



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 58th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I wrote to you and other Presiding Officers on 11 October 2001 with a view to enquiring whether parliaments wished the IPU to organise a meeting of MPs attending the 58th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 18 March - 26 April 2002). At its last session of 21-22 January 2002, the IPU Executive Committee, upon reviewing the positive feedback from parliaments, decided to approve the holding of such an event. I am therefore pleased to invite you and other members of your Parliament to the first such Parliamentary Meeting, which has been scheduled for 8 April 2002 at the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva.

The Meeting is being convened to inform MPs about the functioning of the Commission by highlighting themes and mechanisms of particular interest to their work, as well as the mandate of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The event is also designed to provide MPs with an opportunity for an exchange of views on what they can do to promote and protect human rights. As you will see from the enclosed provisional programme, Ms. Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, will deliver an opening statement at the event.

The Meeting is open to MPs who travel to Geneva specifically for this purpose as well as to those who attend the Commission's session as members of their national delegation. Badges will be provided on the spot, with the kind assistance of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, so as to ensure their access to the *Palais des Nations*, the venue for both the Parliamentary Meeting and the Commission's session. I enclose an IPU registration form, which we invite you kindly to return to our Secretariat in due course.

IPU Members are encouraged to contact their diplomatic or consular representatives in Geneva or Bern for assistance regarding hotel reservations, reception at airport and transport in Geneva. In this respect, I wish to draw your kind attention to the enclosed note, which provides further details on these and other practical matters concerning the event.

Looking forward to greeting members of your Parliament in Geneva on this unique occasion, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General