



# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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## STATEMENT

### **High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development**

Read by Mr. Kobsak Chutikul, Member of Parliament (Thailand),  
member of the IPU-EU Post Doha Steering Committee

*United Nations, New York  
30 October 2003*

Mr. Chairman,

The IPU has made considerable efforts to follow up and enrich the United Nation's broad development agenda that includes the practical implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It has sought to bring a legislative perspective to bear on the divisive issues of lack of economic and social development in many parts of the world.

On free and fair trade, we shall continue to press our trade negotiations to put the WTO back on track, end subsidies and other mercantilist trade policies that have contributed to underdevelopment.

On the flow of development aid provided by wealthier states, we shall continue to press governments to demonstrate more political will, and for our parliamentary colleagues to appropriate the necessary funds.

On a new international financial architecture, we shall continue to support the establishment of an Economic and Social Security Council and to make the international community accountable for the sustainable management of our globe.

Mr. Chairman,

Since Monterrey, the IPU has encouraged parliamentary action to support the practical implementation of the Consensus. More recently, we have asked our members to report on measures they have taken to this effect. This exercise is not yet complete but here are some of the salient points to have emerged.

- One of them is that parliaments in a growing number of countries are setting up mechanisms that allow them to address development issues better. Several developed countries have set up development cooperation committees with a mandate to scrutinize development policies, visit and monitor development projects and engage in a more sustained dialogue with the international financial institutions. These committees are increasingly given the mandate to undertake a quality control of proposed new legislation from a development perspective.
- Parliaments of developing countries are also becoming more active in sustainable development issues. Many of them are now making a point of examining agreements under negotiations or concluded between the government and international institutions as well as donors and having their own direct dialogue with the latter. We in the IPU firmly believe, as set out in paragraph eleven of the Monterrey Consensus, that "solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people...are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation."
- Since development, if it is to be successful, must be people oriented, we in the IPU believe there is a natural and essential role to play for the people's elected representatives; and we shall seek to play an ever more positive role in conjunction with the United Nations.
- Finally, Mr. Chairman, the reports received from parliaments worldwide so far clearly indicate that they place a distinct emphasis on the need to fight corruption. The reports we have received point toward a near universal legislative activity in parliaments to tighten laws and regulations that have as their main objective the fight against corruption. This is, I believe, an important development and one that we hope will be welcomed and further supported by the United Nations system.

Thank you.