Assembly
Item 2
A/140/2-P.2.rev
6 April 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 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Indonesia

On 27 March 2019, the IPU President received from the Chairman of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives of Indonesia a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 140th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Protection of the rights and dignity of Muslim minorities around the world".

On 6 April 2019, a revised version was submitted.

Delegates to the 140th 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 140th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Indonesia on Sunday, 7 April 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(d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 IPU PRESIDENT BY
THE CHAIRMAN OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF INDONESIA

Jakarta, 5 April 2019

Madam President,

On March 28, 2019, the House of Representatives of Indonesia had submitted the draft of Emergency Item on “Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Muslim Minorities”. We thank you and the IPU that the draft of the Emergency Item has been circulated to IPU Members for their consideration. With this letter, we would like withdraw the previous draft and submit the revised draft of the Emergency Item.

The revised Emergency Item was drafted with a spirit of solidarity for minority and aimed to send a strong message of inclusiveness to international community. The Emergency Item reflects the IPU Members’ commitment to promoting and protecting human rights including Muslim minorities. We are humbly seeking the IPU’s support on our proposal.

Please accept, Mme. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Nurhayati Ali ASSEGAF (Ms.)
Chairman of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives of Indonesia
PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF MUSLIM MINORITIES AROUND THE WORLD

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Indonesia

Since its founding in 1889, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has continuously promoted peace and cooperation for the firm establishment of democracy with a view to building a fair and inclusive society. In October 2016, the IPU adopted the “Better parliaments, stronger democracy” Strategy for 2017-2021 that protects and promotes human rights, and in October 2017, it also adopted the St. Petersburg Declaration, *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue* as a constructive approach to address any threat to diversity and to protect diversity itself.

The international community has witnessed that the growing number of violent incidents motivated by xenophobia, racism, and Islamophobia has posed threats that undermine international peace and security. There is a rising trend in mosque attacks and hate crime against Muslim minorities such as the recent attacks on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand (2019), Quebec, Canada (2017), and Perth, Australia (2016).

In fact, pervasive hate speech against Muslim minorities in our society has harmful consequences, subjecting these minorities to discrimination and persecution, including violent attacks. This situation is currently being exacerbated by the growing trend of neo-Nazism and far-right extremism across the globe. These phenomena have been addressed by the United Nation in UN General Assembly Resolution 70/139, *Combatting Glorification of Nazism, neo- Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance* adopted in 17 December 2015 and UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18, *Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against, persons based on religion or belief* adopted in March 2011.

Muslim minorities may continuously face challenges and threats of being excluded from fully participating in economic, political, social and cultural activities due to the growing trend of Islamophobia. In line with the spirit of leaving no one behind under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, religious freedom is the prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Protecting religious freedom, including the rights and dignity of Muslim minorities to practise their faith, means ensuring the well-being of Muslim minorities in society and creating a flourishing society through inclusive growth. The growing tendency of such threats to religious freedom will create setbacks for Muslim minorities that prevent them from innovating and contributing to global development.

During the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bali in 2017, the global parliamentary community underlined the importance of ensuring peace to achieve the SDGs. In this regard, the SDGs will not be achieved without the inclusive participation of Muslim minorities.

It is within our highest consideration that the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Indonesia to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, led by the Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Fahri Hamzah, and the Chairperson of the Committee of Inter-parliamentary Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, requests the 140th IPU Assembly to call for an emergency item entitled “The Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Muslim Minorities around the World.”
PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF MUSLIM MINORITIES AROUND THE WORLD

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of INDONESIA

The 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) Recalling the principles and objectives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the resolutions adopted at various IPU Assemblies as well as relevant international covenants, declarations and conventions, in particular those which call for the respect of civil, economic, political, social, cultural and religious human rights,

(2) Also recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief,

(3) Further recalling the St. Petersburg Declaration on Promoting Cultural Pluralism and Peace through Interfaith and Inter-ethnic dialogue endorsed by the 137th IPU Assembly in 2017,

(4) Reaffirming UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18, Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief, which was adopted by a historic consensus that brought together divergent views on eliminating religious discrimination and intolerance,

(5) Also reaffirming UN General Assembly Resolution 70/139, Combating Glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which recognizes that there is deep concern about the alarming rise of Islamophobia, xenophobia, and other related types of faith-based discrimination,

(6) Emphasizing that everyone has the right to freedom of religion, including freedom to manifest religion in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

(7) Deeply concerned about the rise in Islamophobia, extremism and incidents of intolerance, discrimination, far-right populism and violence against persons based on their religion or belief throughout all regions of the world,

(8) Emphasizing that Muslims are global citizens and Muslim minorities have the right to establish and maintain, without prejudice or discrimination, free and peaceful contact with other members of their community and with persons belonging to other minorities, as well as contact across frontiers with citizens of other States with whom they have national, ethnic, religious or linguistic ties,

(9) Recognizing with deep concern the rising trend in mosque attacks and hate crime against Muslim minorities such as the recent mosque attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand (2019), Quebec city, Canada (2017), and Perth, Australia (2016),

(10) Referring to the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development and the Bali Democracy Forum that reaffirmed the obligation of IPU Member Parliaments to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasized the need for democracy to respect the majority while protecting minorities,

(11) Noting that, in the spirit of leaving no one behind under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Muslim minorities are equally entitled to live peacefully and participate in achieving the SDGs,

(12) Also noting that work towards attaining the SDGs must be accompanied by a spirit of unity in diversity, which Indonesia has put into practice,
1. **Strongly condemns** the act of terrorism and racial hatred committed against Muslim minorities who were peacefully praying in mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, that caused the senseless deaths of 50 innocent people and left so many more seriously injured,

2. **Also strongly condemns** any statement made by politicians that could spark outrage by blaming the Christchurch mosque shooting and attacks on other places of worship on Muslim migrants and minorities, which shows a lack of understanding about Islam and is a reflection of Islamophobia and xenophobia,

3. **Urges** parliaments to commit to educating society by promoting tolerance, pluralism and diversity and implementing interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue;

4. **Calls upon** parliaments to take effective measures to combat the growing trend of Islamophobia, eliminate discrimination, extremism, terrorism and persecution based on religion or belief, and acknowledge that Muslim minorities have an equal right to establish and maintain their own associations without prejudice;

5. **Urges** States with Muslim minorities to protect the rights of Muslims in their countries, including their right to participate in the economy, politics and democracy and their right to profess and practise their religion or belief freely without interference or any form of discrimination; States shall encourage conditions that allow the identity of such minorities to be promoted respectfully;

6. **Calls on** States to firmly separate and differentiate between separatism and terrorism, comply with International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law in handling this matter, and emphasize that terrorism is not justified by any religion or faith;

7. **Reiterates** the important role of parliaments in ensuring and protecting the equal rights of Muslim minorities to participate effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life, including in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. **Urges** States to take firm action to combat certain opinions relating to and expressions of racism and xenophobia, including racist hate-speech, through necessary restrictions, which should be balanced against the ability to exercise all fundamental human rights;

9. **Calls on** IPU Member Parliaments to take action to prohibit the dissemination, including through political institutions and organizations, of racist and xenophobic ideas and material aimed at any religion or its followers that constitute incitement to racial or religious hatred, hostility or violence;

10. **Urges** social media platforms to take more effective measures in combating hate speech and action related to xenophobia, intolerance, Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslim minorities without undermining freedom of speech and expression;

11. **Also Urges** States to ensure that all public officials, including members of law enforcement bodies, immigration offices, the military, civil servants and educators, in the course of their official duties, respect all religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons, especially Muslim women who wear a hijab or any other religious symbol, on the grounds of their religion or belief, and that all necessary and appropriate education or training is provided;

12. **Affirms** that protecting the rights and identity of Muslim minorities, including the freedom to establish places of worships in all States, is the responsibility of the governments of those States in accordance with the principles of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law;
13. *Declares* that Muslim minorities all over the world are an integral part of society; stresses that the global commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should leave no one behind; and emphasizes that they are entitled to equal rights and to carry out all their duties, and must be provided with all the necessary protections and guarantees in their respective States;

14. *Requests* the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and the IPU Committee on Democracy and Human Rights to continue monitoring the status of Muslim minorities so as to collect further information about the challenges and difficulties that they face, politically, socially and economically, with a view to providing them with the required assistance and emphasizing the prevention of extremism and terrorism.