



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Assembly
Item 2

A/135/2-P.12
24 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 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic

On 24 October 2016, the Secretary General received from the Secretary of the Russian delegation and from the Secretary of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 135th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Restoring peace and security in Syria: The contribution
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union".

Delegates to the 135th 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 135th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY
THE SECRETARY OF THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION AND THE SECRETARY OF THE SYRIAN
ARAB REPUBLIC**

23 October 2016

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Pursuant to Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly in particular and the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the delegation of the Russian Federation and the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Inter-Parliamentary Union wishes to submit a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 135th IPU Assembly, to be held in Geneva from 23 to 27 October 2016, entitled:

"Restoring peace and security in Syria: The contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union".

Kindly be advised that the explanatory memorandum and draft resolution in support of this request will follow in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Naser AL WAWI
Secretary of the delegation of
the Syrian Arab Republic
to the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Michail TKACHENKO
Secretary of the Russian
delegation
to the Inter-Parliamentary Union
(The Council of Federation)

RESTORING PEACE AND SECURITY IN SYRIA: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic

Pursuant to Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic to the Inter-Parliamentary Union wishes to propose the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 135th IPU Assembly, to be held in Geneva from 23 to 27 October, 2016, on the grounds of the following facts of international significance:

- In view of the situation in Syria, drastic action from the global parliamentary community is warranted to restore peace and security in the country. According to UN data, the war has already caused the deaths of over 300,000 people; half of the population of the country has been made homeless and more than four million Syrian citizens have been forced to leave the country.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union addressed the issue of the Syrian crisis at the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 2013) where it adopted the resolution *The role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them*; and at the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012) where it adopted the resolution *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...* The time is ripe to complement these resolutions with a strong condemnation of terrorism as the main reason for the continued bloodshed. We deem it important to deplore, as criminal and inexcusable, all terrorist acts, methods and practices, wherever and by whoever they may be perpetrated.
- It should be obvious that the Syrian conflict has no military solution, and requires political settlement. It is imperative to put an end to all forms of terrorist violence and to find a solution to the Syrian crisis through an inclusive dialogue between all concerned parties, ensuring strict compliance with the rules and principles of international law, respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Syria, as well as respect for human rights and maintaining the security of the population of the country.
- An effective strategy for the international community to achieve a decisive victory over the terrorism that has taken root in Syria and the whole Middle East and North Africa region must be founded on the establishment of a truly broad and legitimate counter-terrorism coalition. Such a coalition should act in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, with the participation of all States in accordance with their capabilities and with the consent of the States, on whose territories terrorism is being fought.
- In addition to the foregoing, unilateral coercive economic measures constitute an obstacle to the individual and collective right to development. They affect two key pillars, namely the right to participate in and benefit from development processes at the individual and State levels, and at the national and international levels. Since States represent their peoples and champion their demands at the international level, they become the custodian of this right in its collective form.
- It is necessary to take advantage of unique opportunities of IPU representation in order to bring an end to the crisis and give the Syrian people the possibility of determining their own political, economic and social future.

In the light of the foregoing, we consider it necessary to include an emergency item in the agenda of 135th IPU Assembly, entitled *Restoring peace and security in Syria: The contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*.

**RESTORING PEACE AND SECURITY IN SYRIA: THE CONTRIBUTION
OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of the
RUSSIAN FEDERATION and the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC***

The 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Deeply regretting* the continuing and tragic plight of the Syrian people, which has resulted in uninterrupted terrorist attacks from ISIS, Jabhat al-Nusrah and others terrorist groups,
- (2) *Deploing* the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the Syrian Arab Republic, most of them civilians,
- (3) *Reaffirming* the need to consolidate international counter-terrorism cooperation, in which the United Nations plays a central and coordinating role, which is based on international law (particularly the Charter of the United Nations), and which meticulously implements UN Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions,
- (4) *Severely disappointed* that States' legitimate counter-terrorism actions in Syria are not yet fully coordinated,
- (5) *Concerned* about the fate of millions of Syrian refugees, who have been denied the opportunity to return home,
- (6) *Considering* that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures represents a threat to the economic interests of legitimate sovereign States, and that the United Nations, other international organizations, and multilateral and other relevant parties are redoubling their efforts to create a favourable and effective international political and economic environment, which provides equal opportunities for all States to take advantage of international economic, financial and commercial systems, *stressing* that the risk of unilateral coercive economic measures increases dangerously in times of war, and in States that are threatened or targeted by terrorism, particularly if those States' infrastructure and political, economic and social structures are targeted by such measures, as the illegal coercive measures will hinder the State's ability to obtain the resources required to rebuild or reconstruct its infrastructure, thus amplifying the suffering of its citizens, and the grave threats to their present and future,
- (7) *Recalling* relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 2013) "*The role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them*" and the resolution adopted by the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012) *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*",
- (8) *Mindful* that the Government of Syria is entirely legally justified in countering terrorism on its territory,
- (9) *Mindful* that the Syrian people are capable of finding a solution to the crisis in Syria, while *underscoring* the need for regional organizations and the whole international community to support this process,
- (10) *Following* the global parliamentary aspiration to contribute to a resolution to the Syrian crisis through the opportunities afforded by the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

1. *Resolutely condemns* as criminal and inexcusable all terrorist acts, methods and practices, wherever and by whomever they may be perpetrated;
2. *Condemning in the strongest possible terms* the crimes against civilians in Syria, such as the shelling of hospitals, and attacks on and blockading of aid convoys, which are depriving hundreds of thousands of civilians in besieged areas from almost all humanitarian aid;
3. *Urges* that an end be brought to all forms of terrorist violence, and that a solution be found to the Syrian crisis through an inclusive dialogue between all concerned parties, which strictly complies with the rules and principles of international law, and which respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, human rights and the security of the population of the country;
4. *Reiterating* that UN Security Council resolutions, conventions and treaties resolutely condemn terrorist attacks and prohibit financing or any form of support for organizations and persons involved in terrorism,
5. *Takes note of* the aspirations of the Syrian people concerning the initiation of a fully-fledged political process in order to determine the future of the State through an inclusive, intra-Syrian dialogue involving all ethnic and confessional groups;
6. *Demands* immediate, unimpeded and permanent humanitarian access in order to ensure that supplies reach the civilian population in accordance with Guiding Principles on the Right to Humanitarian Assistance;
7. *Condemns* the use by some States of unilateral coercive measures as a means of exerting social and political pressure on their States, which is in full contradiction with international legitimacy, and *calls for* urgent and effective measures to stop all unilateral coercive measures from being applied to sovereign States, as such measures have a direct and negative impact on human rights in all practical respects and are contrary to international law, and *affirms* that no State has the right to use or encourage the use of unilateral coercive economic measures in order to force another State to stop exercising its sovereign rights, or to derive any other benefit whatsoever from that State;
8. *Strongly urges* national parliaments of States that have joined the campaign against terrorism in Syria, to influence their Governments to find ways, forms and methods that lead to coordinated counter-terrorism actions in Syria;
9. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Syria of 6 October 2016 on normalizing the situation in Aleppo, and urges all parties concerned to contribute to its implementation;
10. *Stresses* the urgent need to establish, as a key priority, the accurate distinction between moderate opposition forces and Nusrah Front;
11. *Supports* the initiative of holding regular parliamentary meetings on Syria through IPU channels;
12. *Hopes* that all Syrian people will accept dialogue as the only possible means of resolving the conflict and allowing the aspirations of the people of Syria to be met in terms of political, economic and social reforms and a democratic State based on diversity, dignity, and social and political justice.