

Fra: Inter-Parliamentary Union [mailto:ebulletin@mail.ipu.org]

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Til: Maiken Bork Clausen

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Welcome to the eBulletin of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

This electronic newsletter provides you with latest information on the activities of the IPU, the international organization of Parliaments of sovereign States. The newsletter is published six times a year and appears in English and French. An [archive of past issues](#) is available.

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Women Speakers of Parliament discuss violence against women and the impact of the financial crisis

On 13 and 14 July, women Speakers of Parliament convened in Vienna at the invitation of Ms. Barbara Prammer, Speaker of the Austrian National Council, for their fifth annual meeting organized by the IPU. The meeting focused on the challenges encountered in achieving Millennium Development Goal to promote gender equality. [[Full story ...](#)]

■ **Global economic downturn a challenge for local MPs as well**

The adage that all politics are local has never been truer, as state and local governments strain to cope with revenue shortfalls, service cuts, unemployment and other woes. [[Full story ...](#)]

■ **Preparing the ground for major world debates on climate change and HIV/AIDS**

As the world community continues to grapple with the economic and financial crisis, leadership and foresight remain very much in need on two other major fronts: climate change and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. [[Full story ...](#)]

■ **UN says response to global crisis must also involve parliaments**

The worst of the global economic and financial crisis

**Speakers of Parliament to meet in 2010
First session of the Preparatory Committee held in Geneva**

The first ever world conference of all Speakers of Parliament was held in 2000 in New York. The second took place five years later, again in New York. On 16 and 17 July 2009, the Speakers making up the Preparatory Committee met at the House of Parliaments in Geneva to begin preparations for the third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to be held in 2010.

[[Full story ...](#)]



Selected forthcoming IPU events

- Seminar for members of parliamentary gender committees. GENEVA (CICG), 28-29 September 2009

may take another year to pass, but a return to business as usual is not an option. Beyond the current raft of stimulus packages, structural reform will be needed. [[Full story ...](#)]

■ **Silence is violence: end the abuse of women in Afghanistan**

In early July 2009, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) published a report on the situation of women in Afghanistan entitled *Silence Is Violence: End the Abuse of Women in Afghanistan*. [[Full story ...](#)]

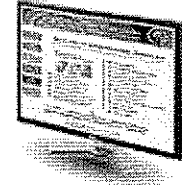
■ **Involvement of parliamentarians in reconciliation in the Great Lakes countries**

Reconciliation and the rebuilding of societies should be an inclusive process based on joint strategic action to help consolidate peace. Parliaments are among the main actors engaged in this process. [[Full story ...](#)]

- Parliamentary Panel within the framework of the Annual WTO Public Forum. GENEVA (WTO Headquarters), 30 September 2009
- 121st IPU Assembly and Related Meetings. GENEVA (CICG), 19-21 October 2009
- Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference. COPENHAGEN (Denmark), 16 December '09

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