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Geneva, 10 September 2010

## PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP16/CMP6)

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The next full-scale session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP16/CMP6, will take place in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010. As you know, the last session of the Climate Change Conference, which took place in Copenhagen in December 2009, failed to produce a binding political agreement. The fracture lines marked during that meeting are still visible, having crept deep into the tissue of the negotiations carried out under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The legislators who participated in the Parliamentary Meeting organized by the IPU and the Danish Folketing at the time of the UN Conference in Copenhagen called on the IPU to lead the way in coordinating global parliamentary efforts to ensure effective oversight of the intergovernmental negotiations on climate change. Responding to these requests, the IPU and the Mexican Congress, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will organize a Parliamentary Meeting in conjunction with COP16/CMP6 in Cancún.

The Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún will take place on **6 December 2010** on the premises of **Hotel Omni** (Boulevard Kukulcan, L48 Km. 16.5). This hotel is easily accessible from the main venue of the UN Conference (Moon Palace Hotel), its registration desk (Cancún Messe) and from all official COP16/CMP6 hotels in Cancún using a free-of-charge shuttle bus service provided by the organizers of the UN Conference.

The Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún will offer parliamentarians an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and orientations of COP16/CMP6, to interact with government negotiators directly involved in the UNFCCC decision-making process, gain better knowledge of the recommendations adopted by the IPU with regard to parliamentary action on climate change, and exchange views on parliamentary follow-up to the session in Cancún.

The UN Climate Change Conference is part of an intergovernmental negotiation process in which Parties to the UNFCCC are represented by governments. While fully respecting this principle, parliaments should keep themselves informed of the ongoing talks and exercise their

oversight role vis-à-vis government negotiators. Such a proactive attitude will prove its worth in particular when the time comes for the ratification of the eventual new climate change agreement by parliaments.

The Parliamentary Meeting on 6 December is intended for legislators who will be present in Cancún for the UN Conference as members of official national delegations or in any other capacity, such as observers representing civil society groups. **Please note that the IPU does not encourage parliamentarians to travel to Cancún for the sole purpose of taking part in a one-day Parliamentary Meeting.**

As a rule, participants in the Parliamentary Meeting are expected to be accredited to the UN Conference and have a COP16/CMP6 badge. This badge is valid for the Parliamentary Meeting, with no other ID badges required. However, if for one reason or another a delegate does not have a COP16/CMP6 badge, a special one-day "Parliamentary Meeting" badge will be issued by the IPU registration desk at Hotel Omni. This badge is valid for the Parliamentary Meeting only and will not allow access to the UN Conference. All cases when participants in the Parliamentary Meeting are not accredited to COP16/CMP6 and therefore require a special one-day badge must be announced to the IPU Secretariat in advance, using the enclosed **registration form** to be returned to the IPU by **15 November 2010** at the latest. The registration form is available in electronic form on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop16.htm>).

It is to be borne in mind that the IPU and the Mexican Parliament are **not in a position to facilitate accreditation to the UN Conference** and **cannot provide visa support** for entry into Mexico. These matters should be dealt with by each delegation individually, as part of the overall COP16/CMP6 accreditation procedure. Likewise, hotel accommodation in Cancún at the time of the Climate Change Conference will be subject to severe restrictions. The **organizers of the Parliamentary Meeting cannot provide accommodation**. Parliamentary delegates are invited to use the official COP16/CMP6 hotel booking service instead.

Further details about the Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún can be found in the enclosed practical information note. The provisional programme of the Meeting will be posted on the IPU website closer to the date of the event.

In the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference, the IPU intends to use its forthcoming 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly (Geneva, 4-6 October 2010) for consultations on the content of a parliamentary message to be addressed to COP16/CMP6 from the Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún. The corresponding item has been placed on the agenda of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs, due to meet during the IPU Assembly in Geneva.

I sincerely hope that members of your Parliament will take part in the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún and will also attend the Parliamentary Meeting on 6 December. We look forward to receiving their names in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General