

INPaT press release, Amsterdam, June 23, 2010

### **Parliamentarians worldwide address G8 on Tibet**

The newly-established International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet (INPaT) today called upon the G8 leaders to take a proactive role in achieving a negotiated solution to the crisis in Tibet through dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama's envoys. In a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on the eve of the G8 in Muskoka, Canada (June 25-26), included below, the Parliamentarians also urged multilateral cooperation in protecting Tibet's fragile environment, so critical to the rest of Asia and the world.

The International Network of Parliamentarians brings together 133 Parliamentarians from 30 Parliaments to advance the Tibet issue in governments worldwide. The letter to Canada's Prime Minister states: "The protection and development of the unique Tibetan identity in all its aspects serves the larger interest of humanity in general and those of the Tibetan and Chinese people in particular. And it represents a solution to the Tibet issue that is compatible with the pre-existing principles on autonomy as defined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China."

Matteo Meccaci, Chairman of the Italian Tibet Inter Group and co-chair of the International Network of Parliamentarians, said: "It is now essential that the international community, and in particular the G8 countries, take the initiative to convince China of the necessity to resume the negotiations with the Tibetan authorities, on the basis of the Memorandum, that was presented by the Dalai Lama's envoys to the Chinese government during the eighth round of dialogue in November, 2008." (See: <http://www.savetibet.org/policy-center/topics-fact-sheets/memorandum-genuine-autonomy-tibetan-people>).

Tibetan representatives have made clear that a meaningful autonomy is the best solution for all parties; but in order to reach that goal the truth of the real conditions in which the Tibetan people have been living over the last 50 years must be uncovered. The Chinese government - which increasingly wishes to play the role of a responsible international partner on many issues - must be reminded by its international counterparts that any solid and durable cooperation cannot avoid the acceptance of the truth of the reality."

The International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet first convened in Rome last November, at a meeting addressed by the Dalai Lama, and held its first meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels on 2 June. The International Campaign for Tibet has been designated as the Secretariat of the network, and the two co-chairs are Matteo Meccaci and Thomas Mann, Chairman of the Tibet Inter Group in the European Parliament. Other members of the INPaT Working Group are Ms. Birgitta Jonsdottir (Iceland), Mr. Consiglio Di Nino (Canada), Mr. Takam Sanjoy (India) and Mr. Peter Slipper (Australia).

A link to the letter presented to the G8 on Tibet is included below.

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#### **Notes to editors:**

During the next six months, the International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet will undertake a series of specific actions, including a global parliamentary initiative in reaction to the grave human rights situation in Tibet, on World Human Rights Day, December 10. INPaT members from approximately 15 countries are expected to attend the celebration of 50 Years of Tibetan Democracy-in-exile scheduled to take place on September 2 at Bylakuppe, South India, where two major Tibetan settlements are located.

Penpa Tsering, the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, said: "We believe the establishment of International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet and its Secretariat has been a good first step undertaken to further strengthen the coordination and network amongst parliamentarian supporters of Tibet so as to ensure concerted efforts for concrete results."

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The text of the letter is available here: [www.savetibet.nl](http://www.savetibet.nl)