



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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131st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Assembly
Item 2

A/131/2-P.1
16 September 2014

Consideration of 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 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Ecuador

On 15 September 2014, the Secretary General of the IPU received from the President of the National Assembly of Ecuador, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 131st Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Commitment by the parliaments of the world to recognize the rights
of the Palestinian people".

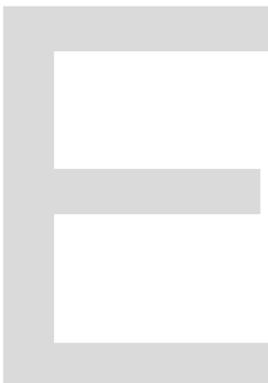
Delegates to the 131st Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 131st Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Ecuador on Monday, 13 October 2014.

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
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ECUADOR**

Quito, 15 September 2014
Ref. no. PAN-GR-2014-1659

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with Assembly Rule 11 under Section IV, Agenda – Reports and Resolutions - Order of Debates, I wish to request the inclusion in the agenda of the 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union of a proposal for an emergency item submitted by the delegation of the National Assembly of Ecuador to the IPU, entitled:

“Commitment by the parliaments of the world to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people”.

We are deeply affected by and aware of the fact that the security operation conducted by Israel is causing a mass exodus of persons from the Gaza Strip, which may become, according to United Nations warnings, a humanitarian disaster of immeasurable proportions. I am attaching the explanatory memorandum and text of the emergency item.

I await your favourable response to this request.

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

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Gabriela RIVADENEIRA BURBANO (Ms.)
President
National Assembly of Ecuador

**COMMITMENT BY THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD TO RECOGNIZE
THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Ecuador

The delegation of Ecuador to the IPU requests the inclusion in the agenda of the 131st IPU Assembly of "Commitment by the parliaments of the world to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people" for the reasons outlined below.

Following the start of the military operation known as "Protective Edge" on 7 July 2014, which as of 13 July involved the intervention of ground forces in the Gaza Strip, the human rights of thousands of non-combatant civilians were affected, in addition to the fact that this constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. Among these victims, the situation of the most vulnerable groups is particularly worrying: women, the elderly, children, the infirm and others.

With this in mind, Ecuador considers that, as the primary role of the IPU is to promote dialogue between parliaments and parliamentarians in order to advance peace and cooperation among peoples and work for the solid establishment of representative democracy, the above-mentioned situation cannot go by unnoticed at our next Assembly.

In 1947, the United Nations, pursuant to its mandate to maintain peace and international security, approved General Assembly Resolution 181, recommending the establishment of an Arab State, a Jewish State and a Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem in Palestine. This recommendation has not been followed and on the contrary, the State of Israel has occupied the territory on which the Palestinian people live. Based on such non-compliance, the UN Security Council made a pronouncement in 1967, reaffirming that the establishment of a just and lasting peace requires the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area.

Therefore, in light of the acts that took place most recently in the Palestinian territory and non-compliance with the provisions of UN resolutions and the objectives of the IPU, we consider it imperative to make a statement condemning any violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, calling for an immediate cessation of the hostilities by the parties, recognizing the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and inviting the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population, as well as to contribute to the dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful solution to this conflict, involving the full recognition of the rights of the parties.

**COMMITMENT BY THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD TO RECOGNIZE
THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of ECUADOR

The 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing its consternation* at the acts of violence that have occurred in the Gaza Strip over the past months and *alarmed* at the numerous civilian deaths that have resulted,
- (2) *Deeply moved* by the massive human rights violations experienced by the non-combatant civilian population in the Gaza Strip, especially the deaths and acts of violence affecting the most vulnerable groups (children, women, the elderly and infirm, among others),
- (3) *Convinced* of the need to put an end to these acts and avoid their repetition,
- (4) *Recognizing* that Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations establishes as the purposes of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, to prevent and suppress acts of aggression, to bring about by peaceful means the settlement of disputes, and to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,
- (5) *Recalling* that on 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly approved Resolution 181, recommending the establishment of a "Plan of Partition with Economic Union" for the creation of an "Arab State", a "Jewish State" and a Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem in Palestine and that such a recommendation has still not been implemented,
- (6) *Also recalling* that in 1967, the United Nations Security Council, through its resolution 242, affirmed that the establishment of a just and lasting peace requires the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the previous conflict and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area,
- (7) *Concerned* by the expansion and construction of new Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,
- (8) *Also concerned* by the negative impact the attacks on the Gaza Strip and the settlement policy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can have on the stability of the Middle East and on world peace,
- (9) *Noting* the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the creation of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory, which states that such construction severely impedes the exercise by the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination, and is therefore a breach of Israel's obligation to respect that right,
- (10) *Also noting* that in 1975, the United Nations created the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People so that the Palestinian people could exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination without outside interference, to independence and national sovereignty, as well as the right of all displaced persons to return to their homes and properties,
- (11) *Extremely concerned* by the recent disproportionate attack by Israel on the Gaza Strip through bombings that have cost thousands of civilian lives and affected homes, schools, hospitals and other structures that are not military targets, thereby undermining international humanitarian law,
- (12) *Also extremely concerned* by the difficulty of ensuring that humanitarian assistance makes its way safely to the conflict zone,

(13) *Cognizant* of the fact that the security operation conducted by Israel is causing a mass exodus of inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, which, according to UN warnings, may become a humanitarian disaster with immeasurable consequences,

1. *States* its support for the non-combatant civilian population of Palestine, which was severely affected during the military operations carried out by Israel;
2. *Vigorously condemns* the violation of international humanitarian law, which has resulted in the death of non-combatant civilians in the Gaza Strip;
3. *Appeals* to the parties to the conflict to definitively cease hostilities thereby enabling a process of negotiation with a view to the recognition of a free, sovereign and independent State of Palestine, in conformity with 1967 borders;
4. *Demands* that all parties to the conflict facilitate without delay free and safe access for humanitarian organizations and their staff to areas where the population need them;
5. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
6. *Recommends* that the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly recognize Palestine as a Member State with full rights;
7. *Requests* the international community, through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to take urgent action in order to deal with the serious humanitarian crisis currently taking place in the Gaza Strip as well as to contribute to its reconstruction;
8. *Invites* the international community to proclaim 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, as mentioned in UN General Assembly Resolution 32/40;
9. *Calls on* the international community, especially the United Nations General Assembly and the International Criminal Court established through the Rome Statute, to take urgent action to investigate humanitarian law violations committed in the Palestinian occupied territories by the State of Israel or its agents, identifying and punishing the perpetrators of such acts within a framework of due process;
10. *Recommends* studying the applicability of the amendment to Article 8 of the Rome Statute (adopted at the Review Conference at Kampala in 2010), to the acts of violence carried out in the Gaza Strip;
11. *Condemns and rejects* any political or ideological stance that legitimizes violence as a valid means of settling disputes;
12. *Proposes and promotes* dialogue as the only valid means of reaching a peaceful settlement of conflicts and of achieving peace and stability in Palestine.