



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.4  
20 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 delegation of Uganda

On 20 October 2016, the Secretary General received from the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and Leader of the Ugandan delegation to the IPU Assembly a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Guaranteeing the safety of migrants on their way  
to countries of destination".

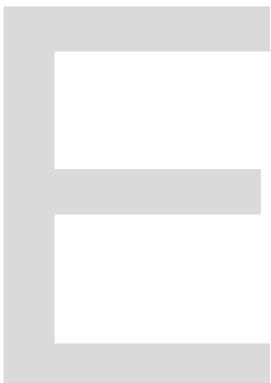
Delegates to the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Uganda 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 SECRETARY GENERAL BY  
THE SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA AND LEADER OF  
THE UGANDA DELEGATION TO THE IPU ASSEMBLY**

AD 149/149/01  
17 October 2016

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and specifically Rule 11.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the delegation of Uganda would like to present a request to include in the agenda of the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23-27 October 2016, an emergency item entitled:

“Guaranteeing the safety of migrants on their way to countries of destination”.

The draft resolution on this proposed matter seeks to encourage parliaments and governments to put in place measures to stop the countless deaths of migrants and mitigate hazardous risks.

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum in support of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Rebecca A. KADAGA (Ms.)  
Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda  
Leader of the Uganda delegation  
to the IPU Assembly

## **GUARANTEEING THE SAFETY OF MIGRANTS ON THEIR WAY TO COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION**

### ***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Uganda***

The delegation of Uganda to the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly would like to propose the inclusion in the agenda of the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva of an emergency item entitled: *Guaranteeing the safety of migrants on their way to countries of destination*.

The matter of migration has previously been addressed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

For example, the 113<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly adopted a resolution from the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade entitled *Migration and Development*, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that governments must guarantee the respect of basic human rights for all migrants and their families, regardless of their migrant status.

Again, at the 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly, parliamentarians debated the moral and economic imperative for fairer, smarter and more humane migration. In the declaration adopted, it was observed that migration should be safe.

Parliamentarians also took note of the situation in the Mediterranean and in other parts of the world where migrants had perished. They observed that the prevalence of migrant smuggling and human trafficking, as well as xenophobia, call for urgent, coordinated and robust action to save lives, show solidarity and mitigate the effects of migration flows. The parliamentarians pledged to promote safe and regular channels of migration.

In addition to the efforts of parliamentarians under the auspices of the IPU, the United Nations has had an opportunity to consider the safety of migrants. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for the facilitation of “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration”.

In spite of the commendable resolutions by the IPU on migration, its call for urgent, coordinated and robust action for fairer, smarter and humane migration, and the UN General Assembly’s call for safe migration, we continue to see hundreds and hundreds of migrants perishing in the Mediterranean Sea on almost a daily basis.

The Mediterranean Sea has become a cemetery for desperate migrants trying to cross to Europe.

Smugglers overload dilapidated boats, canoes and other vessels with desperate migrants eager to cross the Mediterranean to reach Greece, Italy and other countries.

Most of the migrants from Africa cross from the unpatrolled borders of Libya.

We thank the Governments of Italy and Greece for the rescue missions that have saved many people from drowning.

Parliamentarians meeting at the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly must find the continuing death of migrants on their way to Europe troubling; they must also find unacceptable the failure of governments to put in place urgent and coordinated rescue plans to save migrants crossing to Europe and other parts of the world.

A solution to the continued deaths of migrants fleeing political harassment, economic marginalization, social unrest and conflict must be found, and that solution is political. All governments must commit resources to save the lives of migrants, who are human beings. They must put in place strategies to stop the unwarranted, inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment to which migrants are subject. They should not look at migrants as criminals but as desperate human beings who require humane treatment and assistance. To this end, we find solace in the words of Pope Francis that “migrants are not dangerous but are in danger”.

Parliamentarians must speak up and articulate the plight of migrants who are at risk of perishing owing to a lack of food, water, shelter, and the dangerous and dilapidated vessels used by human traffickers and smugglers. Parliamentarians must use their national platforms and international collaboration to put pressure on governments to end the deaths, extortion and sexual abuse of migrants.

**GUARANTEEING THE SAFETY OF MIGRANTS ON THEIR WAY  
TO COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION**

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

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

- (1) *Alarmed* by the daily reports of migrants drowning at sea as they flee from their countries for reasons beyond their control,
- (2) *Noting* that the IPU and the UN have called upon governments to promote safe migration,
- (3) *Recalling* that the IPU has called upon governments to regard migrants as human beings whose rights to survive and flourish constitute a responsibility of all States and the international community,
- (4) *Considering* that parliamentarians have a legal and moral duty to protect, promote and defend the rights and interests of all peoples, including migrants, without any form of discrimination, and should exercise oversight over Executive branches as duty bearers to ensure that they provide humane and safe treatment to all people, including migrants,
- (5) *Observing* that, since 2005, the IPU has been calling upon governments to undertake urgent, coordinated and robust action to save lives, show solidarity and mitigate the effects of migration flows,
  1. *Invites* governments to implement previous IPU resolutions on migration that call for urgent, coordinated and robust action to save lives of migrants;
  2. *Calls upon* the UN to put in place a migrant rescue force in the Mediterranean Sea to supplement and/or take over from the efforts of the Governments of Greece and Italy;
  3. *Appeals to* the governments of the migrants' countries of origin to establish a political and economic environment that is conducive to stemming the flow of migrants;
  4. *Calls upon* the international community to exercise its responsibility to protect/assist in the migrants' countries of origin.