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Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to inform you that the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in cooperation with the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates, is organizing a second regional conference of women parliamentarians and political decision makers of the Gulf Cooperation Council States. The conference, entitled "*Women making a difference in parliament*", will be held in Abu Dhabi, on 30 and 31 October 2007. You will find enclosed a draft agenda, and a registration form.

This conference is the second of a series of regional events aimed at providing a forum for women parliamentarians and political decision makers of the GCC States to exchange knowledge and experiences on the participation of women in politics. The first conference was held in Bahrain in July 2006.

This year's conference will focus on the role and input of women in parliament. Participants will examine mechanisms to promote women's access to parliament and to facilitate their effective participation. The conference will also provide a space for exchange of best practices on mainstreaming gender in parliament.

This second regional conference is open to your parliament and its women members are invited to attend. Women in decision-making positions are also welcome. Should your parliament not have any women members, we would be grateful if a delegation of women in decision-making positions could take part in the debates.

I very much hope that a delegation from your country will be able to take part in this important conference.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General