



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.6
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 Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia

On 14 October 2018, the Secretary General received from the Speaker of the Parliament of Fiji, on behalf of the delegations of Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia, a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 139th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Climate change – let us not cross the line".

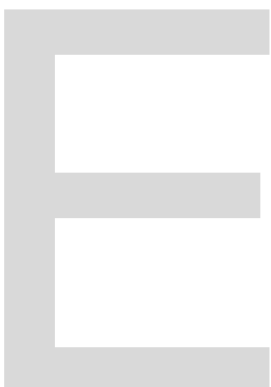
Delegates to the 139th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 139th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia 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 PARLIAMENT OF FIJI**

Suva, 14 October 2018

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Please be informed that the delegation of Fiji, on behalf of the delegations of Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia wishes to submit a request for inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 139th IPU Assembly in accordance with Article 14.2 of the IPU Statutes. The proposed emergency item is titled:

"Climate change – let us not cross the line".

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

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

(Signed)

Yours sincerely,

Jiko LUVENI (Ms.)
Speaker
Parliament of Fiji

CLIMATE CHANGE – LET US NOT CROSS THE LINE

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegations of Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. The Report has 86 lead authors from 39 countries, of whom 39 per cent are female. The Report advances the understanding of global warming of 1.5°C, predicts the impacts and risks associated with climate change, identifies emission pathways consistent with 1.5°C and provides guidance on strengthening the global response to climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

The Report reaffirms that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming since the industrial revolution. Further, this warming is locked in and will persist for centuries to millennia. Under current policy arrangements, the world is on a path to nearly 4°C of global warming by 2100. If the current nationally determined contributions are fully implemented, it is estimated to lead to about 3°C of global warming by 2100. Enhanced action is needed immediately. As stated in the Report, limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.

Global mean sea level rise is projected to be around 0.1m lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2.0°C. A slower rate of sea level rise would enable greater opportunities for adaptation in the human and ecological systems of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas. On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems would include species loss and extinction. In the ocean, we expect an adverse impact on marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans. At a recent Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in Nauru, the Pacific leaders reaffirmed that climate change remained the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific and our commitment to progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

It used to be that 2°C of global warming was seen as a safe limit but the IPCC Report suggests that this is beyond our environmental comfort zone. In the Arctic, with 1.5°C warming, ice-free summers could occur once in every 100 years; with 2°C warming, it would be ice-free every decade. With 1.5°C, 10 million fewer people would be affected by sea level rise, but with 2°C, small Pacific Island countries and large parts of countries like Bangladesh would be lost to the sea. With 1.5°C, 70-90 per cent of coral reefs would be lost; at 2°C, it would be virtually all of them, around 99 per cent.

The Report highlights that we are already at 1°C of warming, with emissions carrying on as they are, we could hit 1.5°C in less than 12 years – that's the lifespan of a car. We have therefore got much to do in very little time.

Explanatory Note

Tropical cyclones represent an existential threat to tropical islands and coastal communities causing loss and damage. The climate hazards posed by tropical cyclones are intensified by increasing risks of flooding through heavier rainfall and sea level rise as a result of climate change.

One of the key messages from the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C is that we are already seeing the consequences of 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes. In the Pacific, two category 5 tropical cyclones hit Vanuatu and Fiji in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Flash flooding in low-lying areas has become a normal occurrence in Fiji in the past decade and the country has to spend scarce funds on relocating whole communities affected by coastal sea level rises. The IPCC Report has warned there is only a dozen years left to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C, beyond which even half a degree increase will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, fierce storms, tropical cyclones, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

The IPCC Report noted that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society, the IPCC said on Monday (8 October 2018).

CLIMATE CHANGE – LET US NOT CROSS THE LINE

Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of SEYCHELLES, FIJI, TONGA, SAMOA AND THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* that the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016,
- (2) *Acknowledging* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development draws a clear link between climate change and other critical areas of today's society, such as food security and the ocean,
- (3) *Recalling* that, as part of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways,
- (4) *Noting* that the IPCC recently released their Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C, with a view to strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty,
- (5) *Acknowledging* that the Report establishes that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which is affordable and feasible despite laying at the most ambitious end of the Paris Agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5°C and 2°C,
- (6) *Recalling* the small island developing States (SIDS) parliamentary outcome document of their meeting held on 14 October 2017 in St. Petersburg on the occasion of the 137th IPU Assembly, which was subsequently made available to the participants of the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn (COP23),
- (7) *Noting* the following projections of major concern in the IPCC report:
 - A. Climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between the present day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions (high confidence), hot extremes in most inhabited regions (high confidence), heavy precipitation in several regions (medium confidence), and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions (medium confidence).
 - B. By 2100, global mean sea level rise is projected to be around 0.1 metre lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C (medium confidence). A slower rate of sea level rise enables greater opportunities for adaptation in the human and ecological systems of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas (medium confidence).
 - C. On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction, are projected to be lower at 1.5°C of global warming compared to 2°C.
 - D. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to reduce increases in ocean temperature as well as associated increases in ocean acidity and decreases in ocean oxygen levels (high confidence). Consequently, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is projected to reduce risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans, as illustrated by recent changes to the Arctic sea ice and warm water coral reef ecosystems (high confidence).
 - E. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C,

(8) *Also noting* that the SIDS recognized that "Climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of Pacific people"; and further recognized the importance placed on an "expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritising environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change, including through regional cooperation and support",

(9) *Further noting* that the SIDS continue to reaffirm the importance of immediate urgent action to combat climate change and are committed to sustained, high level representation and collaboration in the lead up to, and at, the 24th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (COP24),

(10) *Recognizing* the profound impact posed by climate change to the ocean, the global community cannot attempt to solve the crisis of one without confronting the other, and while also recognizing that ocean acidification has a specific target under SDG 14.3, and that it must not lose sight of the fundamental climate change related issues such as ocean warming, deoxygenation and sea-level rise which present a new set of challenges for the ocean,

Calls on the IPU Members to:

- act on the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C;
- support and lead the development of the Rule Book and Guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement, building on the Talanoa Dialogue at the upcoming COP24;
- continue their leadership role in combating climate change and strengthening their partnership with the SIDS to meet their ambition as set out in their nationally determined contributions;
- ensure that procedures for accessing climate change funding are simplified.