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**Office of the
Secretary General**

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We continue to make preparations for the 142nd IPU Assembly (16–20 April 2020) in Geneva.

However, we also continue to monitor developments concerning the worldwide spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. We are following the daily updates from the [Swiss Federal Office of Public Health](#) and the [World Health Organization](#). Despite the preventive measures in place, we are seeing that large international events scheduled to take place in Geneva have already been cancelled, such as the Geneva Auto Show and the International Watch Fair (this latter event was scheduled to take place in late April). As of 28 February 2020, the Swiss Federal Authorities have banned the holding of large meetings (of 1,000 participants and above) until mid-March. This decision could be extended.

The United Nations, in turn, has cancelled or postponed a number of meetings in both Geneva and New York. In Geneva, all side events of the current session of the UN Human Rights Council have been cancelled. The annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which was scheduled to start next week in New York, has been postponed to later this year (dates to be determined), with only one procedural meeting with diplomats based in New York taking place for a day on 9 March to adopt the CSW Declaration and related resolutions.

The IPU accords top priority to the health and well-being of the representatives of its Member Parliaments, of other delegates to IPU events and of its staff. For this reason, and in light of concerns expressed by several IPU Members, it has been decided to consult the IPU Executive Committee on the best course of action for the Assembly.

We will keep you posted on developments and promptly inform you of any decisions. In the meantime, Members may wish to ensure that their travel and accommodation arrangements for the Geneva Assembly are flexible, and to refer to their national health advisories for specific information.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General