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Geneva, 1 June 2012

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is a major global summit that will take place on 20-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The conference comes at a critical juncture when many long-standing economic, social and environmental problems need to be addressed at the same time, requiring bold policy responses as well as deep institutional reforms. It will focus on two key themes: developing a green economy in the context of development and poverty eradication; and creating a new institutional framework for sustainable development. Coming some twenty years since the landmark Agenda 21, the objective of the conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development.

As the culmination of its own involvement in the lead-up to the conference over the past several months, the IPU will hold a parliamentary briefing at the UNCSD in the morning of **Wednesday, 20 June 2012**, from 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., at the main conference venue (Room T-10, Rio Centro). The briefing will aim to review the new international agreement from the perspective of parliamentarians and provide a forum for a reflection on their role in carrying it forward.

I am pleased to attach an Information Note about the event, as well as a document outlining the IPU contribution to the negotiations of the outcome document of the conference. Further background on the IPU engagement in this process and additional documentation for the briefing can be found on our web site at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm>. Please note that the briefing will be held in English only.

The parliamentary briefing is an official side event of the UNCSD open to all members of parliament duly accredited to the conference as part of their national delegations. Although no formal registration is required, those planning to attend the briefing are encouraged to notify the IPU of their attendance by contacting Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU Program Officer for International Development, at ab@mail.ipu.org or +41 22 919 41 83.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General