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Geneva, 21 June 2010

## PARLIAMENTARY PANEL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2010

*Geneva, 16 September 2010*

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

Over recent years, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has established a tradition of holding annual public events where participants from government, parliament, civil society, the business sector, academia and the media jointly reflect upon the functioning of the multilateral trading system and analyse the state of advancement of the Doha Development Agenda. The annual **WTO Public Forum** is now a significant feature of the international calendar.

It has likewise become a tradition to hold special parliamentary panels within the overall organizational framework provided by WTO Public Forums. Such parliamentary panels are geared towards the specific interests of members of parliament specializing in international trade and are closely linked with the process known as the *Parliamentary Conference on the WTO*, which is driven by the synergies of the IPU and the European Parliament and constitutes a de facto parliamentary dimension of this inter-governmental organization.

This year's WTO Public Forum will be held on WTO premises in Geneva from 15 to 17 September, under the overall theme *The Forces Shaping World Trade*. The Forum will take place at a time when the global economic and financial crisis is far from being over, international trade is still in bad shape and the Doha negotiations are stalled.

The Parliamentary Panel within the framework of the overall programme of the WTO Public Forum 2010 will take place on **Thursday, 16 September**, from **2.15 to 4.15 p.m.**, in **Room D** at **WTO Headquarters** (Centre William Rappard). The panel will be open to all parliamentarians and other participants duly accredited to the WTO Forum, subject to the limits of the room's seating capacity. Interpretation into English, French and Spanish will be provided by the WTO Secretariat.

The exact title and programme of the Parliamentary Panel will be posted on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wto-forum10.htm> soon. Please note that the Parliamentary Panel is only one of more than 40 different events that are included in the WTO Public Forum's work programme which is exceptionally rich, stretching over three full days.

I would appreciate it if information about the WTO Public Forum 2010 and its Parliamentary Panel could be brought to the attention of those bodies and individual members of your parliament who specialize in questions of international trade and follow the activities of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO.

In conformity with WTO practice, all participants in the Public Forum are responsible for their own visa, travel arrangements and accommodation in Geneva. Participants are required to register on-line, by **9 September 2010** at the latest, using the WTO website (<https://meetings.wto.org/Forums/Registrant/SymposiumRegistration.aspx?Language=E>). Please note that registration for the Forum is handled by **the WTO Secretariat** and that no on-the-spot registration is possible.

I wish to make it very clear that the IPU Secretariat is not dealing with any logistical matters relating to the WTO Public Forum. For practical reasons, including the holding of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the IPU in Geneva on the heels of the WTO Public Forum, the IPU Secretariat is **not in a position** to help your delegates with accommodation and other practical arrangements in Geneva, which remain the sole responsibility of each of the WTO Forum's participant.

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