



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

136th IPU Assembly

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Assembly
Item 2

A/136/2-P.7
2 April 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 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Argentina

On 2 April 2017, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Argentina, a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 136th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Preoccupation about recent events in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela"

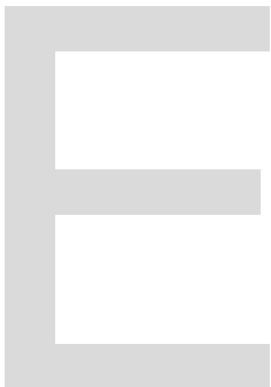
Delegates to the 136th Assembly will find attached an explanatory memorandum ([Annex I](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex II](#)) in support thereof.

The 136th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Argentina, submitted on behalf of the Arab Group, 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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

PREOCCUPATION ABOUT RECENT EVENTS IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Argentina

The Supreme Court of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, under the influence of the Executive, has been restricting the rights of parliamentarians in that country. Various failures restricting its competences and functions have been followed by the suppression of all its legislative powers. Indeed, on 29 March 2017, under Judgement No. 156, the Supreme Court took on legislative capacity, depriving the National Assembly of the essential function conferred on it by the national Constitution. This serious event, which damages the democratic order and the basic human rights of parliamentarians, is the reason for the following resolution.

This sets a serious precedent through which the Supreme Court, while relying heavily on the Executive, has decided that the Court itself, or the institution that it designates, should directly exercise parliamentary competences.

Despite the fact that the Court has, through judgement No. 158, revised the decision taken previously, the parliamentary authorities of Venezuela rightly argue that this neither changes nor reduces the gravity of the event, which is seriously damaging the rule of law and democracy in Venezuela.

The parliamentary delegation of Argentina is submitting this draft resolution in light of the aforementioned and the clear need to speak out against such decisions, which are not only resulting in a deterioration in the institutional situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Argentina, but are also clearly restricting the rights of Venezuelan parliamentarians.

PREOCCUPATION ABOUT RECENT EVENTS IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of ARGENTINA

The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the objective of defending the human rights of parliamentarians,
 - (2) *Also recalling* its continued efforts to uphold and defend democracy and the independence and separation of powers of the State,
 - (3) *Considering*, in turn, the need to advocate for the full validity of democratic institutions as an essential condition for the rule of law and the respect of all individual freedoms and guarantees,
 - (4) *Emphasizing* our responsibility to maintain peace, international security and the full respect for human rights,
 - (5) *Expressing its concern* over such events that cannot, in view of their seriousness, go unnoticed or be overlooked during this Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
 - (6) *Reaffirming* the value of parliamentary diplomacy and of bodies representing parliament at the international level to facilitate negotiation and foster understanding and agreements between democratic and pluralist societies.
1. *Expresses* its deep concern at the serious circumstances of institutional instability manifested by the fact that the Supreme Court has suppressed the competences of the Parliament and taken on the exercise of those competences itself.
 2. *Urges* the Government of Venezuela to re-establish the separation of powers and ensure that members of parliament are able to fully enjoy their human rights and to fully exercise the competences that belong to the legislative assembly of that country.
 3. *Calls* for the continuation of consultations and dealings between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela aimed at re-establishing the full validity of the democratic institutions of that country.