



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 135<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Assembly  
Item 2

A/135/2-P.10  
23 October 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 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegations of Germany and Mexico

On 23 October 2016, the Secretary General received from the delegations of Germany and Mexico a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria,  
particularly in Aleppo".

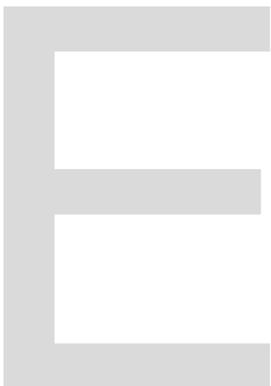
Delegates to the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly will find a draft resolution (Annex) in support thereof.

The 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of Germany and Mexico on Monday, 24 October 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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.



#IPU135

**THE WAR AND THE SEVERE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SYRIA,  
PARTICULARLY IN ALEPPO**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of GERMANY and MEXICO***

The 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Deploing* the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), most of them civilians,
- (2) *Recalling* that over 11 million people have lost their homes in Syria, 6.5 million of whom are internally displaced, and that 4.8 million have had to flee abroad,
- (3) *Also recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- (4) *Further recalling* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949) provides that direct attacks against civilian targets constitute a war crime,
- (5) *Taking account* of the resolutions of the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Lusaka), the 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly (Geneva), the 128<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Quito) and in particular, the resolution of the 126<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Kampala) entitled Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts,
- (6) *Also taking account* of United Nations Security Council resolution 2258 of 22 December 2015, “reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Syrian authorities to protect the population in Syria and, reiterating that parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to protect civilians, and recalling in this regard its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel”,
- (7) *Emphasizing* that United Nations Security Council resolution 2258 (2015) notes “the role that ceasefire agreements which are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law can play in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to help save civilian lives”,
- (8) *Noting*, with regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, that those who perpetrate war crimes, including crimes against humanity, must be held responsible,
- (9) *Considering* that Syria has signed and ratified the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which has not been respected and stressing the incalculable historic value of the ancient city of Aleppo, which is part of the heritage of humanity,
- (10) *Emphasizing* that, in the long term, the situation for people in Syria cannot be improved through humanitarian measures, but only through political negotiations,
  1. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms the crimes against civilians in Syria, such as the bombing of hospitals, and attacks on and blockading of aid convoys, which are depriving over 550,000 civilians in besieged areas from almost all humanitarian aid,
  2. *Calls upon* all parties to the conflict to stop attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure, and besieging cities, and to stop contributing to the starvation of people, with immediate effect;
  3. *Appeals* to the parties to the conflict to reinstate the ceasefire agreement of 12 September 2016;

4. *Appeals* to the United States of America and the Russian Federation and all relevant parties involved in the conflict to resume dialogue aiming at a permanent solution in Syria;
5. *Requests* the United Nations Security Council to fulfil its primary responsibility of maintaining world peace and international security;
6. *Urges* the parties to the conflict to ensure the security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel, including those exclusively carrying out medical duties, medical staff, and United Nations staff;
7. *Demands* immediate, unimpeded and permanent humanitarian access in order to ensure that supplies reach the civilian population;
8. *Requests* its Members to undertake efforts to encourage their countries to increase emergency aid to the region, and support, in every possible way, aid organizations on the ground;
9. *Calls upon* the international community to support Syria's neighbouring countries, which are providing assistance to the refugees;
10. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians to urge their Governments to support the UNESCO campaign Unite4heritage, an initiative that stems from the destruction of the heritage of humanity in Syria and Iraq, and that is designed to support, champion and safeguard cultural inheritance;
11. *Urges* its Members to continue to monitor the situation in Syria, to commit the parliamentary community to undertake further efforts to improve the situation in Syria, and to remain in close contact with the League of Arab States and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, which hold the status of Permanent Observers at the IPU.