



**2008 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations**  
**ECOSOC Chamber**  
**20 – 21 November 2008**



21 July 2008

***CONVOCATION OF THE  
2008 PARLIAMENTARY HEARING AT THE UNITED NATIONS***

Madam President,  
Mr. President,

We are pleased to announce that the 2008 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations will take place during the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly on 20 and 21 November 2008. It will be held in the ECOSOC Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York. We attach particular importance to this hearing which is convened as a joint UN-IPU event pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/6.

This year's meeting is entitled ***"Towards effective peacekeeping and the prevention of conflict: Delivering on our commitments"***. The discussions will centre on the following aspects:

- Major challenges facing UN peacekeeping operations today;
- Human security in international peace operations;
- Sexual violence against women and children in conflict;
- Responsibility to protect: the role of member States, regional organizations and the United Nations.

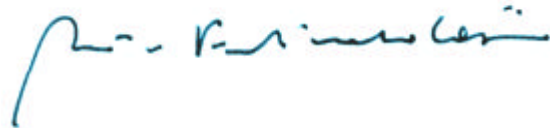
You will find attached an information note and registration form. The full agenda and other relevant documentation will be sent to parliaments in September. Each session of the Hearing - to be organized in the form of panel discussions - will be assisted by a moderator, who will summarize the discussions and present conclusions and recommendations in the afternoon of the second day. The Report of the Parliamentary Hearing will subsequently be made available to the United Nations General Assembly and national parliaments.

As in the past, the 2008 Parliamentary Hearing will bring together legislators who are part of their national delegations to the United Nations General Assembly, as well as all other interested parliamentarians, in particular those whose work in their parliamentary committees concerns the issues outlined above. We invite delegations to confirm their participation by November 10, 2008.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Srgjan Kerim  
President  
United Nations General Assembly



Pier Ferdinando Casini  
President  
Inter-Parliamentary Union