

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA



organized jointly by the Parliament of Cambodia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Phnom Penh, 9-11 March 2009
Hotel Intercontinental

Geneva, 22 January 2009

Dear Madam Speaker
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We have the pleasure of inviting your parliament to take part in the regional seminar on *The role of parliaments in promoting peaceful and sustainable societies in South-East Asia*. This event, organized by the Parliament of Cambodia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will be held from **9 to 11 March 2009** at the Hotel Intercontinental in Phnom Penh.

The seminar is part of IPU's programme to strengthen the capacity of parliaments in the field of peace-building and conflict resolution. The seminar offers an opportunity to discuss how to manage the effects of past conflicts and build reconciliation as well as how to avoid future divisions and conflict. The seminar will focus, among other issues, on conflict resolution, reconciliation, transitional justice and institutional reform.

We attach the provisional programme of this three-day seminar. The final programme will be sent to you in due course. The subjects on the agenda will be presented by parliamentarians and expert resource persons. Sufficient time has been set aside for what we hope will be substantive and rewarding discussions. The working language of the meeting will be English.

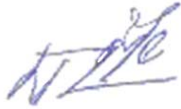
As is customary for IPU meetings, we are inviting each parliament to send, to the extent possible, a gender-balanced delegation of a maximum of six representative persons from different political parties including staff. Enclosed you will find a registration and hotel reservation form, which we invite you kindly to return no later than 6 February 2009 to the organizers as indicated in the enclosed general information document.

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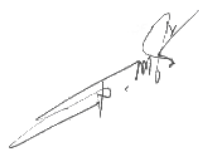
The Cambodian authorities will provide assistance with the granting of visas upon arrival in Phnom Penh. Both forms, along with the provisional programme of the seminar and other relevant documents, will also be available on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org>), under the section entitled *Future meetings*.

Looking forward to the participation of your parliament in the seminar, we remain,

Yours sincerely,



Chea Sim
President of the Senate of
Cambodia



Nguon Nhel
Acting President of the
Assembly of Cambodia



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

Annex: Provisional programme
General information document
Background note
Registration form
Intercontinental Hotel reservation form