



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



Assembly
Item 2

A/126/2-P.7
30 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 United Kingdom**

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

"The political and humanitarian situation in Syria and international parliamentary support for the United Nations and Arab League initiatives to bring an immediate end to the bloodshed and promote genuine parliamentary democracy".

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 United Kingdom 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 CHAIR OF THE BRITISH GROUP**

29 March 2012

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The UK delegation wishes to propose an emergency item entitled:

"The political and humanitarian situation in Syria and international parliamentary support for the United Nations and Arab League initiatives to bring an immediate end to the bloodshed and promote genuine parliamentary democracy"

for inclusion in the agenda of the 126th IPU Assembly.

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution in support of this request.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Robert WALTER
Chair of the British Group

**THE POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SYRIA AND INTERNATIONAL
PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND ARAB LEAGUE
INITIATIVES TO BRING AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE BLOODSHED AND
PROMOTE GENUINE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom

One year since the protests started in Syria, the United Nations estimates that more than 9,000 people have been killed, including many children. The Syrian regime has been accused of perpetrating systematic human rights violations, including the torture and rape of men, women and children. The Syrian refugee population registered in neighbouring countries now exceeds 30,000, but actual figures could be much higher. According to UN estimates, there are approximately 200,000 internally displaced persons.

The Arab League has shown unprecedented leadership on the issue of Syria, and its Member States have made a significant contribution to the international community's efforts to secure a political transition in Syria. The United Kingdom welcomes the appointment of former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, as the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and supports his six-point proposal for ending the violence in Syria. We urge Syria to honour its recent commitment to this plan and believe that this would represent a significant first step towards ending the violence. Agreement, however, must be genuine and serious. We are concerned that this has not been the case with previous commitments made by the regime. The test will be full implementation of the steps bringing a cessation of all hostilities and leading to a genuine political transition, accompanied by freedom of access for humanitarian assistance and the media, and the release of political prisoners. The Syrian regime must be judged by its concrete actions and not by empty words.

While we await evidence that the Syrian regime will honour its commitments, and in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis and the threat to regional stability, the UK delegation would like to propose that "The political and humanitarian situation in Syria and international parliamentary support for the United Nations and Arab League initiatives to bring an immediate end to the bloodshed and promote genuine parliamentary democracy" be included as an emergency item in the agenda of the 126th Assembly.

**THE POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SYRIA AND INTERNATIONAL
PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND ARAB LEAGUE
INITIATIVES TO BRING AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE BLOODSHED AND
PROMOTE GENUINE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the UNITED KINGDOM

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing* its solidarity and sympathy for the Syrian people, whose democratic freedoms and human rights are being systematically and brutally undermined by their own government,
- (2) *Noting* that sustained and unjustified violence continues to be perpetrated against the Syrian people, including the killing and persecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists, denial of access to medical treatment, and the torture and rape of men, women and children,
- (3) *Dismayed* by the mounting loss of life and injury that this violence, largely due to armed attacks perpetrated by the Syrian Government against its own population, is causing,
- (4) *Recognizing* the risk this ongoing situation poses to regional stability and security, and *considering* that this could escalate to a serious humanitarian crisis within the region,
- (5) *Noting* that the Syrian Government committed to the Arab League Plan, formulated in November 2011, to cease violence against protestors, release political prisoners, and remove armoured vehicles from the streets, and agreed to a further meeting in Cairo,
- (6) *Noting* that the Syrian Government has now held further discussions with Kofi Annan, the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, and that it has agreed to implement his six-point proposal, which envisages a UN-supervised ceasefire and the establishment of political dialogue,
 1. *Demands* an end to all violence and human rights violations and abuses in Syria and *calls* for all parties to honour international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations;
 2. *Affirms* that the goal of the international community with regard to the situation in Syria should be finding a political solution;
 3. *Supports* the unprecedented leadership and efforts of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and, and *considers* that his six-point proposal provides the best opportunity for resolving the situation in Syria;

4. *Calls upon* the Syrian Government to honour its commitment to this proposal and its earlier commitment to the Arab League Plan, including by withdrawing military personnel from cities, ending the use of heavy weapons, releasing political prisoners, and allowing access to the media and to medical and humanitarian relief agencies;
5. *Calls* for President Assad to step aside in the best interests of Syria and for the unity of its people;
6. *Supports* the UN and Arab League facilitation of a Syrian-led political transition;
7. *Urges* parliaments to provide all necessary humanitarian assistance to Syrians affected by the violence and to participate in making immediate preparations for extending such assistance, including in neighbouring countries;
8. *Also urges* parliaments to support Syria's political opposition groups and to recognize the Syrian National Council as a legitimate representative of the Syrian people;
9. *Supports* the continuation of diplomatic and economic sanctions on Syria until such a time as the situation improves.