



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.5
14 October 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 delegations of Jordan and Kuwait

On 13 October 2018, the Secretary General received a request from the National Assembly of Kuwait whereby the delegations of Jordan and Kuwait submit a joint proposal for an emergency item for the inclusion in the agenda of the 139th Assembly entitled:

"Cutting off aid to UNRWA – A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law: Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole".

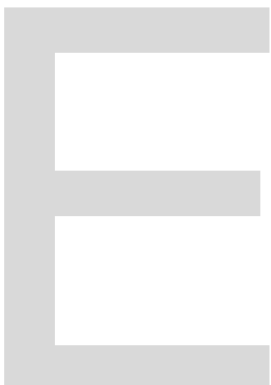
Delegates to the 139th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 139th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of Jordan and Kuwait 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 DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KUWAIT**

13 October 2018

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Please be informed that the Inter-Parliamentary Groups of Kuwait and Jordan have decided to merge the proposed emergency items which have been submitted to the IPU by each Parliament.

The joint emergency Item of Kuwait and Jordan is titled:

“Cutting off aid to UNRWA – A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law: Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole”.

Kindly find attached the text of the joint emergency item in both English and Arabic, for the consideration of the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Ahmad ALBEHBEHANI
National Assembly of Kuwait

CUTTING OFF AID TO UNRWA – A HUMANITARIAN BLOCKADE AND VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF STOPPING AID TO UNRWA AND ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THIS DECISION ON PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS A WHOLE

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegations of Jordan and Kuwait

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

For nearly 70 years, UNRWA has been the lifeline to more than 5 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 standing 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 Jordan and Kuwait delegations kindly request the IPU President's prompt action in communicating the enclosed draft resolution to the IPU Members, the United Nations Secretary-General and all relevant regional and international bodies. The delegations further request the support of the IPU Members to push their countries to fulfil their international obligations, particularly in relation to such a potentially dangerous matter.

CUTTING OFF AID TO UNRWA – A HUMANITARIAN BLOCKADE AND VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF STOPPING AID TO UNRWA AND ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THIS DECISION ON PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS A WHOLE

Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of JORDAN and KUWAIT

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Noting* that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) in 1949 which provides for the immediate relief and services for Palestine refugees around the world,
- (2) *Expressing appreciation* for the governments that have been regularly contributing generously in kind or in cash funds to the Palestinian refugees through UNRWA,
- (3) *Fully respecting* the governments who rejected suspending the financial aid which guarantees the continuation of UNRWA's work,
- (4) *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, Lebanon and Syria, until the Palestinian — Israeli conflict is resolved peacefully, justly and comprehensively in accordance with relevant UN resolutions,
- (5) *Expressing deep concern* that cutting UNRWA's funding involves devastating humanitarian consequences for approximately 5 million registered Palestinian refugees wherever they currently are,
- (6) *Recognizing* the grave consequences of UNRWA's funding cuts on the host countries and their, most certain, economic and political repercussions,
- (7) *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 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,
- (8) *Expressing serious concern* regarding the ending of 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,
- (9) *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 fuelling 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.