



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



Assembly
Item 2

A/126/2-P.6
29 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 Islamic Republic of Iran**

On 29 March 2012, the Secretary General received from the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 126th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The need to support national reconciliation for building democratic institutions in the countries gripped by unrest and turmoil, particularly in Syria and Bahrain".

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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

Tehran, 28 March 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to propose the following emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of 126th IPU Assembly, to be held in Kampala, Uganda:

"The need to support national reconciliation for building democratic institutions in the countries gripped by unrest and turmoil, particularly in Syria and Bahrain".

An explanatory memorandum and the relevant draft resolution are enclosed.

You are kindly requested to circulate the proposed emergency item, along with the explanatory memorandum and draft resolution, to IPU Member Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

J. JAHANGUIRZADEH
Secretary General of the
Inter-Parliamentary Group of
the Islamic Republic of Iran

**THE NEED TO SUPPORT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION FOR BUILDING
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRIES GRIPPED BY UNREST
AND TURMOIL, PARTICULARLY IN SYRIA AND BAHRAIN**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group
of the Islamic Republic of Iran***

The situation in some countries in the Middle East and North Africa continues to be tumultuous and unstable following the popular uprisings and political developments that have occurred since mid-January 2011. The ramifications of these events are being felt across the region and beyond, and their impact on regional and international relations is evident. Thus, it is imperative to continue monitoring the situation and to take the necessary measures to curb conflict and potential threats to international peace and security.

To put an end to unrest and conflict in these countries, a national reconciliation plan, agreed upon by all genuine and independent political forces representing the people, should be adopted and implemented. Accordingly, there is a need for a home-grown and locally-owned democratic process, as the best vehicle for allowing the different segments of the population to peacefully engage with each other in a bid to achieve the goals of national reconciliation.

In the course of this process, international organizations, including the IPU, could be of great help in persuading all sides in the countries concerned to immediately cease any violence and engage in meaningful dialogue. The experience of these organizations in assisting countries in similar situations could be brought to bear in those countries in the Middle East in need of developing necessary infrastructure for making the transition from dictatorship to democracy. They should also be doing their utmost to organize humanitarian assistance where necessary.

At the same time, it is imperative that any assistance to the countries in need be provided only at their request and with full respect for national ownership of the process. In this regard, intervention by foreign powers, under different pretexts, is among the chief threats to national reconciliation and the democratic process. The IPU Assembly should do its part and at the same time call on other international organizations to assist the countries concerned in their national reconciliation and democratic processes and urge foreign powers to refrain from intervening in their internal affairs, particularly by providing arms to insurgents.

To achieve the foregoing, the six-point proposal made by Mr. Kofi Annan, the Special Joint Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, provides a window of opportunity that should be seized. We should do everything in our power to make that happen. Implementation of these proposals could be viewed as the initial phase of a national reconciliation process in Syria.

**THE NEED TO SUPPORT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION FOR BUILDING
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRIES GRIPPED BY UNREST
AND TURMOIL, PARTICULARLY IN SYRIA AND BAHRAIN**

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

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Welcoming* the popular uprisings in a number of Arab countries as citizens demand greater rights, including their legitimate demands for democratization,
- (2) *Fully aware* of the significant impact these uprisings will have on the course of events in the region and across the globe,
- (3) *Concerned* at the acts of violence perpetrated against civilians, human rights violations, restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration and foreign intervention in Syria and Bahrain,
- (4) *Cognizant* of the need to embark on a national reconciliation process in Syria and Bahrain, with a meaningful dialogue among the parties concerned placed at the centre of this process,
- (5) *Welcoming* the six-point proposal made by Mr. Kofi Annan, the Special Joint Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and *considering* that it could be a plan for the initial phase of the national reconciliation process in Syria,
- (6) *Aware* of the fact that any intervention by foreign powers, who place their own political and strategic interests above any other consideration, will hurt rather than benefit these uprisings,
 1. *Condemns* all acts of violence perpetrated against civilians, human rights violations, and restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration in Syria and Bahrain;
 2. *Calls upon* all parties in Syria and Bahrain to cease immediately any violence and engage in meaningful dialogue with a view to reaching a consensus on a workable solution;
 3. *Also calls upon* all parties in Syria to accept and implement in good faith Mr. Kofi Annan's proposals, beginning by a cease-fire and allowing humanitarian assistance to reach affected areas in accordance with international law;
 4. *Requests* the relevant international organizations to heed the legitimate and democratic demands of the Bahraini people, and *requests* the United Nations Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to this end, including by appointing a representative to lead a fact-finding mission on human rights violations in Bahrain;

5. *Invites* all relevant international organizations to fully support the national reconciliation and democratic processes in those countries of the Middle East gripped by unrest and to assist them by, *inter alia*, providing where necessary, humanitarian assistance in accordance with international law;
6. *Urges* all foreign powers to refrain from intervening in the domestic affairs of the countries concerned in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law, and to allow the citizens of these countries to bring their movements to fruition in any way and through any means they deem appropriate to their history and tradition.