



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON THE OCCASION OF THE
FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDC IV)**

Istanbul, Turkey 8 May 2011

*Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the
Grand National Assembly of Turkey, with the support of UNOHRLLS*



2 March 2011

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC IV) will take place from 9 to 13 May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Conference will review the implementation of the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action (BPOA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) during the 2001 to 2010 decade, and adopt a new Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) for this category of countries.

The IPU, in cooperation with the Turkish Grand National Assembly and with the support of the United Nations, will organise a Parliamentary Forum in conjunction with the LDC IV in Istanbul. The Parliamentary Forum will take place on **8 May 2011**, at the venue of LDC IV, and will be open to all members of parliament already accredited to LDC IV as part of their national delegations.

The IPU has worked actively to support the LDCs over the past decade in the context of the Brussels Programme of Action. The IPU has established a partnership with the United Nations to help mobilize parliaments in support of that landmark agreement. At present, the IPU is coordinating the *parliamentary track* of the Conference preparations with a view to ensuring that parliaments and their concerns are reflected in the outcome document of the Conference as well as in its follow-up.

The LDCs are among the most vulnerable in the world and score at the lowest end of the human development index. For the future programme of action to succeed, it is essential that parliaments in both developed and developing countries are engaged in a spirit of partnership and shared responsibility.

Further information about the Parliamentary Forum, including the provisional programme and information note for participants, will be disseminated by the end of March and will also be posted on the IPU website.

We sincerely hope that you will take steps to ensure that members of your Parliament are included in your national delegation to LDC IV so that they can participate in the Forum.

Yours sincerely,

Mehmet Ali ŞAHİN
Speaker
Grand National Assembly

Theo-Ben Gurirab
President
Inter-Parliamentary Union