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Geneva, 15 October 2008

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I write to inform you that UNICEF, in partnership with the European Commission, is organizing a *Conference on Legislative Reform to Achieve Human Rights*. The Conference will take place in New York, at the Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, on 19 November 2008. The IPU is pleased to lend its support to the event.

As the meeting will be held on the eve of IPU's Annual Hearing at the United Nations (20 and 21 November 2008), we would like to encourage the delegation of your Parliament to the Hearing to take advantage of its trip to New York to also attend the UNICEF event. Of course, should you wish to send a parliamentary delegation specifically to the UNICEF meeting, this would be more than welcome by the organizers.

The UNICEF Conference is part of the joint effort of UNICEF and its partners to promote the adoption of legislative and policy frameworks that comply with international standards and serve as a basis for promoting democratic governance and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The Conference is planned as a forum for learning, sharing, and building momentum for legislative reform to achieve children's rights and advance the well-being of every child. It is a first step towards bringing together key actors engaged in legislative reform initiatives and initiating discussions on how to formalize these initiatives into a coordinated effort.

The Conference will draw on expertise from members of parliament, representatives of the UN system, practitioners, and civil society representatives to explore good practices, lessons learned, challenges and new ideas in legislative reform. You will find attached the draft agenda and a registration form for the meeting.

I hope that your Parliament will be able to take part in this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General

Legislative Reform for Children's Rights

Conference organized by UNICEF
19 November 2008, New York

Draft agenda

8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome and Opening remarks Ms Ann Veneman, Executive Director UNICEF (TBC)
9.15 – 9.30	Keynote address M. Anders B. Johnsson, IPU, Secretary-General
Overall Moderator	<i>Beatrice Duncan, Expert Ghana</i>
9.30 – 11.30	Panel 1 Promising approaches to achieve children's rights <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Integrating the human rights-based approach in legislative reform2. Constitutional reform and children's rights3. Translating the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Consolidated children's codes4. How can legislative reform help achieve the MDGs?
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee Break
11.45 – 1.30	Panel 2 Advancing the human rights relationship between women and children through legislative reform <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legislative Reform and Traditional Practices: gender-based discrimination2. Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law3. Legislative Framework to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children4. Legislative reform and children's right to health
1.30 – 2.30	Lunch
2.30 – 4.30	<u>Plenary Session</u> Panel 3 Legislative Framework: Enforcement and Implementation <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Institutional Framework2. Human Rights Institutions and other actors in the legal system3. The Legislature and its role4. Ensuring enforcement and implementation: budget and resource allocation
4.30 – 4.45	Coffee Break
4.45 – 5.30	Conclusion and Discussion of Recommendations
5.30 – 7.30	Reception

Legislative Reform for Children's Rights

Conference organized by UNICEF, in partnership with the European Commission and with the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

19 November 2008, New York

FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION UIP / IPU REGISTRATION FORM

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10/11/2008

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Ms. Mr. / Name / First name

Titres et fonctions au sein du Parlement /
Titles and functions within the Parliament

Secrétaires et Conseillers / Secretaries and Advisors

Mme M. / Nom / Prénom
Ms. Mr. / Name / First name

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