

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5  
CASE POSTALE 330  
1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENEVE (SUISSE)

TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50  
FAX (41.22) 919 41 60  
E-MAIL [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)  
ADR. TELEGR. INTERPARLEMENT GENEVE

**CONVOCATION TO THE  
2004 PARLIAMENTARY HEARING AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

Geneva, 7 June 2004

Madam President,  
Mr. President,

I am pleased to announce that the Parliamentary Hearing during the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly has been scheduled on 19 and 20 October. It will take place in the Economic and Social Council Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Details concerning registration and access to the UN building are provided in the attached [information note](#) and its accompanying [registration form](#).

Departing from past practice, this year's meeting will last longer - a day and a half - in order to allow for a more in-depth discussion as well as the articulation of a more substantive outcome in the form of summary notes and recommendations to be shared with the relevant decision-making bodies of the United Nations. To sharpen the focus of the discussion, the meeting will cover only one broad subject area entitled *From Disarmament to Lasting Peace: Defining the Parliamentary Role*.

As presented in the attached [provisional agenda](#), the meeting will revolve around three inter-related topics of great importance in today's turbulent international relations: disarmament and arms control, peace-keeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. The speakers for each of these topics will be announced at a later time. They will include high-level United Nations officials but also eminent experts from think tanks, academia, and the diplomatic corps.

The meeting is designed to be at the same time a substantive briefing for interested MPs and an opportunity for them to develop a critical input into on-going debates at the United Nations. In order to assist in drawing some concrete conclusions and recommendations from

the discussion, we are hoping to have each of the three main segments assisted by a rapporteur. He or she will come back in the early afternoon of the second day of deliberations to present the summary of each session.

This year's Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations has also been scheduled to coincide with the discussion in the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (tentative date: October 21<sup>st</sup>), an event which undoubtedly many of you will wish to attend.

I hope to see you and many of your colleagues at this year's meeting and look forward to a useful exchange of views between the United Nations and our Organization.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General