



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



Assembly
Item 2

A/137/2-P.1
27 July 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 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Djibouti

On 26 July 2017, the Secretary General received from the President of the National Assembly of Djibouti a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The involvement and active commitment of parliaments in maintaining international security and peace through support for a political solution".

- By rejecting and condemning all forms of aggression or threats of aggression aimed at violating the sovereignty of the State, and this by virtue of the international community's resolutions in their entirety.
- By encouraging and supporting the definitive demarcation of this border, a source of tensions and potential escalation going forward."

Delegates to the 137th 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 137th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Djibouti on Sunday, 15 October 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 IPU 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 recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. 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 PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF DJIBOUTI**

Djibouti, 26 July 2017
N° 203/PAN/AI

Dear Mr. Secretary General

In accordance with Article 14.2 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Rule 11.1 of its Rules, I have the honour to submit for inclusion in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to be held in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) from 14 to 18 October 2017, an emergency item entitled:

"The involvement and active commitment of parliaments in maintaining international security and peace through support for a political solution".

Attached please find a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution defining the scope of the subject covered by this request.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Mohamed ALI HOUMED
President
National Assembly of Djibouti

**THE INVOLVEMENT AND ACTIVE COMMITMENT OF PARLIAMENTS IN MAINTAINING
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND PEACE THROUGH SUPPORT FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Djibouti

On 12 June 2008, the Eritrean Army invaded the region of Ras Doumeira, killing several Djiboutian soldiers and wounding several more. Following a new series of such clashes, from 9 to 12 June 2008, the aggression committed by Eritrea was unanimously condemned by the international community and regional organizations.

On 14 January 2009, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1862 (2009), which urges the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea to resolve their border dispute peacefully, as a matter of priority and in a manner consistent with international law. In this resolution the Security Council welcomes the fact that Djibouti has withdrawn its forces to the status quo ante and demands that Eritrea withdraw its forces and equipment to the positions of the status quo ante and ensure that no military presence or activity is being pursued in the area where the conflict occurred in Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island in June 2008, and that it agree to settle disputes through dialogue and in particular to cooperate fully with the UN Secretary-General, who has made his good offices available.

An appeal from the President of the Security Council for the observance of resolution 1862 (2009) made to the Permanent Representative of Eritrea in April 2009, produced no results.

In view of the foregoing, on 23 December 2009 the Security Council, by virtue of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, adopted resolution 1907 (2009), introducing sanctions against Eritrea for its actions against Somalia as well as Djibouti. Eritrea has in fact fulfilled none of its obligations under resolution 1862 (2009).

On 24 June, through a press statement issued by its President, the Security Council reiterated its appeal for restraint and dialogue and asked the UN Secretary-General to send a fact-finding mission to the country.

No fact-finding mission, however, has been authorized by Eritrea to visit the territory under its control. Djibouti has withdrawn its forces to the status quo ante positions, while Eritrea has not done so.

The Security Council met on 19 May 2010 and, while discussing "Peace and security in Africa" was informed by the President of the Republic of Djibouti, Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, about the situation in the Horn of Africa. As of that date, it should be stressed, not only had the conflict not been settled but the authorities of Djibouti had received no news of the soldiers captured by Eritrea.

In a statement to the press on 11 June 2010, the members of the Security Council expressed their support for the efforts made by Qatar to find a peaceful solution to the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea. In particular, they called upon the parties to engage in the mediation process fully and in good faith, while exercising restraint and respecting their commitments to respect the status quo ante.

In addition, the recent diplomatic crisis in the Gulf countries has not been without consequence. Far from being resolved, the tensions between the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea have grown more intense. Indeed, following the withdrawal of Qatari peacekeeping forces, Eritrea has violated the status quo ante: first by penetrating the buffer zone and later by remaining very close to that zone. This bellicose and provocative attitude on the part of Eritrea constitutes a violation of Security Council resolutions 1862 and 1907 and is undermining all the international community's efforts to help.

It is indispensable to recall that a new military escalation would be dangerous not only for the region, already shaken by multiple crises, but for the rest of the world as well. Indeed, Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island overlook the Bab El-Mandeb Straight, southern entrance to the Red Sea used by tens of thousands of ships transporting tens of billions of dollars in merchandise, including a significant share of world oil supplies.

Today, the international community needs to fully assume its responsibilities to ensure respect for the numerous UN resolutions adopted to resolve this dispute; it also needs to intervene to oblige both parties to develop a fair and lasting settlement of this conflict grounded in international law.

It is in this context that the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Djibouti to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, led by its President, Mr. Mohamed Ali Houmed, wishes to include in the agenda of the 137th IPU Assembly, an emergency item entitled "The involvement and active commitment of parliaments in maintaining international security and peace through support for a political solution".

**THE INVOLVEMENT AND ACTIVE COMMITMENT OF PARLIAMENTS IN MAINTAINING
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND PEACE THROUGH SUPPORT FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of DJIBOUTI

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* the relevant Security Council resolutions, that is, resolutions 1862 (2009) and 1907 (2009), as well as the pertinent resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
- (2) *Expressing its deep concern* over the situation prevailing along the Djiboutian-Eritrean border following the withdrawal of Qatari intervention forces and Eritrea's violation of the status quo ante,
- (3) *Recalling* that by virtue of international law and under the principles established by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, territorial acquisition through the use of force is unacceptable,
- (4) *Expressing its concern* over the Eritrean policy of establishing military camps on territory that has always been recognized internationally as Djiboutian but is groundlessly claimed by Asmara,
- (5) *Recalling* that in 2009 the UN Security Council adopted resolutions 1862 and 1907, introducing sanctions against Eritrea because of its actions toward the Republic of Djibouti and the entire Horn of Africa region. The Asmara regime has fulfilled none of its obligations and has become a truly disruptive force. Consequently, resolution 1907 (2009) has simultaneously established an arms embargo as well as individual sanctions,
- (6) *Deeply concerned* that Eritrea, through its belligerent attitude and acts of provocation, is constantly violating the status quo ante demanded by the Security Council in its resolutions 1862 (2009) and 1907 (2009),
- (7) *Considering* that since the adoption of the UN Security Council resolutions the Republic of Djibouti has withdrawn its forces to their status quo ante positions, a principle regularly violated by Eritrea,
- (8) *Reaffirming* the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions, as well as the values and principles of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
- (9) *Emphasizing* the value of commitment to the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Djibouti,
- (10) *Deeply concerned* by the deteriorating situation in the region and underscoring the importance of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Djiboutian-Eritrean conflict in accordance with the rules of international law,
 1. *Demands* that Eritrea communicate all available information pertaining to Djiboutian combatants missing in action or detained since the clashes of 10 to 12 June 2008, so that those concerned may ascertain the presence and condition of Djiboutian prisoners of war;

2. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to transmit this resolution to IPU Member Parliaments, to the UN Secretary-General and to all institutions concerned;
3. *Observes* that Eritrea's acts are detrimental to peace and reconciliation in Somalia and that the dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security;
4. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the acts of aggression perpetrated by the Eritrean Army on the territory of the Republic of Djibouti;
5. *Encourages and supports* the definitive demarcation of this border, a source of tension and potential escalation going forward.

In a similar vein, we recommend that priority be given to creating within the IPU Governing Council a subsidiary organ that could be called the "IPU Advisory Group on the border dispute between the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea", with the mission of:

- Urging IPU Member Parliaments to ensure that their governments undertake to enforce the rules of international law and the resolutions of the international community and UN Security Council,
- Calling upon IPU Member Parliaments to condemn all acts of aggression committed against the Republic of Djibouti by its Eritrean neighbour,
- Reporting to international bodies and to IPU Members on the implementation of international resolutions,
- Conducting observation visits to the field to inquire about the situation in the sectors that are disputed by the two States and that Eritrea has annexed by force, in violation of every rule of international law,
- Calling upon all Member States to support the Djibouti peace process,
- Demanding again that Eritrea comply without delay with the provisions of resolutions 1862 (2009) and 1907 (2009), that it withdraw its forces and all their equipment to the positions of the status quo ante, and that it ensure that no military presence or activity is being pursued in the area where the conflict occurred in Ras Doumeira and Doumeira Island in June 2008,
- Remaining actively seized of the matter.