



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

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

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Assembly  
Item 2

A/136/2-P.5  
31 March 2017

## 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 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Kenya

On 30 March 2017, the Secretary General received from the Speaker of the Senate and Head of the delegation of Kenya a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The drought and famine in the Horn of Africa and East Africa".

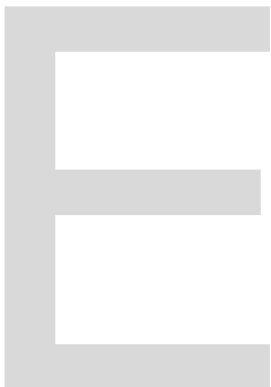
Delegates to the 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Kenya on Sunday, 2 April 2017.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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.



#IPU136

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE SPEAKER OF  
THE SENATE AND HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF KENYA**

30 March 2017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, the delegation of Kenya wishes to request the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 136<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly which will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 1 to 5 April 2017 entitled:

"The drought and famine in the Horn of Africa and East Africa".

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution in support of this request.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Sen. David Ekwee ETHURO, EBS, EGH, MP  
Speaker of the Senate and  
Head of the delegation of Kenya

## THE DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND EAST AFRICA

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

1. It is a fundamental right for every human to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the ultimate right of everyone to be free from hunger.
2. The right to adequate food is established under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. It is also protected by other regional instruments, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) and national constitutions. The right to food of specific groups has also been recognized in several international conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.
3. However, this fundamental right is under threat as nations in East Africa and the Horn of Africa battle severe drought. The situation is expected to worsen in coming months as low rainfall is forecast.
4. Drought has plunged East Africa into the worst food security crisis that Africa has faced in decades. Over 12.8 million people are currently in need of food aid in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. That number is expected to rise. Some of these nations are facing the third consecutive year of drought, which is causing thirst and hunger, decimating livestock, destroying livelihoods, spreading disease and triggering large-scale population movements.
5. In February this year, the youngest nation on earth, South Sudan, declared famine, a situation that is exacerbated by the country's ongoing conflict. The United Nations has observed that Somalia is on the brink of famine, which has also been worsened by the security situation there. In addition, Kenya has declared its ongoing drought to be a national disaster.
6. According to Famine Early Warning System Network, in much of Somalia, south-eastern Ethiopia and parts of north-eastern Kenya, well below-average cereal production and deteriorating livestock productivity in pastoral areas are expected to significantly increase the number of people in crisis or emergency situations until September 2017. Poor seasonal progress has led to below-average harvests, an early exhaustion of food stocks, and increases in the number of people facing food insecurity.
7. The situation in East Africa and the Horn of Africa poses a serious threat to human dignity, regional peace, security and stability as populations that have migrated increase the pressure on critical resources in host communities and countries.
8. It is therefore critical that the global community comes to the aid of countries facing drought and famine in the Horn of Africa. The World Food Programme has recognized the link between climate change and the negative impact of food production, especially in the most vulnerable and food-insecure countries (WFP, 2012).
9. The impact of climate change is being heavily felt by the most vulnerable populations. Developing countries are also feeling a disproportionate impact of climate change, even though they do not emit large amounts of greenhouse gases and have therefore not contributed significantly to the causes of climate change. As a result, the responsibilities of industrialized nations are brought into focus: they should mitigate climate change and support vulnerable countries to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, especially food security.
10. As part of the international community, the Inter-Parliamentary Union should be at the forefront of addressing the plight of these African States and so save millions from the threat of starvation and death that the drought poses.

## THE DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND EAST AFRICA

### *Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of KENYA*

The 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

- (1) *Gravely concerned* about the humanitarian situation in East Africa and the Horn of Africa where some 13 million people in the nations of Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda are facing the real threat of starvation due to drought and famine,
- (2) *Also gravely concerned* about the slow response of the global community in addressing the humanitarian situation in the aforementioned nations affected by drought, in terms of mobilizing resources to offer relief aid and other forms of assistance to the affected populations,
- (3) *Noting* that some of these nations are facing the third consecutive year of drought causing thirst and hunger, decimating livestock, destroying livelihoods, spreading disease and triggering large-scale population movements,
- (4) *Also noting* that the drought in some of the affected countries has been exacerbated by internal unrest,
- (5) *Further noting* that Ethiopia and Kenya are among the world's top 10 refugee host countries and that refugees are especially vulnerable in the current crisis,
- (6) *Recognizing* that failed rains and changing weather phenomena largely caused by global warming have contributed to the drought in East Africa and the Horn of Africa,
- (7) *Welcoming* the efforts of the United Nations and the European Union in offering support to the nations affected by the drought,
- (8) *Considering* the importance of the right to food, which is implicitly included in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- (9) *Also considering* that the right to life and the right to health can only be enjoyed if the right to food is guaranteed,
  1. *Welcomes* the measures taken and the efforts of United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to mitigate and combat famine in several areas of East Africa and the Horn of Africa;
  2. *Calls upon* the United Nations to commit the resources necessary to provide humanitarian support and nutritional relief to critically affected areas in the Horn of Africa, as well as long-term development assistance;
  3. *Strongly encourages* other non-governmental organizations and supporters to continue to provide food and humanitarian assistance to the areas in need, mindful of the need to ensure the safety and security of relief workers;
  4. *Calls on* the United Nations and the international community to remain focused on those most vulnerable to the current drought and famine, especially women, children and the elderly;
  5. *Urges* the global community to assist the affected countries in developing drought resilience mechanisms, including by eliminating the root causes of drought and famine;
  6. *Also urges* the global community to step up climate change mitigation interventions aimed at curbing global warming and invest in measures that support vulnerable countries in adapting to climate change;
  7. *Calls on* Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to urge their respective governments to pledge support for relief and humanitarian assistance for countries affected by drought and famine.