



## **PRESS RELEASE**

10 July 2009

### **SPEAKER GURIRAB TO VISIT AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab accompanied by one staff member will be travelling to the above-mentioned countries to attend the following conferences and meetings on 11 July 2009 and return on 27 July 2009:

#### **1. Vienna, Austria**

5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF WOMEN SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT: 13-14 JULY 2009

During the two-day meeting organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Council of Austria, Women Speakers of Parliament will discuss the challenges of achieving gender equality and meeting Millennium Development Goal 3 and will focus more particularly on two themes of particular relevance to achieving this objective, namely; violence against women and the financial crisis. The meeting also aims to take stock of progress made and future challenges in achieving women's rights and to contribute to the preparations of the Beijing Platform for Action 15 year review and the Third Meeting of Speakers of Parliament, both scheduled in 2010.

The meeting will be attended by 15 women Speakers and 3 Deputy Speakers and Observers.

#### **2. Geneva, Switzerland**

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS: 16-17 JULY 2009

The IPU organised the first conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2000 and the second in 2005. Both conferences took place in New York. The third conference of Speakers will take place in 2010 in Geneva where the IPU Headquarters are based. This Preparatory Committee meeting will be the first of the three planned meetings. This meeting will discuss the follow-up to 2000 and 2005 conferences, Parliaments and democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Parliament and the United Nations, Inter-parliamentary cooperation and preparations for the 2010 conference.

### **3. Philadelphia, United States of America**

2009 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES SUMMIT (NCSL),  
20-24 JULY 2009

The NSCL is a national bipartisan organisation that serves and represents the legislators and legislative staff of the US State, Commonwealths and territories. The conference is the premier networking and professional development event for legislators and staff worldwide. The Speaker has been invited to speak at a session titled "the Worldwide Economic Downturn" on 20 July 2009. The Speaker will inform the Summit of the discussions and outcomes of the IPU's Conference on the Global Economic Crisis which took place in May 2009 and also share his views on how the financial crisis affected Namibia and the African continent.

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