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Geneva, 14 September 2004

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

I am writing in connection with the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, scheduled to take place in New York on 19 and 20 October 2004.

Please find attached the updated program of the event, which as you will see includes speakers from the parliamentary and diplomatic community, as well as United Nations officials and academics. We are looking forward to a productive meeting, and we urge you to encourage interested members of Parliament to participate. The substantive departments of the United Nations system have contributed background papers on the major themes of our Parliamentary Hearing. These can be accessed on the IPU web-page, at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/ung04.htm>

As you know, we have scheduled this year's hearing in New York to coincide with the discussion in the UN General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (October 21-22). The IPU has been closely involved in the preparation of the UN Secretary-General's 2004 report on cooperation between the two organizations, and the report is a comprehensive document describing this partnership in detail. Once the report has been edited and translated into the official languages of the United Nations, we will post it on the IPU website, for the consideration of delegates prior to their departure for New York.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General