



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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133rd IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 17 – 21.10.2015

Assembly
Item 2

A/133/2-P.3
13 October 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 133rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

On 13 October 2015, 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 133rd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in countering the terrorism and extremism of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusra Front (ANF) and other terrorist groups associated with them”.

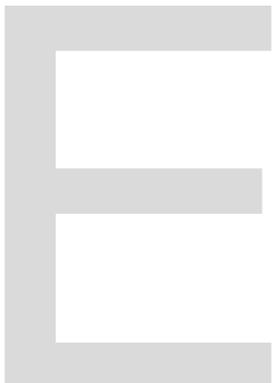
Delegates to the 133rd Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 133rd Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday, 18 October 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 PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE
SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Damascus 13 October 2015

Dear Mr. President,

Based on the purposes and objectives provided for in the basic Rules and Statutes of the IPU, on the role mandated to the IPU to affect great international questions whose negative consequences and effects transcend national and geopolitical borders, and based on IPU Assembly Rule 11, the People's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic has the honour to request the inclusion of a proposal for an emergency item in the agenda of the 133rd IPU Assembly, to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), from 17 to 21 October 2015, entitled:

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

We enclose herewith:

1. A brief explanatory memorandum;
2. A draft resolution;
3. Translations into English of the explanatory memorandum and the draft resolution.

We are confident that this subject, which poses a serious threat to the people, and the future of the region and the world at large, 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 the terrorism and extremism of ISIL, ANF and all persons, groups, establishments and bodies related to Al-Qaida or other terrorist groups.

With deep respect and appreciation,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

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

THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN COUNTERING THE TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM OF ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL), AL-NUSRA FRONT (ANF) AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

Under IPU Assembly Rule 11, the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic requests the IPU and its Member Parliaments to include an emergency item on the agenda of the 133rd IPU Assembly.

The request is based on the following reasons:

The Middle East and North Africa, particularly Syria and Iraq, have been exposed to a terrorist war waged by takfiri groups calling themselves the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), "Al-Nusra Front" (ANF) and other terrorist groups associated with them, all of which adopt the terrorist ideology and thinking of Al-Qaida. Those organizations have managed to expand their control over several areas in Syria and Iraq because they receive cross-border funding and are trained and armed by governments, associations, institutions, entities and individuals. As a result, those groups pose an imminent danger to countries in the Middle East and North Africa and to the world at large, especially as terrorist organizations have also expanded to Libya and other countries, and threaten to move to Asia, Europe, America and other regions. That expansion is due to the fact that those terrorist organizations are attracting large numbers of foreign fighters from Europe, Asia, Africa and other countries. This phenomenon undoubtedly poses a serious threat to the home countries of foreign fighters because of the risk of their committing terrorist acts when they return home.

The above-mentioned terrorist organizations have been able to invade large areas of western Iraq and eastern Syria. They have carried out mass executions of innocent civilians, slaughtering children, women and men. They have displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes on the basis of their religious, ethnic or political affiliations, thousands of Christians and Yazidis in Iraq and hundreds of thousands of citizens in Syria. They have looted oil and energy resources, and destroyed infrastructure, places of worship, and historical monuments, aiming to eliminate the cultural and human heritage of the region.

The ability of those organizations to continue their terrorist activities and enhance their criminal, paramilitary capabilities is largely linked to the sources of funding that they receive. Those sources include financial transfers from governments, associations, institutions, entities and individuals, proceeds of the illegal sale of oil and other natural resources, and proceeds of the illegal smuggling of drugs, weapons and monuments in the areas they controlled in Syria and Iraq. Some governments and States continue to facilitate both the arrival of fighters and jihadists from around the world and the continued provision of advanced weapons to these terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq; the governments and States who do that justify their actions by claiming to support the "rebels".

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic recognizes the real threat to international peace and security posed by so-called ISIL and ANF as terrorist entities in Syria and Iraq which enjoy a wide range of funding sources, arms and recruitment.

It is extremely important to support the recent international move to combat ISIL, ANF, individuals, groups, undertakings, entities and other terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida, as laid out in the following United Nations Security Council Resolutions, adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter: resolution 2170 (2014), unanimously adopted on 15 August 2014; resolution 2178 (2014) on preventing the recruitment and movement of foreign fighters; and resolution 2199 (2015) on the denial of financing to ISIL, ANF and similar terrorist organizations.

It is also important to support the efforts of the Syrian and Iraqi Governments to counter these terrorist, extremist and negative organizations.

The People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly confirms that it is highly important for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Member Parliaments to: undertake their responsibility in supporting regional and international efforts to counter the danger of this growth in terrorism; restore security and stability to the Middle East and North Africa, a region which lies at the heart of the world and at the axis of global security and stability; and to mobilize international and parliamentary efforts to provide assistance and relief to persons affected by the criminal actions of those terrorist organizations.

THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN COUNTERING THE TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM OF ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL), AL-NUSRA FRONT (ANF) AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The 133rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reemphasizing* its commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the need to preserve the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq,
- (2) *Also reemphasizing* its previous resolutions regarding respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and *recalling* the need to respect the United Nations Charter in dealings among countries in order to maintain international peace and security,
- (3) *Noting with deep concern* the rise in acts of terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa, especially in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Libya, perpetrated by terrorist groups bearing the name "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), "Al-Nusra Front", (ANF) and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups,
- (4) *Considering* United Nations Security Council resolutions 2170 and 2178 (2014) relating to the fight against terrorism and against the recruitment of foreign fighters to the terrorist groups ISIL and ANF, and also resolution 2199 (2015) relating to the denial of funding to those two terrorist organizations, as well as resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and other United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions pertaining to the fight against terrorism, which all emphasize that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes the most serious danger to international peace and security, and that the international community should stand firm against it by taking all necessary measures to prevent acts of terrorism, and holding accountable the perpetrators and financiers of such acts, as well as those who give haven to terrorists, facilitate and incite them to commit such acts, or fail to take appropriate measures to prevent such crimes or bring their perpetrators to justice,
- (5) *Reaffirming* previous IPU resolutions on combatting terrorism and terrorist acts committed under any banner,
- (6) *Also reaffirming* that all forms and manifestations of terrorism constitute one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that all terrorist acts are considered as crimes against humanity,
- (7) *Expressing deep concern* over the seizure and control of large areas of eastern Syria and western Iraq by two terrorist organizations – ISIL and ANF – their danger to security and stability of the region and their catastrophic impact on the civilian population, which has led to killings, torture and displacement,
- (8) *Welcoming* the decision of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq to openly cooperate with any regional or international effort aimed at fighting terrorism, in particular acts of terrorism committed by ISIL and ANF, as well as other terrorist groups in the Middle East,
- (9) *Also welcoming* the active participation of the Russian Federation in its airstrikes in coordination with the Syrian Government against terrorist organizations in Syria,
 1. *Condemns* in the strongest terms the acts of terrorism committed by ISIL, ANF and all individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them and with Al-Qaida;
 2. *Also condemns* the systematic human rights violations committed by ISIL such as heinous massacres, mass executions, beheadings and extensive displacement operations against civilians, including those committed on ethnic, factional and sectarian bases;

3. *Further condemns* the systematic destruction of religious symbols, places of worship, antiquities and historical monuments that are of great importance to the cultural and humanitarian heritage of the peoples of the region and the world at large, and *condemns* both the looting of oil and energy resources in Syria and Iraq and the destruction of the infrastructure of schools and hospitals, which denies children, especially girls, access to education and medical care, and strips women of all their rights;
4. *Calls on* all States and governments to put up a global front in the fight against terrorism, in which all countries suffering from the crimes of terrorist groups, especially ISIL and ANF, would participate, and in this regard, *draws attention* to Syrian and Russian cooperation in countering terrorism;
5. *Also calls on* IPU Member Parliaments to pass national legislation combat terrorism, to develop regional and international strategies to stem the sources of terrorism, to prevent incitement to acts of terrorism, and to stop the recruitment to and the funding, armament and movement of terrorist organizations;
6. *Appeals* to all countries to counter extreme, negative and terrorist ideology on the cultural, religious, political and media fronts, through encouraging the concepts of tolerance and co-existence among peoples, and consolidating the principles of mutual respect, citizenship, equality and general, human and civilized values as a means of curbing the spread of terrorist ideology, which is itself founded on the rejection of other religions and sects and on the incitement to hatred and violence among human beings;
7. *Calls on* all States that support armed terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq with money or weapons to immediately stop funding, arming and abetting those groups, as such activity constitutes clear support for terrorism, a flagrant violation of international law, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and national state sovereignty, as well as the fuelling of conflict and the prospect of the death of more innocent victims;
8. *Urges* all countries neighbouring Syria and Iraq to refrain from training terrorists and harbouring, and allowing the passage of weapons and terrorists on and through their territories, to control borders through mutual coordination and to frustrate any commercial enterprise that contributes to financing terrorist organizations directly, indirectly, by trade in oil and gas or by any other commercial transactions;
9. *Calls on* all States, governments and parliaments to pass the necessary laws and take other measures aimed at preventing incitement to terrorism and violence, the justification of acts of terrorism and the spread of sectarian, doctrinal and ethnic divisions, especially in audio-visual, print and social media (such as radio and television channels, newspapers, magazines and websites);
10. *Also calls on* all States, governments and parliaments to support the efforts made by Syria and Iraq in facing the terrorist groups, especially ISIL and ANF, to extend support to Syrian-Russian cooperation in countering terrorism in Syria, and to coordinate with them, since it is the most effective way to counter terrorism;
11. *Appeals* to all IPU Member Parliaments to exert political pressure designed to stop some countries from interfering in the internal affairs of Syria and Iraq;
12. *Calls on* Member Parliaments to exert practical, active efforts to support a political solution in Syria that will prompt the parties concerned by the crisis to commit to dialogue without preconditions;
13. *Appeals* to all States and international relief agencies to provide aid and urgent humanitarian assistance to persons affected by terrorist crimes and acts of violence committed by terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq, and to cooperate with the Governments of those two States;
14. *Also appeals* to the institutions, bodies, and civil society organizations that have a significant role in the formation of public opinion to play a part in the escalation of their campaign to expose and confront acts of terrorism and extremist, negative and terrorist ideology as such an ideology lacks all the most basic civilized concepts.