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Geneva, 20 July 2007

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2007
Trade and climate change: Is trade killing our planet?

Geneva, 4 October 2007

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 institutional state of the WTO. 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 on 4 and 5 October, under the overall theme *How Can the WTO Help Harness Globalization?* The Forum will take place at a time when the Doha negotiations are stalled, the benefits of globalization are challenged by both the North and South, and concerns are growing over the impact of globalization on the environment — all this as the multilateral trading system celebrates its 60th anniversary.

In line with the overall theme of the WTO Public Forum 2007, its Parliamentary Panel is entitled *Trade and climate change: Is trade killing our planet?* This issue should be of special interest to legislators who oversee government action in the fields of trade and

environment and thus strive to ensure that the Doha Round delivers on its promise for sustainable development.

The Parliamentary Panel will take place on **4 October 2007**, from **4.15 to 6.15 p.m.**, in **room D** at **WTO headquarters**. It 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 (150 persons). Interpretation into English, French and Spanish will be provided by the WTO Secretariat. A detailed programme of the Parliamentary Panel will be posted on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wto-symp07.htm> by the end of August. 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 two full days.

I would appreciate it if information about the WTO Public Forum 2007 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.

Please note that, in conformity with WTO practice, all participants in the Public Forum are responsible for their own visa, travel arrangements and accommodation in Geneva. All participants are also required to register well in advance, using **registration forms** to be found on the WTO website at <http://www.wto.org/>. Duly completed registration forms should be returned **directly to the WTO Secretariat** before the official deadline established by the WTO. No on-the-spot registration will be 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 117th 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 at the end.

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General