



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 125th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Namibia

On 30 August 2011, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Namibia a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 125th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The plight of the people of famine-stricken Somalia and relief efforts by IPU Members".

Delegates to the 125th 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 125th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Namibia, on Monday, 17 October, 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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
SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF NAMIBIA**

Windhoek, 30 August 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The National Assembly of Namibia proposes the following emergency item for consideration and inclusion in the agenda of the 125th IPU Assembly, to be held in Bern:

"The plight of the people of famine-stricken Somalia and relief efforts by IPU Members".

An explanatory memorandum is enclosed and will be followed shortly by a draft resolution.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Willem Isaak
Senior Parliamentary Clerk
of the National Assembly of Namibia

**THE PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF FAMINE-STRICKEN SOMALIA
AND RELIEF EFFORTS BY IPU MEMBERS**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Namibia

Famine - a widespread scarcity of food - is currently occurring in Somalia, and having a devastating impact on people's lives. This phenomenon is usually accompanied by malnutrition, starvation, epidemics and a high mortality rate. For the past 20 years, Somalia has been embroiled in a civil war that has led to the destruction of both its rural and urban economies. Poverty, inadequate social infrastructure, a suppressive political regime and inexperienced government are all ingredients that make some countries, particularly those in Africa, more vulnerable to famine.

According to reports, tens of thousands of people have died of malnutrition in the past few months and the lives of several million more are threatened in this East African country. While Somalia remained self-sufficient in food until the late 1970s despite recurrent droughts, as of the early 1980s, its national economy was destabilized and the agricultural sector destroyed. That is when the scarcity of food began.

On 24 September 2011, at least US\$ 218 million in new aid for the Horn of Africa was pledged at a United Nations mini-summit held to raise awareness about the region's humanitarian crisis and tackle the root causes of its recurring drought-related food shortages. This initiative by the representatives of the countries that participated in the summit must be highly commended.

Furthermore, the international community still has an obligation as a matter of urgency to provide aid to the people of Somalia, who are in dire need. As the IPU is a forum for parliamentarians from across the world to discuss global issues, we firmly believe that the famine that is affecting the people of this country should be a cause for concern for the IPU and that the calls for relief efforts from this unique parliamentary forum will be heeded.

In this regard, the delegation of the Republic of Namibia would like to propose that *The plight of the people of famine-stricken Somalia and relief efforts by IPU Members* be considered as an emergency item on the agenda of 125th IPU Assembly.

**THE PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF FAMINE-STRICKEN SOMALIA
AND RELIEF EFFORTS BY IPU MEMBERS**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of NAMIBIA

The 125th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Recalling* UN Security Council resolution 1964 (2010) on Somalia, which expressed concern at the significant decline in humanitarian funding for Somalia and called on all Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals,

(2) *Also recalling* the resolution adopted by the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, 2010), which acknowledges that the growing frequency, intensity and impact of disasters pose a significant threat to the people's lives and livelihoods, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

(3) *Cognizant* of the loss of life due to the famine, the untold socio-economic consequences, the unstable political environment, acts of violence and abuses and human rights violations committed against civilians, in particular women and children, *underscoring* the responsibility of all parties in Somalia to comply fully with their obligations in this regard and *reaffirming* the importance of the fight against impunity,

(4) *Alarmed* by the humanitarian situation in Somalia and the inhumane conduct of both Al-Shabaab and the Transitional Federation Government of Somalia,

(5) *Considering* that tens of thousands of people have died of malnutrition in the past few months and that the lives of several million more are in jeopardy in Somalia,

1. *Urges* the international community to work in unison and extend its full support and assistance to the people of Somalia;
2. *Expresses* its solidarity and sympathy with the Somali people, who have been affected by the widespread famine and political instability;
3. *Encourages* all governments and international organizations, such as the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to assist in bringing about stability through agricultural self-sufficiency, it being understood that such a situation is dependent on the local conditions of the soil, water, and climate, and on investments in modern agricultural techniques such as irrigation and the use of fertilizers;
4. *Also encourages* the IPU and other organizations and States to assist Somalia in strengthening its democratic institutions and *calls on* governments and parliaments to develop programmes to assist it in establishing a democratic society;

5. *Commends* the efforts made by all governments and *urges* them to redouble their efforts;
6. *Requests* the disaster management agencies to plan properly and make adequate budget allocations for the citizens of this country to rebuild their lives and livelihoods;
7. *Calls on* the competent bodies to build the capacity of women and women's organizations to look after families and help restore their health;
8. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to report on implementation of this resolution at the 126th IPU Assembly.