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Geneva, 19 February 2009

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

Geneva, 7-8 May 2009

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The world is in the grip of a financial and economic crisis of unprecedented proportions and in dire need of a coordinated global response. Parliaments must be part of this response. We have a mandate to represent the people and protect the common good. Our responsibilities to ensure transparency and accountability, provide checks and balances, oversee government interventions and lay down effective legislative and regulatory frameworks take on particular importance in these times of crisis.

We are therefore pleased to announce that the IPU is convening a global parliamentary conference that will focus on the unfolding crisis and on how the international community - including the IPU - should react to it. The conference will take place in Geneva at the United Nations European Headquarters - the Palais des Nations - on 7 and 8 May 2009.

The conference offers members of parliament an opportunity to be briefed by and interact with leaders of major economic and financial institutions with special responsibilities for addressing the crisis. The event will include panels, parliamentary hearings, round tables and debates with the participation of senior representatives of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the G-20 and others.

In the course of the event, participants will address not only some of the immediate financial issues, but also broader and longer-term macro-economic, employment, social development and multilateral cooperation issues. Throughout the proceedings an effort will be made to focus on parliaments' own role in addressing the crisis, both at the national and the international level.

We invite your parliament to send a strong delegation to participate in the event. We urge you to include in your delegation members of those parliamentary committees that are tasked with addressing the various aspects of the crisis, in particular economic and financial committees, as well as foreign affairs and international development cooperation committees.

The conference is part of IPU's overall efforts to provide a robust and effective parliamentary input to the work of the United Nations System. It will consider the work

being carried out by the Commission of Experts set up by the President of the United Nations General Assembly, by the G-20, and by a number of high-level panels and commissions. The outcome of the conference and its recommendations will be subsequently submitted to the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions for their consideration.

The conference will also build on the work carried out at the Doha International Conference on Financing for Development, including by the IPU (a summary report on the Parliamentary Hearing held by the IPU in Doha can be found on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/ffd08/summary.pdf>).

A detailed programme of the Conference on the global economic crisis is currently being developed and will be sent to all parliaments closer to the date of the meeting. It will be also posted on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/finance09.htm>.

Practical information about the Conference is enclosed, together with registration form. Your attention is drawn to the fact that, due to the fact that the Conference will take place on the premises of the United Nations Office in Geneva, all delegates are expected to strictly observe UN security procedures, including registration deadlines and rules concerning identification badges. The deadline for returning registration forms to the IPU Secretariat is **30 April 2009**.

Likewise, booking of hotel rooms has to be made well in advance through your country's Permanent Mission in Geneva or, in case no such mission exists, through the Geneva Tourism Office (see practical information note). The deadline for hotel bookings through the latter channel is **23 March 2009**. Due to a large number of international events to be held in Geneva in the month of May, reservation of rooms after this deadline cannot be guaranteed.

We firmly believe that the participation of a strong delegation from your Parliament in this important conference is crucial to ensuring its successful outcome. We therefore very much hope that you will wish to respond favourably to this invitation. We look forward to hearing from you and remain,

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 of the Inter-Parliamentary Union