



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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146TH IPU ASSEMBLY
المنامة، البحرين
MANAMA, BAHRAIN
11-15 MARCH 2023 - ١٠-١١ مارس ٢٠٢٣

146th IPU Assembly

Manama (11–15 March 2023)

Assembly
Item 2

A/146/2-P.5
11 March 2023

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 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the African Group

On 11 March 2023, the IPU Secretary General received from the African Group a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 146th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“Creation of a global fund for countries vulnerable to natural disasters
to address loss and damage from climate change”

Delegates to the 146th 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 146th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the African Group on Sunday, 12 March 2023.

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 IPU 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 recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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.

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**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE IPU SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

11 March 2023

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the African Group, intends to propose the following emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

“Creation of a global fund for countries vulnerable to natural disasters
to address loss and damage from climate change”

The draft resolution along with the explanatory memorandum (motivation) is attached with the request that the IPU Secretariat circulate the same among IPU Member Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Tulia ACKSON (Ms.)
Speaker of the National Assembly of the
United Republic of Tanzania
Chairperson of the African Group

**CREATION OF A GLOBAL FUND FOR COUNTRIES VULNERABLE
TO NATURAL DISASTERS TO ADDRESS LOSS
AND DAMAGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the African Group

The aftermaths of the massive floods witnessed in Pakistan in 2022, and of the devastating earthquake that hit the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye in February 2023, underscore the fact that countries are still unable to respond effectively, and to adequately address, the devastating impacts of large-scale natural disasters. These two events not only caused loss of life and property on a massive scale, but also led to the displacement of people and the destruction of infrastructure, challenging the ability and willingness of the international community to implement the principles of global solidarity and cooperation as espoused by the United Nations.

The unfolding climate emergency which may result from melting ice and rising sea levels, from floods, droughts and other extreme weather events, and from geological phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions, reveals how our world is becoming a more unstable and inhospitable place. Aside from the environmental destruction such events typically cause, they also pose a great risk to lives, health and food security, as well as to places and cities, and cause people to become displaced. The devastating effects of such phenomena, which can include the loss of access to food, clean water and shelter, threaten the enjoyment of the fundamental rights enshrined in the *Charter of the United Nations*. Without doubt, a crisis of this magnitude meets the criteria for inclusion as an emergency item according to Rule 11.2 (a) of the Rules of the IPU Assembly, which provides as follows:

A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response.

Indeed, nothing could be more recent and urgent than the effects of devastating natural phenomena, which have not only caused loss of life on a massive scale, but also left hundreds of thousands of people displaced, living with disabilities, and without proper access to food, clean water, clothes and decent shelter. Nothing could be more global in its impact than enhancing the capacity of vulnerable countries to respond to and address the effects of deadly natural disasters and to recover from their adverse impacts. This is why the African Group calls upon the 146th IPU Assembly not only to express its opinion on this matter, but also to mobilize a parliamentary response.

Furthermore, it is a stated aim of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to help United Nations Member States, in collaboration with United Nations bodies, to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to educate for sustainable development in the context of climate change, to assess the risks of natural disasters due to climate change, and to monitor the effects of climate change on UNESCO designated sites. The African Group therefore calls for the establishment of global fund to address loss and damage from climate change. Such a fund would help to support recovery efforts, including the rebuilding of destroyed infrastructure and the provision of the health-care facilities necessary for a full recovery.

**CREATION OF A GLOBAL FUND FOR COUNTRIES VULNERABLE
TO NATURAL DISASTERS TO ADDRESS LOSS
AND DAMAGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE**

Draft resolution submitted by the AFRICAN GROUP

The 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Welcoming* the Nusa Dua Declaration *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*, endorsed by the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua on 24 March 2022, which recognized the urgent need to address the climate crisis on the basis that it poses an existential threat to humankind, and stressed that immediate action must be taken to minimize its worst impacts,
- (2) *Recalling* the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*, which calls for enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and for building back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction,
- (3) *Recalling also* the *Copenhagen Accord* of 2009 and the *Cancún Agreements* of 2010, through which States agreed to establish the multilateral Green Climate Fund to help developing countries not only reduce CO₂ emissions but also adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change,
- (4) *Recalling further* the *Paris Agreement* of 2015, through which the international community pledged to mobilize US\$ 100 billion annually, both to finance the reduction of atmospheric CO₂ emissions in developing countries and to compensate these countries for “loss and damage” associated with the adverse effects of climate change,
- (5) *Recalling* the IPU resolution *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*, adopted by the 142nd IPU Assembly, held virtually, on 27 May 2021,

1. *Calls upon* the international community to create a global fund for countries vulnerable to natural disasters to address loss and damage from climate change;
2. *Implores* the international community to maintain its focus beyond current emergency relief, in order to sustain the political will needed to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, as well as risk-reduction efforts in view of future climate-related disasters;
3. *Encourages* the IPU to initiate and coordinate meetings with the United Nations and the international community on the modalities of establishing a permanent global fund to compensate disaster-vulnerable countries affected by the devastation caused by climate change, with a particular focus on rehabilitation and reconstruction.