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**Address to the general assembly
at the 120th IPU conference in Addis Ababa**

Mr. President, dear colleagues!

I am grateful for this opportunity to draw your attention to the coming UN global climate summit – COP15 – which will take place in the capital of Denmark, Copenhagen in December this year.

I have the honour to inform you that the Danish Parliament and the IPU are hosting an Inter-Parliamentarian meeting concerning climate changes **on the 16th of December 2009**. The meeting will take place in Copenhagen during the last part of the COP15 and **the aim is to include parliamentarians to the highest possible extent in the important COP15 negotiations.**

As you know, climate changes have been lively discussed among scientists, politicians and various interest groups for many years. There are different opinions regarding climate change. *Are the changes caused by human activity, including the accelerating emission of CO₂? Or are the changes just natural variations in the global climate?*

However, during the last five years it has become more and more clear that the actual changes in the climate and weather conditions are happening so fast that it could not only be natural variations in the global climate. **The changes are also caused by human activity, here among the accelerating emission of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.**

Dear colleagues, I am sure that we all agree that we need to do something about this global problem before it is too late.

But, our future actions to reduce the consumption of **fossil based energy** and the emission of CO₂, must be well considered.

First of all we must carefully consider the impact on the developing countries in the world. Possibilities for growth in must be ensured.

It is also essential that we consider how to manage the climate change challenge in the light of the current global financial crises.

Development of a green economy with creation of new jobs related to energy savings and production of renewable green energy are intelligent ways to handle these challenges at the same time.

I am very much looking forward to welcome you, my dear colleagues, at this IPU climate meeting in the Danish Parliament on the 16th December. As parliamentarians we **must** be active in the discussions about global and coordinated actions to reduce the emission of green house gases.

Thank you all for your attention!