Dansk Interparlamentarisk Gruppes bestyrelse 2008-09 IPU alm. del Bilag 25 Offentligt



Union Interparlementaire Arabe Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union

> Ref: 326/2/4 Date: 31/8/2009

H. E. Thor Pedersen President of The Danish Parliament DENMARK

Excellency,

In my capacity as president of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), and chairman of the Arab geo – political group within the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), I have the pleasure to inform Your Excellency of the following :

- 1. I am quite sure that you still remember the three week war which Israel waged on the Gaza Strip at the beginning of this year. The results of this war were catastrophic : (1417 killed, 5700 injured, 15000 houses and hundreds of businesses destroyed .. etc).
- 2. At the 120 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly held in Addis Ababa (April 2009) the Arab Group within the IPU made a request to include an emergency item "**On the Situation in Gaza**" in the Assembly's agenda. However, in order to maintain the world parliamentary consensus on the issue of the world financial crisis, we withdrew our demand, making it clear that we shall present the same request to the 121 <sup>st</sup> Assembly to be held in Geneva (19-21 October, 2009).
- 3. As the situation in Gaza is still a very tragic one, and is worsening day by day owing to the continuous Israeli siege and repeated raids, we have renewed our request concerning the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 121 <sup>st</sup> Assembly in Geneva in October 2009.

4. I am sure that you fully understand the core of the Palestinian question and the sufferings of the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip nowadays. Therefore, I am looking forward to expressing your support for our request during the vote on the emergency item in the forthcoming IPU Assembly.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency my warmest thanks and highest considerations.

