Dear Madam Speaker, Dear Mr Speaker,

We are pleased to invite your parliament to take part in a regional seminar for Parliaments of Europe and Central Asia on "Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective", which will be held in Geneva from 19 to 21 September 2007. You will find enclosed all relevant documentation pertaining to the seminar.

The regional seminar is the sixth in a series of regional meetings for parliaments organised by the IPU, which aim to strengthen parliaments' capacity to contribute effectively to the budgetary process. The seminar will look at the various roles of parliament in the budgetary process with a particular focus on oversight. The seminar will also address the innovative approach of gender-budgeting as it is one means of ensuring an effective response to the needs of men and women and to increasing policy output and transparency.

The seminar is open to Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff, and your Parliament is invited to send up to 5 participants who, if possible, are part of finance/budget committees or gender committees in parliament. In line with the IPU's stated objective to promote partnership between men and women in political life, parliaments should aim at including an equal number of men and women members. Your delegation should also be representative of the political configuration of the parliament.

We very much hope that your Parliament will participate in this seminar and we look forward to meeting your delegation in Geneva.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Pier Ferdinando Casini
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Annex: Registration form
Hotel reservation form
Practical information