



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
126<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings  
Kampala (Uganda), 31 March to 5 April 2012



Assembly  
Item 2

A/126/2-P.2  
17 March 2012

**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 126<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates**

On 15 March 2012, the Secretary General received from the delegation of the United Arab Emirates a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 126<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Promoting an inter-parliamentary contribution to the efforts of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and international efforts to halt the bloodshed and killing in Syria, and forging an inter-parliamentary initiative based on respect for international law and international humanitarian law".

Delegates to the 126<sup>th</sup> 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 126<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, 1 April 2012.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the IPU 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 GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION**

Abu Dhabi, 15 March 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The UAE Parliamentary Division wishes to propose an emergency item entitled:

"Promoting an inter-parliamentary contribution to the efforts of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and international efforts to halt the bloodshed and killing in Syria, and forging an inter-parliamentary initiative based on respect for international law and international humanitarian law"

for inclusion in the agenda of the 126<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

Kindly take the necessary action for our item to be included in the agenda in accordance with Assembly Rule 11 and Article 14.2 of the Statutes.

Please find attached the explanatory memorandum. The draft resolution will be submitted at a later stage.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dr. Mohamed Salem AL-MAZROUI  
General Secretary of the  
UAE Parliamentary Division

**PROMOTING AN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ARAB LEAGUE, THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO HALT THE BLOODSHED AND KILLING IN SYRIA, AND FORGING AN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVE BASED ON RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates***

The Parliamentary Division of the United Arab Emirates Federal National Council wishes to propose this emergency item for several valid reasons, namely:

1. The faltering international efforts to put an end to the violence in Syria as a result of the divergent opinions of the international powers within the United Nations, in addition to the faltering efforts of governments and regional organizations, such as the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This despite the fact that the number of casualties in Syria has exceeded 10,000, which points to the need for the Inter-Parliamentary Union to take a strong position on these events. Such action is required in order to preserve and maintain the Organization's credibility as an inter-parliamentary forum that brings together the world's parliamentarians, and one that expresses the voice and conscience of the peoples of the world. In this Organization, all Members enjoy equal rights and obligations without discrimination based on size or power.
2. The absence of an inter-parliamentary role in addressing these serious events and developments in Syria, although it is a crisis that threatens international peace and stability. For the international community, this crisis is no doubt reminiscent of previous crises that have led to heightened tensions in international relations. The world's parliamentarians, having effectively stated their positions on and contributions to the resolution of international crises over the past decades, are, as members of the IPU, called upon to adopt an inter-parliamentary vision or initiative that goes beyond the differences and divergences the international powers may have. This is a bid to uphold international law and international humanitarian law in order to save thousands of lives in Syria.
3. The IPU is the only international organization in the world that can express the common interests of humanity in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy, international human rights conventions, fundamental freedoms, principles of international law, and provisions of international humanitarian law agreed upon by all countries of the world without discrimination or exclusion based on the dominant interests of one party over another. This is precisely what was clearly expressed through the positions and decisions adopted by the IPU on various international crises. The IPU is the only organization that represents the parliamentary community at the global level, and is thus urged to play a role within the framework of parliamentary diplomacy to support international diplomatic efforts in a crisis that is closely related to the mission of the Inter-Parliamentary Union: promoting international security and stability.
4. The parliaments of the world that work under the auspices of the IPU, by virtue of the constitutional powers vested in them, can influence their governments to adopt decisive and strong positions to halt the violence in Syria in order to achieve an international and Arab consensus on preventing this crisis from turning the situation in the Middle-East - a strategic region in terms of international peace and security - into an explosive one.

**PROMOTING AN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ARAB LEAGUE, THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO HALT THE BLOODSHED AND KILLING IN SYRIA, AND FORGING AN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVE BASED ON RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES***

- (1) The 126<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
- (2) *Affirming* the IPU's willingness to enhance security and stability in Syria and preserve its unity and territorial integrity, and its pursuit of a parliamentary contribution to putting an end to the bloodshed, destruction, indiscriminate killing, terrorization of innocent people and mass exodus of civilians to neighbouring countries,
- (3) *Recognizing* the Syrian people's aspirations to political reform in order to enjoy the fundamental rights enshrined in the relevant international charters and conventions, notably the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966),
- (4) *Guided by* the resolution adopted by the 76<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Buenos Aires, 1986) on the contribution of parliaments to the implementation and improvement of international humanitarian law, particularly within the framework of cooperation on international relief efforts to protect civilians in armed conflict and ensure supplies of foodstuffs, medicines and all other types of assistance to civilians,
- (5) *Recalling* the resolution adopted by the 90<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Canberra, 1993) on Respect for international humanitarian law and support for humanitarian action in armed conflicts, particularly given that the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law prohibit military action against civilians, destruction of their houses, and properties and coercive acts to which they are subdued to force them to leave their cities and villages,
- (6) *Reaffirming* the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, of 10 October 1980,
- (7) *Recalling* the decisions of the 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011, on strengthening international humanitarian law and domestic legislation for disaster-risk reduction, addressing regulatory barriers to providing emergency and transitional shelter in a rapid and equitable manner after natural disasters, and humanitarian access and assistance,
- (8) *Also recalling* the decisions of the Arab League Council, held at the ministerial level, and of the Arab Ministerial Committee on Syria, in particular Decision 7435 of 16 October 2011, Decision 7436 of 2 November 2011, Decision 7438 of 12 November 2011, and Decision 7439 of 16 November 2011,

(9) *Further recalling* the declarations made by the Arab Ministerial Committee on Syria, notably the declaration made on 3 December 2011 in Doha, and the one made on 8 January 2012 in Cairo, both of which underscore the pursuit of Arab League and international efforts to find a peaceful solution to help Syria out of this grave crisis and to give the Syrian people much sought-after political reform and a transition to democracy, while preserving the unity, stability and territorial integrity of the Syrian State and sparing it any military intervention,

(10) *Welcoming* UN General Assembly Resolution 66/253 of 16 February 2012, particularly as part of efforts to put an end to the violence, protect civilians and halt human rights violations,

(11) *Underscoring* the presidential statement issued by the UN Security Council of 21 March 2012 expressing its full support for the efforts of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

(12) *Recalling* the outcomes of the ministerial meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other international efforts that call for a cessation of the killing and violence and for the protection for civilians in Syria,

1. *Calls upon* the Syrian Government, in accordance with the Arab League Plan of 2 November 2011 and its decisions of 22 January and 12 February 2012 respectively, to take the following action forthwith: cease all acts of violence and provide necessary protection for civilians; withdraw all troops and military equipment from all Syrian cities and villages and send them back to their original barracks; release all detainees and persons who were arbitrarily detained because of these events; guarantee the freedom to demonstrate peacefully; and allow all institutions of the Arab League, the United Nations, and other international organizations to reach and enter any part of Syria and move about unhindered in order to ascertain the situation on the ground and monitor events;
2. *Also calls upon* the Syrian Government to provide the necessary aid and assistance and every possible facility to the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and to make every possible effort to cooperate with him to formulate an inclusive political process intended to meet the aspirations of the Syrian people without violence, terrorization or fear, in accordance with the controversial terms of reference that were accepted by both organizations;
3. *Urges* the Syrian Government to allow Arab and international relief organizations such as the Red Crescent, the Red Cross and Médecins sans Frontières, to bring in humanitarian relief to the affected population and to deal with the deteriorating humanitarian situation;

4. *Appeals to all governments, parliaments, and Arab and international organizations to assume their responsibilities for ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and providing joint Arab and international supervision to coordinate urgent humanitarian relief efforts for the affected population, and stresses the need for the Syrian Government and its armed forces to avoid hampering relief efforts and to allow humanitarian agencies free access to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the needs in the affected regions in Syria;*
5. *Requests the IPU to propose an inter-parliamentary initiative spearheaded by the IPU President in consultation with the IPU Secretary General and Executive Committee;*
6. *Invites the IPU to dispatch an international parliamentary fact-finding mission to Syria to examine the situation on the ground, in particular the violence and deliberate hampering of the activities of international and Arab relief organizations, and to submit its report to the IPU Executive Committee at an extraordinary meeting to be held for that purpose, and to take the necessary measures based on that report;*
7. *Requests the IPU to inform the UN Secretary-General of the results of the international parliamentary fact-finding mission, and to examine the possibilities of cooperation between the UN and IPU missions in order to find a solution to the crisis in Syria;*
8. *Underscores that the demands made to the Syrian Government contained in the present resolution are an integral part of the inter-parliamentary initiative;*
9. *Requests the IPU Secretary General to convey this initiative to the UN Secretary-General, the Secretary General of the Arab League, the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the President of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Speaker of the Arab Parliament, the Chairperson of the Gulf Cooperation Council Periodic Meeting, the Syrian Government and the Speaker of the Syrian Parliament, and invites them to support the IPU in this initiative and to submit a report to the IPU President on any action taken, and invites the IPU Secretary General to communicate the results of the report to the Members of the IPU.*