



**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 Jordan**

On 11 March 2013, the President of the IPU received from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 128th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The status of Syrian refugees: The role of parliaments in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards these refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them".

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 Jordan 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF JORDAN**

11 March 2013

Dear Mr. President,

Pursuant to Assembly Rule 11.1 in particular and the relevant rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the delegation of the Parliament of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan wishes to hereby submit a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 128th IPU Assembly, which will convene in Quito (Ecuador) from 22 to 27 March 2013, under the title:

"The status of Syrian refugees: The role of parliaments in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards these refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them".

Kindly be advised that the required explanatory memorandum and draft resolution in support of this request will follow in due course.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Saad Hayel AL-SROUR
Speaker
House of Representatives of Jordan

THE STATUS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ASSUME THEIR INTERNATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THESE REFUGEES AND TO SUPPORT THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE THEM

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Jordan

It is necessary to submit a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 128th IPU Assembly, to be held in Quito from 22 to 27 March 2013, in light of the following facts:

- By the end of the first week of March 2013, the number of Syrian refugees soared, due to the escalation of the situation, to 420,000 in Jordan, 185,000 in Turkey, 325,000 in Lebanon and 100,000 in Iraq according to UN High Commissioner for Refugees statistics.
- The majority of these refugees are women, children and the elderly, more than half of whom are children below 11 years of age, suffering first and foremost from psychological trauma.
- These large numbers of refugees have placed a heavy burden on recipient countries in economic, security and social terms in particular, and on energy, water, health and educational services in particular.
- At their most recent conference in Kuwait, donor countries promised to provide support in the amount of US\$ 1.5 billion to relief agencies involved in assisting these refugees. However, these agencies confirm that they have received only US\$ 200 million of the pledged amount.
- Comparing the support pledged with the funds actually received, it is obvious that the burden borne by these recipient countries is an enormous challenge, which by far exceeds their capabilities.
- This is the general perspective of the recipient countries. For Jordan in particular, the pressure on its water, energy and education resources, which are currently already scarce, is enormous. By way of example, approximately 40,000 Syrian students have started attending classes in Jordanian schools; the health services are strained in view of the fact that the average daily influx of refugees stands at 3,000, which will bring the total number of refugees by the end of 2013 to at least 1 million. This situation has now led to an obvious social and demographic imbalance in recipient countries, including Jordan.

In light of the foregoing, we are convinced of the need to include an emergency item in the agenda of this 128th IPU Assembly under the title *The status of Syrian refugees: The role of parliaments in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards these refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them.*

This request was submitted in a letter sent by Mr. Saad Hayel Al-Srouf, Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, to the IPU President dated 11 March 2013, with copy to the Secretary General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

**THE STATUS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN BRINGING
PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ASSUME THEIR INTERNATIONAL
AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THESE REFUGEES AND TO SUPPORT
THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE THEM**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of JORDAN

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing its deep concern* over the situation in Syria and its impact on civilians in general and on women, children and the elderly in particular,
- (2) *Considering* the psychological trauma from which Syrian refugees are suffering, particularly after losing many of their family members and property,
- (3) *Recognizing* the growing need for more refugee camps in recipient countries, which entails higher costs,
- (4) *Cognizant* of the increasing pressures in economic, security, social and educational terms on recipient countries, the majority of which already have scarce resources,
- (5) *Recalling* the pledge made by donor countries at their most recent conference in Kuwait to provide support in the amount of US\$ 1.5 billion to the relief agencies involved in assisting Syrian refugees in the region; and *noting* that the amount actually received does not exceed US\$ 200 million according to a statement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees,
- (6) *Taking note* of the significant difference between the international assistance that should be provided in light of the burden borne by recipient countries and the funds actually received,
- (7) *Greatly appreciating* the decision taken by recipient countries to keep their borders open given the influx of refugees,
 1. *Calls* on all parliamentarians and IPU Member Parliaments to bring pressure to bear on their governments to provide whatever financial and in-kind support they can to these refugees;
 2. *Urges* the donor countries which met at the most recent conference in Kuwait to fulfil their obligation to provide financial support to the tune of US\$ 1.5 billion;
 3. *Calls* on all countries to provide refugees in recipient countries with shelter and accommodation to protect them against the cold in winter and the heat in summer;
 4. *Appeals* to the relevant relief agencies to provide sanitation facilities, field clinics, medical supplies and foodstuffs to Syrian refugees, particularly given the fact that the vast majority of them are women, children and the elderly;

5. *Urges* countries to provide financial support to recipient countries to ease the pressure on their financial resources, which are already scarce in many of them, including Jordan;
6. *Expresses its concern* should conditions remain as they are now, that some recipient countries may be forced to close their borders given the influx of refugees, which will itself further complicate the situation in the region;
7. *Calls* on all relevant regional and international parties to find ways of ending the conflict in Syria while safeguarding its territorial integrity and the safety and security of its citizens.