



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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139th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 14-18.10.2018

Assembly
Item 2

A/139/2-P.2
12 September 2018

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 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Uruguay

On 10 September 2018, the Secretary General received from the Secretary of the Uruguayan Inter-Parliamentary Group a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 139th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Redoubling efforts to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons: The role of parliaments".

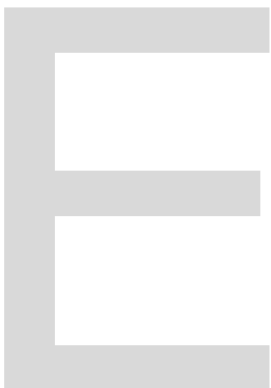
Delegates to the 139th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 139th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Uruguay on Monday, 15 October 2018.

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.



#IPU139

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF URUGUAY**

Montevideo, 11 September 2018

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with the relevant Rules of the IPU, in particular Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, the Uruguayan Inter-Parliamentary Group wishes to request the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 139th Assembly, which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 to 18 October 2018, entitled:

"Redoubling efforts to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons: The role of parliaments".

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum stressing the importance of the topic, as well as a draft resolution in support of this request.

I kindly request that you circulate these documents to the Members of our Organization.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Oscar PIQUINELA
Secretary
Inter-Parliamentary Group of Uruguay

REDOUBLING EFFORTS TO END THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Uruguay

The Uruguayan Group to the Inter-Parliamentary Union wishes to propose the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 139th IPU Assembly entitled *Redoubling efforts to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons: The role of parliaments* for the following reasons.

Realizing that an appropriate, adapted and effective multilateral legal framework is the only possible way to achieve full and comprehensive disarmament under a strict international system, we note with satisfaction that on 7 July 2017, the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was signed by over 50 States on the day on which it was opened up for signature and which will enter into force upon its ratification by 50 States. This would make this treaty a milestone for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and a key instrument for peace and international security. This treaty commits States parties to inter alia not develop, test, produce, manufacture, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons. At the same time, it prohibits, among other things, the transfer of nuclear weapons.

In addition to the foregoing, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in October 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), an organization that draws attention to the potentially catastrophic humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons, and to efforts aimed at prohibiting and controlling their use based on international treaties.

We must urge countries that possess nuclear weapons to engage in in-depth negotiations leading to a gradual, balanced and supervised elimination of the thousands of nuclear weapons scattered throughout the world.

We recall the resolution adopted by the 120th IPU Assembly in Addis Ababa (10 April 2009) that "calls on all nuclear-armed States to make deeper, faster and irreversible cuts to all types of nuclear weapons"; and "urges all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and combat the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in accordance with international law".

We express deep concern over the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The ever increasing presence of these groups and their close link to weapons of mass destruction underscore the danger involved in their use by these actors.

With this in mind, we wish to underscore the importance of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty) as a first instrument of international law on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. The Treaty, albeit not making explicit mention of it, establishes in practice a nuclear-weapon-free zone, which has made and continues to make a valuable contribution to peace and international security for over half a century. Similarly, it highlights that the States parties to the Tlatelolco Treaty are entitled to use – pursuant to the provisions of this instrument – nuclear energy for specific purposes and in specific ways with a view to their socioeconomic development.

Expectations are high at the international level, since 2018 will be remembered for the historic progress made on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, aimed at the complete denuclearization of the Peninsula. A new area of action opens up here for the IPU to use its good offices in the interest of peace.

For the reasons explained above, the Uruguayan IPU Group requests the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the 139th Assembly.

**REDOUBLING EFFORTS TO END THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS:
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of URUGUAY

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Mindful of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union aimed at promoting the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament, namely: To comprehensively ban nuclear weapons testing and halt all present nuclear weapons tests adopted by the 94th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Bucharest, October 1995); Parliamentary action to encourage all countries to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty prohibiting all nuclear testing, to encourage universal and non-discriminatory nuclear non-proliferation measures and to work towards the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons adopted by the 101st Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Brussels, April 1999); Importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction and of missiles, including the prevention of their use by terrorists adopted by the 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Santiago de Chile, April 2003); The role of parliaments in strengthening multilateral regimes for non-proliferation of weapons and for disarmament, in the light of new security challenges adopted by the 111th IPU Assembly (Geneva, September 2004); The announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its nuclear weapons test and the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime adopted by the 115th IPU Assembly (Geneva, October 2006); Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments adopted by the 120th IPU Assembly (Addis Ababa, April 2009); and Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments, adopted by the 130th IPU Assembly (Geneva, March 2014),*
- (2) *Also mindful of the fact that the Inter-Parliamentary Union adopts these resolutions as a whole as a supreme expression of the permanent goals and purposes of the Organization,*
- (3) *Aware that parliamentary action should translate into a vehicle for representing the will of the people in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament,*
- (4) *Firmly convinced that nuclear disarmament can only be achieved in tandem with non-proliferation and that the expectation in the 21st century is to advance towards strict and effective international control supported by the citizens represented by our parliaments,*
- (5) *Affirming that appropriate, adapted and effective multilateral legal frameworks represent the only possible way to achieve comprehensive and complete disarmament in strict compliance with the international framework,*
- (6) *Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) as the principal legally binding instrument covering the three types of weapons of mass destruction,*
- (7) *Also recalling the importance of the Tlatelolco Treaty as the first instrument of international law on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, which in practice establishes a nuclear-weapon-free zone, thus making an essential contribution to peace and security,*
- (8) *Further recalling the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the United Nations on 7 July 2017, which will enter into force upon its ratification by 50 States,*
- (9) *Considering that the full and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is of paramount importance to the promotion of world peace and security,*
- (10) *Also considering that the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security,*

(11) *Deeply concerned* by the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors acquire, traffic in, develop or use nuclear weapons or their means of delivery as the ever-increasing presence of these groups and their close link to weapons of mass destruction underscore the danger associated with their use by these actors,

(12) *Noting* that imposing controls on the proliferation of nuclear weapons will require greater cooperation among States; halting the illicit traffic in nuclear weapons, their means of delivery and related materials; and heightened coordination at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels with the aim of strengthening the global response to this serious challenge and threat to peace and international security,

(13) *Realizing* that the network of disarmament-related agreements and treaties should be made universal with a robust system of safeguards that would help effectively address the dangers posed by proliferation,

(14) *Recognizing*, as parliamentarians, the citizens as the source of our representation, and *underscoring* their pre-eminence in raising public awareness, a prerequisite for cooperation and participation in the process of achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

1. *Expresses its concern* with the slow pace of nuclear disarmament;
2. *Calls on* parliaments to redouble their efforts regarding the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
3. *Invites* States that have not already done so to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted by the United Nations on 7 July 2017;
4. *Encourages* all UN Member States to fully comply with all aspects of their obligations and respect their commitments regarding weapons control, disarmament and non-proliferation;
5. *Urges* States to take appropriate measures at the national level in accordance with their authorities and national laws, and in conformity with international law, to strengthen export controls, control access to intangible technology transfers and information that can be used for weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, block the financing of proliferation and transport of weapons and protect sensitive materials;
6. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promote the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world as an effective means of achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons, giving absolute priority to consolidating peace and security both at the regional and international levels; the establishment of such zones would be a clear demonstration of the commitment of the States in the region to disarmament;
7. *Calls on* the international community to make every effort to realize the goal of nuclear disarmament.