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For democracy. For everyone.

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Item 15

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24 May 2017

Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(Article 19 of the Statutes and Rules 6, 7 and 8 of
the Rules of the Governing Council)

Candidature

of

Ms. Gabriela CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico)

On 24 May 2017, the Secretary General received a communication from the President of the Mexican Senate and the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico, submitting the candidature of Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron for the office of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which is to be filled at the 201st session of the Governing Council.

The text of this communication and the curriculum vitae of Ms. G. Cuevas Barron are to be found in Annexes I and II.

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Courtesy translation provided by Mexico

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MEXICAN SENATE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF MEXICO**

Mexico City, 22 May 2017

Dear Mr. Chungong,

In regard to the upcoming election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which will take place between the 14th and 18th October 2017, in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, and in the name of the Mexican Senate and Chamber of Deputies, we are pleased to jointly and formally announce the nomination of Mexican Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barron to the post of President of the IPU, in accordance to the provisions of Article 19 of the IPU Statutes, as well as the principle of geographical rotation. On this occasion, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean is eligible for this post.

Senator Cuevas Barron's candidacy affords Mexico an opportunity to occupy the Presidency of the IPU for the first time, and also to promote the election of a woman for this important position; this has occurred only once during the IPU's 128 years of existence. We are convinced that the IPU Presidency will benefit from Senator Cuevas Barron's extensive experience. She has been elected to five terms at the federal and local levels, she understands the challenges of legislative work, and has been a relentless promoter of parliamentary diplomacy and of the linkage between the Mexican Congress and the IPU, particularly during her current position as Head of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

It is important to note that Senator Cuevas Barron's candidacy is a State nomination; since, in addition to having the support of both Chambers of the Mexican Congress, it is also backed by the Mexican Government. In sum, her candidacy attests to Mexico's global vision for multilateralism, and the belief of the Mexican Congress in parliamentary diplomacy and the strengthening of friendly relations among Parliaments as central actors of a representative democracy, the protection of human rights, the promotion of peace and international security, and actions towards implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mexico is an influential global player and one of Latin America's leaders, due to its economic clout and its geographic location; meaning, additionally, that it belongs to multiple converging spaces with the rest of the world. Within the Mexican Congress, we believe that Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barron's candidacy for the IPU Presidency is an opportunity to continue strengthening the organization's role in dealing with global challenges, promoting parliamentary diplomacy and deepening the participation of women and young people in the construction of democracy on a global scale.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed)

Pablo ESCUDERO MORALES
President of the Mexican Senate
and
María Guadalupe MURGIA GUTIERREZ (Ms.)
President of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico

Curriculum Vitae Gabriela Cuevas Barron

She has been a senator since 1 September 2012. She is the Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee, responsible for analysis of Mexico's foreign policy, approval of ambassadors and consuls general, approval of international treaties signed by the Executive and deployment of troops outside national territory. Her tenure has been characterized by a close working relationship with ambassadors and parliamentarians from different countries.

Within the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Senator Cuevas Barron is the Head of the Delegation of the Mexican Congress to the IPU. From 2014 to 2016, she was a member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, which she chaired during the period from 2014 to 2015. She is currently the internal auditor for the year 2017.

The most noteworthy results achieved in her work at the IPU include the drive (in coordination with the Bahrain Parliament) to obtain the unanimous adoption of the resolution entitled *The role of parliamentarians in protecting the rights of children, unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict*. Moreover, in order to promote more gender-equitable laws, she developed (in conjunction with the Indian delegation) the subject of study and resolution called *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*.

Her participation in international parliamentary forums includes the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, where she co-chaired the Committee on Political Affairs, Security, and Human Rights; her work at the Mexico-European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee, and the Pacific Alliance's Parliamentary Monitoring Committee.

Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barron's political career spans more than 20 years. Convinced of being a participant in Mexico's democratic consolidation and conscious of promoting citizen participation in the country's affairs, at age of 15 she joined the National Action Party, which was the main opposition force during Mexico's transition towards democracy. In the same vein, together with a group of young people, she founded the *Fundación Educa México, A.C.*, which is committed to improving education in Mexico.

Since 2001, Senator Cuevas Barron has focused her efforts, as a legislator at the local and federal levels as well as Head of a large District of Mexico City, on promoting laws and actions in favor of Human Rights, gender equity, the fight against corruption, transparency and environment protection. Senator Cuevas Barron's personal and professional initiatives have always been driven by an interest in promoting social justice and ensuring local impact on the daily lives of citizens.

Her work in the Senate has been marked by various highlights. She spearheaded the initiative to reform and harmonize the Mexican Constitution on asylum and recognition of refugee status, with international treaties to which Mexico is party, particularly in the area of human rights and international humanitarian law. Also noteworthy is her support for the reform to the Law of the Mexican Foreign Service that guarantees the right to identity of the thousands of migrants abroad who were not registered at the moment of birth in Mexico, through the issuance of birth certificates through the Mexican consulates.

Senator Cuevas Barron has also done extensive work on promoting respect for the human rights of Central American migrants who travel or stay in Mexico in search of better opportunities, particularly children and adolescents. In addition to the legal reform initiatives presented before the Senate of the Republic, as delegate of Mexico to the Forum of Presidents and Legislative Presidents of Central America and the Caribbean Basin (FOPREL) presented the proposed Framework Law on Protection and Assistance of migrant children and adolescents, which members of the organization will use as a basis for drafting their national legislation.

It is also important to mention Senator Cuevas Barron's work as a member of the Constituent Assembly of Mexico City. In that context, she chaired the Mayor's Committee with the aim of setting up a new model of local governance that ensures closeness, modernization, transparency and efficiency in public management.

In addition, she succeeded in incorporating into Mexico City's Constitution of 5 February 2017, the obligation for the City authorities to guarantee respect for and protection of the human rights of those foreign persons to whom the Mexican government has granted asylum or refugee status, strengthening the humanitarian spirit of the Mexican State to provide protection to people fleeing persecution and violence in their countries of origin.

In addition, Senator Cuevas Barron has served as a federal representative in the LXI Legislature (2009-2012); head of the local authority (equivalent to a mayor) of Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico City (2006-2009); representative in the Federal District Legislative Assembly (2003-2006); federal representative in the LVIII Legislature (2001-2003); advisor to the Undersecretary on Normativity and Media, in the Ministry of the Interior (2001); and research assistant at the *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México* (2000-2001).

She studied Political Science at the *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México* (2001) and has attended various seminars and courses in political communication, public management, and political theory at universities and training institutions in Mexico and abroad.

Senator Cuevas Barron features regularly in several Mexican (radio, television, and print) and international (print) media outlets. She has also published several articles and chapters on issues relating to human rights advocacy and women's empowerment.

She was born on 3 April 1979, in Mexico City.