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Geneva, 23 May 2011

## PARLIAMENTARY PANEL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2011

*Geneva, WTO Headquarters, 20 September 2011*

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

Over recent years, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has established a tradition of holding annual public events where participants from government, parliament, civil society, the business sector, academia and the media jointly reflect upon the functioning of the multilateral trading system and analyse the state of advancement of the Doha Development Agenda. The annual **WTO Public Forum** is now a significant feature of the international calendar.

It has likewise become a tradition to hold special parliamentary panels within the overall organizational framework provided by WTO Public Forums. Such parliamentary panels are geared towards the specific interests of members of parliament specializing in international trade and are closely linked with the process known as the *Parliamentary Conference on the WTO*, which is driven by the synergies of the IPU and the European Parliament and constitutes a de facto parliamentary dimension of this inter-governmental organization.

This year's WTO Public Forum will be held from 19 to 21 September, on WTO premises in Geneva (Centre William Rappard), under the overall theme *Seeking answers to global trade challenges*. The Forum's programme is exceptionally rich and includes more than 40 different events.

The Parliamentary Panel within the framework of the Forum's overall programme will take place in the **afternoon of Tuesday, 20 September**. Its title is *Trade in natural resources - curse or blessing? A parliamentary perspective*. The panel will be open to all parliamentarians and other participants duly accredited to the WTO Forum, subject to the limits of the room's seating capacity. Interpretation into English, French and Spanish will be provided by the WTO Secretariat. A detailed programme of the Parliamentary Panel will be posted on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wto-forum11.htm>.

I would appreciate it if information about the WTO Public Forum 2011 and its Parliamentary Panel could be brought to the attention of those bodies and individual members of your parliament who specialize in questions of international trade and follow the activities of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO.

In conformity with WTO practice, all participants in the Public Forum are responsible for their own visa, travel arrangements and accommodation in Geneva. Participants are required to register on-line, by **14 September 2011** at the latest, using the WTO website (<https://meetings.wto.org/Forums/Registrant/SymposiumRegistration.aspx?Language=E>). Please note that registration for the Forum is handled by **the WTO Secretariat** and that no on-the-spot registration is possible.

I wish to make it very clear that the IPU Secretariat is not dealing with any logistical matters relating to the WTO Public Forum and is **not in a position** to help your delegates with accommodation and other practical arrangements in Geneva, which remain the sole responsibility of each of the WTO Forum's participant.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General