



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

132nd IPU Assembly

Hanoi (Viet Nam), 28 March - 1 April 2015



Assembly
Item 2

A/132/2-P.2
5 March 2015

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 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Australia

On 5 March 2015, the Secretary General received from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 132nd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of parliaments in: (i) combatting the threat of terrorism conducted by organizations such as Boko Haram against innocent civilians, in particular women and girls; and (ii) ensuring democratic procedures continue".

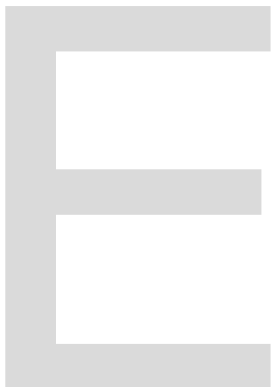
Delegates to the 132nd Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 132nd Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Australia on Sunday, 29 March 2015.

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 SECRETARY GENERAL BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRALIA AND
LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE 132nd IPU ASSEMBLY**

Canberra, 5 March 2015

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Under Assembly Rule 11.1 and Article 14.2 of the IPU Statutes, I am pleased to bring to your attention this request by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Australia to include in the agenda of the 132nd Assembly an emergency item entitled:

"The role of parliaments in: (i) combatting the threat of terrorism conducted by organizations such as Boko Haram against innocent civilians, in particular women and girls; and (ii) ensuring democratic procedures continue".

Please find enclosed a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution in support of this request. The Australian delegation would be grateful if you could circulate this among other IPU Member Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

The Hon. Bronwyn BISHOP MP
Speaker of the House of
Representatives of Australia
Leader of the Australian Delegation
to the 132nd IPU Assembly

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN: (i) COMBATTING THE THREAT OF TERRORISM
CONDUCTED BY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS BOKO HARAM
AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS, IN PARTICULAR WOMEN AND GIRLS;
AND (ii) ENSURING DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES CONTINUE**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Australia

Over the past year, armed attacks by the extremist Islamist group Boko Haram – which loosely translated means “Western education is forbidden” – have increased in scale and scope in Nigeria and neighbouring countries.

With over 10,000 people reportedly killed in Boko Haram-related violence during 2014 alone, parts of Nigeria’s north-east have been rendered ungovernable. Boko Haram reportedly controls 70 per cent of Borno state, including its borders with Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Fears exist for civilians trapped in Boko Haram-controlled areas, most of whom remain cut off from humanitarian access.

Parliaments must insist that governments support efforts to effectively combat Boko Haram and ensure that democratic procedures continue with the necessary security measures in place.

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Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of AUSTRALIA

The 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Considering* that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever and by whomsoever it is committed,
- (2) *Reaffirming* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,
- (3) *Noting* the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of acts of terrorism to justice,
- (4) *Emphasizing* that the violence is targeted at civilian populations, notably women and children,
- (5) *Bearing in mind* that measures taken to combat terrorism must comply with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,
- (6) *Noting* the importance of ensuring democratic procedures continue,
 1. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms the continued escalation of attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram in Nigeria and neighbouring countries;
 2. *Deplores* the loss of life and extends condolences to the families of the victims and all those injured in these heinous attacks since 2009;
 3. *Expresses its concern* at the scale of the growing humanitarian crisis caused by the activities of Boko Haram, which has resulted in the large-scale displacement of Nigerians within the country and into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger;
 4. *Urges* the region to enhance regional military operations and coordination to more effectively and immediately combat Boko Haram;
 5. *Invites* parliaments to table discussion of the support bilateral partners can provide to more effectively combat Boko Haram.