

**SPEAKING NOTES
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF A DINNER FOR DELEGATES TO THE
CANADA-MEXICO INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING**

**MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION, OTTAWA
NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

Your Excellencies,
Speaker Scheer,
Honourable Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's business sessions of our Canada-Mexico Interparliamentary Meeting were constructive and have given us all a great deal to consider. New friendships and renewed acquaintances are part of the process. The meetings bring us closer together with a new level of understanding.

Visits between our two countries are relatively frequent making this, in many ways, more like a gathering of family or close friends than a dinner with strangers.

In 2010, a Canadian delegation enjoyed your warm, Mexican hospitality as we visited your country on the occasion of the bicentennial of Mexico's Independence and the centennial of its revolution.

We have had diplomatic relations for over 65 years, and have met and strengthened our friendship and understanding of each other at bilateral, North American, hemispheric and multilateral meetings.

The Canada-Mexico relationship exhibits the sustained interparliamentary engagement, with this being the 18th such meeting. We have and will continue to

discuss a broad range of issues, including our countries' roles in multilateral organizations.

It will be a busy year for our colleagues from Mexico in 2012 in this regard. Perhaps the most prominent item will be the assumption of the Presidency of the G20 next month. The G20 summit meeting is scheduled to be held in Las Cabos, in the Mexican state of Baja California Sur. Among the ambitious agenda items will be the report on progress made to date on the Doha Development Agenda. We wish them every success and look forward to contributing to the discussion.

The G20 was hosted by Canada in Toronto in 2010, and I was pleased to be able to invite the Speakers of the upper and unicameral chambers of the G20 to meet in Ottawa later that year. Korea held a similarly successful meeting of the G20 Speakers this year and I anticipate that Mexico will do the same in 2012.

At the end of October next year, the Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will have the honour of hosting parliamentary delegates from around the world for the 127th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings. It has been 25 years since we last hosted this Assembly, and it will be the fourth time in the 120 year history of the IPU that Canada has done so.

The three previous meetings hosted by Canada took place in Ottawa, but the one being held from October 21-26, 2012 will be in Quebec City, one of Canada's gems. That Assembly will address the challenges of citizenship, identity, and linguistic and cultural diversity in a globalized world.

We look forward to greeting the world, including our friends from Mexico, at the 127th IPU Assembly. I anticipate that it will be as interesting and fruitful as the current meetings.

In closing, I wish to thank our Mexican visitors for joining us here in Canada and propose a toast to their good health and to the future of Canada-Mexico Interparliamentary relations.

Cheers, santé and salud!