



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 130<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 16 – 20.3.2014

Assembly  
Item 2

A/130/2-P.5  
14 March 2014

## 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 130<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Canada

On 14 March 2014, the President of the IPU received from the President of the Canadian IPU Group a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 130<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The crisis in Ukraine".

Delegates to the 130<sup>th</sup> 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 130<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Canada on Monday, 17 March 2014.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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

Ottawa, 14 March 2014

Dear Mr. President,

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in particular Assembly Rule 11.1, the Canadian IPU Group would like to request the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 20 March 2014, entitled:

"The crisis in Ukraine".

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

I would ask you kindly to circulate this request to the Members of our Organization.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Honourable Salma ATAULLAHJAN (Mrs.), Senator  
President of the Canadian  
IPU Group

## THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

### *Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Canada*

The Canadian IPU Group wishes to propose the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, entitled "The crisis in Ukraine", for the reasons provided below.

Since protests in Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine began in late November 2013 in response to the Government of Ukraine's decision to step away from closer relations with the European Union, the situation in Ukraine has escalated rapidly to crisis level. The initial protests, having metamorphosed into demonstrations against corruption and the pursuit of personal interests by those in power, became violent. To date, nearly 100 Ukrainians have died and numerous others have been injured or remain missing. The former president has fled to the Russian Federation, from where he issues statements that fuel political divisions and undermine the caretaker government approved by the Ukrainian parliament. Groups of individuals bent on violence are exploiting Ukraine's regional, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity and challenging political and constitutional authority across the country.

As the 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly convenes, Ukraine has become the victim of an unprovoked act of aggression. Its Autonomous Republic of Crimea is unlawfully occupied by Russian military forces, unidentified armed groups are controlling Crimea's borders, and an unlawful referendum on Crimea's secession from Ukraine is set for Sunday, 16 March 2014.

In sum, the future of Ukraine within its internationally recognized and guaranteed borders — as a unified, politically independent country with a population of 46 million people who have forged bonds transcending linguistic, religious, ethnic, historical and regional lines, lying at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, a fusion of western and eastern values and outlook — is in jeopardy.

That this crisis has escalated to such an extreme and so quickly is alarming. This escalation, brought about by the Russian Federation's illegal occupation, has taken place despite the international consensus on Ukraine's territorial integrity, security and stability, and international commitments to the peaceful settlement of disputes. It undermines the rules and principles of international law, the cornerstone of international peace and security, as well as friendly relations and cooperation among States. It is also of deep concern for those who uphold the values of democracy, the rule of law, freedom of expression and association, the rights of minorities, and freedom of religion and belief.

The situation in Ukraine constitutes a major event of international concern under Assembly Rules 11.1 and 11.2. It is unfolding contemporaneously with the 130<sup>th</sup> Assembly, and has no certain outcome or timeframe for a timely and peaceful resolution. Moreover, daily events and developments appear to be sustaining the crisis mode of the situation. The Ukrainian people are traumatized by the crisis. International efforts to find a negotiated end to the crisis have been repeatedly compromised by unilateral actions or rebuffed. Moreover, the presidential elections scheduled for 25 May 2014, which will be held under international scrutiny and according to democratic norms and principles, are being undermined by supporters of the former president who say they are illegitimate.

Unabated and unresolved, the crisis in Ukraine will have implications for all IPU Member Parliaments. The role of the IPU is clear: to offer a forum for debate among parliamentarians and to take a strong stand when the general rules and principles of international law, representative democracy and human rights are so flagrantly violated.

## THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

### ***Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of CANADA***

The 130<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* the Charter of the United Nations, the rules and general principles of international law regarding international peace and security — including the prohibition on the use of force set out in Article 51 of the Charter — State sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the rule of law among nations,
- (2) *Recalling* the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its provisions:
  - (a) Recalling the duty of States to refrain in their international relations from military, political, economic or any other form of coercion aimed against the political independence or territorial integrity of any State,
  - (b) Considering it essential that all States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,
  - (c) Considering it equally essential that all States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter,
- (3) *Alarmed* by the clear violation of international law and of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity precipitated by the unlawful Russian military intervention in Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea,
- (4) *Stressing* that any free and fair referendum reflecting the genuine, democratic will of the people cannot be held under duress, including during an unlawful military intervention,
- (5) *Gravely concerned* about the devastating impact of the crisis on the people of Ukraine,
- (6) *Extremely worried* that the crisis has the potential to undermine international peace and security if it continues unabated and unresolved,
- (7) *Welcoming* international efforts to resolve the crisis through negotiations and the deployment of envoys and unarmed observers,
  1. *Urges* all parties and stakeholders to take action immediately to de-escalate the crisis in Ukraine;
  2. *Calls* on the relevant governmental and legislative bodies to play a constructive role in defusing tensions by creating an atmosphere that is conducive to dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation, that respects international law, and that promotes a peaceful outcome to the crisis;
  3. *Rejects* the unlawful use of force and acts of aggression as tools for advancing political interests and responding to crises;
  4. *Reiterates* the need for scrupulous respect for international humanitarian and international human rights law;
  5. *Stresses* that a free and fair referendum reflecting the genuine, democratic will of the people of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea cannot be held during an unlawful military occupation;

6. *Strongly encourages* efforts at all levels to resolve the crisis in Ukraine and its underlying causes as expeditiously as possible through political dialogue and a reaffirmation of commitments to:
  - (a) Respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty and political independence and enforce the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances;
  - (b) Protect the rights of minorities, including all religious and linguistic communities, in all regions of Ukraine;
  - (c) Promote democratic institutions, the rule of law and freedom of expression and association; and,
  - (d) Peacefully resolve international disputes.