



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



Assembly
Item 2

A/120/2-P.6
2 April 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 Venezuela**

On 31 March 2009, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Venezuela a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 120th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The negative impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, especially in Africa".

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 Venezuela 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF VENEZUELA**

Caracas, 27 March 2009

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We would like to renew our profound gratitude to the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for its remarkable efforts to strengthen and promote its activities throughout the world. I would also like to express my best wishes for the success of the 120th Assembly and related meetings.

In accordance with Assembly Rules 11.1 and 11.2 of the IPU concerning requests to include an emergency item in the Assembly agenda, we would like to request the inclusion of the following emergency item in the agenda of the 120th Assembly:

"The negative impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, especially in Africa".

Please find attached a brief explanatory memorandum along with a draft resolution on the proposed emergency item.

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

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dario VIVAS
Head of the Delegation of Venezuela

THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Venezuela

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, at its 119th IPU Assembly held in Geneva, unanimously adopted a resolution dated 15 October 2008 entitled "The role of parliaments in containing the global financial crisis and its economic impact, both on developing and developed countries". This document recognizes the adverse impact of the crisis on developing countries and particularly the threat it poses to human development. It points to the need to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We are deeply concerned about the negative impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community. We recognize that the crisis had its origin in developed countries and its solution requires a broad international dialogue with the active participation of all countries. It may even require the construction of a new international financial architecture.

It is apparent that the international economic and financial crisis is systemic and structural, as it is expressed in all spheres of the capitalist system, manifesting itself in the energy, financial, food, environmental, social and political spheres, among others. This leads us to rethink existing development models, and to place human beings and life at the centre of our attention.

Many of the most vulnerable sectors of society worldwide are located in Africa, home to more than 920 million people, of whom 60 per cent are under 25 years of age. Two fifths of the population of Africa lives on less than US\$ 1 per day. As of 2007, between 21 million and 23 million Africans were infected with HIV/AIDS and each year there are 1.7 million new cases. The infant mortality rate in 2005 was 166 per 1000 live births. Preventable infections are widespread. For example, 90 per cent of deaths annually caused by malaria worldwide occur on the African continent.

In different multilateral forums, it has been said that the greatest challenge facing the world today is poverty eradication, especially in Africa. The challenge is all the greater in the context of the current international economic and financial crisis.

We recognize that progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals requires greater efforts in Africa. The continent is far behind in achieving these goals set for 2015, and this situation becomes even more critical in the context of the current international financial crisis. The funding which will be necessary to achieve these internationally agreed development goals, especially in Africa, is a cause for concern because of the international economic and financial crisis.

Pope Benedict XVI recently visited Africa and joined others in warning that the region is in danger of efforts to impose upon it a reign of money, ignoring the poor and forcing them into exile. He accused the multinational corporations of taking over the natural resources of Africa, which is cited as one of the root causes of poverty in this region.

The potential development of Africa was severely impacted by the capture and enslavement of millions of men and women taken away from their families and brought to the New World to perform hard labour without pay in the territories of the colonial empires for the benefit of imperial business and industry.

It is important to consider cooperation between parliaments and governments to advance the objectives of the international community.

We are convinced that the 120th IPU Assembly, to be held in Addis Ababa, is an opportunity to display international solidarity with Africa given the difficult situation it is currently facing.

**THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON
THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of VENEZUELA

The 120th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

- (1) *Considering* that the Inter-Parliamentary Union unanimously adopted a resolution dated 15 October 2008, during the 119th Assembly held in Geneva, entitled "The role of parliaments in containing the global financial crisis and its economic impact, both on developing and developed countries", which recognizes the adverse impact of the crisis, particularly on developing countries, and the threat it poses to human development, and thus the need to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals,
- (2) *Deeply concerned* about the negative impact that the international economic and financial crisis has on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, and *bearing in mind* that the crisis has its origins in developed countries, and that its solution requires a broad international dialogue with the active participation of all countries, facilitating the construction of a new international financial architecture,
- (3) *Convinced* that the international economic and financial crisis is systemic and structural, as it is reflected in all spheres of the capitalist system, manifesting itself in the energy, financial, food, environmental, social, political and political spheres, among others, which leads us to rethink the current development models, and to place human beings and life at the centre of our attention,
- (4) *Mindful* that the most vulnerable sectors of society worldwide are located in Africa, home to more than 920 million people, 60 per cent of whom are under 25 years, that about two fifths of this population live on less than US\$ 1 a day, that between 21 million and 23 million are infected with HIV/AIDS and that each year there are 1.7 million new infections, that infant mortality stands at 166 per 1,000 live births and that 90 per cent of deaths caused by malaria annually worldwide occur on the continent,
- (5) *Recalling* that at different multilateral forums, it has been said that the greatest challenge facing the world today is poverty eradication, especially in Africa, and that this challenge is all the greater in the context of the international economic and financial crisis,
- (6) *Recognizing* that progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals requires greater efforts in Africa, which is far from achieving all the goals, and that this situation becomes more critical in the context of the international economic and financial crisis,
- (7) *Deeply concerned* about the funding needed to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, especially in Africa, because of the international economic and financial crisis,

(8) *Noting* the recent visit to Africa of Pope Benedict XVI, who echoed the warning that this region is in danger of having a reign of money imposed upon it, ignoring the poor and forcing them into exile, and accused the multinationals of taking over the natural resources of Africa, one of the root causes of poverty in this region,

(9) *Recognizing* the valuable and little-known contribution of Africa to the development of the rest of civilization, through the slaughter of millions of men and women taken away from their countries and brought as slaves to perform unpaid labour in the territories of the colonial empires and the looting of natural resources to foster the advancement of colonial business and industry,

(10) *Considering* the importance of cooperation between parliaments and governments to advance the objectives set by the international community,

(11) *Convinced* that the 120th IPU Assembly in Addis Ababa is an opportunity to display solidarity with Africa given the difficult situation it is currently facing,

1. *Reaffirms* its full support for the holding in June 2009, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a high-level conference on the international financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, the only possible framework for negotiations to tackle these issues;
2. *Calls on* the parliaments of the world to consider 2009 as the year of the struggle for the eradication of poverty and social injustice and its root causes in Africa;
3. *Appeals* to the parliaments and governments of the world to manage and drive the necessary tools to expedite actions to deal effectively with the eradication of poverty and injustice in the world, especially in Africa;
4. *Urges* the IPU Governing Council to convey to the President of the United Nations General Assembly the hope that the conference on international financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, to be organized by the United Nations, will place human beings and life and impediments to the achievement of the objectives of the international community at the centre of its debates, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, paying special attention to the African continent in light of its particular needs.