



141st IPU Assembly

Belgrade (Serbia)
13-17 October 2019



Assembly
Item 2

A/141/2-P.3.rev
14 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 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt

On 13 October 2019, the Secretary General received a letter from the Executive President of the French Inter-Parliamentary Group, submitting a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 141st Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Protection of civilians and international security:
Demanding an end to Turkey's offensive in Syria".

Delegates to the 141st 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 141st Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

13 October 2019

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Pursuant to Assembly Rule 11.1, the French delegation I have the honour to head, requests the inclusion in the agenda of the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Belgrade of an emergency item entitled:

"Protection of civilians and international security:
Demanding an end to Turkey's offensive in Syria".

The text of the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum are attached.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Hubert JULIEN-LAFERRIÈRE
Deputy for the Rhône region

**PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY:
DEMANDING AN END TO TURKEY'S OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegations of
France, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt***

On 9 October 2019, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced the beginning of a new military operation, called "Operation Peace Spring", against the Kurdish militia of the People's Protection Units in the northeast of Syria.

This ground offensive in Syria by the Turkish army and Syrian auxiliary forces was accompanied by air strikes targeting several cities bordering Turkey. On 12 October, after four days of bombing, an attack was launched against the city of Ras al-Ain held by Kurdish forces. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights announced that the Turkish army and its Syrian allies had occupied 27 Syrian villages.

On the evening of 12 October, the United Nations estimated that about 100,000 civilians had fled the combat zones. Their number could quickly reach 150,000.

After four days of fighting, the death toll reached dozens of civilians and fighters. This number is changing rapidly because of the violence and the intensity of the fighting, which makes the presence of observers difficult.

This offensive, decided unilaterally by Turkey, threatens the diplomatic advances obtained by the world coalition against Daesh in which Turkey however participates. This action also increases the instability of the region and the risk of the resurgence of Daesh whose threat remains significant and attacks Kurdish and Arab forces that played a decisive role in the fight against Daesh.

This military operation will cause further displacement of populations with the risk of aggravating the refugee crisis in the region while the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees has already registered 6.7 million Syrian refugees in the world and Turkey is home to 3.7 million refugees.

**PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY:
DEMANDING AN END TO TURKEY'S OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of
FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND and EGYPT***

The 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Deplores* the military offensive launched on 9 October 2019 by Turkey on Syrian territory,
- (2) *Concerned* by the threats caused by this unilateral action to the stabilization efforts in the region initiated by UN Security Council resolution 2254 of 18 December 2015,
- (3) *Denouncing* the fact that this operation increases the risk of resurgence of Daesh whose threat remains significant and that it attacks Kurdish and Arab forces that played a decisive role in the fall of the Caliphate,
- (4) *Deeply disturbed* by the number of civilian casualties caused by this operation, the worsening population displacement and the resurgence of a migratory crisis in the region, with the civilians fleeing the theatres of operation already reaching the number of 100,000 people after four days of fighting,
- (5) *Reaffirming* that the return of refugees and IDPs to their places of origin must be safe, voluntary and dignified when conditions allow,
 1. *Condemns* the unilateral use of armed force, conducted without an international warrant, in the territory of another State;
 2. *Demands* Turkey to end its military operations on Syrian territory which offer Daesh an opportunity to regain influence in the region and raise fears that thousands of terrorist fighters detained by Kurdish and Arab forces will join terrorist groups still active—nearly 800 terrorist fighters having already fled their detention camps after five days of offensive;
 3. *Calls on* all parties to urgently ensure the long-term and unhindered protection of civilian populations;
 4. *Reaffirms* that a sustainable solution to the Syrian conflict cannot be achieved through the military but only through the diplomatic channel and the commitment of all parties within the framework of the United Nations in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution 2254.