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Geneva, 15 September 2011

PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP17/CMP7)

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The next full-scale session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP17/CMP7, will take place in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December 2011. The forthcoming session will bring together representatives of the world's governments, parliaments, international organizations and civil society in an effort to advance, in a balanced fashion, the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The legislators who participated in the Parliamentary Meetings organized by the IPU in conjunction with last two sessions of the Climate Change Conference, held in Copenhagen and Cancún respectively, called on the IPU to lead the way in coordinating global parliamentary efforts to ensure effective oversight of the intergovernmental negotiations on climate change. Responding to these requests, the IPU and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa will organize a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of COP17/CMP7.

The Parliamentary Meeting in Durban will take place on **5 December** on the premises of Moses Mabhida Stadium. This world-renowned stadium was constructed for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and is easily accessible from the main venue of COP17/CMP7.

The Parliamentary Meeting in Durban will offer parliamentarians an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and orientations of COP17/CMP7, to interact with government negotiators directly involved in the UNFCCC decision-making process, gain better knowledge of the recommendations adopted by the IPU with regard to parliamentary action on climate change, and exchange views on parliamentary follow-up to the session in Durban.

The UN Climate Change Conference is part of an intergovernmental negotiation process in which Parties to the UNFCCC are represented by governments. While fully respecting this principle, parliaments should keep themselves informed of the ongoing talks and exercise their oversight role vis-à-vis government negotiators. Such a proactive attitude will prove its worth in particular when the time comes for the ratification of the eventual new climate change agreement by parliaments.

The Parliamentary Meeting on 5 December is intended for legislators who will be present in Durban for the UN Conference as members of official national delegations or in any other capacity, such as observers representing civil society groups..

As a rule, participants in the Parliamentary Meeting are expected to be accredited to the UN Conference and have a COP17/CMP7 badge. This badge is valid for the Parliamentary Meeting, with no other ID badges required. However, if for one reason or another a delegate does not have a COP17/CMP7 badge, a special one-day "Parliamentary Meeting" badge will be issued by the IPU registration desk at the Moses Mabhida Stadium. This badge is valid for the Parliamentary Meeting only and will not allow access to the UN Conference. All cases when participants in the Parliamentary Meeting are not accredited to COP17/CMP7 and therefore require a special one-day badge must be announced to the IPU Secretariat in advance, using the enclosed **registration form** to be returned to the IPU by **15 November 2011** at the latest. The registration form is available in electronic form on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop17.htm>).

It is to be borne in mind that the IPU and the South African Parliament are **not in a position to facilitate accreditation to the UN Conference** and **cannot provide visa support** for entry into South Africa. These matters should be dealt with by each delegation individually, as part of the overall COP17/CMP7 accreditation procedure. Likewise, hotel accommodation in Durban at the time of the Climate Change Conference will be subject to severe restrictions. The **organizers of the Parliamentary Meeting cannot provide accommodation**. Parliamentary delegates are invited to use the official COP17/CMP7 hotel booking service instead.

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

In the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban, the IPU intends to use its forthcoming 125th Assembly (Bern, 16-19 October 2011) for consultations on the content of a parliamentary message to be addressed to COP17/CMP7 from the Parliamentary Meeting. The corresponding item has been placed on the agenda of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs, due to meet during the IPU Assembly in Bern. Please find enclosed with this letter a preliminary draft of the outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting in Durban prepared by the South African Parliament as the host of the Meeting. A revised version of the draft will be prepared after the IPU Assembly in Bern.

I sincerely hope that members of your Parliament will take part in the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Durban and will also attend the Parliamentary Meeting on 5 December. We look forward to receiving their names in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General