



## **PRESS RELEASE**

5 May 2009

### **SPEAKER GURIRAB TO ATTEND PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN GENEVA**

The IPU will convene a Parliamentary conference on the Global Economic Crisis in Geneva from 7-8 May 2009. Over 250 legislators from 70 parliaments will be gathering in Geneva this week to debate the global economic crisis. They will discuss macroeconomic policies to stimulate the global economy, create jobs and ward off social recession. The participants will also examine how best to mitigate the impact of the crisis on development. Part of the debates will focus on reforming the international financial system and achieving financial stability.

The participants will be briefed on the work of the Expert Commission set up by the President of the UN General Assembly and led by the Nobel Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz as well as the outcome of the G20 summit and the recent meeting of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

It is expected that the legislators will recommend more active parliamentary involvement at the national and global levels to ensure greater transparency and accountability in economic policy and financial systems.

The Speaker of the National Assembly and President of the IPU, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab leaves for Geneva today Tuesday, 5 May 2009 and will return on Sunday, 10 May 2009. The Namibian Parliamentary delegation consisting of Hon. Peya Mushelenga (Leader of delegation), Hon. Tommy Nambahu, Hon. Johan de Waal, Hon. Hansina Christiaan and Hon. Sebastiaan !Gobs left on Monday, 4 May 2009 and will also return on Sunday, 10 May 2009.

#### *Contact information:*

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Further information can also be obtained from [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

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**THURSDAY, 7 MAY**

08:30 - 18:00 *Registration of participants (United Nations Office at Geneva)*

10:00 - 10:40 *Inaugural session*

**Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab**, IPU President

**Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi**, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

10:40 - 11:00 *Introductory video presentation*

**Cascading failures: the genesis of the crisis**

**Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University (USA)

**Theme 1: Macroeconomic policies to stimulate the global economy**

11:00 - 13:00 *Interactive panel discussion*

**Creating jobs and warding off social recession**

**Mr. Juan Somavía**, Director-General, International Labour Office

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Lehmann**, Professor of International Political Economy,  
Founding Director, The Evian Group

13:00 - 15:00 *Lunch break*

15:00 - 16:00 *Question-and-answer session*

**Finding a new path to stability and growth: conclusions of the G20**

**Lord Malloch-Brown**, Minister of State (United Kingdom)

16:00 - 18:00 *Interactive panel discussion*

**Mitigating the impact of the crisis on development**

**Mr. Teshome Toga**, Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives (Ethiopia)

**Mr. Paul Larsen**, Director, External Relations Division, World Food Programme

**Mr. Haffidz Zawawi**, MP, Chairman of the Committee of Finance and Banking  
(Indonesia)

18:00 *Reception at UNOG*

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**FRIDAY, 8 MAY**

10:00 - 10:30 *Keynote presentation*

**Gender aspects of the economic crisis**

**Ms. Barbara Prammer**, Speaker of Parliament (Austria)

**Theme 2: Reform of the international financial system**

10:30 - 13:00 *Interactive panel discussion*

**Achieving financial stability**

**Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic  
Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Mr. John Lipsky**, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

**Mr. Geir Haarde**, former Prime Minister (Iceland)

13:00 - 15:00 *Lunch break*

15:00 - 16:00 *Thematic debate*

**Principles of the reform: towards a new Bretton Woods?**

**Mr. Jan Kregel**, Chief Rapporteur, Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on the Reform of the International Monetary and Financial System

**Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**, Professor at Columbia University (USA), former United Nations Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs

***Theme 3: Elements for a parliamentary strategy***

16:00 - 17:50 *Round Table*

**The way forward**

**Ms. Samura Tioulong**, MP (Cambodia)

*(name to be confirmed)* Member of the European Parliament

17:50 - 18:00 *Closing session*