

Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab,
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Chemin du Pommier 5
CH-1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva
Schwitzerland

Mr. President,

Thank you for the invitation to attend the 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments in Geneva in July. Unfortunately, I shall not be able to attend the Conference but I shall be pleased to comment on the first draft of the outcome document for the Conference.

The Danish Parliament welcomes the deliberation to revitalize the IPU and to strengthen its role including a more effective working relationship with the United Nations. This being said, we have reservations concerning the plans to transform the IPU into a treaty based organization. There is a great risk that the consequences of the ratification procedure for a potential treaty will in reality entail a weakened IPU as the organization will inevitably be divided into an A-team and a B-team if an international convention is ratified in great haste in some Parliaments but not in all.

Furthermore, we are very much looking forward to a fundamental political debate about the future vision and role of the IPU. Such a debate is needed before we decide to change the organization as regards legal status, secretariat and resources. Finally, we need to know which influence a reform will have on the parliamentary work carried out within the IPU including the crucial point of parliamentary independence of the Governments.

We are also concerned about the financial consequences of a reform. We are still waiting to see a thorough analysis of the financial aspects implied by a reform, including potential increased contributions from the national parliaments.

The Danish Parliament desires that no decisions be taken at the Conference of Speakers in July. We propose to start with a political debate about the vision and future role of the IPU, followed by a thorough analysis of different options for a reform, including pros and cons of the different options - among them a treaty based organization but also the possibilities of a more for-

FOLKETINGET



**President of the Danish
Parliament**

Christiansborg
DK-1240 København K

Tlf. +45 33 37 55 00
Fax +45 33 32 85 36

www.ft.dk
ft@ft.dk

April 14th 2010

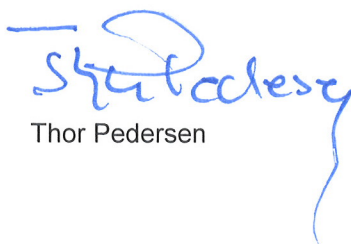
Ref. 10-000094-12

malized cooperation with the UN without transforming the IPU into a treaty based organization. For that reason we urge you to delete point 31 in the draft outcome document.

We suggest that the political debate take place during the IPU autumn session in Geneva. Based on the results of this debate the IPU can continue the analyses of different options for a reform.

I wish you a successful Conference in Geneva.

Yours sincerely,



Thor Pedersen