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## ADVANCE NOTICE

### PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF UNCTAD XI

*São Paulo (Brazil), 11-12 June 2004*

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is currently preparing for its eleventh session (UNCTAD XI), to be held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 18 June 2004. Established in 1964, UNCTAD is an intergovernmental subsidiary of the UN General Assembly. It counts 192 member States and aims at the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.

You will certainly recall that, in February 2000, the IPU organized a highly successful parliamentary meeting on the occasion of UNCTAD X in Bangkok. The meeting was a turning point for our Organization, having marked the beginning of its active involvement in matters of international trade with particular focus on the WTO and UNCTAD.

UNCTAD XI is widely expected to be an event of major political importance. It was with this in mind that, at its 173<sup>rd</sup> session, the Governing Council of the IPU endorsed the proposal to organize a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of UNCTAD XI in São Paulo and included a relevant provision in the Union's budget and programme of activities for 2004.

Following consultations between the IPU, UNCTAD Secretariat, the Brazilian National Congress and the Latin American Parliament, it was subsequently decided that the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of UNCTAD XI would take place on 11 and 12 June 2004 on the premises of the Latin American Parliament in São Paulo. The IPU and Brazilian National Congress, as the two co-organizers of the Meeting, are now finalizing its practical details. You will be receiving the invitation letter, agenda, programme and other relevant information by the end of March at the latest.

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The objective of the Parliamentary Meeting in São Paulo would be to ensure that the voice of parliamentarians as legitimate representatives of the people is heard loud and clear during the intergovernmental forum and, at the same time, to lay foundations for concerted parliamentary follow-up action at the national and international levels after UNCTAD XI.

The best way to achieve this objective is to make sure that as many members of parliament as possible not only take part in the Parliamentary Meeting on 11 and 12 June 2004 but also attend the proceedings of UNCTAD XI in an official capacity as members of their country's delegation to the intergovernmental Conference. Among other things, this will allow them to have their travel, visa, accommodation and accreditation to UNCTAD XI taken care of in a centralized way by the competent governmental authorities and the host country's Organizing Committee.

The purpose of the present advance notice is to urge you to make good use of the coming five months leading up to UNCTAD XI and to ensure that senior members of your Parliament who are active in trade and development issues are included in your national delegation to UNCTAD XI and arrive in São Paulo in time for the Parliamentary Meeting taking place on the eve of the intergovernmental Conference.

It goes without saying that those members of your Parliament who will not be members of official delegations to UNCTAD XI but who will be present in São Paulo at the time of the Conference are also welcome to attend the Parliamentary Meeting on 11 and 12 June 2004. I am currently carrying out consultations with the UNCTAD Secretariat and the Brazilian National Congress concerning possible alternative arrangements for such parliamentarians so as to secure for them hotel accommodation in São Paulo and some form of accreditation to UNCTAD XI. Details of these arrangements will be spelled out in the invitation letter. However, it will be by far the best solution from both political and practical points of view for members of your Parliament to attend UNCTAD XI as part of your country's official delegation.

I thank you in advance for paying attention to this important matter, 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