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Geneva, 5 October 2009

PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Copenhagen, 16 December 2009

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Further to my advance information note of 20 March 2009, I am writing to invite members of your parliament who are attending the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (also known as COP15) to participate in the Parliamentary Meeting organized by the IPU and the Danish Parliament (Folketing) on 16 December 2009.

As you know, the United Nations Climate Change Conference takes place in Copenhagen, from 7 to 18 December 2009. This event will be the culmination of a long process of negotiations which aim at reaching agreement on a comprehensive and effective international response to climate change. The political stakes are high for the future of humanity and the IPU encourages all parliaments to make sure that they are represented on the national delegations attending the event, particularly towards the end of the Conference when Ministers will lead the final negotiations.

The Meeting in the Danish Parliament on 16 December will provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and orientations of COP15 and to interact with government negotiators directly involved in the Conference decision-making process. An important outcome of the Parliamentary Meeting will be to agree upon a strategy to ensure effective parliamentary action on climate change, including the speedy implementation of the outcome of COP15.

I would like to underline that it is essential that members of your Parliament who intend to travel to Copenhagen for COP15 are included in your country's official delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Only persons duly accredited to COP15 through their national delegations or as observers will be able to enter the Bella Centre where the intergovernmental Conference will be held. Please note that the **IPU and the Danish Folketing are not in a position to facilitate accreditation to COP15 and cannot provide Schengen visa support** for entry into Denmark. These matters should be dealt with by each delegation individually, as part of the overall COP15 accreditation procedure.

Likewise, hotel accommodation in Copenhagen at the time of COP15 is subject to severe restrictions and is practically unavailable to persons who are not accredited to the intergovernmental Conference as delegates or observers. As many as 8,000 persons are expected to attend. To lodge all these guests in Copenhagen, the hosts have pre-booked the quasi-totality of hotel rooms within a radius of 60 km of the Conference Centre. For this reason, the **organizers of the Parliamentary Meeting cannot provide hotel accommodation in Copenhagen**. We would expect all parliamentary delegates to use the official COP15 hotel booking service instead.

The Parliamentary Meeting will be open to all members of parliament who are present in Copenhagen at the time of COP15 and are accredited to the intergovernmental Conference with a valid COP15 identity badge. This badge will allow entry to the premises of the Danish Parliament.

If, for one reason or another, a parliamentary delegate does not have a COP15 badge, a special one-day "Parliamentary Meeting" badge will be issued on the spot. This badge will be valid for the meeting at the Folketing but will not allow access to the Bella Centre. Delegates requiring a "Parliamentary Meeting" badge should inform the IPU Secretariat by 15 November 2009 at the latest, using the enclosed registration form, also available on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop15.htm>).

Further details about the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of COP15 can be found in the enclosed practical information note. The provisional programme will be posted on the IPU website closer to the date of the Meeting.

I sincerely hope that members of your parliament will take part in COP15 in Copenhagen and will also attend the Parliamentary Meeting on 16 December. We look forward to receiving their names in due course.

Yours sincerely,

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

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General