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Geneva, 25 July 2011

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 66th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Wednesday, 21 September 2011, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 6

Madam President,
Mr. President,

I am writing to invite members of your parliament who will be attending the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly to attend a lunch time briefing and discussion on Wednesday, 21 September, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at UN Headquarters in New York.

As you know, it is becoming increasingly common practice for members of parliament to be part of their country's national delegation to the opening session of the General Assembly. This offers them an opportunity to exchange experiences with delegates from all corners of the world and to follow the debate that takes place every year on the major challenges and opportunities facing the international community.

This year's debate takes place from 20 September to 1 October. It is preceded on 19-20 September by a United Nations high-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, to which the IPU has been invited to bring a parliamentary contribution. A series of other important events will be taking place at UN Headquarters in the course of the same week, including:

- High-level meeting on "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" (20 September);
- High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action against Racism (22 September);
- Summit convened by the UN Secretary-General on Nuclear Energy Safety.

The parliamentary meeting on 21 September will focus on the main theme of this session of the UN General Assembly, namely, peace mediation. Relevant UN documents relating to the enhancement of peace mediation will be made available on the IPU meetings webpage at <http://www.ipu.org/structure/futrmets.htm>. The incoming President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar, has been invited to present his priorities and to engage in a discussion with participating legislators.

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I would be most grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of members of your parliament traveling to New York for the General Assembly. Those who wish to attend the lunch time discussion are kindly requested to advise our New York Office in writing by email (ny-office@mail.ipu.org) or by fax (+1 212 557 3954). The IPU Office in New York will be happy to respond to any queries concerning this event.

Yours sincerely,

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

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General