



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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134th IPU Assembly

Lusaka (Zambia), 19 - 23 March 2016



Assembly
Item 2

A/134/2-P.2
11 March 2016

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 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Morocco

On 11 March 2016, the President of the IPU received from the President of the House of Councillors of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and Leader of the Moroccan delegation a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 134th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“Completing the process for international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments.”

Delegates to the 134th 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 134th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Morocco on Sunday, 20 March 2016.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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

#IPU134

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
AND LEADER OF THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION**

Rabat, 1 March 2016

Dear Mr. President,

In accordance with article 14.2 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and with Assembly Rule 11.1, I have the honour to submit herewith a request for inclusion in the agenda of the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to be held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 19 to 23 March 2016, of an emergency item entitled:

“Completing the process for international recognition of a viable, independent
and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem
as its capital: The role of parliaments.”

Attached please find a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution defining the scope of the subject covered by this request.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Hakim BENCHAMACH
President of the House of Councillors of the
Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco
Leader of the Moroccan delegation

**COMPLETING THE PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF A VIABLE,
INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN PALESTINIAN STATE, WITH EAST JERUSALEM AS ITS
CAPITAL: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Morocco

The parliamentary delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Inter-Parliamentary Union wishes to propose the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 134th Assembly entitled: *Completing the process for international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments*, for the reasons set out below.

At a time when the international community is redoubling its efforts to set the course for a viable political solution to the disastrous humanitarian ramifications of the Syrian crisis, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process has been relegated to the backburner of international affairs and brought once again to a complete standstill.

And indeed, following the sudden interruption of Israeli-Palestinian talks, the daily reality for Palestinians has returned to a dangerous status quo, presaging a fatal resumption of conflict. Construction of the separation barrier, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the regular destruction of its infrastructure, the repeated bombing of its population, the trail of civilian victims, the assassination and imprisonment of political militants, discriminatory measures against Palestinians and the systematic destruction of Muslim and Christian cultural heritage have all exacerbated tensions and made the creation of a Palestinian State ever more improbable. The Israeli government's accelerated settlement of the West Bank, particularly at East Jerusalem (*Al Quds Acharqiya*), is further confining and fragmenting the potential territory for, and undermining the viability of, a future Palestinian State.

It is today incumbent upon the international community to fully assume its responsibility to ensure respect for the numerous UN resolutions to settle this conflict and intervene to secure the obligation of both parties, under international law, to achieve a fair and lasting settlement.

To that end, the international community should take the initiative in calling on the Israeli government join in a process of applying international law, giving priority to withdrawal from occupied territories to the 1967 line, a halt to new settlements and the dismantlement of existing ones.

But the time has now also come for the entire international community, country by country, to officially and definitively recognize the existence of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State. It should be recalled that the Palestinian State has already been recognized by 136 countries and has been a member of UNESCO since 2011, a recognized observer State of the United Nations General Assembly since 2012 and a member of the International Criminal Court since 2015.

As members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, national parliaments should join in this international dynamic to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, redoubling efforts to gain support from their respective governments for definitive international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Kingdom of Morocco's parliamentary delegation to the IPU calls upon the 134th Assembly to vote in favour of this emergency item; this would attest once again to the Inter-Parliamentary Union's unflinching commitment to consolidating the efforts of the international community to achieve a peaceful, fair and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a condition *sine qua non* for peace and security in the Middle East.

The Kingdom of Morocco's parliamentary delegation considers that the national parliaments concerned should act to ensure that their respective governments, if they have not yet done so, complete the process of internationally recognizing a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

**COMPLETING THE PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF A VIABLE,
INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN PALESTINIAN STATE, WITH EAST JERUSALEM AS ITS
CAPITAL: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of MOROCCO

The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Greatly alarmed* by the extremely troubling situation in the Middle East, which constitutes a permanent and growing threat to international peace and security,
- (2) *Deeply convinced* that peace and stability in the Middle East cannot be consolidated without a peaceful, fair and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,
- (3) *Noting* the failure of the international community's efforts since 1991 to relaunch the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians,
- (4) *Also noting* the threats posed to a two-State solution, and in particular the continuing illegal settlement of Palestinian territories, which undermines the very viability of a Palestinian State,
- (5) *Noting above all* the rise of tensions in Jerusalem and the West Bank, which threatens to trigger a new round of violence, to the detriment of all people in the region, and beyond, and to perpetuate the climate of instability now prevailing in the Middle East,
- (6) *Recalling in particular* United Nations General Assembly resolution 181 of 29 November 1947, adopting the plan to partition Palestine as two independent States; United Nations Security Council resolution 242 of 22 November 1967, which condemns "*the acquisition of territory by war*", demands the "*withdrawal of Israeli Armed Forces from territories occupied*" and affirms the "*territorial inviolability and political independence*" of every State in the region; Security Council resolution 446 of 22 March 1979, which demands an end to the "*practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967*"; Resolution 1515 of 19 November 2003, in which the Security Council reaffirms *its vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders*"; the UN decision on 29 November 2012 to accord Palestine non-Member Observer State status,
- (7) *Also recalling* the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States in March 2002,
- (8) *Recalling further* the resolutions adopted by the IPU at its 109th Assembly (Geneva, 2003) and 118th Assembly (Cape Town, 2008) on the situation in the Middle East, dealing in particular with the role national parliaments could play in international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State,
- (9) *Welcoming* the non-binding resolutions recently adopted by the United Kingdom's House of Commons, the Irish Senate, and the Spanish, French and Hellenic parliaments, on recognition of the Palestinian State,
- (10) *Welcoming also* the fact that the number of States having diplomatically recognized Palestine has risen to 136 of the United Nations 193 Member States,
 1. *Urges* all States Members of the United Nations that have not yet done so to unconditionally recognize the State of Palestine subject to 1967 borders;
 2. *Salutes* the recent recognition of the State of Palestine by the Swedish government; welcomes the ensuing resolutions by British, Irish, Spanish, French and Greek legislative bodies pressing their respective governments to do the same;
 3. *Invites* the national parliaments of United Nations Member States that have not yet done so to make full use of their prerogatives to convince their respective governments to unconditionally recognize the State of Palestine subject to 1967 borders;

4. *Expresses its serious concern* over the recent escalation of violence in Jerusalem and the West Bank and *unequivocally condemns* all acts of violence against civilians by either party; *recognizes* the right of Israel as well as Palestine to live in security within recognized borders;
5. *Strongly condemns* the uninterrupted expansion of Israeli settlements, which is contrary to international law and compromises the viability and possibility of a two-State solution; *calls upon* Israeli authorities to cease their settlement policy immediately;
6. *Also calls upon* Israeli authorities to release immediately all persons arrested since 12 June 2014, including members of the Palestinian National Legislative Council, in particular;
7. *Invites* the international community to assume its responsibilities and undertake a bold and global initiative for peace in the region, particularly based on the Arab Peace Initiative, so as to permit completion of the process of definitive international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital;
8. *Welcomes* the decision of the European Parliament to launch an initiative entitled "Parliamentarians for Peace", with the aim of concerted action by European, Israeli and Palestinian parliamentarians to advance a pro-peace agenda and build on diplomatic efforts to that effect;
9. *Recommends* the creation in all of the IPU's Member Parliaments of groups for friendship and cooperation with the Palestinian National Legislative Council;
10. *Invites* the IPU's Member Parliaments to celebrate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, on 29 November, by strengthening their ties of friendship and cooperation with the Palestinian National Legislative Council;
11. *Recommends* the creation of a subsidiary body of the IPU Governing Council, to be called "IPU Advisory Group on International Recognition of the State of Palestine", with the mission of serving as a coordination centre for inter-parliamentary initiatives to help national parliaments achieve full international recognition of the State of Palestine; its role would be as follows: (i) advise IPU Members on the implementation of international commitments with respect to definitive international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital; (ii) participate in the development of information materials for parliamentarians; and (iii) visit occupied territories to evaluate the situation and progress by the two parties in fulfilling all of the commitments undertaken to ensure the viability of the State of Palestine and consolidate peace and stability;
12. *Obtain the commitment*, at this level, of the IPU Secretary General to keep national parliaments informed on the timetable for this Group's activities and the progress achieved;
13. *Recommends* further strengthening of the cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations, as well as other relevant international organizations not belonging to the United Nations system, enabling legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people to participate, as appropriate, in events and meetings of these organizations;
14. *Invites* the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions to submit for assessment by IPU's 136th Assembly the Organization's contribution to ensuring consideration by the United Nations and the entire international community of the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to build a viable, independent and sovereign State with East Jerusalem as its capital;
15. *Instructs* the Secretary General with transmitting this resolution to the parliaments of the Member States, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Quartet's envoy to the Middle East, to the Israeli Government, to the Knesset, to the President of the Palestinian Authority and to the Palestinian National Legislative Council.