



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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131st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Assembly
Item 2

A/131/2-P.3
23 September 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 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

On 22 September 2014, the President of the IPU received from the Speaker of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 131st Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in addressing the terrorism and extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al Nusrah Front (ANF) and other terrorist groups".

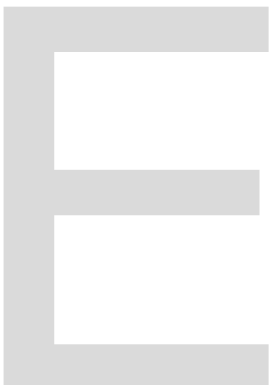
Delegates to the 131st Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 131st Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on Monday, 13 October 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 ADRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU
BY THE SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Damascus, 21 September 2014

Dear Mr. President,

Based on the goals and objectives contained in the IPU Statutes, the role of the IPU should be to move effectively towards addressing major international issues, especially those whose negative effects transcend national and geopolitical borders. In accordance with Assembly Rule 11, the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic has the honour to request the inclusion of a proposal for an emergency item in the agenda of the 131st IPU Assembly, to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), from 12 to 16 October 2014, entitled:

"The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in addressing the terrorism and extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al Nusrah Front (ANF) and other terrorist groups".

Please find enclosed with our request:

1. A brief explanatory memorandum;
2. A draft resolution;
3. Translations of the explanatory memorandum and the draft resolution in English, French and Spanish.

We are confident that this subject, which poses a serious threat, will capture the attention of the IPU and its Members and prompt them to take the necessary measures in order to mitigate the impact of terrorism and extremism.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Mohammad Jihad AL-LAHHAM
Speaker of the People's Assembly
Syrian Arab Republic

**THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN ADDRESSING THE TERRORISM
AND EXTREMISM OF THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL),
AL NUSRAH FRONT (ANF) AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

The People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with Assembly Rule 11, hereby requests the IPU and its Member Parliaments to include the following proposal for an emergency item in the agenda of the 131st IPU Assembly: *"The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in addressing the terrorism and extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al Nusrah Front (ANF) and other terrorist groups"* based on the considerations presented below.

Both Syria and Iraq have been exposed for more than three years to a war waged by *takfiri* terrorist groups calling themselves the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), "Al Nusrah Front" (ANF), "The Islamic Front" and other terrorist groups which adopt the terrorist ideology of Al-Qaida. These organizations have managed to expand their control over several areas in Syria and Iraq due to the fact that they receive cross-border funding and are trained and armed by governments, associations, institutions, entities and individuals. As a result, these groups pose an imminent danger to the countries in the Middle East and threaten to spread to Europe, the United States and other regions. This is because these terrorist organizations are attracting high numbers of foreign fighters from Europe, Asia, the United States, the Russian Federation and other countries. Upon returning home, these fighters also risk committing terrorist acts there too.

The above-mentioned terrorist organizations could invade large areas of western Iraq and eastern Syria. They have carried out mass executions of innocent civilians, slaughtering children, women and men, and displacing hundreds of thousands from their homes because of their religious, ethnic or political affiliation. They have displaced thousands of Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, hundreds of thousands of citizens in Syria, destroyed infrastructure, places of worship, the cultural heritage of the region, and looted oil and energy resources.

The ability of these organizations to maintain and enhance their military capabilities is linked largely to the sources of funding that they receive. These take the form of financial transfers from governments, associations, institutions, entities and individuals or proceeds from the sale to third parties of oil resulting from the seizure of oil wells in Syria and Iraq. Some governments and States continue to facilitate the arrival of fighters and jihadists from around the world as well as the transfer of advanced weapons to these terrorist organizations. They justify their actions by claiming to support the "rebels" in Syria and Iraq.

The rise of ISIL and ANF – terrorist entities in Syria and Iraq with wide-ranging sources of funding, arms and recruitment – constitutes a real threat to international peace and security.

We express our support for the latest international measure taken, namely UN Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) adopted unanimously at a meeting held on 15 August 2014 under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. This resolution condemns ISIL, ANF as well as individuals, groups, undertakings, entities and other terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida.

We also express our support for the efforts of the Syrian and Iraqi Governments in tackling these terrorist and extremist organizations.

The People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic considers that it is very important for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Member Parliaments to lend their support to regional and international efforts aimed at addressing this threat and restoring security and stability in the Middle East. On this basis, international and parliamentary efforts must be mobilized to provide assistance and relief to persons affected by the criminal actions of these organizations.

**THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN ADDRESSING THE TERRORISM
AND EXTREMISM OF THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL),
AL NUSRAH FRONT (ANF) AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* its commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the need to preserve the independence of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq and the sovereignty and integrity of their territory,
- (2) *Recalling* previous IPU resolutions regarding respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the need to uphold the UN Charter in dealings between countries in order to maintain international peace and security,
- (3) *Underscoring* the inherent right of States to self-defence, as recognized in the UN Charter and in UN Security Council resolution 1368 (2001),
- (4) *Noting with deep concern* the rise of terrorist acts in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Iraq, perpetrated by groups bearing the name of “the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL), “Al Nusrah Front” (ANF) and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida,
- (5) *Mindful* of UN Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) condemning terrorist acts caused in particular by ISIL and ANF, resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and other UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions dealing with the fight against terrorism, which underscore that all forms and manifestations of terrorism represent the most serious threats to international peace and security, and which appeal to the international community to adopt a firm stance against it by taking appropriate measures to prevent terrorist acts and to hold to account the perpetrators and financiers of such acts as well as those who harbour terrorists, facilitate and incite them to commit such acts and those who fail to take appropriate measures to prevent such acts or bring their perpetrators to justice,
- (6) *Reaffirming* previous IPU resolutions on combatting terrorism and terrorist acts committed under any banner,
- (7) *Also reaffirming* that all forms and manifestations of terrorism constitute some of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that all terrorist acts are criminal and unjustifiable,
- (8) *Expressing deep concern* over the seizure and control of large swathes of eastern Syria and western Iraq by two terrorist organizations – ISIL and ANF – and their impact on the security and stability of the region and on the civilian population, leading to death and displacement,
- (9) *Welcoming* the decision of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq to openly cooperate with any regional or international effort aimed at fighting terrorism, in particular terrorist acts committed by ISIL and ANF, as well as other terrorist groups in the Middle East,
 1. *Condemns* in the strongest terms the terrorist acts committed by ISIL and ANF as well as by individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida;
 2. *Also condemns* the systematic human rights violations committed by ISIL in Syria and Iraq such as massacres, mass executions, beheadings and the vast displacement of civilians, particularly minorities based on ethnic or sectarian considerations;

3. *Further condemns* the systematic destruction of religious symbols and places of worship, cultural heritage, schools and hospitals, thus denying children access to education and all persons access to medical care, as well as the looting of oil and energy sources in Syria and Iraq;
4. *Calls upon* all States and governments to put up a global front in the fight against terrorism, with the participation of all countries suffering at the hand of terrorist groups, especially ISIL and ANF;
5. *Encourages* IPU Member Parliaments to pass national laws on combatting terrorism and develop regional and international strategies to stem the sources of terrorism as well as incitement to terrorist acts, and funding, arms transfers and recruitment to terrorist organizations;
6. *Appeals* to all countries to counter terrorist ideology on the cultural, religious, political and media fronts by inculcating the values of tolerance and co-existence among peoples, based on the principles of mutual respect and equality and the promotion of citizenship as a means of curbing the spread of terrorist ideology, which is founded on the rejection of other religions and sects and incitement to hatred and violence;
7. *Calls upon* all States that support the armed terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq through money or weapons to immediately stop funding, arming and abetting them as these constitute flagrant violations of international law and flout the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, thus fuelling the conflict and leading to the death of more innocent victims;
8. *Also calls upon* the neighbouring countries of Syria and Iraq to refrain from harbouring, training and allowing the passage of weapons and terrorists through their territories, and to coordinate border controls and prevent any direct or indirect trade through the purchase of oil, gas or any other business transactions that contribute to funding terrorist organizations;
9. *Encourages* all States, governments and parliaments to pass the necessary laws and take other measures aimed at preventing incitement to terrorism and violence, justification of terrorist acts and the spread of sectarian and ethnic divisions, in particular in the mass and social media;
10. *Urges* IPU Member Parliaments to support a political solution in Syria that obliges the parties to the conflict to commit to dialogue without preconditions;
11. *Also urges* IPU Member Parliaments to exert political pressure so as to stop some countries from interfering in the internal affairs of Syria and Iraq;
12. *Calls upon* all States and international relief agencies to provide aid and urgent humanitarian assistance to persons affected by acts committed by terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq in cooperation with the Governments of these two States.