



Gabriela Cuevas Barron |
DIPUTADA FEDERAL

Mexico City, 21 December 2020

Dear Speakers of Parliament,
Dear parliamentary colleagues,
Dear friends from the United Nations,
Dear friends with whom I shared these years as President of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union,

It is my hope that this letter finds you well and in good health.

In the spirit of transparency and accountability, I would like to inform you that the final report of my term as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, titled “Overall Activities Report of the Presidency, 2017-2020: Three years working together for a more inclusive and democratic IPU”, is now available for download in English and French by going to [this link](#) in the IPU’s website.

During these last three years, I have sought to modernize the IPU and making it more relevant to our members; advance democracy and respect for human rights; advocated for the inclusion of women and young people in politics; fostered transparency and inclusiveness in our Organization; promoted austerity and efficiency in the use of the budget allocated to the Presidency; made the Organization closer to the views and needs of its members; and, last but not least, strengthened the IPU’s relationship with the United Nations, reflected in two historical Resolutions on the Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in [2018](#) and [2020](#). The report that is now available highlights the valuable results that have been achieved.

Throughout my tenure, I sought to increase the prominence and prestige of the IPU as the global institution for parliamentarians. In terms of the work undertaken during the Presidency, I am pleased to say that over 29 working meetings with heads of state and heads of government were held, as well as having more than 30 participations at UN high-level meetings and conferences. I also had the opportunity to visit 48 countries, attended 20 plus Parliamentary Conferences, presided in excess of 20 meetings of the Executive Committee, and had more than 90 bilateral meetings with Speakers of Parliament.

Moreover, consensus-building remains essential, particularly while presiding an Organization with parliaments representing people from nations all over the world. An example of this was shown precisely by adopting the Declaration of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament ([available](#)

[here](#)). The Declaration reaffirms the parliamentary nature of the Organization: “We underscore that the IPU is a parliamentary political organization which must be endowed with stronger parliamentary leadership, direction and control”. This document constitutes a resolute message of support to multilateralism, and states a firm commitment on behalf of the parliamentary community to build back better.

Considerable efforts were also undertaken to foster innovation in the IPU. As such, more workshops were included in the agenda of the IPU Assemblies. To commemorate 130 years of the IPU, an Anniversary Book with contributions prepared by national parliaments was launched this year. The Executive Education Parliamentary Leadership Seminar provided the means to assist parliamentarians in developing the skills to address both national and global issues. The Advisory Group on Health, the High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament were democratized and were representative in both gender-equality and geopolitical terms. Furthermore, an agenda was promoted to advance principles of transparency and accountability within the Organization.

Throughout all of my efforts, I was motivated by my core belief that only an active Presidency can successfully inspire and mobilize political action by the world’s parliamentary community. 46,552 parliamentarians can definitely build a better world, and it is up to the IPU to provide much-needed space for lively deliberation so that we can truly get to work by translating international agreements into national and local realities for the people that we represent.

All in all, the report provides more details on the activities that I undertook over these years and provides a detailed record of the achievements attained. As mentioned before, I am sharing this document to be consistent with the principles of transparency and accountability that I have also worked to strengthen within the IPU. But I also do so in the expectation that these efforts inspire even more action to progress and address the most pressing challenges currently faced by our world.

That being said, I wish to reaffirm my gratitude to all the Speakers of Parliament, parliamentary colleagues, the secretariats of the national parliaments and the IPU, partners at the United Nations, and everyone who made this Presidency and its results possible. It has been a privilege to be the youngest person and the second woman to preside the IPU in its 130 years. I truly appreciate the trust that you have placed in me to lead our efforts to build a world that is more inclusive, fair, and human. I will always carry the lessons that I have learned through our shared experiences during my term.

Even though unprecedented and difficult challenges have made this a particularly tough year for everyone, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your loved ones well, in the hopes that 2021 brings much joy and good fortune, as well as success in all of your endeavors. While I bid farewell to the IPU and cherish the extraordinary honor of receiving your trust to preside it over the last three years, please know that I also look forward to keep working for democracy and human rights. In that regard, you can always reach me at gabrielacuevasbarron@hotmail.com and my cell-phone number, +52 55 2270 8667.

With the deepest sincerity and esteem,



Gabriela Cuevas Barron
Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Federal Deputy
Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Congress

Av. Congreso de la Unión 66, Col. El Parque, alcaldía Venustiano Carranza, C.P. 15960 Ciudad de México, edificio B,
nivel 1, tel. 5036-0000 exts.61300 y 61301
gabriela.cuevas@diputados.gob.mx