



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.12
13 October 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 Sudan

On 13 October 2017, the Secretary General received from the Secretary-General of the National Legislature of Sudan, a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in combating persecution and violence based on religion and culture in Myanmar which threaten international peace and security".

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 Sudan 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
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE OF SUDAN**

10 October 2017
Ref: NL/IPG/IPU

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with Article 14.2 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Rule 11.1 of the Assembly Rules, I have the honour, on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Sudan, to request the inclusion in the agenda of the 137th IPU Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in combating persecution and violence based on religion and culture in Myanmar which threaten international peace and security".

Please find enclosed a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution in support of this request.

The delegation of Sudan would be grateful if you could circulate this request among the IPU Member Parliaments.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Abdelgadir Abdalla KHALAFALLA
Secretary-General of the
National Legislature of Sudan

**THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN COMBATING PERSECUTION
AND VIOLENCE BASED ON RELIGION AND CULTURE IN MYANMAR WHICH
THREATEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Sudan

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the global organization of national parliaments, has worked since its inception to combat violence in all its forms. Violence based on religion, culture, race and political or other affiliation has become a dominant feature of everyday events worldwide over the past decades.

Violence in all its forms, whether occurring in Myanmar, the State of Palestine or other places such as, most recently, Las Vegas, is a violation of the right of all human beings to a peaceful and secure life. It is a hindrance to national economies and the development of healthy communities and represents a real threat to international peace and security. All forms of violence have similar impacts locally, nationally, regionally and internationally.

People, by nature, feel that they are equal to other members of their species in terms of religion, culture, race and political or other affiliation. All divine religions and rights-based laws recognize that all persons have equal rights, which is affirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related United Nations protocols and conventions.

Accordingly, any law, legislation or practice that calls for violence based on differences between human beings constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights. Parliaments should therefore work collectively to end all types of violence based on difference, either by taking coordinated action via the IPU at the international level, or by making individual efforts at the national level.

Given the importance of this matter, the delegation of Sudan requests the inclusion in the agenda of the 137th IPU Assembly of an emergency item entitled *The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in combating persecution and violence in Myanmar based on religion and culture which threaten international peace and security*.

THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN COMBATING PERSECUTION AND VIOLENCE BASED ON RELIGION AND CULTURE IN MYANMAR WHICH THREATEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of SUDAN

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Gravely concerned* by the atrocities and violence committed against the Rohingya population in Myanmar,
- (2) *Shocked* by the atrocious acts committed as part of military campaigns and by the brutal and offensive forms of atrocities directed against the Rohingya minority,
- (3) *Alarmed* by the catastrophic turn of events which represent an attack on human conscience, moral values and human dignity and which leave a dark stain on the history of humanity,
- (4) *Cognizant* of the fact that violence persists despite the existence of numerous international instruments on the elimination of all forms of violence, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the related protocols and conventions of the United Nations,
 1. *Strongly condemns* the violence committed against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar, which compelled hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to flee their homes;
 2. *Urges* all countries, national parliaments and the international community to take immediate action to put an end to the suffering and crimes committed against the Rohingya;
 3. *Calls for* humanitarian relief organizations to be granted access to internally and externally displaced Rohingya Muslims and *also calls for* the immediate return of the Rohingya Muslims to their homeland;
 4. *Further calls for* international protection of the Rohingya minority in Myanmar and an international investigation into the crimes against humanity committed in Myanmar.