



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



Assembly
Item 2

A/126/2-P.4
22 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 Egypt**

On 20 March 2012, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Egypt a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 126th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of parliamentarians in strengthening regional and international efforts to halt the violence and killing in Syria and to support the Arab League Plan for a peaceful transition of power".

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), and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 126th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Egypt 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 PEOPLES ASSEMBLY OF EGYPT**

Cairo, 14 March 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

With reference to the 126th IPU Assembly, scheduled to be held in Kampala (Uganda) from 31 March to 5 April 2012, the People's Assembly of Egypt would like to submit an emergency item entitled:

"The role of parliamentarians in strengthening regional and international efforts to halt the violence and killing in Syria and to support the Arab League Plan for a peaceful transition of power"

for inclusion in the agenda.

Enclosed are the related explanatory memorandum and draft resolution.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Sami MAHRAN
Secretary General of the
People's Assembly of Egypt

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO HALT THE VIOLENCE AND KILLING IN SYRIA AND TO SUPPORT THE ARAB LEAGUE PLAN FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Egypt

15 March 2012 marks the anniversary of the Syrian Revolution, with no real progress in international and regional efforts to bring pressure to bear on the Syrian regime to stop its machinery of suppression and destruction in dealing with Syrian citizens, leaving in its trail thousands of dead and injured persons. From a purely security perspective, the Syrian regime's use of all types of security and military vehicles to subdue and break popular will was a recipe for exacerbating the crisis and complicating it even further.

The regime's response in terms of reform was partial, slow, and far below the expectations of the popular movement, contrasting starkly with the magnitude and brutality of the repression. More significantly, related measures were not really reflected on the ground. Not only has the cabinet reshuffle failed to result in any change to the security policy, but the lifting of the state of emergency has also not curbed the detention of tens of thousands of persons or their subjection to torture and death.

Although intergovernmental efforts have so far failed to issue a UN Security Council resolution owing to the use of the veto, parliamentarians in different countries of the world must honour their responsibility for supporting regional and international efforts to stop the daily violence and killing in Syria and to ensure a peaceful transition. The Arab League Plan is still the best solution to date for securing a power transition in Syria, being the least costly compared to any other option and guaranteeing a safe power transition while preserving the institutions of the Syrian State.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union continues to act as the foremost international organization that reflects the will of all peoples independently of differences of opinion at the government level. These differences are illustrated by the polarization that has impacted on the issues under consideration, most recently by the failure to adopt a UN Security Council resolution on the situation in Syria.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the People's Assembly wishes to present an emergency item entitled "The role of parliamentarians in strengthening regional and international efforts to halt the violence and killing in Syria and to support the Arab League Plan for a peaceful transition of power" for inclusion in the agenda of the 126th IPU Assembly in Kampala.

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO HALT THE VIOLENCE AND KILLING IN SYRIA AND TO
SUPPORT THE ARAB LEAGUE PLAN FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of EGYPT

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing its deep concern* over the deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation in Syria, in particular the ongoing human rights violations and the use of violence by the Syrian authorities against the civilian population, thus taking the lives of thousands of victims and leaving behind thousands of wounded and injured persons,
- (2) *Affirming* its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria,
- (3) *Underscoring* the need to reach a peaceful settlement of the current crisis in Syria in a manner that safeguards the institutions of the Syrian State,
- (4) *Realizing* that security-based stability in Syria is key to peace and stability in the region,
- (5) *Deploring* the failure to issue a UN Security Council resolution on the situation in Syria due to the use of the veto by certain States,
- (6) *Welcoming* the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 66/253 on The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic on 16 February 2012,
 1. *Strongly condemns* the ongoing large-scale and gross violations of human rights and basic freedoms by the Syrian authorities, the use of systematic violence against civilians, random executions and killings, and the persecution of demonstrators and media personnel, as well as the use of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and tactics to block access to treatment and humanitarian assistance;
 2. *Calls upon* the Syrian Government to put an end immediately to all forms of violence and killing, human rights violations and attacks on citizens exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and demonstration;
 3. *Urges* the Syrian Government to release all persons who were arbitrarily detained as a result of the recent events, to withdraw all Syrian military and armed forces from cities and towns and to send them back to their barracks and outposts;
 4. *Requests* that the Syrian authorities expeditiously allow the safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian and medical assistance in order to guarantee that such assistance reaches those persons most in need;

5. *Calls upon* the Syrian authorities to guarantee all institutions of the Arab League as well as the international media free and unhindered access and movement throughout Syria so they can ascertain the realities on the ground and monitor events happening there;
6. *Fully supports* the resolution adopted by the Arab League on 22 January 2012 on facilitating a Syria-led process of political transition towards a politically democratic system based on pluralism, where citizens - regardless of their affiliation, background or ideology - are treated as equal, including through serious political dialogue sponsored by the Arab League between the Syrian Government and all Syrian opposition factions according to the timeframe set by the Arab League;
7. *Requests* that all countries provide the necessary aid for the Arab League Plan, as required;
8. *Calls upon* parliaments to bring pressure to bear on their governments to support the Arab League Plan and to follow-up and take stock of action taken by governments to this effect;
9. *Calls for* all persons responsible for acts of violence, killings and human rights violations, including those amounting to crimes against humanity, to be promptly held to account.