



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola
23–27 October 2023



Assembly
Item 2

A/147/2-P.4-rev
23 October 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 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of Canada, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Austria,
Croatia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom**

On 23 October 2023, the IPU Secretary General received from the delegation of Canada, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 147th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“Towards common ground for peace”.

Delegates to the 147th 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 147th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Canada, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom on Tuesday, 24 October 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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#IPU147

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE IPU SECRETARY GENERAL BY DAVID McGUINTY,
PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN GROUP OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION,
ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATIONS OF ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA, CROATIA, FINLAND,
FRANCE, IRELAND, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM**

23 October 2023

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom, intends to propose the following emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of the 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) scheduled for 23-27 October 2023 in Luanda, Angola:

“Towards common ground for peace”.

The draft resolution, along with the explanatory memorandum, is attached with the request that the IPU Secretariat may circulate these documents to all delegations participating in the work of the Assembly under the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

David McGUINTY
President of the Canadian Group of the IPU

TOWARDS COMMON GROUND FOR PEACE

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Canada, on behalf of the delegations of Argentina, Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom

In light of the unfolding tragedy in the Middle East and the implications for global peace and security, this proposed emergency item reflects the absolute necessity to achieve common ground for peace. The voices of parliamentarians everywhere must be heard. As the world's pre-eminent organization seized with the responsibility of speaking for global citizens, the Inter-Parliamentary Union is compelled to find the conditions that lend shape to a pathway to peace.

It is time for parliamentarians to transcend their respective nation states. It is time to focus all of our collective resources on achieving a consensus: dialogue is always better than violence; diversity is a great source of strength; and peace is always better than war.

TOWARDS COMMON GROUND FOR PEACE

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of CANADA, on behalf of the delegations of ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA, CROATIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, IRELAND, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN and the UNITED KINGDOM

The 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Affirming* the IPU as the global organization of national parliaments committed to the promotion of peace, democracy and human rights,
- (2) *Recognizing* the Charter of the United Nations and its purposes and principles that codify efforts to maintain international peace and security,
- (3) *Recalling* the Geneva Conventions and Protocols, the [United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) (1984), [United Nations Security Council resolution 1888](#) (2009) on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, the [United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict](#) (2000), the [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](#) (2010), [Common Article 3 of the Convention \(III\) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War](#) (1949), among other relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and international conventions on and obligations in relation to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, international humanitarian law and international human rights law,
- (4) *Recalling also* the IPU's support for a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003),
- (5) *Condemning* in the strongest possible terms the abhorrent acts of terror perpetrated by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023,
- (6) *Alarmed* by the rapidly worsening humanitarian emergency in Gaza, which is affecting at least one million displaced Palestinians and overwhelming medical personnel and humanitarian workers, and by the thousands of Palestinians killed, a number that continues to increase,
- (7) *Affirming* that the language in this resolution largely reflects the discussions of the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions regarding the events of 7 October 2023,
- (8) *Gravely concerned* by the growing potential for the escalation of violence and humanitarian crises in the region, and the destabilization of global peace and security,
 1. *Reiterates* the role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Committee on Middle East Questions in promoting meaningful parliamentary dialogue in order to enhance international peace and security;
 2. *Affirms* that humanity is weary of conflict and violence, and that preventing it should be a unifying global principle;
 3. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms the abhorrent acts of terror perpetrated by Hamas against Israel on 7 October 2023, which caused immense loss of Israeli life and suffering, and which have absolutely no legitimacy or justification;
 4. *Demands* the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas, whatever their nationality;
 5. *Recognizes* the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza and immense loss of Palestinian life and suffering in the wake of the events of 7 October 2023;

6. *Underscores* that acts of terrorism and violence against civilians can never be a legitimate form of political resistance or expression of grievances, and represent the antithesis of building common ground towards sustainable peace;
7. *Emphasizes* that civilians must always have full protection under international humanitarian law and must never be a target of conflict, and *condemns* any and all actions contrary to that law;
8. *Recognizes* that the Charter of the United Nations provides for Israel's right to legitimate self-defence against the abhorrent acts of terror perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023, in the context of absolute respect for international law;
9. *Urges* all parties to act in a manner that upholds the protection of human rights for all persons, including the safety and protection of Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike, and that fully respects international humanitarian law;
10. *Urgently calls* for diplomacy, steps towards constructive dialogue, and action that enables a foundation upon which to eventually build towards peace, halts further escalation of violence, prevents the present circumstance of chaos and suffering from further engulfing the people of the region, and discourages further division among the people of the world;
11. *Encourages* continued and expanded provision of humanitarian assistance, which only recently began to reach Gaza, and ongoing diplomatic efforts to open, and keep permanently open, a humanitarian corridor into Gaza that allows the unhindered delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance to trusted partners – not Hamas – to meet the essential needs of non-combatants, including food, water and medical services;
12. *Affirms* the goal of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting negotiated peace in the region which:
 - (a) is based on equal measures of justice and freedom for Israelis and Palestinians, and respect for human rights and dignity;
 - (b) is grounded in a two-State solution;
 - (c) is consistent with United Nations Security Council resolutions, and upholds international law and internationally recognized human rights;
 - (d) respects Israel's right to security within its own borders;
 - (e) upholds the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for the establishment of their own State; and
 - (f) enables Israelis and Palestinians to live side by side in equality, peace and security.