

26 February 2002

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of our two organisations, we are pleased to invite you and members of your parliament to the *Parliamentary Forum on Children*, an important event within the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children, which will be held in New York, 8 – 10 May 2002.

The Forum is being planned for the morning of Thursday, 9 May, under the joint auspices of UNICEF and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It will be open to members of national parliaments as well as members of regional parliamentary groups interested in children's issues.

The Forum will seek legislative strategies to promote the well-being of children. In particular, we hope the parliamentarians can focus on measures to protect children's rights and mobilize resources to implement the goals set by the Special Session.

The registration form for the Forum and an explanatory note providing further details are attached. The UNICEF country office or the National Committee for UNICEF can make additional information available if required. The latest draft of the final outcome document of the Special Session is available on the UNICEF home page, www.unicef.org. IPU statements and resolutions concerning children can be found on the IPU Web page, www.ipu.org.

This is a unique opportunity for members of parliament to exchange experiences and points of view on priorities for children, and to recommit themselves to remain a key constituency for children. We look forward to an early confirmation of your participation.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Bellamy
Executive Director
United Nations Children's Fund



Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union