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Geneva, 20 July 2009

**BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ATTENDING THE OPENING OF  
THE 64<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
New York, Thursday, 24 September 2009**

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 a lunch time discussion on Thursday, 24 September, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

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 23 September to 2 October. It is preceded on Tuesday, 22 September by a high-level meeting on climate change convened by the United Nations Secretary-General. It also coincides, on 24-25 September, with a high-level Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Background information on the high-level discussions can be downloaded from the website of the United Nations at [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

The parliamentary lunch-time discussion offers members of parliament an opportunity to exchange views with their parliamentary colleagues and to discuss recent developments in parliamentary relations with the United Nations. The President of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, Minister Ali Abdussalam Treki of Libya, has been invited to present his priorities and to engage in a discussion with participating legislators.

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](mailto: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,

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General