



**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 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

On 29 September 2010, the Secretary General received from the Secretary General of the Islamic Republic of Iran a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The urgent need for immediate action by the IPU and its Member Parliaments  
to encourage international relief efforts in flood-stricken Pakistan".

Delegates to the 123<sup>rd</sup> 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 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday, 4 October 2010.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Tehran, 29 September 2010

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to propose the following emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of the 123<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly to be held in Geneva:

"The urgent need for immediate action by the IPU and its Member Parliaments to encourage international relief efforts in flood-stricken Pakistan".

Please find attached the relevant documents.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

J. JAHANGUIRZADEH  
Secretary General of the Iranian  
Inter-Parliamentary Group

**THE URGENT NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE IPU AND ITS MEMBER PARLIAMENTS  
TO ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS IN FLOOD-STRICKEN PAKISTAN**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran***

Natural disasters have a negative impact on people's lives wherever they occur. Floods, earthquakes, sea-level rise, in particular when accompanied by storms and similar weather phenomena, generally result in the destruction of infrastructure and public and private property, as well as loss of life, injury and the displacement of millions of people in the affected areas. Unfortunately, damage caused by natural disasters is on the rise and most countries, in particular those in the developing world, cannot respond to the urgent needs of millions of people in affected areas in time.

Northern Pakistan has been hit by the worst floods in decades, with some 20.5 million people affected according to the Government of Pakistan. According to the figures available on the website of the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, 1,802 people have died, 2,994 people have been injured and 1,910,439 houses have been damaged since the flooding began. The United Nations estimates that the number of injured persons or those who have become homeless as a result of the flooding exceeds the combined total number of persons affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. At one point, approximately one fifth of Pakistan's total land area was under water owing to the flooding.

According to the Government of Pakistan, the international assistance provided to the country has been insufficient, and consequently, the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected population have not been met so far.

One cannot remain indifferent in the face of such a difficult humanitarian situation in Pakistan. The international community has a duty to extend as a matter of urgency the necessary assistance to the people of Pakistan, who are in dire need at present. In this context, and in view of the fact that the IPU is a unique forum for parliamentarians to discuss global issues, we strongly believe that the concerns of the affected country should be the concerns of the IPU, and be reflected as such at the forthcoming Assembly.

In this regard, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to propose that the following subject, "The urgent need for immediate action by the IPU and its Member Parliaments to encourage international relief efforts in flood-stricken Pakistan", be considered as an emergency item on the agenda of 123<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly.

**THE URGENT NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE IPU AND ITS MEMBER PARLIAMENTS  
TO ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS IN FLOOD-STRICKEN PAKISTAN**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN***

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the resolution adopted by the 122<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly (Bangkok, 2010), which acknowledges that the growing frequency, intensity and impact of disasters pose a significant threat to people's lives and livelihoods, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,
- (2) *Further recalling* the resolution on natural disasters adopted by the 112<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005) which proposed that nations further strengthen their cooperation in disaster-prevention efforts,
- (3) *Recalling* UN General Assembly resolution 64/294 of 24 August 2010, which urges the international community, in particular donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to extend full support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of the floods and to meet the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs,
- (4) *Cognizant* of the significant loss of life and enormous socio-economic, infrastructure and environmental damage caused by the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, and *noting* that the massive scale of destruction and loss of life caused by the unprecedented flooding, triggered by torrential rains, in an otherwise arid region, reflects the adverse impact of climate change and the growing vulnerability of countries to such change,
- (5) *Considering* that over 1,000 lives were lost in the floods in Pakistan, millions of people were displaced and the physical damage and resulting economic losses amount to billions of dollars,
  1. *Expresses* full solidarity and sympathy with the people of Pakistan, who have been affected by the floods;
  2. *Urges* the international community, in particular donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to extend full support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of the floods and to meet the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs;
  3. *Encourages* all governments to further coordinate their international relief, reconstruction and recovery activities, among themselves and with humanitarian agencies, and to take concrete action to enhance people's understanding of the impact of disaster-risk reduction through public awareness, education and training;

4. *Underscores* the importance of a rapid response by the international community, and in particular the United Nations, to meet the needs of people affected by natural disasters, especially the people of Pakistan, who have sustained heavy losses as a result of the recent devastating floods, and *urges* all potential stakeholders to extend humanitarian aid to all those affected by such a disaster;
5. *Requests* the relevant United Nations bodies, international financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and governments, to further contribute to the efforts aimed at meeting the needs of the people in the flood-stricken areas of Pakistan;
6. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations bodies to contribute to the reconstruction of the flood-affected areas of Pakistan as soon as possible, taking into account the needs expressed by the authorities of Pakistan;
7. *Commends* the efforts made by the national authorities of Pakistan to reverse the negative impacts of the recent disaster on people's daily lives, and *encourages* them to scale up their efforts in this regard;
8. *Highly recommends* the holding of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-stricken areas in Pakistan, and *calls upon* the UN Secretary-General to take the necessary action to that end;
9. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to report on implementation of this resolution at the 124<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.