



# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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Geneva, 20 April 2000

## BRIEFING FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE OCCASION OF THE "COPENHAGEN +5" SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Geneva, 27 June 2000)

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you further to my circular letter GRP/2000/Inf.5 of 13 March 2000 regarding the **Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalising World"** (the "Copenhagen +5" session) to be held in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000.

For the international community, the "Copenhagen +5" Special Session will be an opportunity to analyse problems encountered in the implementation of the WSSD commitments on the national and international level and to formulate forward-looking initiatives aimed at overcoming extreme poverty, the dearth of decent work, and social disintegration and exclusion. For that reason, the Union has been consistently mobilising parliamentary support for the "Copenhagen +5" process and encouraging MPs to attend the UNGA Special Session in Geneva.

In keeping with the practice of holding special events for parliamentarians in conjunction with major UN fora, the 165th session of the IPU Council (Berlin, October 1999) decided to organise a **Briefing for Parliamentarians on the occasion of the "Copenhagen +5" Special Session of the UN General Assembly**.

The Briefing will take place on Tuesday, 27 June 2000, from 3 to 6 p.m.  
in Conference Room II at the International Labour Office in Geneva  
and will be followed by a cocktail reception.

### Background

As part of its activities to provide a parliamentary dimension to international cooperation, the Union was actively involved in the preparation and holding of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and devoted much attention to the Summit's follow-up at the parliamentary level. From the outset of preparations for the "Copenhagen +5" Special Session of the UN General Assembly, IPU made substantial inputs to

the process, in particular by conducting a survey of parliamentary action to follow up WSSD and by holding two Tripartite Meetings of Representatives of Parliaments, Governments and Inter-Governmental Organisations at the UN Headquarters in New York respectively in 1996 and 1999.

Participation in the Briefing for Parliamentarians on 27 June 2000 will provide an opportunity for MPs to obtain first-hand information about the main issues and thrusts of the Special Session, receive relevant UN and IPU background materials, and establish contacts that can be pursued in the course of consultations between national delegations. They will also be able attend a panel debate with the participation of key international figures responsible for the preparation of the "Copenhagen +5" Special Session.

### **UNGA Special Session and parallel events in Geneva**

To be able to follow the work of the "Copenhagen +5" UNGA Special Session and the negotiating process on the session's outcome, parliamentarians are strongly urged to stay in Geneva for the entire period from 26 to 30 June 2000. It is important to take urgent measures in order to ensure that members of your Parliament who are actively involved in social development issues are included in your national delegation to the "Copenhagen +5" Special Session.

It is presumed that all matters relating to visas, hotel accommodation in Geneva and transportation of participants will be taken care of by the respective official national delegations to the UNGA Special Session. This also applies to security passes that are necessary for accessing the UN compound where the Special Session will take place.

In addition to the UNGA Special Session as such, members of parliament will be able to participate in a series of side events. One of them will be the international Symposium "Partnerships for Social Development in a Globalising World", which will be organised by the Swiss Government on 26-28 June 2000 and in which a number of prominent IPU representatives, including the IPU Council President, will take part as panellists.

### **Programme of the Briefing**

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|-----------|---|
| 3 p.m.    | Opening of the Briefing. Introductory remarks by the President of the IPU Council, Mrs. Najma Heptulla  |
| 3.15 p.m. | Presentations by key international figures responsible for the preparation of the "Copenhagen +5" Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. |
| 3.45 p.m. | Panel debate  |
| 5.15 p.m. | Question-and-answer session   |
| 6 p.m.    | Closure of the Briefing.  |

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*Immediately following the end of the Briefing, all delegates are invited to a cocktail reception which will take place in the immediate vicinity of the meeting room.*

## Participation in the Briefing

The Briefing will be open to all MPs attending the "Copenhagen +5" UNGA Special Session as part of their national delegations, as well as to any other MPs delegated by their IPU National Groups to take part in the parliamentary event.

## Documents

The main documents presented at the "Copenhagen +5" UNGA Special Session will be made available to participants at the Briefing. IPU will also make available a number of its recent studies and publications on the subject and in particular its survey entitled "*Enhancing social development. A review of parliamentary action to implement the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development*" which was prepared by IPU as its contribution to the UNGA session.

As is customary for this kind of parliamentary event, National Groups are not expected to submit any memoranda or draft resolutions. However, should delegates wish to distribute their documents and materials pertaining to the theme of the Briefing, they will be able to use a table provided in the immediate vicinity of the meeting room.

No document or text will be adopted at the close of the Briefing.

## Languages

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Spanish and Arabic will be provided.

## Access to the ILO building

The ILO building (4, chemin des Morillons) is situated within walking distance of the Palais des Nations in Geneva where the "Copenhagen +5" UNGA Special Session will be held. On 27 June 2000, access to the premises of the International Labour Office will be unrestricted. Participants in the Parliamentary Briefing are kindly requested to proceed to Conference Room II on level R3.

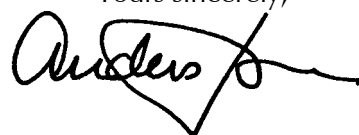
## Registration

Persons wishing to take part in the Briefing for Parliamentarians are requested to register using the attached form which should be returned to the IPU Secretariat in Geneva (fax +4122 919 41 60) as soon as possible and by 15 June 2000 at the latest.

Identity badges will be available from the registration and information desk that will be set up at the entrance of Conference Room II starting from 10 a.m. on 27 June 2000.

I look forward to receiving from you the duly completed registration form with the names of parliamentarians who will participate in the Briefing in Geneva on 27 June 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Anders B. Johansson  
Secretary General