



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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140th IPU Assembly

Doha (Qatar), 6 – 10 April 2019



Assembly
Item 2

A/140/2-P.3
2 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 the Netherlands

On 2 April 2019, the IPU Secretary General received from the leader of the delegation of the Netherlands a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 140th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai".

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 the Netherlands 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS
OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

2 April 2019

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, the delegation of the Netherlands wishes to request the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly which will be held in Doha, Qatar from 6 to 10 April 2019 entitled:

"Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi
and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai".

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

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Joop AT SMA, MP
Leader of the delegation of the Netherlands
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

**CALL FOR URGENT INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO SUPPORT MOZAMBIQUE,
MALAWI AND ZIMBABWE HIT BY CYCLONE IDAI**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Netherlands

This proposed draft resolution aims to highlight the urgent need for international action to address the humanitarian catastrophe in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe since Cyclone Idai hit these countries in March 2019.

It is too early to gauge the magnitude of the devastation, the number of victims is expected to rise, thousands are missing and many people have lost their livelihoods after flooding caused by Cyclone Idai. Measures are being taken by countries and aid organisations providing relief. However, long term relief will be necessary to these countries, three of the world's poorest states with poor infrastructure. Special focus is needed for the most vulnerable in the flood-ravaged areas, especially women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly. Attention should also be paid to children and women at risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation in these chaotic scenes.

The resolution also refers to climate change and the measures to be taken by all parties to the Paris Agreement to achieve its goals, to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The resolution urges the global community to invest in climate resilient-development programmes focusing on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 13.

Based on the aforementioned, we kindly request the inclusion of the following emergency item in the 140th IPU Assembly's agenda.

**CALL FOR URGENT INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO SUPPORT MOZAMBIQUE,
MALAWI AND ZIMBABWE HIT BY CYCLONE IDAI**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the NETHERLANDS

The 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Deeply concerned* about the humanitarian catastrophe in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe since Cyclone Idai hit these countries causing widespread flooding through the region, killing many people, leaving thousands missing or injured, destroying homes, affecting more than a million lives, displacing hundreds of thousands of people and causing a rising death toll,
- (2) *Considering* that it is too early to gauge the magnitude of the devastation, that the number of victims is expected to rise, and that the World Health Organization has warned of a 'second disaster' if potentially lethal waterborne diseases like cholera spread in the devastated region,
- (3) *Noting* that few countries could adequately respond to a disaster of this magnitude (the World Meteorological Organization projects that Idai will be among the worst weather-related disasters in the southern hemisphere), and certainly not three of the world's poorest countries, let alone Mozambique, which in the midst of a debt crisis and whose annual GDP is around US\$ 12 billion,
- (4) *Acknowledging* that these countries were already vulnerable to disaster because of long lasting droughts and failed rains, due to changing weather conditions linked to global warming that has led to extreme rainfall and rising sea-levels and triggered deadly storms, such as Cyclone Idai,
- (5) *Welcoming* the measures and efforts taken by countries and aid organizations providing relief, food, temporary shelters, water-treatment devices and medicines, and knowing that widespread devastation and poor infrastructure hamper rescue and humanitarian operations from reaching all affected people,
- (6) *Referring* to the UN Secretary General's request for a quick response from the international community to the UN flash appeal issued on 25 March 2019 for US\$ 282 million of emergency aid to Mozambique for a three-month period, and to the revised appeals for Zimbabwe and Malawi,
- (7) *Noting* the vulnerability of women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly in this situation, and also noting the risks of children in the aftermath of the cyclone being sold into slavery by human traffickers or forced into early marriage by families struggling to survive,
- (8) *Acknowledging* that extreme weather events are most likely to become more frequent, severe, devastating and widespread and could be prevented or moderated by actions from the international community today,
- (9) *Recalling* the Paris Agreement that entered into force on 4 November 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), which provide the foundation for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development under a changing climate,
- (10) *Looking forward* to the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 as an important opportunity to raise ambition and establish plans for achieving the Paris Agreement goals,
- (11) *Referring* to the IPU's own commitments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 (Hanoi Declaration 2015) to ensure parliaments hold governments to account in implementing effective measures to achieve these goals while leaving no one behind, in particular goal 6 on clean water and sanitation and goal 3 on good health and well-being, and acknowledging that these disasters further disadvantage the affected countries' ability to achieve the SDGs,

1. *Calls on* parliamentarians to urge their governments that have not already done so to support the UN flash appeals for Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, and to contribute in an appropriate manner by ensuring that adequate human and financial resources are dedicated to the countries concerned;
2. *Also calls on* the UN, aid organizations and the international community to remain focused on the most vulnerable in the flood-ravaged areas without clean water, especially women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, to support them in rebuilding their livelihoods and strengthening their capacity to care for their families, and to pay special attention to children, girls and women at risk of kidnapping, trafficking and sexual exploitation;
3. *Urges* all parties to the Paris Agreement to do their utmost to achieve its goals and to present their progress and future ambitions at the UN Climate Summit in September 2019, with the aim of submitting their revised Nationally Determined Contributions, as well as their long-term climate changes, to the UN in the course of 2020, and particularly urges parties to invest in mitigation, adaptation, financing and innovation across vulnerable, at-risk countries;
4. *Also urges* the global community, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to support the affected countries in developing comprehensive national resilience mechanisms, strengthening disaster risk reduction and prevention, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective responses, and to 'build back better' in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and calls on the governments of the countries concerned to also invest in risk-reduction measures and societal resilience;
5. *Further urges* the global community, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and together with governments and the private sector in disaster-prone countries, to invest in climate-resilient development programmes related to key livelihood security topics of people living in high-risk areas, with a focus on SDGs 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (food security), 3 (health), 5 (gender equality), 6 (water and sanitation), 8 (good jobs), 11 (resilient communities) and 13 (climate action).