



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



Assembly
Item 2

A/118/2-P.9
13 April 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 Senegal**

On 13 April 2008, the Secretary General received from the Second Vice-President of the Senegalese Senate a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 118th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The remarks of a Dutch parliamentarian aimed at blaspheming Islam in a global context in which dialogue between Christians and Muslims is becoming a reality".

Delegates to the 118th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (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 Senegal 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SENEGALESE SENATE**

Cape Town, 12 April 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Senegalese Parliament avails itself of this opportunity to request the inclusion of an emergency item entitled:

"The remarks of a Dutch parliamentarian aimed at blaspheming Islam in a global context in which dialogue between Christians and Muslims is becoming a reality".

Senegal currently holds the Chairmanship of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for a three-year period.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Boubacar THIOUBE
Second Vice-President of
the Senegalese Senate

**THE REMARKS OF A DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIAN AIMED AT BLASPHEMING ISLAM IN A GLOBAL
CONTEXT IN WHICH DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IS BECOMING A REALITY**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Senegal

The Parliament of Senegal is shocked at and condemns the blasphemous remarks of a Dutch parliamentarian against Islam. The parliamentarian in question, who is ill-willed and unworthy in this respect, knows little about Islam in general and the Koran in particular. His remarks are further evidence that, somewhere in the world, there are individuals seeking to discredit Islam. Islam is a religion of peace, brotherhood, solidarity and tolerance.

The Islamic Summit Conference held its 11th session in Dakar from 12 to 14 March 2008. The summit was a total success and was attended by a record number of participants from all the countries of the Muslim Ummah, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Secretary General of the Arab League and representatives from the African Union and all international organizations. It elected the President of Senegal, Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, to serve as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for a three-year period.

It is for this reason that the Parliament of Senegal in particular, and the Senegalese people in general, strongly condemn the declarations of the Dutch parliamentarian, who is unworthy to represent his people. Fortunately, the Government and people of the Netherlands have distanced themselves from the absolutely immoral remarks he posted on the Internet.

Dialogue between Christians and Muslims is today a matter of genuine concern to the United Nations community. In the name of the right to be different, of respect for freedom of religion and conscience and of tolerance, the Senegalese Parliament vigorously condemns the remarks of the Dutch parliamentarian.

**THE REMARKS OF A DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIAN AIMED AT BLASPHEMING ISLAM IN A GLOBAL
CONTEXT IN WHICH DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND ISLAM IS BECOMING A REALITY**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of SENEGAL

The 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Aware* that the international community is in favour of dialogue between Christians and Muslims,
- (2) *Bearing in mind* that mankind's religions are entitled to freedom and respect,
- (3) *Aware* of the right to be different,
- (4) *Considering* the blasphemous remarks of a Dutch parliamentarian against Islam posted on the Internet,
- (5) *Further considering* that the parliamentarian in question is ignorant about Islam and seeks to foster tension among religions,
- (6) *Knowing* that Islam is a religion of peace, brotherhood, solidarity and tolerance,
 1. *Condemns* unreservedly the remarks of the Dutch parliamentarian in question;
 2. *Applauds* the position of the Dutch Government, which has distanced itself from the parliamentarian's remarks;
 3. *Urges* parliamentarians imbued with a sense of peace, justice and solidarity to work for brotherhood between religions;
 4. *Affirms* its solidarity with the Muslim Ummah, which is the victim of these hurtful comments.