



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.1
11 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 Jordan

On 10 September 2018, the Secretary General received from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 139th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Addressing UNRWA's serious budget deficit problem in order to ensure the continuity of its services to Palestinian refugees, discussing the repercussions of the US decision to cancel all its aid to UNRWA, and assessing the impact of this decision on the Palestinian issue as a whole".

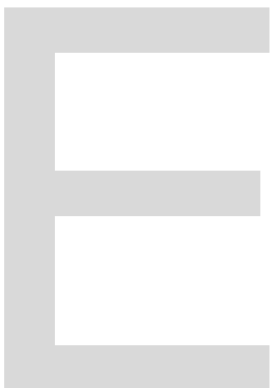
Delegates to the 139th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 139th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Jordan 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 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

10 September 2018
Ref. n° 5/9/2/2457

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with the relevant rules of the IPU, the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan wishes to submit a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 139th IPU Assembly, which will take place in Geneva from 14 to 18 October 2018.

The requested agenda item is the following:

"Addressing UNRWA's serious budget deficit problem in order to ensure the continuity of its services to Palestinian refugees, discussing the repercussions of the US decision to cancel all its aid to UNRWA, and assessing the impact of this decision on the Palestinian issue as a whole".

Please find attached a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution in support of this request.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Atef TARAWNEH
Speaker
House of Representatives
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

ADDRESSING UNRWA'S SERIOUS BUDGET DEFICIT PROBLEM IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF ITS SERVICES TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEEES, DISCUSSING THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE US DECISION TO CANCEL ALL ITS AID TO UNRWA, AND ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THIS DECISION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS A WHOLE

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Jordan

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established under the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 212 (III), 302 (IV), and 194 (III).

For nearly 70 years, UNRWA has been the lifeline to more than five million registered Palestinian refugees in the occupied Palestinian territories (The West Bank and Gaza) as well as in the neighbouring host countries, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Since its creation, UNRWA's services have been covering all Palestinian refugees' needs including: medical services, education, social services, employment as well as food.

The IPU Statutes and principles stress the importance of consolidating peace and international security, protecting human rights, and they also stand united against any threat to such basic principles.

Based on the points summarized above, we hereby request the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the 139th IPU Assembly, which will take place in Geneva from 14 to 18 October 2018.

The Jordanian delegation kindly requests the IPU President's prompt action in communicating the enclosed draft resolution to IPU Members, the United Nations Secretary General and all relevant regional and international bodies. The delegation further requests the support of IPU Members to push their countries to add pressure on the United States of America to continue to fulfill its international obligations, particularly in relation to such a potentially dangerous matter.

ADDRESSING UNRWA'S SERIOUS BUDGET DEFICIT PROBLEM IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF ITS SERVICES TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, DISCUSSING THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE US DECISION TO CANCEL ALL ITS AID TO UNRWA, AND ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THIS DECISION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS A WHOLE

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of JORDAN

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing appreciation* for the governments that have been regularly contributing generously in kind or in cash funds to the Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA),
- (2) *Affirming* the fact that UNRWA is a United Nations institution established in accordance with United Nations resolutions with the aim of providing healthcare, education and social services to Palestinian refugees in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, until the Palestinian—Israeli conflict is resolved peacefully, justly and comprehensively in accordance with relevant UN resolutions,
- (3) *Expressing deep concern* that cutting UNRWA's funding involves devastating humanitarian consequences for approximately five million registered Palestinian refugees wherever they currently are,
- (4) *Recognizing* the grave consequences of UNRWA's funding cuts on the host countries, which would most certainly imply economic as well as political repercussions,
- (5) *Affirming* that the Palestinian refugee issue is one of the final status issues, that should all be resolved within a final settlement of this conflict, and therefore it should not be separated from that context and cannot, under any circumstances, be decided by any single entity without referring to the relevant international resolutions which categorically recognize the refugees' right of return in addition to compensation,
- (6) *Expressing serious concern* regarding the United States politically-motivated decision, to end all funding to UNRWA and the far-reaching consequences that would inevitably occur as a result, including threats to regional peace and stability in a region that is already in turmoil,
- (7) *Reaffirming* the significance of parliamentary diplomacy and the representative Parliamentary bodies at the international level in facilitating negotiations and reaching agreements,
 1. *Calls* on the international community as a whole to uphold its obligations towards the Palestinian refugees by continuing to avail to UNRWA all the funds and facilities needed to enable the United Nations Agency to continue its humanitarian mission until the conflict is finally resolved and justice is done to the Palestinian refugees;
 2. *Urges* the delegations of member countries that are already supporting UNRWA to increase their contributions to the Agency, to avoid fueling a major crisis in the region, which could be exploited by extremists and terrorists;
 3. *Appeals* to the United States Government to heed international calls for continued support to UNRWA's mission, which importantly contributes to regional, as well as international peace and security, and to reconsider its funding cut decision.