



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Johannesburg, South Africa, 29 and 30 August 2002

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The United Nations will hold the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September this year. In view of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's wish to provide a parliamentary dimension to this UN Summit, according to its policy and practice, the Council of the IPU called for a parliamentary event to take place in that connection.

Venue, date and duration of the Parliamentary Meeting

Consequently, a parliamentary two-day event entitled: *Sustainable development: The role of Parliaments in ensuring implementation and accountability* will be held on 29 and 30 August 2002 at the kind invitation of the Parliament of South Africa in the vicinity of the Standton Convention Centre where the World Summit will be held. We are pleased to enclose a letter of invitation from Dr. F.N. Ginwala, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, and Mrs. G.N.M. Pandor, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

Purpose of the Meeting

This event is being convened to stimulate an exchange of views on a number of crucial issues on which Parliaments and their members can take concrete action. To this end, the meeting will consist of four panel discussions on the following issues: *The role of Parliaments in ensuring implementation and compliance with reporting requirements; New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other new forms of partnerships for development; Improving the international framework for sustainable development and Sustainable development: The basis of human security.* You will find enclosed the provisional annotated agenda for the event.

The discussions should provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to gain an insight into the main issues at stake in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to bring their influence to bear on the intergovernmental negotiations towards the Programme of Action that the Summit is expected to adopt.

Participation and registration

The meeting will be open to all MPs attending the World Summit as part of their national delegations to the United Nations event, or attending the NGO Forum that will be held on the occasion.

Enclosed you will find a registration form, which we invite you kindly to return to our Secretariat and to the South African Parliament as soon as possible. The deadline for registration is 24 July. In order for the IPU Secretariat and the South African Parliament to properly assess attendance at the Meeting, you are kindly requested to adhere strictly to the deadline.

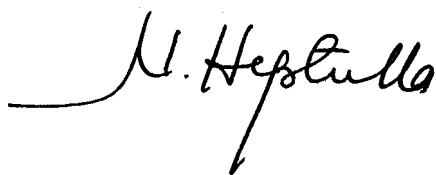
You will find further information on practical and substantive issues relating to the Summit at the following Website of the United Nations: www.johannesburgsummit.com.

We would like to point out that all matters relating to visas, hotel accommodation and transportation of participants should be taken care of by the respective national delegations to the World Summit in Johannesburg. We wish to highlight the need for speedy action in view of the limited availability of hotel rooms.

Further information regarding the venue and other practical aspects of the meeting will be provided in due course.

We look forward to the contribution of representatives of your Parliament to the discussions on 29 and 30 August and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Najma Heptulla
President
Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union