



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.2
17 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 the United Arab Emirates

On 16 September 2014, the Secretary General of the IPU received from the Secretary General of the United Arab Emirates Parliamentary Division, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 131st Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“The role of parliamentarians in fighting terrorism and building an international partnership through the United Nations and other international organizations to eradicate extremism and promote cooperation and tolerance among the world’s civilizations and peoples as a basis for international peace and security”.

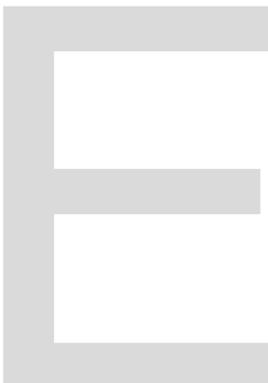
Delegates to the 131st Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 131st Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates 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 ADRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION**

Abu Dhabi, 16 September 2014

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

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

“The role of parliamentarians in fighting terrorism and building an international partnership through the United Nations and other international organizations to eradicate extremism and promote cooperation and tolerance among the world’s civilizations and peoples as a basis for international peace and security”.

in the agenda of the 131st IPU Assembly. Please take the necessary action for the inclusion of our proposal in the agenda according to Assembly Rule 11 and Article 14.2 of the Statutes.

We will send the explanatory note and the resolution draft later.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Mohamed Salem AL-MAZROUI
Secretary General of the United Arab Emirates
Parliamentary Division

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN FIGHTING TERRORISM AND BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ERADICATE EXTREMISM AND PROMOTE COOPERATION AND TOLERANCE AMONG THE WORLD'S CIVILIZATIONS AND PEOPLES AS A BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates

The UAE Parliamentary Division wishes to propose "The role of parliamentarians in fighting terrorism and building an international partnership through the United Nations and other international organizations to eradicate extremism and promote cooperation and tolerance among the world's civilizations and peoples as a basis for international peace and security" as an emergency item to be included in the agenda of the 131st IPU Assembly, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 12 to 16 October 2014 on the following grounds:

1. The increased funding and arming capabilities of terrorist groups and radical organizations, especially in the Middle East, has heightened the risk of acts aimed at violating the sovereignty of States, threatening their territorial integrity and spreading extremism, fanaticism and disunity within a single nation. In addition, this poses a serious threat to national, regional and international security and stability.
2. Fighting terrorism and extremism - some of the most dangerous threats to international security and stability – can only be achieved through cooperation and coordination of governmental and parliamentary efforts within each State and at the regional level. This could pave the way for international cooperation, which would require building an effective international partnership in which the United Nations plays a leading role.
3. The fight against terrorism and extremism cannot be limited to a single country or territory owing to the multiplicity of funding, arming, training and recruitment resources of terrorist groups and radical organizations. This requires building an international partnership based on collective responsibility that is premised on maximum cooperation and coordination between all countries, the instant exchange of information between relevant agencies, and the enhancement of joint action to protect national borders.
4. The many pretexts advanced by terrorists to justify their acts in the past have swayed a lot of young people from different parts of the world and encouraged them to join terrorist and extremist organizations. It has become necessary to agree a comprehensive definition of terrorism that is acceptable to all countries in a way that does not hinder international efforts to fight terrorism. Otherwise, the continued absence of an international agreement on the definition of terrorism will lead to further threats and real challenges to international peace and security.
5. The development of terrorism and extremism, which threatens international security and stability, especially in the Middle East, requires an approach that can address of the factors and causes that provide a fertile breeding ground for the spread of terrorism and extremist ideas. The UAE Parliamentary Division believes that among these factors are the expansion of regional conflicts and the continued deterioration of people's economic and social conditions, in addition to the absence of political justice. These provide a favourable environment for terrorist groups and extremism and the propagation of misleading ideologies and create opportunities to recruit individuals to conduct illegal activities.
6. Given the weak commitment to international law, including human rights and lack of international cooperation to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development, international organizations will need to play a greater role in tackling violence and extremism at the national, regional and international levels. This will require the formulation of joint international policies and mechanisms to set educational standards and principles aimed at inculcating the values of tolerance, diversity, and human co-existence and providing basic knowledge of civilizations and religions in order to promote dialogue.

7. There is a need to agree clear and resolute international action plans through an international partnership geared at securing implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1267, 1373, 1526, 1540, and 1566 as a solid and comprehensive basis for fighting terrorism. In this regard, the UAE Parliamentary Division believes that it is necessary to conclude a comprehensive international agreement on combating terrorism, as the international agreements and conventions concluded so far only partially cover acts of modern terrorism. These include the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970); the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973); the Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979); the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988); and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).
8. The increased risk of terrorists and radical groups possessing weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery threatens to unleash a wave of nuclear terrorist attacks on the world.
9. The increased reliance by terrorist and extremist groups on technology and the exchange of information has facilitated the expansion of international networks and their capacity to recruit, train, support and enable terrorists. To counter this will require building an international partnership and establishing national counter-terrorism centres. The Saudi proposal to establish an International Counter-Terrorism Centre, which would act as an important clearing house for information and expertise between the countries of the world, is well worth considering.
10. It is perhaps necessary to stress the important role of parliamentarians in combating terrorism through the enactment and discussion of legislation aimed at criminalizing acts of terrorism and their enablement. They can also exercise oversight of government policies with a view to enhancing the ability to respect human rights without prejudice to national and regional security imperatives.

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN FIGHTING TERRORISM AND BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ERADICATE EXTREMISM AND PROMOTE COOPERATION AND TOLERANCE AMONG THE WORLD'S CIVILIZATIONS AND PEOPLES AS A BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* United Nations resolutions on combating terrorism, in particular UN Security Council resolutions 1267, 1373, 1526, 1540, 1566, and 2170, and UN General Assembly President's Statements on the fight against international terrorism,
- (2) *Referring* to the international agreements and conventions criminalizing terrorist acts and practices, such as the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970), the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973), the Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979), the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988), and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005), as well as other related conventions,
- (3) *Underscoring* the UN Declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations issued in October 1995,
- (4) *Deeply concerned* about the threat terrorist organizations pose by crossing borders, thus undermining the territorial integrity, security and stability of many countries, especially in the Middle East, and dramatically increasing the number of victims of terror attacks, including women and children, driven as they are by fanaticism and extremism,
- (5) *Underscoring* that terrorism in all its forms represents one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that it should not be linked to any particular religion, nationality or civilization,
- (6) *Also underscoring* that terrorism can only be defeated by adopting an approach that would ensure the participation of all countries as well as international and regional organizations, and that they must effectively cooperate to prevent, mitigate or isolate terror threats,
- (7) *Affirming* that terrorist acts against public authorities or private individuals aimed at causing death or bodily harm, hostage-taking, terrorizing groups of people and forcing the authorities to take or refrain from taking action are crimes under international law, and that these acts cannot be justified by any political, philosophical, ideological, racial or religious considerations or any other reason pertaining to the territory on which they are carried out or their perpetrators,
- (8) *Highlighting* relevant IPU resolutions and the fact that all IPU Members agree that terrorism and extremism represent the most dangerous scourges affecting all countries and peoples, threatening international peace, security and stability,
- (9) *Also highlighting* that terrorism is not associated with any particular region or religion and that it is a reflection of the failure of the international community - represented by international organizations - to deal with political and economic problems in a way that achieves justice and equality, including the problems of forced occupation, the proliferation of small arms, illiteracy, poverty and fanaticism, in addition to the double standards and the treatment of human and political issues through the selective application of international resolutions against countries that violate international law, and the failure to bridge the wide gap between rich and poor,
 1. *Calls on* the governments and parliaments of the world to take the necessary measures, consistent with their commitments under international law in respect of banning incitement to commit terrorist act(s) and preventing any person or organization - based on relevant documented information – suspected of having committed terrorist attacks, from obtaining safe haven and from joining or being affiliated to or associated with the activities of any terrorist organization;

2. *Underscores* the need to reach an international agreement on a comprehensive definition of terrorism that is acceptable to the international community in a way that does not hinder international efforts to combat terrorism and implement the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions;
3. *Calls* for building an international partnership through the United Nations aimed at laying the foundations and setting policies to enhance understanding and cooperation and establish dialogue between the world's civilizations and nations; *also calls* for efforts to prevent the arbitrary targeting of religions and cultures, develop a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism in which all countries duly commit themselves not to resort to terrorist acts to undermine the security, integrity, safety, and independence of other countries, and not to aid, encourage, or incite any terrorist group to perpetrate such acts or allow them to use their territories to prepare terrorist attacks, harbour terrorists or give them the right to hold or raise funds there;
4. *Recommends* consolidating the role of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations in resolving international and regional conflicts and in combating religious, political, intellectual and ideological fanaticism through various educational means so that terrorist organizations cannot take advantage of the suffering of people living in unfavourable conditions;
5. *Calls* for an end to the occupation of other people's lands by force through a commitment to respect international resolutions and the principles of international law and for providing the necessary international protection to people living under colonization;
6. *Supports* national efforts to expand political participation and pluralism, achieve sustainable development and social equity and enhance the role of civil society organizations with a view to tackling political injustice, fighting organized crime and curbing poverty and unemployment;
7. *Calls* for the development of school curricula and the formulation of policies aimed at enhancing multicultural and interreligious dialogue and promoting the values of tolerance, pluralism and co-existence; *and agrees* to not associate terrorism with any particular religion, race or geographical region;
8. *Appeals* for efforts to accelerate the conclusion of an international agreement on the prevention of nuclear terrorist acts so as to prevent terrorists from possessing weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
9. *Calls on* the multilateral financial organizations, in particular the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to develop international standards on combating terrorism and money laundering and to ensure that non-profit international charitable and humanitarian organizations play their stated role and refrain from conducting illegal activities;
10. *Urges* governments to formulate multilateral cooperation policies and establish mechanisms to facilitate the enforcement of international laws and conventions, exchange of information, extradition of terrorists, control of borders, and the protection of ports and maritime transport;
11. *Encourages* parliaments to draft national legislation on combating terrorism, the smuggling of weapons and drugs, and organized crime in light of the fact that terrorist organizations have started using modern technologies and means of communication; *also encourages* them to set up joint regional and international mechanisms to prevent terrorists from using modern technologies and communications for terrorist activities of various kinds;
12. *Underscores* that the strategies, policies and mechanisms adopted to combat terrorism must be compatible with international law, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;
13. *Calls* for international and regional organizations to set standards and guidelines for the media on how to deal with terrorist propaganda and ideas, stem recruitment and formulate policies to enhance public awareness of the dangers posed by terrorism; *also calls* for cooperation between such organizations and civil and religious institutions to ensure effective and coordinated action.

14. *Supports* the call by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to establish an International Counter-Terrorism Centre to serve as a mechanism for the exchange of information and expertise between countries in the fight against terrorism and link it to cooperation with national counter-terrorism centres;
15. *Encourages* parliaments to take legislative and oversight measures needed to prevent terrorists from using asylum and immigration laws to reach safe havens or use the territories of other countries as bases to incite, recruit and train individuals, as well as plan and carry out terrorist attacks against other countries;
16. *Calls* for the establishment of an international fund to compensate the victims of terrorist acts and their families, which may be composed of donations and assets seized from terrorist organizations, their members and sponsors;
17. *Also calls* for the holding of an international parliamentary conference to tackle terrorism, the development of an international parliamentary code of conduct to deal with terrorism of all types, forms and dimensions, and the establishment of controls to address and deter terrorism.