



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

149th IPU Assembly

Geneva
13–17 October 2024



Assembly
Item 2

A/149/2-P.3
13 October 2024

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 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada

On 13 October 2024, the IPU Secretary General received from the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 149th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability”.

Delegates to the 149th 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 149th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada on Tuesday, 15 October 2024.

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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#IPU149

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE IPU SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE DELEGATIONS OF FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY,
NETHERLANDS AND CANADA**

13 October 2024

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Please find in attachment the proposed Emergency Item submitted by the delegations from France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada, called:

“Response by parliamentarians to the urgent plea by the UN Secretary-General to recommit to multilateralism for global peace, justice and sustainability”.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Thierry de Ghellinck
Secretary of the Twelve Plus Group

RESPONSE BY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THE URGENT PLEA BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO RECOMMIT TO MULTILATERALISM FOR GLOBAL PEACE, JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and Canada

At the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 20 September 2024, UN Secretary General (UNSG) António Guterres expressed deep concern over the state of global affairs, highlighting growing divides, widening inequalities and rapidly spreading challenges. He emphasized the urgent need for hope and comprehensive action to address these issues. UNSG Guterres described international efforts to tackle major challenges as being paralyzed by dysfunction and increasing geopolitical tensions. He outlined a series of interconnected crises, including impunity, inequality and uncertainty, which threaten global stability and undermine the principles of multilateralism.

The UNSG issued severe warnings about rampant violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, with many governments acting without accountability. He pointed to injustices and grievances destabilizing countries, pushing them to the brink of collapse, and noted unmanaged global risks exacerbating instability and undermining economic growth. Guterres also highlighted the urgent need for climate action, citing a significant shortfall in climate finance for developing countries.

Additionally, UNSG Guterres addressed ongoing global conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and the dire situation in Gaza, which threaten regional stability. He called for an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and progress towards a two-State solution to end the Israel/Palestine conflict. He also pointed to regional instability in areas like Sudan, the Sahel, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Yemen, where widespread violence and human suffering persist due to a lack of effective solutions and political will. Considering these dire circumstances, Guterres urged the international community to mobilize collectively to address these crises, uphold human rights and work towards sustainable solutions.

It would be appropriate in response to this global call for solidarity and commitment by the UNSG for the IPU membership to respond by adopting an emergency item which recommits parliamentarians to the cause of multilateralism and to fully support the efforts of the United Nations. This can be done by expressing their shared objective to ensure national governments respect the Charter of the United Nations, redouble their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and fully implement the newly adopted UN Pact for the Future, which also recognizes the vital role of interparliamentary diplomacy and commits to a deepening of relations between the IPU and the UN.

RESPONSE BY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THE URGENT PLEA BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO RECOMMIT TO MULTILATERALISM FOR GLOBAL PEACE, JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS and CANADA

The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Deeply concerned* that, at the UN General Assembly on 20 September 2024, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, underscored his increasing despair at the state of global affairs saying: “Our world is in big trouble. Divides are growing deeper. Inequalities are growing wider. Challenges are spreading farther. [...] We need hope. [...] We need action across the board”,

(2) *Alarmed* that the UN Secretary-General also described international action on major challenges as being “paralysed by dysfunction and held hostage to geopolitical tensions”,

(3) *Fully comprehending* the UN Secretary-General’s concerns, in which he described a world destabilized by interconnected crises driven by impunity, inequality and uncertainty, which threaten global stability and solidarity and undermine the collective commitment to the principles of multilateralism,

(4) *Appreciating* the gravity and urgent nature of the UN Secretary-General’s severe warnings regarding:

- rampant violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, with many governments acting without accountability and in total impunity in various regions, including in Africa, Europe and the Middle East;
- injustices and grievances which are destabilizing countries, pushing them to the brink of collapse with democracies upended and elected governments and legitimate parliaments overthrown;
- unmanaged global risks which create an unpredictable future, exacerbating instability and undermining economic growth and development, in particular climate change, which increases inequalities, natural disasters and conflicts, and the rapid advance of technology;
- major conflicts such as the war in Ukraine that continue with devastating impacts on civilians resulting from the Russian Federation’s illegal invasion and more than two years of illegitimate war against its neighbour;
- humanitarian crises stemming from acts of terror and military responses, devastating civilian populations and infrastructure, particularly in Gaza, and unheeded calls for an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and urgent progress towards a two-State solution to end the Israel/Palestine conflict;
- regional instability created by armed conflicts in Sudan, the Sahel, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Yemen and elsewhere which highlight widespread violence and human suffering due to a lack of effective solutions, political will and reliable mechanisms to support peace efforts;

(5) *Comprehending* the dire circumstances facing the world, which motivated the UN Secretary-General to call on the international community to mobilize collectively to address these crises, uphold human rights, and work towards sustainable solutions,

(6) *Preoccupied* by the erosion of global commitments to democratic values and universal human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* its unwavering support for multilateralism, both through the United Nations system and other key global and regional institutions, and its attachment to an international order based on the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as laid out in the Pact for the Future;
2. *Fully respects* that the United Nations remains the cornerstone of the multilateral system and of international cooperation and *pledges* its full support to its mission through a deepening cooperation;
3. *Highlights* the gravity of the challenges the global community is facing, from a growing number of international conflicts to the consequences of climate change and the risk of pandemics and other global threats like famine and food insecurity, resulting in a multiplication of humanitarian crises;
4. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for a collective response, founded on renewed political will, to cooperate at the international level and to share responsibilities across geopolitical divisions, to build a more peaceful world and create a better future for current and succeeding generations;
5. *Calls* for a significant concerted effort by the international community, including the IPU membership, to achieve:
 - immediate ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon; the unconditional release of all hostages; substantial, unhindered humanitarian aid to Gaza; and full support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Middle East through an implementation of a two-State solution including recognition of Palestinian statehood and meaningful security guarantees to Israel from its regional neighbours in accordance with relevant UN resolutions;
 - complete cessation of attacks by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the total withdrawal of Russian forces occupying illegally the sovereign territory of Ukraine, in contradiction of international law;
 - effective remedies to addressing the proliferation of violent conflicts affecting the populations of Sudan, the Sahel, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Yemen, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and other conflict-affected parts of the globe;
 - complete rejection of the indiscriminate targeting of civilians by armed forces, wherever they may be, particularly emergency personnel, health and education workers, and medical, education and other public infrastructure, which represents a grave breach of international humanitarian law based on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols;
 - the end of sexual violence and gender-based war crimes in international and domestic conflicts; greater recognition of the insidious impact of gender discrimination, particularly affecting women in Afghanistan but also undermining women's rights in other countries; and the identification of urgent remedies to address this phenomenon;
 - concerted action to end the appalling impact of conflict on children, who are experiencing unacceptable levels of death and injury in war, forced displacement and kidnapping, loss of education and economic opportunity and the wanton destruction of their families and wider communities;
6. *Expresses* its full commitment to:
 - strengthen multilateralism by working tirelessly to uphold and reinforce the multilateral frameworks that are essential for addressing global challenges, undertaking the necessary reforms to ensure the legitimacy and efficiency of the

multilateral system, such as the expansion of the membership of the Security Council, including to the benefit of Africa, the modernization of UN peacekeeping tools, in compliance with the New Agenda of Peace, and the reform of international financial institutions;

- promote equity and justice by advocating for food security and fair access to resources, including water and health supplies, and strive to bridge the gaps which perpetuate inequality and poverty to ensure that no one is left behind, especially the most vulnerable in our communities, particularly women and girls, people with disabilities and the elderly;
 - tackle the climate crisis by pursuing ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement, fully appreciating that the urgency of the climate crisis requires immediate and sustained efforts to reduce emissions and support climate resilience, particularly through financial support for developing countries;
 - defend the rights of all people by being champions for the protection and promotion of universal human rights, ensuring that the fundamental freedoms and dignity of all individuals are respected and upheld, including by rebuilding faith in the integrity of independent accountability and human rights institutions;
 - call for action against impunity for international crimes through support for the International Criminal Court and parallel national prosecution efforts;
 - rebuild trust by addressing misinformation on both social and traditional media and by addressing the new challenges posed by rapidly developing advances in artificial intelligence and other technologies;
 - foster inclusive dialogue, particularly encompassing the most vulnerable in our societies, to enhance global prospects for cooperation based on collective values, shared principles and common objectives in the interests of all peoples;
7. *Resolves* to raise awareness that a recommitment to the cause of multilateralism and the collective efforts of the international community through the United Nations and other global institutions is a critical move in stepping back from the brink of a geopolitical abyss of increasingly violent conflict, social injustice and economic decline, which threatens all countries without a change in course;
 8. *Underscores* the full relevance of the founding principles of the IPU in its 135th year of existence, in favour of the pursuit of peace and cooperation through worldwide parliamentary dialogue, and *reaffirms* its commitment to deepen parliamentary cooperation with the United Nations and other multilateral institutions;
 9. *Highlights* the obligations of Member Parliaments to ensure legislators hold to account their respective national governments to show full respect for the Charter of the United Nations, redouble their efforts to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and to fully implement the newly adopted UN Pact for the Future, which also seeks to deepen cooperation between the IPU and the UN;
 10. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the defence of the principles of peace, human rights, dignity, equality, justice, and solidarity, and *confirms* the determination of Member Parliaments to play a key role in navigating the complexities of current crises, to recommit to the purposes and principles of multilateralism and to contribute to building a more resilient, just and sustainable world for the benefit of every nation and the constituents of all parliamentarians.