



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
126th Assembly and related meetings
Kampala (Uganda), 31 March to 5 April 2012



Assembly
Item 2

A/126/2-P.1
15 March 2012

**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 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic**

On 13 February 2012, the Secretary General received from the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 126th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967".

Delegates to the 126th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II). The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic will submit the draft resolution at a later stage.

The 126th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday, 1 April 2012.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the IPU 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND
SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Damascus, 22 February 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The People's Assembly has requested that you kindly include in the agenda of the 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to be held in Kampala (Uganda) from 31 March to 5 April, an emergency item entitled:

"The Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967".

Further to your letter of 15 February 2012 requesting an explanatory memorandum on the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan, we are pleased to send you that document in attachment. Please circulate it to all IPU Members.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Mohammed Eid AL-HAMMAL
Secretary General of the People's Assembly
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary
Group of the Syrian Arab Republic

THE SYRIAN GOLAN, OCCUPIED SINCE 1967

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Golan is situated some 50 km from Damascus and has a total surface area of 1,860 km². It is 74 km in length and 27 km in breadth at its widest point. Geographically, it is a rocky escarpment of Mount Hermon, whose highest point stands at 2,225 metres above sea level.

The western border of the Golan is truncated by the Jordan Rift Valley. It represents 1 per cent of the total surface area of the Syrian Arab Republic and contains 14 per cent of the country's water reserves, 3 per cent of which comes from rainfall. Israel, which has occupied the Golan since 1967, relies on it for a third of its water supply for drinking, irrigation and other uses. Furthermore, one third of the water in Lake Tiberias originates in the Golan. It is estimated that the plateau's water reserves stand at some 20 billion cubic metres and that it has an annual precipitation of 1.2 billion cubic metres.

The importance of the Golan Heights stems from the fact that it is located between Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan, which has whetted the appetite of the Zionists, whose leaders had already asked the Ottoman authorities at the end of the 19th century to allow them to exploit and lease the plateau for 50 years. Its prime geographical location, domination of the region's water resources and Israel's expansionist ambitions explain the Israeli invasion of the Golan in 1967, its occupation, its desire to remain there, and lastly, its annexation. Indeed, the Knesset decided through the "Golan Heights law" to impose Israeli jurisdiction and Israeli judicial and administrative systems on the plateau.

UN Security Council resolution 497 of 17 December 1981 reaffirmed that the acquisition of territory by force was inadmissible, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and considered that the relevant Israeli decision was null and void and without international legal effect. It demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision.

In practical terms, the Golan Heights law resulted in the lifting of military jurisdiction in the Golan, which was placed henceforth under ordinary civilian authority. The situation has remained virtually unchanged since 1981. The above-mentioned law has confirmed the policies implemented by Israel since 1967.

In spite of numerous Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions requesting that Israel withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, and although the Syrian citizens of the Golan refuse Israeli citizenship, Israel continues to occupy that land and continues to suppress, imprison and torture Syrians of the Golan.

A number of talks have been held between the Syrians and the Israelis and we were close to a solution that involved the withdrawal by Israel from the entire Golan, but once again, Israel demanded totally unacceptable conditions.

By continuing to occupy the Golan, Israel has forced the entire region into a potentially explosive situation. There can be no solution unless the occupied lands are returned in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 and 337.