

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENÈVE (SUISSE)

Geneva, 22 March 2012

**2012 Development Cooperation Forum of the United Nations:
Third High Level Symposium**

Brisbane, Australia, 14-15 May 2012

Dear Mr. Lorentzen,

Last year's 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea, emphasised once again the need for parliaments to be deeply engaged in development cooperation issues which are vital to the realization of key development goals as well as the long-term partnership between developed and developing countries. To help advance these issues, the IPU has received a strong mandate from both its member parliaments and the United Nations General Assembly to work closely with, and bring a robust parliamentary contribution to the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF).

I am pleased to inform you that the next session of the DCF will take place in New York on 5-6 July. As we prepare for this important event, I would like to encourage your parliament to take part in the third and final preparatory symposium of the 2012 DCF which will take place in Brisbane on 14 and 15 May, at the invitation of the Government of Australia and the United Nations.

Theme and format of the symposium

The two-day symposium, entitled "*Shaping a sustainable future – partners in development cooperation*", will explore how development cooperation can be better designed and delivered to support the transition towards sustainable development. The event is expected to make a critical contribution to the preparatory process for the upcoming Rio+20 conference on sustainable development in June of this year.

To set the stage, the first session of the symposium is expected to discuss challenges and successful experiences in supporting sustainable development through development cooperation and reflect on how to mobilize increased resources to this end. It will also discuss implications of sustainable development on the allocation of aid between sectors and countries as well as ways to build capacities to pursue more integrated policy making (i.e., combining the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development) at national and local levels.

To ensure that aid contributes to the goal of sustainable development, the symposium will discuss where development cooperation for sustainable development can benefit from lessons learned in the aid effectiveness process. It will also explore how aid can act as a lever for sustainable development and how mutual accountability can be further focused on sustainable development as an area for future work of the DCF.

Hon. Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, President
Inter-Parliamentary Group
Denmark

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As with previous meetings of the DCF, this symposium will be interactive, with plenary sessions and small group discussions among all stakeholders and a breakout session restricted to parliamentarians and civil society representatives (*non-executive* stakeholders).

Participation

To keep this engagement manageable, the organizers have asked us to limit the number of participants to ten members of parliament. Given the budget constraints faced by many parliaments and our desire to ensure diversity and wide regional representation, we will only be able to accommodate one member from each parliament.

Registration for the event will close as soon as the quota of ten is reached and by no later than 4 May. Note however that, for those requiring an entry visa, processing times may take several weeks, so early registrations are highly encouraged.

Funding is available through the United Nations to cover the cost of travel and accommodation for up to six MPs (within the group of ten) from Least Developed Countries on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify for funding, registrations from these MPs must be received by Tuesday, 10 April.

The member representing your parliament would need to be familiar with development cooperation issues, and able to draw from direct experience of interaction with development agencies, donors, civil society or other actors active in this field. You may wish to give priority to a member who has already participated in previous meetings of the DCF, the Busan High Level Forum, or other official meetings on development cooperation.

Documentation

The IPU is working with the organizers to make sure that questions of particular interest to parliamentarians will be included in the agenda. A first preliminary programme will be available by the end of March. The full programme, aide memoire, logistical note and other relevant papers will be issued as they become available in the course of April.

Registration procedure

It would be greatly appreciated if a member of your parliament could be designated to attend the Australia symposium as well as the actual session of the DCF in July. The name and direct email address of the MP should be communicated to the UN Secretariat at dcfaustralia@un.org for the Brisbane Symposium along with a duly filled out registration form (attached). Registrations should also be copied to the IPU New York office at ny-office@mail.ipu.org

For more background on the DCF please consult the Web site at <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml> or contact Mr. Alessandro Motter in our New York office (am@mail.ipu.org).

Yours sincerely,



Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General