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Geneva, 28 August 2008

**Briefing for members of parliament attending  
the opening of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly  
New York, Friday, 26 September 2008**

Madam President,  
Mr. President,

We have started to receive registrations for the briefing session that the IPU is convening for members of parliament on the occasion of the opening of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly and its General Debate. We look forward to an interesting event and very much hope that the members of your parliament who will be part of the national delegation will also register to take part in these discussions.

Please note that there has been a change of venue, and that the meeting will now take place as of 1:15 pm on Friday, 26 September, in the ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters. Further information about this parliamentary briefing session can be found at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm>.

We will post on our website the section of the UN Secretary-General's Report dealing with Cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU as soon as we receive it. Meanwhile, let me draw your attention to a policy paper adopted by the IPU last year on the nature of the relationship between the United Nations and the world of parliaments. I enclose a copy of this paper which is also available on the website at <http://www.ipu.org/un-e/un-docs.htm#unga>.

Let me also draw your attention to the fact that the newly elected President of the UN General Assembly has invited the Heads of State and government who will take part in this year's General Assembly debate to address the need to democratize the United Nations. You may wish to share the policy paper with your Foreign Ministry and encourage it to emphasize in your country's statement that the parliamentary dimension to the work of the UN is central to any efforts to democratize the Organization.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General