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# ANNUAL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Geneva, 1-2 December 2006

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*Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament*

## **JOINT STATEMENT BY THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS**

*Following the adoption of the Declaration by consensus at the closing sitting of the session on 2 December 2007, the Conference co-Chairs, representing the IPU and the European Parliament respectively, made the following statement:*

In the course of the debate, several delegations referred to the question of accession to the WTO and made proposals to include this issue in the outcome document. However, the Conference Steering Committee, which had been entrusted with the preparation of the corresponding draft, has been unable to reach a consensus on this matter.

We wish to point out that, in December 2005, the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO had already underscored the importance of making the WTO a truly universal organization and expressed support to those countries that were in the process of accession to the WTO. We take this opportunity to reiterate our call for a prompt conclusion of the ongoing accession negotiations. As the co-organizers of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, we undertake to see to it that the agenda of the next session of our Conference includes an item specifically devoted to the consideration of the various aspects of the subject of accession to the WTO.