

## Media Advisory

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 7, 12:00-13:00, UN Conference Centre, Room no.1, UNECA Bld. Addis

**WHAT:** Special Session of *Countdown to 2015 - Maternal, Newborn & Child Survival* at the 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The *Countdown to 2015 Initiative* is a multi-partner project<sup>1</sup> to track coverage levels for health interventions proven to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality. It calls on governments and development partners to be accountable, identifies knowledge gaps and proposes new actions to reach Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health.

This event follows the first joint 2008 Countdown/IPU Special Session. The Countdown 2008 Report was launched in conjunction with the 118th IPU Assembly held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 13-18 April 2008. All participants, including Parliamentarians, signed a commitment to continue working on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) issues. At this year's session, case studies will be presented by countries on examples of Parliamentarians work on MNCH.

### WHO:

- **Mr Teshome Toga:** Speaker of the Ethiopian Parliament will chair the session
- **Dr Tedros Adhanom:** Minister of Health of Ethiopia & Co-chair of The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) - Keynote speech
- **Dr Nicholas Alipui:** UNICEF Director of Programmes – statement on behalf of Countdown Initiative Partners
- **Hon. Jean Kapata, Zambia:** Chairperson, Parliamentary Caucus on Children; Member of the Committee on Health, Community Development and Social Welfare on Zambian experience
- **Senator Barbara Contini, Italy:** Member of Parliament (PdL) on bill presented to Italian Parliament to increase development aid targeted to maternal, newborn and child health

**Interviews:** Speakers will be available (upon request) to respond questions to the media. Also available for interviews will be:

- **Mr Anders B. Johnson:** IPU Secretary-General
- **Dr Flavia Bustreo:** Director, a.i. The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH)
- **Dr Nehemie Mbakuliyemo:** WHO Representative, a.i. Ethiopia

**Note:** Background and invitation for the Countdown/IPU Special Session attached

**RSVP:** Thank you for responding to confirm attendance and interest for interviews to:

- Marta Seoane, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health  
[seoanem@who.int](mailto:seoanem@who.int) ; tel +251910318120/ +41 794 755551.

- Luisa Ballin, Inter-Parliamentary Union, [lb@mail.ipu.org](mailto:lb@mail.ipu.org), +41 796 497145

**Accreditation:** Please note that accreditation to the UNCC is necessary. RSVP & please contact Luisa Ballin for more information on accreditation: [lb@mail.ipu.org](mailto:lb@mail.ipu.org), tel: +41 796 497145.

Coordinated by :  
[www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)

On behalf of

Countdown to 2015 for MNCH  
[www.countdown2015mnch.org](http://www.countdown2015mnch.org)



[1] The Countdown Initiative is a supra-institutional collaborative effort of concerned individuals and partner organizations. Full list of partners available here: <http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/about/partners>.