



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
118th Assembly and related meetings
Cape Town (South Africa), 13 – 18 April 2008



Assembly
Item 2

A/118/2-P.3
20 March 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR THE
INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

**Request for the inclusion of an emergency item
in the agenda of the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of
Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)**

On 18 March 2008, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Venezuela on behalf of GRULAC a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 118th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The strategic need to achieve peace and a humanitarian agreement
in Colombia to resolve the conflict".

Delegates to the 118th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory note (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 118th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Venezuela on behalf of GRULAC on Monday, 14 April 2008.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the Union may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request. The Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Furthermore, Assembly Rule 11.2 stipulates that:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted;
- (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted;
- (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject;
- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject adopted by the Assembly.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION OF VENEZUELA**

Cape Town, 12 April 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In reference to the 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings to be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 13 to 18 April 2008, I wish to inform you that the delegation of Venezuela, with the support of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), would like to request the inclusion in the agenda of the Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The strategic need to achieve peace and a humanitarian agreement
in Colombia to resolve the conflict".

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution on the proposed item for your consideration and action.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Adel EL ZABAYAR
Leader of the
delegation of Venezuela

**THE STRATEGIC NEED TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND A HUMANITARIAN AGREEMENT
IN COLOMBIA TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT**

*Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Venezuela on behalf of the
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)*

Peace in Colombia and a humanitarian agreement are possible and desirable, and may well mark the start of a political solution to the conflict considering the outcome of the Rio Group meeting held recently in the Dominican Republic.

**THE STRATEGIC NEED TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND A HUMANITARIAN AGREEMENT
IN COLOMBIA TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of VENEZUELA on behalf of the Group of
Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)***

The 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Attentive* to the events that have occurred in Latin America over the past months, where tensions were manifest and the risk of escalating into war was latent as evidenced by the sorrow and concern felt by all,
 - (2) *Considering* that the peoples of Latin America have a duty to walk the path of peace using all mechanisms within their reach and that no one should be left out of this endeavour,
 - (3) *Considering* also that parliamentarians of the world have an obligation to work towards the path of genuine peace, based on the commitment to respect international law,
 - (4) *Expressing its support* for a humanitarian agreement and a peace accord in Colombia, which could help alleviate the horrors of the conflict, especially for the civilian population, and facilitate a political solution in order to end the war that has been raging in that country for over sixty years - a war that has brought to that Latin American nation corpses, hostages, displaced persons, prisoners, widows and orphans,
 - (5) *Mindful* of the fact that such a humanitarian accord should pursue inter alia the following objectives:
 - (a) The pledge not to take any more hostages,
 - (b) The non-involvement of children in the armed conflict,
 - (c) The removal of landmines from the territory, and
 - (d) A humanitarian exchange of prisoners and hostages,
1. *Undertakes* to promote and develop networks or groups of parliamentarians or any other inter-parliamentary initiative - in fulfilment of the goal of working towards the achievement of peace and collaboration among nations- aimed at overseeing and developing the above-mentioned humanitarian agreement in Colombia for peace in the region, it being understood that peace in Colombia means peace and progress for all countries in the region;
 2. *Supports* the role played by Heads of State and Presidents at the Twentieth Summit of the Rio Group - a political forum where the region's leaders agreed through dialogue and a quest for peace on a path to help overcome the differences between Ecuador and Colombia and between Nicaragua and Venezuela - all parties involved in the conflict, thereby endorsing the commitment of the countries of the region to coexistence and the principle of the peaceful settlement of conflicts, based on the fundamental precepts of international law as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States, as well as the overriding objectives of the Rio Group;
 3. *Underscores* the need for a multilateral Latin American entity that is relevant, pertinent and able to make an impact and provide a legitimate forum for debate and the conclusion of agreements on issues of vital importance to the continent,
 4. *Upholds* the right to sovereignty, the inviolability of the territory of all countries and the principle of self-determination of peoples.