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SEMINAR ON
**IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
RIGHTS: WHAT PART FOR PARLIAMENTS?**

Geneva, 7 October 2010
Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Room B (CCV)

Geneva, 13 September 2010

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to invite your parliament to participate in a human rights seminar, which will be organized by the IPU, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 7 October 2010, the day after the closure of the 123rd IPU Assembly. The seminar is designed to enhance parliaments' involvement in the work of the United Nations treaty bodies and, more specifically, in the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) cover the full spectrum of human rights. By ratifying them, States commit themselves to implementing their provisions and reporting regularly on the steps taken to this end to the Human Rights Committee, which oversees the implementation of the ICCPR, and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which oversees the implementation of the ICESCR. Both Committees issue concluding observations and recommendations to each State party. Parliaments can make a significant contribution to this reporting and follow-up process.

I hope, therefore, that your parliament will be able to participate in the seminar and to designate for this purpose, where possible, members of committees whose mandate is directly related to the work of one or both UN Committees. Please note that the invitation is also extended to one parliamentary staff member dealing with these issues.

Members of both UN Committees have been invited to facilitate the seminar. Please find attached a preliminary agenda of the seminar. A final version will be available shortly on the IPU website.

I sincerely hope that your parliament's delegation will be able to participate in this seminar and would be grateful if your parliament could complete and return to us at its earliest convenience the attached registration form.

I look forward to the participation of your parliament in the seminar.

Yours sincerely,

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

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General