



REPUBLIC ÖSTERREICH
Parlament

UN.GIFT

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON THE OCCASION OF
THE VIENNA FORUM TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
VIENNA, 12 FEBRUARY 2008**

15 November 2007

Madam President,
Mr. President,

We are honored to invite your parliament to designate representatives to attend the Parliamentary Forum, which the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in co-operation with the Austrian Parliament and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), will organize on **12 February 2008**.

The Parliamentary Forum will take place in the Austrian Parliament, in Vienna, as a prelude to the "Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking", being organized under the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) from 13-15 February 2008.

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking will address three concrete areas of intervention: (i) how to make people less vulnerable; (ii) how to rescue more victims and better protect them; (iii) how to track, disrupt and punish more successfully the crime of preying on other humans. It will therefore address such issues as vulnerability, the causes of human trafficking, its human and social consequences, as well as innovative approaches to combating this problem.

The Vienna Forum is open both to state and non-state actors. Senior government officials, members of parliament, representatives of international organizations, civil society and the private sector are expected to attend. Information on the Vienna Forum and how to register can be found at the Forum's website: <http://www.ungift.org>.

The Parliamentary Forum will examine ways in which parliaments and parliamentarians can be more actively involved in the global drive against human trafficking, including by promoting the effective implementation of the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and other international instruments against human trafficking*. Participants are expected to discuss and share good practices in anti-human trafficking legislative review, among other matters.

We attach a concept note providing more information, together with the provisional agenda of the Parliamentary and Vienna Forums.

The Parliamentary Forum is open to members of parliament attending the Vienna Forum. Participants must therefore have been registered to the Vienna Forum in order to attend. As seating capacity in the venue of the Parliamentary Forum is very limited, it would be appreciated if your parliament could limit its delegation to a maximum of 3 persons.

Although all registrations for the Vienna Forum must be made on-line, we would appreciate it if you could inform the IPU Secretariat, at the address below, of the members of your parliament's delegation to the Parliamentary Forum. For practical purposes, this information must be submitted to the IPU by 10 January 2008.

Should you have any queries regarding the Vienna Forum, we suggest you contact the Forum organizers at: viennaforum@unov.org, telephone: +43 1 260604148.

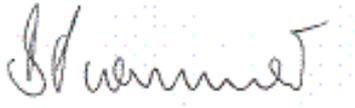
Requests for information on the Parliamentary Forum should be addressed to:

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Yours sincerely,



Pier Ferdinando Casini
President, IPU



Barbara Prammer
Speaker National Council, Austria



Antonio Maria Costa
Executive Director, UNODC