



Assembly
Item 2

A/121/2-P.4
28 September 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 121st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of Cuba**

On 24 September 2009, the Secretary General received from the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Cuba, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 121st Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Parliamentarians' contribution to rejecting the violation of democratic processes through coups d'état and other acts of force: The case of Honduras".

Delegates to the 121st 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 121st Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Cuba, on Monday, 19 October 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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
PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF CUBA**

Havana, 21 September 2009

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the National Assembly of the People's Power of the Republic of Cuba and the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Cuba, to request the inclusion of the following emergency item in the agenda of the 121st IPU Assembly:

"Parliamentarians' contribution to rejecting the violation of democratic processes through coups d'état and other acts of force: The case of Honduras".

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution on the item.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Ramón PEZ FERRO
President of the
Inter-Parliamentary Group of Cuba

**PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONTRIBUTION TO REJECTING THE VIOLATION OF
DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES THROUGH COUPS D'ETAT AND OTHER ACTS
OF FORCE: THE CASE OF HONDURAS**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Cuba

The Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council, as well as the objectives and aims that underpin the creation of the IPU, as enshrined in its Statutes, oblige our Organization to take a stand on acts of violence that interrupt democratic processes and impose by force regimes that undermine the State institutions.

The 121st IPU Assembly, therefore, cannot remain silent on the coup d'état carried out by the armed forces of Honduras against its constitutional President, Manuel Zelaya, who was legitimately elected by the Honduran people.

With this blow to the country's democratic institutions, the Honduran military took the process of democratization in Latin America back 30 years, to a time when the region was plagued by military dictatorships characterized by brutal repression, which in turn led to tens of thousands of extrajudicial executions, disappearances, acts of torture and a complete denial of the most fundamental human rights in the countries that experienced them.

Such illegal action led to a unanimous rejection by the international community, whose most representative institutions include the United Nations General Assembly, which passed a resolution condemning the coup and demanding the reinstatement of the constitutional President.

Similarly, the Organization of American States (OAS) suspended Honduras, while the European Union rejected the coup and the Latin American Parliament suspended Honduras until the situation returned to normal. Both the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which issued a news item on 29 June 2009, call for an immediate return to constitutional order in Honduras. The press release goes on to add that the IPU President, Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, condemned in the strongest possible terms the ousting from office of Honduran President Manuel Zelaya. The IPU President called on the military to exercise restraint and allow the people of Honduras to freely express their will. "Any act to overturn a government by unconstitutional means is totally unacceptable", he declared. The IPU said that it supports all efforts of the Organization of American States to help restore stability and the rule of law in Honduras as soon as possible.

Given the widespread barbarism that currently prevails in Honduras, the people are resisting and are maintaining a heroic stance of demanding a return to constitutional order in the country. No tanks, tear gas, lead and rubber bullets, water cannons, acts of torture or killings have been able to halt the multitudes that have been roused up and who continue to demand their inalienable rights.

Along with expressions of solidarity by various international bodies and organizations, more drastic and radical measures to effectively help return democracy and constitutional order to this long-suffering Central American nation are imminent.

For all these reasons, we believe it is a matter of urgency and necessity that the Inter-Parliamentary Union speak out on this matter, hence the request to include it as an emergency item in the agenda of the 121st IPU Assembly.

**PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONTRIBUTION TO REJECTING THE VIOLATION OF
DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES THROUGH COUPS D'ETAT AND OTHER ACTS
OF FORCE: THE CASE OF HONDURAS**

Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of CUBA

The 121st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections, adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in March 1994, which states that the authority to govern shall be based on the will of the people as expressed in genuine and free and fair elections,
- (2) *Also recalling* the principles recognized in the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st session on 16 September 1997 in Cairo,
- (3) *Reaffirming* the IPU's commitment to peace and development and convinced of the need to strengthen democratic processes and representative institutions,
- (4) *Agreeing* with the position expressed by the IPU President on 29 June 2009 that "any act to overturn a government by unconstitutional means is totally unacceptable",
- (5) *Alarmed* at the coup d'état carried out by the Honduran armed forces against the constitutional President, Manuel Zelaya, who was legitimately elected by the people,
- (6) *Concerned* at the serious situation that has arisen due to this unconstitutional act, which jeopardizes the security and stability of the democratic institutions and processes in the Latin American region,
 1. *Condemns* the coup d'état carried out against the legitimate President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, who was democratically elected in free elections that were certified by international observers;
 2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the flagrant violation of the most fundamental human rights of the population, as a result of their firm resistance and rejection of the breakdown of democracy in the country;
 3. *Aligns itself* with the international rejection and disapproval of the military regime imposed on this nation, which have been expressed by important institutions that represent global public opinion, including the UN General Assembly, the Organization of American States, the European Union, the Latin American Parliament, the Union of South American Nations and other regional and international organizations and prominent persons in various fields ;
 4. *Calls for* a cessation of widespread repression in the country and for the putschist authorities to redress their illegal action in order to respect the international call to return Honduras to constitutional order and reinstate its ousted President, Manuel Zelaya;
 5. *Calls on* the world's parliaments to support this resolution and help achieve the objectives proposed herein.