



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

Lusaka (Zambia), 19 - 23 March 2016



Assembly  
Item 2

A/134/2-P.5  
19 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 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Uruguay

On 19 March 2016, the Secretary General received from the Secretary of the Uruguayan Inter-Parliamentary Group a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: The role of parliament and the responsibility of the international community".

Delegates to the 134<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 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Uruguay 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE  
SECRETARY OF THE URUGUAYAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

Montevideo, 18 March 2016

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in particular Assembly Rule 11.1, the Uruguayan Inter-Parliamentary Group wishes to submit a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, which will take place in Lusaka, Zambia, from 19 to 23 March 2016, entitled:

"The humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: The role of parliament and the responsibility of the international community".

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum on the importance of the topic, as well as a draft resolution in support of this request.

Kindly circulate this request to the Members of our Organization.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Oscar PIQUINELA  
Secretary of the Uruguayan  
Inter-Parliamentary Group

**THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT AND  
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Uruguay***

The Uruguayan Inter-Parliamentary Group to the Inter-Parliamentary Union wishes to propose the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly entitled "The humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: The role of parliament and the responsibility of the international community" for the reasons outlined below.

What began as a situation of internal conflict in Syria has turned into a serious situation of war with international dimensions that is affecting the entire Middle East region.

Each and every member of parliament and averagely informed citizen is well aware of the different aspects involved. Be it the political scope, the interests of the parties that underlie this matter or the latest peace negotiations, all of this is known.

What is not known is how this problem, which has public opinion across the world on tenterhooks, will be resolved in political terms. Yet from a social, cultural and humanitarian perspective, this has been an absolute catastrophe.

It has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths, hundreds of thousands of refugees, given rise to human trafficking, eclipsed the rule of law for huge numbers of civilians, undermined basic human rights (the right to health and food, the minority rights and the right to refugee status, among others).

The Inter-Parliamentary Union could and should focus on this major tragedy, as well as shed light on the path leading to peace and dialogue in full respect for human rights as the only means of responding to the aspirations of our peoples and the moral imperatives of our civilization.

The Uruguayan Inter-Parliamentary Group proposes that the IPU include this item in the agenda of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT AND  
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of URUGUAY***

The 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Bearing in mind* the purposes and values of the United Nations, embodied in principles such as maintaining peace and international security,
- (2) *Considering* the unique nature of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which since its inception in 1889, has been working for peace,
- (3) *Contributing* to the “defence and promotion of human rights”, respect for which is an essential component of parliamentary democracy,
- (4) *Recalling* that the IPU shares the objectives of the United Nations and supports its efforts,
- (5) *Reminding* all parties that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Protocols, especially the Fourth Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the 1977 Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts are in force,
- (6) *Aware* that, in recent years, no other situation in the world has attracted greater attention than the one in the Middle East, and that, with its overall dimensions, we are heading towards an extreme humanitarian crisis with consequences that we cannot and should not overlook,
- (7) *Concerned* by the large-scale humanitarian tragedy in Syria and Yemen, resulting in millions of civilians becoming internally displaced persons or refugees and suffering from a lack of food security,
- (8) *Alarmed* by the tremendous impact of the humanitarian crisis on the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children,
- (9) *Regretting* the fact that repeated attacks on hospitals and schools have been reported in contravention of international humanitarian law,
- (10) *Deploing* the killing of medical doctors and other health-care personnel, as well as humanitarian workers in general,
- (11) *Reminding* all parties that the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols are in force,
- (12) *Indignant* about the use of hunger as a weapon of war, especially in besieged cities in Syria and Yemen, which constitutes a war crime,
- (13) *Condemning* the use of prohibited weapons against the civilian population, such as chemical weapons and barrel bombs,
- (14) *Convinced* that the solution to the humanitarian disaster must be a political one, and *calling upon* all parties to engage in dialogue in order to resolve their differences,
- (15) *Committed* to supporting all efforts pending a political solution to enable the international community to exert necessary pressure so that humanitarian assistance reaches those in need unhindered,

1. *Strongly condemns* the attacks deliberately targeting civilians in situations of armed conflict and *calls upon* all parties to put an end to such practices;
2. *Reaffirms* its deep concern regarding the harmful and widespread consequences of armed conflict on civilians, in particular women, children and other vulnerable groups, and *also reaffirms*, in this regard, the importance of meeting their special needs in terms of protection and assistance in the mandates of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions;
3. *Condemns* the attacks on schools and hospitals and acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, and *also calls on* all parties to armed conflict to provide unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance and to give humanitarian personnel all the facilities required to carry out their work;
4. *Calls on* governments and parties to conflict to meet their obligations in conformity with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the obligations set forth in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005;
5. *Urges* parliaments to request their governments to adopt appropriate measures to ensure that attacks against the civilian population do not go unpunished and that their perpetrators are brought to justice, in accordance with domestic and international law, so as to strengthen preventive measures and make it possible to hold to account those responsible for the crimes.