



**Parliamentary Hearing
International Conference on Financing for Development
Doha, Qatar, 28 November 2008**



PROGRAMME

**Sheraton Doha Resort and Convention Center
2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Salwa Room**

The Parliamentary Hearing will provide an opportunity for MPs attending the International Conference to review the overall financing for development agenda with the expected Doha Outcome Document as a basis and in light of current challenges such as the global financial crisis.

The FFD agenda is vast, covering such issues as foreign direct investments (FDIs), official development assistance (ODA), debt relief and a host of innovative financing schemes that have emerged in recent years. It also includes larger issues of economic management at the national level and systemic issues such as the governance of international finance and of organizations like the Bretton Woods institutions. The question of trade liberalization and its linkages to development is also part of this agenda.

What progress has been made on all these fronts since the groundbreaking 2002 Monterrey Consensus and what are the expectations of the Doha conference? Will the global financial crisis divert governments' attention away from the needs of developing countries? Is there sufficient political will in parliaments to move the agenda in the right direction? These and other such questions will be discussed.

Introductory remarks:

Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, President of the IPU, Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia: introduction of the Parliamentary Message to the Doha conference, the role of parliaments in support of the FFD agenda and the work of the IPU.

Hon. Mohamed Bin Mubarak Al-Khulaifi, Speaker of the Advisory Council of Qatar: welcome remarks.

Presentations:

Mr. Eckhard Deutscher, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), OECD: current trends in foreign aid, the risks to development cooperation posed by the global financial crisis, and expectations of the Doha conference.

Ms. Jane Stewart, Director, Office of the International Labor Organization to the United Nations (New York): focusing the FFD agenda on employment creation and decent work as a pillar of development.

Mr. Roberto Bissio, Executive Director, Social Watch and Third World Network: assessing progress and setbacks in the Doha Outcome Document, priority areas for further mobilization, and cooperation between parliaments and civil society organizations.

Questions and Answers Period:

Participants will be invited to ask questions of the panelists and interact with each other in an informal debate.

Key messages from the proceedings will be conveyed to the plenary of the International Conference in a statement by the IPU President on 29 November (afternoon).