWTO Conference. The Outcome Document and the relevant reports and discussion papers can also be accessed on the Conference webpage at: <https://ipu.org/event/annual-session-parliamentary-conference-wto-0/documents>.

I would be grateful if you could share this document with the members of your Parliament and engage in further reflection and follow-up on the subjects addressed. Needless to say, we feel that this is particularly relevant in light of the deepest crisis the rules-based multilateral trading system is facing. We would appreciate it you could inform us of any action undertaken by your Parliament in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General