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EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
COPENHAGEN

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The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Copenhagen presents its compliments to the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honour to inform that the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia has decided to present the candidature of Hon. Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia as President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for the period 2008-2011 at the elections to be held during the 183rd Session of the Governing Council of the IPU in Geneva on October 2008.

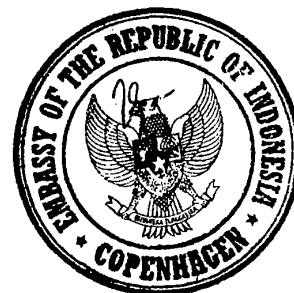
The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia attached herewith a Resume of Hon. Agung Laksono and an *aide memoire* of Hon. Agung Laksono elaborating the aforementioned candidature for favorable consideration.

Taking into consideration of friendly relations existing between two countries, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia would be most grateful if the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark could render its support to the candidacy of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Assurances of its highest consideration.

Copenhagen, February 2008

**The Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Copenhagen.**



Aide Memoire

The Candidature of Hon. Agung Laksono Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for President of The Inter-Parliamentary Union, for Period 2008-2011

1. Indonesia presents the candidature of the Hon. Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, for President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the 2008-2011 period.
2. Mr. Laksono is an experienced statesman. He is a longstanding Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and has served in the cabinet of two administrations as Minister for Youth and Sports, first under the administration of former President Soeharto and in the succeeding administration of President Habibie (1998-1999). He is now Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for the 2004-2009 period, and Vice Chairman of the ruling Golkar Party.
3. Mr. Laksono's determination to take on this important responsibility stems from his commitment to promoting and strengthening the role of the IPU as a forum where national parliamentary institutions can exchange views and best practices and find guidance on democratic and inclusive approaches to various global problems. He supports the continuations and creation of programmes and activities of the IPU that are designed to enhance the IPU's role in the international affairs.
4. Since the world needs parliaments to play a more active role in international affairs, Speaker Laksono envisions the IPU increasing its political leverage with the international community and building a strong partnership with governments all over the world. Such a partnership will be a powerful force for resolving systemic problems that plague the world, such as climate change, poverty, epidemics, terrorism, the suppression of human rights, and the economic disparity between developed and developing countries.
5. As a country engaged in vigorous democratic reform, Indonesia believes that the IPU provides a natural framework for reinforcing Indonesian parliamentary institutions. Indonesian MPs have therefore actively participated in various standing committees and working groups of the IPU, such as the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, the Committee on the Middle East Question, the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and the Executives Committee.
6. The Indonesian Parliament was host to the 104th IPU Assembly in Jakarta in 2000 and the 116th General Assembly of the IPU in Bali in 2006. Moreover, the

Indonesian Parliament was entrusted with the task of organizing and conducting strategic international conferences, such as the 14th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) held from 15 to 20 January 2006 and the First and Second AIPO Ad-hoc Committee Meetings on the Transformation of AIPO in 2006, during which the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization was transformed into a more effective and committed assembly and renamed ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Under Speaker Laksono's leadership, the Indonesian Parliament initiated the First Asian-African Parliamentary Conference in November 2006 and will host the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in November 2008.

7. Since his election as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in 2004, Mr. Laksono has worked to enhance the role of Parliament in the continuing growth of democracy and promotion of good governance in Indonesia. As the world's third largest democracy, Indonesia has become internationally recognized for its efforts in advancing and strengthening democracy.
 8. Indonesia therefore earnestly requests the valuable support of the member countries of the IPU for this candidature. We are fully confident that if elected President, Speaker Laksono, with the support of the member countries, will lead the IPU to new levels of achievement on the basis of innovative approaches and wide consultation.
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Résumé of
HR. AGUNG LAKSONO

**SPEAKER OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**



*Main Assembly Hall of
The Parliament of The Republic of Indonesia*



The Honorable Agung Laksono, currently Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, was elected to this prestigious office for a 5-year term from 2004 to 2009

His Commitment To The IPU

Under his leadership, the Indonesian Parliament has been consistently committed to engaging in international parliament mechanism aimed at further strengthening the role of the legislature in creating a new international order, notably through the IPU mechanism. The Indonesian House of Representatives has been an active and keen member of the IPU. The Indonesian Parliament is proud to have its members sitting on the Executive Committee and other committees of the IPU.

Equally important is the fact that in recognition of the importance of the issue of gender equality, Speaker Laksono ensures the participation of women MPs in each Indonesian delegation to the IPU. Indonesian MP's have played a significant role in the enhancement of the IPU for a long time, stemming from their conviction and confidence in the vision and role of the IPU in the international arena. In the year 2000, the Indonesian Parliament was also host to the 104th IPU Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Furthermore, Speaker Laksono's strong commitment and determination to advance the role of the Indonesian Parliament in the international arena was instrumental in the decision to entrust the Indonesian Parliament hosting with the 116th General Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union at a fairly short notice. The event was originally going to be hosted by the Parliament of Thailand. Despite the extremely brief period of time available for the preparation of such a significant event, namely less than 6 months, the Indonesian Parliament and notably Speaker Laksono, who was elected as the President of the Assembly, received high praise and compliments from country participants for the masterly organization of such a successful Conference, which was held on the beautiful and serene Island of Bali.

The Indonesian Parliament plays an extremely very important role in the endeavors for strengthening and preserving democracy in Indonesia, as evident from the current freedom of the press, which has made a significant improvement and has been considerably strengthened and powerful. This is certainly closely linked to the unwavering commitment and persistent effort made by the person leading the Indonesian House of Representatives.



His Vision For The IPU

Speaker Laksono embraces the vision that IPU political leverage lies with its commitment to become a more assertive international community that speaks up for amounting unsolved issues that our civilization is still encountering. These issues include the economic gap between developed and less developed countries, poverty as well as HIV/AIDS eradication, climate change, human security, terrorism and the roots of stability, equality and prosperity conflict and violence, and the ways to create peace, in the war-torn regions in

many parts of the world, and in particular to defend the core issue of IPU that is strengthening the role of parliaments in maintaining democracy.

With particular regard for the aspiration of IPU members to have an IPU president who has the qualities as the political leader of this organization, Speaker Laksono feels the time has now come for this aspiration to materialize. Supported by the mandate by all of its members, the future IPU President will have a stronger authority in promoting parliamentary diplomacy in international fora. There is a great need for such role as political leader in order to ensure that IPU gains an increasing recognition in the international political arena.

In addition to conferences and meetings that he attends regularly, as Speaker he has led Indonesian Parliament Delegations and met with Parliamentarians from various countries all over the world. He values these experiences as a valuable avenue for changing views on issues of global concern.



The Early Years

In the early 1970s, as a young undergraduate from Medical School in Jakarta he joined a youth business community called the Indonesian Young Entrepreneurs' Association or HIPMI. While retaining his interest in business, in 1977 Agung Laksono decided to embark on a career in politics. He started in 1987 when he was elected to chair a division in the Golkar Party's Jakarta Branch.

He was the founder of several organizations affiliated to and sharing the Golkar Party's objectives, which reflects to his dedication to serving the public. Mr. Laksono continued to serve as Head of Department in the Golkar Party until up to the year 1998. From then on, he started rising to the top hierarchy of the Party. In the 1998 national assembly of Golkar, he was elected as Vice Chairman at the top of the party's organizational structure.

Prior to the Party's National Assembly in 2004, his political career was further enhanced promoted by his appointment as Minister under two different Presidents. His tenure as Minister for Youth and Sport Affairs commenced in March 1998 when the VIIth Development Cabinet was formed by the then President Soeharto. When a major political change took place in May 1998 and Vice President BJ Habibie was appointed President, Mr. Laksono was re-appointed to the same position under Habibie's Presidency.

In the 2004 election, the Golkar Party won the largest number of seats in Parliament. Despite the political recognition that the majority party in the Parliament is in fact entitled to top chairmanship, an election was held by legislators from all political parties to elect the leadership of the House. As a result of this, Agung Laksono and three other legislators from other different parties gained the largest number of votes and were officially elected as the leaders of the House, with the Honorable Agung Laksono as the House Speaker.

Ever since 2004, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Laksono has been strongly committed to the task entrusted to him by the House and the Indonesian people. He strongly believes that the Parliament has a strategic role to play in building and strengthening democracy. As a new emerging democracy, it is crucial for the Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia to ensure that the system does not slip back to dictatorship. It is therefore paramount for the House leadership to enhance the Parliament's democratic function for the utmost benefit of the Indonesian people and nation.

Honorable Agung Laksono, the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, was born in Semarang, Central Java Indonesia, on March 23rd, 1949 and is married with one son and two daughters.



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