



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
124th Assembly and related meetings
Panama City (Panama), 15 – 20 April 2011



Assembly
Item 2

A/124/2-P.6
16 April 2011

**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 124th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegations of Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of) and New Zealand**

On 16 April 2011, the Secretary General received from the delegations of Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of) and New Zealand a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 124th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Strengthening democratic reform in emerging democracies, including North Africa
and the Middle East".

Delegates to the 124th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as a draft resolution (Annex II) in support thereof.

The 124th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of) and New Zealand on Saturday, 16 April 2011.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 DELEGATIONS OF INDONESIA, IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) AND NEW-ZEALAND**

Panama City, 16 April 2011

Please find attached a joint proposal for an emergency item sponsored by Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of) and New Zealand entitled:

"Strengthening democratic reform in emerging democracies, including North Africa and the Middle East".

**STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC REFORM IN EMERGING DEMOCRACIES, INCLUDING
NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of INDONESIA,
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) and NEW ZEALAND***

The 124th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Noting* that the popular uprisings seeking to consolidate democracy that have spread across the Middle East and North Africa are the most prominent social and political development to have taken place in the months leading up to the 124th Assembly,
- (2) *Affirming* the rights of those societies to determine their own political future, and *recalling* that democracies should reflect a diversity of histories and cultures,
- (3) *Also affirming* that democracies should all be built on recognized norms, standards and principles, including those relating to human rights, equality, including gender equality, transparency and accountability, and respect for plurality of opinion,
- (4) *Expressing* concern for the humanitarian impact of the political changes in the region on vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, and *noting* that 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day,
 1. *Affirms* the importance of holding free and fair elections as soon as possible;
 2. *Also affirms* the particular importance of empowering women;
 3. *Urges* all parties to act with restraint and respect, and to ensure in particular that human rights are respected;
 4. *Calls on* all governments to respect the right to peaceful self-determination of peoples without outside interference, which is at the centre of a strong democracy;
 5. *Underscores* the pivotal role the IPU can play in assisting fledgling democracies.