



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
120th Assembly and related meetings
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 5 - 10 April 2009



Assembly
Item 2

A/120/2-P.2
20 March 2009

**CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE 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 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates**

On 19 March 2009, the Secretary General received from the delegation of the United Arab Emirates a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 120th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The establishment of an international fact-finding committee on the Israeli military attacks against Gaza and the international role of parliamentarians in achieving Middle East peace, security and stability".

Delegates to the 120th 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 120th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates on Monday, 6 April 2009.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the Union 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 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 major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Abu Dhabi, 19 March 2009

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Inter-Parliamentary Group of the United Arab Emirates, on behalf of the Arab Parliamentary Group, would like to request the inclusion of the following emergency item in the agenda of the 120th IPU Assembly:

"The establishment of an international fact-finding committee on the Israeli military attacks against Gaza and the international role of parliamentarians in achieving Middle East peace, security and stability".

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum and draft resolution on the proposed emergency item. You are kindly requested to take the necessary action.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dr. Mohamed Salem AL MAZROUI
General Secretary
Federal National Council
of the United Arab Emirates

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE ON
THE ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACKS AGAINST GAZA AND THE INTERNATIONAL
ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN ACHIEVING MIDDLE EAST PEACE,
SECURITY AND STABILITY**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group
of the United Arab Emirates***

Israel has violated international humanitarian law related to the protection of civilians. The Israeli military forces used internationally prohibited weapons, notably white phosphorous and leg-maiming and skin-removing DIME weapons, a blatant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention and other treaties governing warfare.

The army bombed places of worship, hospitals and schools. Seven schools were completely destroyed and another 157 were partially damaged. Sixteen out of 27 hospitals were shelled, which constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law on the protection of civilians and places of worship.

The Israeli army bombarded the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) headquarters on 15 January and shelled other four United Nations buildings, including two schools where the Palestinians had taken refuge, killing 46 persons. That act constituted another clear violation of the international laws providing for the protection of international agencies from military attacks.

The Israeli forces bombed supply and aid caravans: two doctors were among the casualties. All regions of Gaza were randomly bombarded, in violation of Articles 15 and 16 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel, by imposing a siege on Gaza, is still violating international treaties and conventions.

At this critical stage of the peace process and against a backdrop of soaring extremist activities, the IPU, among other international organizations, should play an effective role in achieving international peace and security by securing the enforcement of its agreements and relevant UN conventions.

The global financial crisis will no doubt have an adverse effect on international stability, so rather than divert attention away from political problems and efforts to maintain peace in the world, it should encourage this issue to be placed at the top of the list of priorities of international organizations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

As a result of the increasing level of international interest and the international community's awareness about the importance of putting an end to violence in this region by holding those responsible to account for the role they played in the recent events in Gaza, parliamentary authorities and bodies have taken steps to investigate these events as flagrant violations of human rights. These steps included visits by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA), headed by its President, a delegation from the European Parliament and a delegation from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), in addition to many parliaments from all over the world and other international organizations such as the United Nations and Amnesty International. Given that the IPU is part of this international system and is a forum for the parliamentarians of the world, it is imperative that the IPU play its role in identifying these violations and uncovering all related facts.

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE ON
THE ISRAELI MILITARY ATTACKS AGAINST GAZA AND THE INTERNATIONAL
ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN ACHIEVING MIDDLE EAST PEACE,
SECURITY AND STABILITY**

***Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of
the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES***

The 120th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

- (1) *Referring* to the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in its 104th Conference (October 2000, Jakarta), 106th Conference (September 2001, Ouagadougou), 107th Conference (March 2002, Morocco) and 109th Assembly (October 2003, Geneva), all of which called for peace and security in the Middle East,
- (2) *Underscoring* the IPU's support for efforts and initiatives aimed at securing a just and permanent settlement of the Arab–Israeli conflict based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1397 (2002) and other UN resolutions calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Arab lands and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State,
- (3) *Deeply concerned* about the situation in Gaza following the recent Israeli attacks during which internationally prohibited weapons were used, and *worried* about the Israeli policy that aims to besiege the Palestinian people in Gaza, denying them basic human needs,
- (4) *Commending* regional parliamentary entities and parliamentarians from across the world for their field visits to Gaza or for organizing events to shed light on the situation there,
- (5) *Appreciating* the results of the Gaza Reconstruction Conference, held in Sharm El-Sheikh on 2 March 2009, and the international actors for their financial support in this regard,
 1. *Calls for* the establishment of an international parliamentary fact-finding commission on Israeli violations of the Geneva Conventions, international humanitarian law and other international conventions related to the use of prohibited weapons and materials during the recent attacks by Israeli forces on Gaza;
 2. *Urges* the IPU Executive Committee to select the members of the proposed commission, which shall submit its reports to future IPU assemblies, which in turn shall be conveyed to the appropriate UN, regional and international bodies;
 3. *Calls for* a lifting of the siege imposed by Israel on Gaza and the opening of all border crossings to allow free distribution of humanitarian aid, mainly food, fuel and medicine, into Gaza, and *encourages* international efforts for more aid and donations, mainly to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA);
 4. *Urges* the United Nations, the Middle East Quartet, and other influential actors to make urgent efforts for a just and comprehensive peace, a prerequisite for the establishment of a Palestinian State with secure and recognized borders;

5. *Calls for renewed and accelerated peace talks between Syria and Israel with a view to securing the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Golan Heights and their complete withdrawal from the Sheba Farms in Lebanon;*
6. *Urges Arab States in return to establish normal relations with Israel as soon as Israel fulfils the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace based on the principle of "land for peace";*
7. *Calls upon Israel to accept the Arab Peace Initiative, launched at the Arab Summit held in Beirut in 2002, as a cornerstone of the Middle East peace process and a starting point for normalization of Arab relations with Israel;*
8. *Appeals to Israel to immediately halt the construction of fences and walls around the Palestinian lands, as well as settlement activities and similar measures, policies and arrangements in Jerusalem; recalls in this regard all UN resolutions calling for maintaining the status quo of Jerusalem;*
9. *Urges the United Nations and relevant international actors to make every effort to consolidate the ceasefire in Gaza and enforce relevant Security Council resolutions;*
10. *Underscores the need for a just settlement of the Palestinian refugee situation based on UN General Assembly resolution 194 of 11 December 1948;*
11. *Appeals for international support for achieving peace and security in the Middle East in accordance with UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict; encourages the establishment of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including, nuclear weapons;*
12. *Calls for the holding of an international parliamentary conference on Middle East peace and security before the end of 2009;*
13. *Calls on Israel to immediately release all detained members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, as requested by previous IPU resolutions.*