



## Press Release

03 April 2009

### **SPEAKER GURIRAB TO ATTEND 120<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY IN ADDIS ABABA**

The 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will be held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from Sunday, 5 April to 10 April 2009. The Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab, who is also the IPU President accompanied by three Members of Parliament, will be attending the Assembly. Over 1,000 delegates – including some 500 legislators and Speakers of parliaments from around the world are expected to attend this event.

The Assembly coincides with the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU and will be held under the general theme of **Parliament: Building Peace, Democracy and Development in times of crisis.**

The main theme to be debated at the Assembly will be Building Peace, Democracy and Development in times of crisis. The three IPU Standing Committees will be examining respectively the themes of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; climate change; sustainable development models; renewable energies; freedom of expression and the right to information.

The Addis Ababa Assembly will also provide an opportunity for delegates to hold bilateral meetings and seek means of resolving conflicts in various parts of the world. The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians will continue to examine cases involving violations of the human rights of parliamentarians throughout the world.

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*Established in 1889 and with Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the IPU - the oldest multilateral political organization in the world - currently brings together 154 parliaments and eight associated regional assemblies. The world organization of parliaments also has an Office in New York, which acts as its Permanent Observer to the United Nations.*  
Website: <http://www.ipu.org>