



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 the Islamic Republic of Iran

On 16 October 2011, the Secretary General received from the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 125th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The need to further mobilize international support and strengthen international efforts to assist the Somali people suffering from famine".

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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

Bern, 16 October 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to submit a request for inclusion in the agenda of the 125th IPU Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The need to further mobilize international support and strengthen international efforts to assist the Somali people suffering from famine"

which the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to present to the 125th IPU Assembly for its consideration.

Please find attached the related explanatory memorandum and draft resolution.

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

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Javad JAHANGIRZADEH
Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Group
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

**THE NEED TO FURTHER MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN
INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE SOMALI PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM FAMINE**

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

Natural disasters that occur in different parts of the world every year have a negative impact on people's lives. It is a question that needs to be considered seriously by the international community. Among the different natural disasters, drought followed by famine and a food crisis (one of the largest humanitarian crises) results in the loss of life of thousands of people, as well as the displacement of millions of persons in the affected areas. Drought and famine in developing countries cause enormous damages due to the lack of adequate infrastructure, thus preventing developing countries from responding effectively and in time to the urgent needs of millions of affected people.

Unfortunately, millions of people have been trapped in the drought - famine crisis in Somalia. Thousands of children across Somalia and the Horn of Africa are suffering from a deadly combination of drought, rising food prices and armed conflict and hundreds more are dying every day. Children weakened by malnutrition are also susceptible to killer diseases such as measles, cholera and malaria, which may in turn extend beyond the affected area.

We cannot remain indifferent in the face of such a grim humanitarian situation in Somalia. The international community has a responsibility to urgently extend the necessary assistance to the people of Somalia, who are in dire need now. 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 concern of the affected country should be the concern of the IPU, which should be reflected at its Assemblies.

In this regard, the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to propose the above-mentioned emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of the 125th IPU Assembly.

**THE NEED TO FURTHER MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN
INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE SOMALI PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM FAMINE**

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

The 125th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *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 people's lives and livelihoods, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

(2) *Also recalling* the resolution on natural disasters adopted by the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005), which proposes that nations further strengthen their cooperation in disaster prevention efforts,

(3) *Cognizant* of the significant loss of life and enormous socio-economic damage caused by the recent devastating drought in Somalia,

(4) *Considering* that hundreds of children have already died and the lives of hundreds more will be in jeopardy if foreign relief efforts fail to keep pace with the needs on the ground,

1. *Expresses* full solidarity and sympathy with the Government and people of Somalia, who have been affected by the famine;
2. *Urges* the international community, in particular donor countries, international financial institutions and international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to extend their full support and assistance to the people and Government of Somalia to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the famine;
3. *Encourages* all governments to further coordinate their international relief and recovery activities, among themselves and with humanitarian agencies;
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, specifically the people of Somalia, who have sustained heavy losses as a result of the recent devastating drought, and *urges* all potential stakeholders to extend humanitarian aid to all those affected by such disasters;
5. *Requests* the relevant UN 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 famine-stricken people of Somalia.