



**CONSIDERATION OF 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 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic**

On 6 March 2013, the President of the IPU received from the Speaker of the People's Assembly of Syria a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 128th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of parliaments in achieving international peace and security through
a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis".

Delegates to the 128th 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 128th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on Saturday, 23 March 2013.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE SPEAKER
OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Damascus, 12 March 2013

Dear Mr. President,

The People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to request that the following emergency item be included in the agenda of the 128th IPU Assembly, to be held in Quito (Ecuador), from 22 to 27 March 2013:

"The role of parliaments in achieving international peace and security through a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis".

This could be achieved by:

1. Requesting the parliaments of UN Member States to take the necessary measures to oblige their governments to respect resolutions with international legitimacy, especially UN resolutions in accordance with the provisions of international law, and those dealing with respect for the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the affairs of States; and
2. Promoting IPU action in support of a peaceful political solution to the Syrian crisis.

The delegation of the People's Assembly of Syria makes this request in accordance with the Rules of the Assembly, in particular Rule 11, paragraphs 1 and 2.

Please find attached:

1. A three-page memorandum; and
2. A six-page draft resolution.

These are meant to clarify the context and purpose of the emergency item.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Mouhammad Jihad AL-LAHAM
Speaker of the People's Assembly of Syria

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

The delegation of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab republic requests that the Members of the IPU approve the inclusion of the following emergency item in the agenda of the 128th IPU Assembly:

"The role of parliaments in achieving international peace and security through a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis".

This could be achieved by:

1. Requesting the parliaments of UN Member States to take the necessary measures to oblige their governments to respect resolutions with international legitimacy, especially UN resolutions in accordance with the provisions of international law, and those dealing with respect for the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the affairs of States; and
2. Promoting IPU action in support of a peaceful political solution to the Syrian crisis.

What has been taking place in Syria over the past two years has become the topic of interest for people across the world, which forces the IPU to express its opinion on that situation, to take the initiative to do what is necessary, which also obliges it to create a real movement among its Member Parliaments, especially those whose governments act in a way that harms our people more than anything else.

The crisis actually started on 15 March 2011, with planned protests to appear peaceful. Under the pretext of those demonstrations, armed groups carried out armed terrorist acts targeting the police. Despite strict instructions not to use force against protesters, they also targeted civilians, who, even in the early weeks, made for dozens of innocent martyrs. The Syrian Government, tried to contain these protests by remaining ever attentive to their demands, especially those concerning political reform. It lifted the state of emergency, passed a contemporary law on political parties, a new electoral law, a new law on local administration, granted citizenship to all Kurds who had not been included in the 1962 census, set up a commission entrusted with drafting a new constitution that provides for the political system in Syria to be based on political pluralism and the peaceful transition of power. That commission completed its work within the stipulated deadlines and a referendum on the new constitution was held, which was approved by the Syrian people and which has been in force since 27 February 2012. The new Constitution is premised on the principles of democracy and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Parliamentary elections took place on 7 May 2012 on the basis of the new Constitution, which itself is premised on political pluralism. As a result, certain opposition forces were successful in becoming members of the People's Assembly of Syria.

Yet interference by governments wishing to harm the Syrian people and State by financing, arming, training and giving refuge to terrorist elements who brand others as atheists, facilitating their movement within Syria, fuelling their terrorist activities with a global media-staged war that distorts the truth and misleads global public opinion means that Syria is facing an unprecedented external war in terms of style, ferocity and the harm it is inflicting on the Syrian people and State. This includes mobilizing terrorist organizations from across the world to kill and destroy Syria. The number of suicide terrorist operations carried out by those organizations, in particular by Jabhat Al-Nusra with links to Al-Qaida, exceeds 160 to date, to which thousands of Syrian civilians have fallen victim.

The extent of the harm being done to our people, the bloodshed, the destruction of towns, villages, mosques, churches and archaeological monuments listed as world heritage sites, have also damaged the foundations of the Syrian State and its institutions: hospitals, schools, universities, power stations, the electricity grid, the oil and gas network, in addition to the deliberate pillage of over 1,500 factories in the town of Aleppo alone. This has been compounded by the transfer of factory machinery and products to Turkey, where they were sold at the lowest price to finance the terrorist operations of Jabhat Al-Nusra and other groups that are supported by the governments of UN Member States, and whose parliaments are IPU Members.

All of this appeals to the conscience of parliaments to start working seriously towards putting an end to this oppression plaguing our people through a political solution, by overseeing and questioning their governments on their role in implementing resolutions with international legitimacy, especially those dealing with respect for the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The repercussions of the Syrian crisis will not be limited to within its borders if this crisis persists much longer, especially if the above-mentioned States continue to stoke it. The transformation of Syria and its surroundings may well be such that there is a polarization of jihadists who brand others as atheists from all corners of the earth, with all the attendant risks for regional and international security from this sensitive region of the world. Taking into consideration that the IPU brings together the parliaments of sovereign States, it expresses the common interests of humanity, and must shoulder its responsibility in playing an effective role to end the crisis while respecting the principles of sovereignty and non-interference and by rejecting and branding as criminal the terrorist acts aimed at achieving political ends through brute force and terrorism.

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* the purposes of the UN Charter, the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the objectives of the IPU as set forth in Article 1 of its Statutes,
- (2) *Also reaffirming* the need to respect international law, especially the UN Charter and resolutions with international legitimacy on countering terrorism and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, specifically in the Syrian crisis,
- (3) *Reiterating* its commitment to preserve the unity of the territory and people of the Syrian Arab Republic, its sovereignty and independence,
- (4) *Insisting* on the need for Syrians among themselves to find a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis under Syrian leadership, and on Syria's right to combat terrorism given that this is a fundamental principle of international law,
- (5) *Expressing serious concern* over the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Syria, resulting from the violence perpetrated by armed, terrorist extremist groups who brand others as atheists, who have turned Syria, through their terrorist acts, into a place where the worst fears of the Syrian people have come to life,
- (6) *Considering* the aspirations of the Syrian people to achieve political, economic and social reform through a solution based on national dialogue and the peaceful struggle to enshrine the principles of democracy and social justice,
- (7) *Affirming* the firmly entrenched right of individuals and communities to defend themselves, as recognized in the UN Charter and reaffirmed by Security Council resolution 1368 (2001),
- (8) *Considering* Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which obliges all UN Member States to implement fully this resolution by considering that the Security Council is acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and which decides that all States shall:
 - (a) Suppress the financing of terrorist acts, treat as criminals those who commit them, oblige States to freeze their assets and prohibit their nationals or any persons and entities within their territories from making any funds available to carry out terrorist acts;
 - (b) Refrain from providing any form of support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists;
 - (c) Take the necessary steps to prevent the commission of terrorist acts, including by provision of early warning to other States by exchange of information;
 - (d) Deny safe haven to those who finance terrorist acts; and
 - (e) Prevent the movement of terrorists by effective border controls;

(9) *Also considering* the UN Security Council resolutions condemning terrorism, especially resolutions 1368 (2001), 1438 (2002), 1440 (2002), 1450 (2002; 1452 (2002), 1455 (2003) and 1456 (2003), adopted during the Meeting of Foreign Ministers, and resolutions 1516 (2003), 1989 (2011), 2082 (2012), 2083 (2012) and others, especially those adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, all of which affirm that terrorism in all its forms and aspects represent one of the greatest threats to international peace and security, that each terrorist act is an unjustifiable criminal act irrespective of its motivations, that terrorism is a crime against humanity and a war crime and that the international community must take a firm stance against it,, take all the necessary and appropriate steps to suppress terrorist acts and prosecute those who commit them, finance them, provide safe haven to perpetrators and facilitate this type of act, as well as those who incite others to commit such acts or do not take the necessary steps to suppress these crimes and bring those who commit them to justice,

(10) *Recalling* that Article 138 of the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit adopted by the UN General Assembly (Resolution 60/1) affirms that each State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide and crimes against humanity, and that that this responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means, and that the international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility,

(11) *Drawing inspiration* from the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, September 1997), which affirms that each State has the sovereign right, freely to choose and develop, in accordance with the will of its people, its own political, social, economic and cultural systems without interference by other States in strict conformity with the United Nations Charter, and *affirming* the provisions of Article 12 of the Declaration: the key element in the exercise of democracy is the holding of free and fair elections at regular intervals enabling the people's will to be expressed. These elections must be held on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage so that all voters can choose their representatives in conditions of equality, openness and transparency that stimulate political competition.

(12) *Also drawing inspiration* from the resolution adopted by the 110th IPU Assembly on *Promoting international reconciliation, helping to bring stability to regions of conflict, and assisting with post-conflict reconstruction*, which affirms that parliament is the institution par excellence that embodies the diverse attributes and opinions of society and reflects and channels this diversity in the political process, and that its mission is to defuse tensions and maintain a balance between rival aspirations of diversity and uniformity, and the individual and the collective, with the aim of strengthening social cohesion and solidarity,

1. *Clearly distinguishes* between the legitimate demands of the Syrian people and their aspirations to political, economic and social reform on the one hand and the terrorist acts perpetrated by armed extremist groups branding others as atheists on the other, many of whom belong to Al-Qaida, especially Jabha Al-Nusra;
2. *Condemns* in the strongest terms all suicide attacks targeting civilians irrespective of political, social or religious affiliation;
3. *Also condemns* in the strongest terms the destruction of State infrastructure, the pillage of over 1,500 factories in the town of Aleppo, the transfer of machinery and products to Turkey and the complicity of the Turkish Government;

4. *Distinguishes* between opposition Syrian citizens and elements of terrorist groups, most of whom are foreigners;
5. *Condemns* the governments of certain States that finance, arm, train, send terrorists, facilitate their movement and give them safe haven, which runs counter to international law and all resolutions with international legitimacy, especially UN Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter;
6. *Requests* the governments of States supporting the armed opposition to stop forthwith from doing so as this contravenes international law and the purposes of the UN Charter, as well as its principles aimed at maintaining peace and international security;
7. *Also requests* the governments of neighbouring countries, especially Turkey, to refrain from giving safe haven to, training and sending weapons and terrorists from across the world to Syria through its territory, and to not interfere in the internal affairs of Syria;
8. *Encourages* all Syrians to reject violence and to judge the situation based on democratic principles and peaceful political action;
9. *Urges* the parliaments and parliamentarians of Member States to question their governments who interfere in the internal affairs of Syria and oblige them to observe international law and standards and resolutions with international legitimacy, and to act to consolidate peace and international security, strengthen friendly relations among nations and help find a peaceful settlement to internal conflicts;
10. *Encourages* regular meetings between the parliaments of those countries that interfere in the internal affairs of Syria and the People's Assembly of Syria to help find a peaceful solution;
11. *Requests* the Syrian Government to provide shelter and immediate assistance in a more effective manner to all immigrants in Syrian territory;
12. *Also requests* all organizations that are part of the international community and non-governmental organizations to provide immediate assistance to all immigrants who have fled to neighbouring countries to avoid military clashes in accordance with international law;
13. *Urges* all Syrians to accept dialogue as the only means of resolving the Syrian crisis, which will lead to the realization of the aspirations of the Syrian people for the construction of a democratic State based on plurality, dignity and social and political justice.