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Guidelines for the submission of an emergency item proposal

Article 14.2 of the IPU Statutes states that “The Assembly may include one emergency item in its agenda”. The purpose of this note is to guide IPU Member Parliaments wishing to submit an emergency item proposal.

Assembly Rule 11 (cf. Statutes, Art. 14.2)

1. Any Member Parliament 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 and indicate how it is in line with the principles and values of the IPU and its Strategy. The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Member Parliaments.
2. Consideration and acceptance by the Assembly of a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in its agenda shall be subject to the following provisions:
 - (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 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 accepted¹.
 - (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 - (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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.

Guidelines:

1. Reference is made to Rule 11.2 (a) above regarding the subject of proposals by IPU Member Parliaments. For a proposal to be admissible, **a recent major situation** refers to an incident or event that has happened since the last Assembly OR, in the case of an ongoing situation, in which there have been significant developments since the last Assembly.
2. When drafting an emergency item proposal IPU Member Parliaments are encouraged to use the general [IPU guidelines for drafting resolutions](#).

¹ As suggested by the IPU Executive Committee and to allow the Assembly to examine a broader range of pressing issues, provision has been made for the 150th IPU Assembly (April 2025) to debate and potentially adopt a resolution on a second emergency item proposal – provided the proposal obtains the two-thirds majority of votes required to pass. If successful, this approach would potentially be reflected in future amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules.

3. Sources of statements and resolutions referred to in the proposal (in both the brief explanatory memorandum and the draft resolution) should be clearly stated (preferably with a URL) in the text to facilitate verification.
4. All requests for an emergency item should be submitted, preferably in Word format, to the Documents Control Service of the IPU Secretariat at least 48 hours before the decision on the emergency item, for editing and translation prior to being posted to the IPU website.
5. Any emergency item proposals submitted after this deadline will be immediately published on the IPU website in their original version to allow Member Parliaments time to consult the requests, in advance of the decision on the emergency item.
6. If a Member Parliament wishes to co-sponsor an existing proposal, the delegation concerned must confirm this in writing to the Documents Control service.
7. In principle, only one proposal per Member Parliament is admissible.

Choice of the emergency item to add to the Assembly agenda

A vote by roll call will take place in plenary on the third day of the Assembly to select the subject for inclusion on the agenda of the Assembly as an emergency item. The proposal receiving the highest number of votes, provided it receives at least two thirds of the total votes cast by those present, will proceed as the emergency item.

Adoption of the emergency item resolution

Over time the practice has emerged at the IPU of adopting resolutions by consensus. When there are no reservations to a resolution it is adopted unanimously, and when there are reservations expressed at the time of adoption of the resolution it is adopted by consensus and the reservations/objections are duly noted. This is in keeping with practice at the United Nations.

February 2025