



# 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly

Belgrade (Serbia)  
13-17 October 2019



Assembly  
Item 2

A/141/2-P.1  
11 October 2019

## 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 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of India

On 11 October 2019, the Secretary General received from the Indian Inter-Parliamentary Group a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Resolution on addressing climate change".

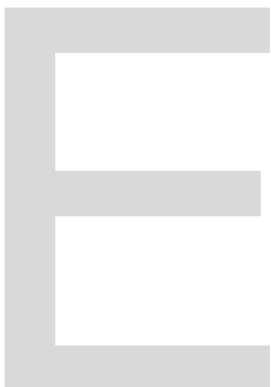
Delegates to the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the Indian Inter-Parliamentary Group on Monday, 14 October 2019.

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.



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

New Delhi, 11 October 2019  
19 Aswina 1941 (S)

DO No. 18/1/2019/IPU

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

As you are aware an Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha will be participating in the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 13 to 17 October 2019.

In this connection, I am directed to inform you that the Indian Parliamentary Group would like to propose an emergency item entitled:

"Resolution on addressing climate change"

for inclusion in the agenda of the said Assembly.

A brief explanatory memorandum along with the draft resolution on the proposed emergency item is also enclosed.

In this context, you are requested to kindly advise your Secretariat to include the said proposal for an emergency item from India in the list of emergency items proposed so far.

Please acknowledge this communication.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

L.V. RAMANA  
Additional Director  
Indian Inter-Parliamentary Group

## RESOLUTION ON ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

### *Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Indian Inter-Parliamentary Group*

India has proposed a draft resolution addressing climate change for consideration at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly, Belgrade, Serbia (13-17 October 2019). This note embodies in brief the need and rationale for India's proposal on the subject.

There are three seminal issues which merit the attention of parliamentarians striving to tackle the global collective action problem of climate change. The first one pertains to the fact that developed countries have had to take a demonstrable lead in combating climate change. The second is the need to pursue climate friendly lifestyles for ensuring sustainable development, and the third is to ensure ways and means for humanity to cope with and adapt to a changing climate regime. The draft resolution by India seeks to draw the attention of the world community to these three hitherto neglected issues which are at the heart of the climate change challenge confronting humanity.

There can be no doubt that global warming of anthropogenic origin is one of the most significant challenges to the world today. Over the years, this has been established decisively by the best available science, as has been examined and assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

However, individual country or collective global action to face this challenge, has evolved slowly and continuously since the signature of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. The Convention laid down the broad principles and basis of climate action, namely on the basis of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with national capabilities. It also delineated the responsibilities and commitments of developed and developing countries and the broad nature and content of these responsibilities and commitments. In particular, inter alia, the developed countries were to take the lead in climate mitigation and to provide financial, technological and capacity building assistance to the developing countries.

The broad goals of the Convention were made very specific in the Paris Agreement, where all Parties accepted specific goals for limiting global warming and agreed to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and [to] pursue[e] efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change".

The subsequent scientific developments, especially as assessed by the IPCC in their three special reports *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, *Climate and Land*, and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, have made it clear that urgent climate action is required in both mitigation and adaptation if the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement is to be realized and the world is to adapt to the global warming that would nevertheless take place. In particular, three aspects of global climate action have come to the fore. These are:

- (i) Developed countries need to take the lead in climate mitigation with far more ambitious emissions reduction than they have done hitherto. Further, their financial, technological and capacity building assistance to developing countries also needs to be significantly enhanced. Indeed, finance for climate action has fallen far short of the commitments, and such finance has been primarily directed towards mitigation rather than adaptation.
- (ii) The high carbon lifestyles of the developed world and their unsustainable patterns of consumption and production actively contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and hence global warming, in breach of the Paris Agreement goals. A transition to climate-friendly lifestyles is therefore an immediate challenge and needs to be taken up in earnest. The consumption patterns of the developing countries are, by and large, far more climate-friendly and have a significantly lower carbon footprint compared to developed countries.

- (iii) Adaptation remains the foremost concern of developing countries as well as their need for sustainable development to guarantee the well-being of their people. Adaptation is particularly necessary in relation to the protection and enhancement of their natural resources which are the source of livelihoods and well-being for significant sections of their populations. Their natural resources are not the primary subject of mitigation. Greater and more immediate climate mitigation by the developed countries would also significantly lower the adaptation burden of developing countries.

The resolution seeks to draw the attention of the global community through the voice of the parliamentarians of 179 countries to these three significant dimensions of global climate action that must be the focus. The Assembly of parliamentarians from across the world, represents a significant section of humanity, all of whose lives, livelihoods and well-being are put at serious risk by global warming. It threatens their children too, for whom, in India as across much of the world, the current generation works for and sacrifices and ardently desires their increased well-being.

We must recall that global warming and its impact is no mere juggernaut of nature visited on us and beyond our control. Its origins lie in our actions as humanity and it is therefore equally within our power to mitigate its consequences within our means to cope with and adapt to it. But the security of the billions we represent, demands that we act urgently.

India fervently appeals to all parliamentarians gathered at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly to join hands and give their assent to the proposed resolution.

## RESOLUTION ON ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

### *Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of INDIA*

The 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Aware* of the role and importance of democratic governance for peace and development resonating in the vision and mission of the IPU, a global organization of 179 Member Parliaments,
- (2) *Acknowledging* that global warming of anthropogenic origin is one of the major challenges facing the global community today,
- (3) *Recalling* the commitments made by the global community relating to various facets of climate change in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Kyoto Protocol, Cancun Agreements, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Warsaw Outcome, SAMOA Pathway, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- (4) *Also recalling* the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which provide the foundation and directions for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development in a warming world,
- (5) *Further recalling* the commitment of the Parties to the UNFCCC to tackle the challenge of global warming on the basis of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,
- (6) *Acknowledging* that the Paris Agreement recognizes that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed country Parties taking the lead, play an important role in addressing climate change,
- (7) *Recalling* that the Paris Agreement notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and the importance for some of the concept of "climate justice",
- (8) *Also recalling* the commitment of the Paris Agreement to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change,
- (9) *Further recalling* the key findings and statements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its special reports *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, *Climate Change and Land*, and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,
- (10) *Acknowledging* the implications of these IPCC reports based on the best available science that the consequences of even limited global warming of 1.5° C, are likely to be extensive, serious and damaging, but could be mitigated considerably by immediate and focused action and active international collaboration and cooperation through multilateral processes,
- (11) *Recalling* that the foremost priority for developing countries continues to be their rapid progress along the path of sustainable development to ensure the well-being of the major part of the population of the world,
- (12) *Appreciating* the work being done under the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles and by other regional groupings including the G7, G20, G77, BRICS, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, SAARC, and others on sustainable consumption and production,

(13) *Applauding* the efforts and initiatives of several local communities, the business and financial sectors, academic and research institutions, children and youth, media and governments in promoting an innovative mix of traditional and modern sustainable lifestyles at the individual and collective levels as their respective contributions to live within Earth's boundaries,

(14) *Recalling* the IPU's commitment in the Hanoi Declaration of 2015 to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and to ensure that parliaments hold governments to account in implementing effective measures to achieve these goals while leaving no one behind,

1. *Urges* all Parties to implement the UNFCCC in letter and spirit, and to invest in mitigation and adaptation resolutely and speedily, in keeping with the provisions of the UNFCCC and the protocols and agreements under its aegis;
2. *Also urges* developed countries to take the lead in strong and effective mitigation action, that would enable the achievement of the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement noting, inter alia, that any shortfall in mitigation would tremendously enhance the burden of adaptation for vulnerable communities, populations, regions and countries;
3. *Calls for* the enhancement of developed country mitigation goals under the Paris Agreement, in the absence of such commitments being made at the UN Climate Summit;
4. *Calls on* the developed country Parties to the UNFCCC to implement in letter and spirit their commitments under the Convention to provide finance, technology and capacity building assistance to developing countries;
5. *Stresses* the need for the enhancement of urgent action for adaptation in developing countries to preserve and enhance their natural resources that are the source of livelihoods and the well-being of millions, and that will be seriously affected even if the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement are achieved, noting that such natural resources cannot be the primary target of mitigation;
6. *Urges* all Parties to move forward expeditiously towards the effective implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage;
7. *Calls upon* national parliaments to urge their governments to take a leading role in effective measures to counter global warming, raise awareness and provide extensive education on the causes and impact of climate change, and to actively encourage the adoption of climate-friendly lifestyles;
8. *Also calls upon* national parliaments to urge their governments, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to support the development of comprehensive national resilience mechanisms, strengthen disaster risk reduction and prevention, enhance disaster preparedness for effective responses, and invest in risk-reduction measures and societal resilience;
9. *Calls on* IPU parliamentarians to work with their governments in partnership with all stakeholders including, inter alia, the private sector, youth, women and indigenous peoples, and local communities to move towards rapid implementation of the SDGs, thereby contributing to the enhancement of resilience and adaptation to climate change, addressing the overall objectives of the UNFCCC;
10. *Also calls on* the 179 Member Parliaments of the IPU to promote and mainstream the concept of sustainable lifestyles domestically;
11. *Appeals* to States and non-state actors to embrace and promote sustainable lifestyles which allow nature to regenerate, with the efficient use and reuse of resources and materials;
12. *Strongly appeals* for a significant shift and enhancement in the finance, technology and capacity building assistance for developing countries towards adaptation rather than mitigation as has taken place so far.