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Geneva, 17 August 2009

### **ENSURING EFFECTIVE FOLLOW UP TO IPU DECISIONS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS**

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

Starting from the second half of 2008, when the first signs of the global economic and financial crisis became visible, the IPU Members took a unequivocal stand in favour of coordinating national and international efforts to mitigate the social and political impact of the crisis both in developing and developed countries.

During the last two statutory IPU Assemblies, held in Geneva and Addis Ababa in October 2008 and April 2009 respectively, the Union's Members made it abundantly clear that they accorded exceptional importance to this matter by placing the question of the global economic crisis repeatedly and unanimously on the Assembly agenda as an emergency item.

The IPU Members also considered it imperative for the Union to convene, as a matter of urgency, a global parliamentary conference on the economic crisis. The conference took place on 7 and 8 May 2009 in Geneva and was an intense event, highly appreciated by the representatives of more than 70 parliaments who attended. I take this opportunity to forward to you a comprehensive summary record of the Conference proceedings. Please share it with those members of your Parliament who attended this unique event.

You will be pleased to hear that the outcome of the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis was subsequently fed into the process of reflection on the causes and consequences of the crisis currently undertaken by the United Nations General Assembly. In its resolution A/RES/63/303, a copy of which you will also find enclosed, the General Assembly called on the IPU to continue to contribute to the development of global responses to the crisis. The specific reference by the highest United Nations body to the work carried out by the IPU is an important achievement insofar as it constitutes an explicit recognition of the role played by parliaments in tackling the global economic and financial crisis.

Needless to say, the crisis itself is still unfolding and its consequences are being felt everywhere. The IPU Members have expressed their wish to keep this subject under close scrutiny until such time as the dangers of a globalized recession will have receded and an effective recovery is under way.

It is for this reason that the programme of the forthcoming 121<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly, to be held in Geneva from 19 and 21 October 2009, includes a special review and follow-up session devoted entirely to reporting on action taken by parliaments and the IPU to give effect to the resolutions on the global crisis adopted at the 119<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup> IPU Assemblies. The session will take place on Wednesday, 21 October, from 2.30 to 4 p.m.

The session's objective is to:

- Review implementation of relevant IPU resolutions and decisions, including statutory Assemblies and the Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis, held in Geneva on 7 and 8 May 2009;
- Take stock of UNGA and other processes focusing on the global crisis, in particular the "Global Jobs Pact" campaign promoted by the International Labour Organization as part of its response to the crisis;
- Formulate proposals for further parliamentary action regarding the economic and financial crisis, both nationally and internationally.

May I invite your delegation to the 121<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly to appoint one or more of its members to attend the review and follow-up session on 21 October and contribute to its deliberations. For the IPU as a whole, the forthcoming session is a new endeavour, an attempt to make our follow-up work more systematic and coherent. We count on your support and on the active participation of your delegation in this innovative exercise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johansson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johansson  
Secretary General