



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Assembly
Item 2

A/135/2-P.2
19 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 delegation of Morocco

On 18 October 2016, the President of the IPU received from the President of the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 135th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Helping to consolidate international peace and security through the recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments".

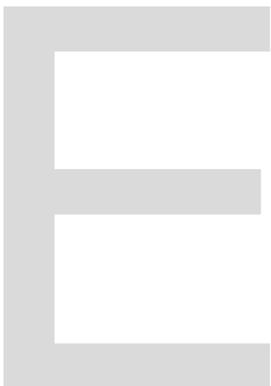
Delegates to the 135th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 135th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Morocco 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

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE HEAD OF THE
DELEGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MOROCCO TO THE 135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND
PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

Rabat, 14 October 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 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), from 23 to 27 October 2016, of an emergency item entitled:

"Helping to consolidate international peace and security through the 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
Head of the delegation of the Parliament
of Morocco to the 135th IPU Assembly,
President of the House of Councillors
of the Kingdom of Morocco

**HELPING TO CONSOLIDATE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH THE
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

At a time when the international community is redoubling its efforts to facilitate the establishment of 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 are all exacerbating tensions and making the creation of a Palestinian State ever more improbable. The Israeli government's accelerated settlement of the West Bank, particularly in East Jerusalem, 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 on the settlement of this conflict and intervene to secure the obligation of both parties, under international law, to achieve a fair and lasting settlement.

To that end, it is also incumbent on the international community to take the initiative to call on the Israeli government to join in a process of applying international law, giving priority to withdrawing from occupied territories to the 1967 line, halting new settlements and dismantling 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, the viability of which must be guaranteed.

It should be recalled that to date, the Palestinian State is already recognized by 136 countries; it has also 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.

For their part, it is incumbent on national parliaments to 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 (*Al Quds Acharqiya*) as its capital.

It is in this context, and for the abovementioned reasons, that the delegation of the Parliament of the Kingdom Morocco to the IPU would like to propose the inclusion of the following emergency item in the agenda of the 135th IPU Assembly: *Helping to consolidate international peace and security through the recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments.*

The parliamentary delegation of Morocco calls upon the 135th Assembly to vote in favour of this emergency item; this would attest to the IPU's unflinching and continuous commitment to consolidating the efforts of the international community to achieve a peaceful, fair and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is an essential condition for peace and security in the Middle East.

**HELPING TO CONSOLIDATE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH THE
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 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Greatly alarmed* by the 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 this region of the world cannot be consolidated without a peaceful, fair and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,
- (3) *Noting* the failure of the efforts since 1991 to relaunch the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians,
- (4) *Also noting* the threats posed to a two-State solution, the negotiating platform advocated and widely supported by the international community,
- (5) *Noting further* the rise in tensions in Jerusalem and the West Bank, which threatens to trigger a new round of violence, to the detriment of all peoples in the region, and beyond, and to perpetuate the climate of instability now prevailing in the Middle East,
- (6) *Mindful* of the Middle East peace initiative held in Paris on 3 June 2016, and *welcoming with optimism* the intention to organize, before the end of 2016, an international conference on peace in the Middle East, to which the two main opposing parties, the Israelis and the Palestinians, would be invited,
- (7) *Recalling*:
 - 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 status of non-Member Observer State in the United Nations accorded to Palestine by the General Assembly on 29 November 2012,
- (8) *Also recalling* the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States in March 2002,
- (9) *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 the international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State,
- (10) *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,

(11) *Appreciating* 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 Members States of the United Nations that have not yet done so to unconditionally recognize the State of Palestine on the basis of 1967 borders;
2. *Commends* 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 on the basis of the 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 their 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* the Israeli authorities to cease their settlement policy immediately;
6. *Calls upon* the Israeli authorities to release immediately all persons arrested since 12 June 2014, in particular members of the Palestinian National Legislative Council;
7. *Invites* the international community to increase its efforts to undertake a bold, inclusive and global initiative for peace in the Middle East, using as a reference the Arab Peace Initiative (2002), 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. *Expresses its support* for the organization, before the end of 2016, of an international conference on peace in the Middle East attended by delegations from Israel and Palestine;
9. *Commends* the decision of the European Parliament to launch an initiative entitled "Parliamentarians for Peace", with the aim of narrowing the differences between European, Israeli and Palestinian parliamentarians to contribute to the implementation of an agenda for peace and build on diplomatic efforts to that end;
10. *Recommends* the creation in all of the IPU Member Parliaments of groups for friendship and cooperation with the Palestinian National Legislative Council;
11. *Invites* the IPU Member Parliaments to use the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, on 29 November, as an opportunity to strengthen further their ties of friendship and cooperation with the Palestinian National Legislative Council;
12. *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:
 - (a) 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;
 - (b) participate in the development of information materials for parliamentarians;
 - (c) visit the 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;

13. *Obtain the commitment*, in this regard, of the IPU Secretary General to keep national parliaments informed of the timetable for this Group's activities and the progress achieved;
14. *Recommends* further strengthening of the cooperation between the IPU 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;
15. *Invites* the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions to submit for assessment by the 136th IPU 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;
16. *Instructs* the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the parliaments of the Member States, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Envoys of the Middle East Quartet, to the Israeli Government, to the Knesset, to the President of the Palestinian Authority and to the Palestinian National Legislative Council.