



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

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

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation  
14–18 October 2017



Assembly  
Item 2

A/137/2-P.16  
15 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 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Chile

On 14 October 2017, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Chile a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The Inter-Parliamentary Union supports the Parliament of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, threatened in its functions, powers and existence".

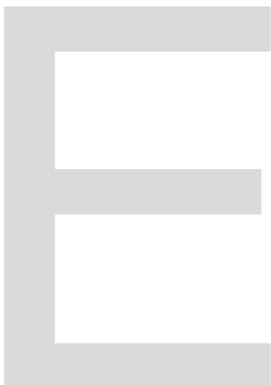
Delegates to the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Chile 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.



#IPU137

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
BY THE DELEGATION OF CHILE**

Saint-Petersburg, 14 October 2017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with the provisions of Article 14(2) of the IPU Statutes and Rule 11(1) of the IPU Rules, I have the honour to address to you the present request for inclusion in the agenda of the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly to be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 14-18 October 2017, an emergency item entitled:

"The Inter-Parliamentary Union supports the Parliament of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, threatened in its functions, powers and existence".

You will find attached an explanatory recommendation and a draft resolution.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Juan OSES MOYA  
Deputy Secretary of the  
Inter-Parliamentary Group of Chile

**THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION SUPPORTS THE PARLIAMENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, THREATENED IN ITS FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND EXISTENCE**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Chile***

The institutional existence of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is under permanent and daily threat owing to the arbitrary, unconstitutional and illegal decisions taken by the Executive and the other State powers that rule without checks and balances.

This is in addition to the imposition by the Executive of an unconstitutional and illegal body called the National Constituent Assembly which has sought to usurp the powers and functions of the Parliament legitimately elected in the elections of 6 December 2015.

Faced with this blatant attack on the function of representation and the resulting violation of the Parliament's independence which is played out on a daily basis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and has led to a political crisis and an unprecedented persecution of opposition legislators, the Inter-Parliamentary Union is called upon to make an urgent political statement to defend a legitimate parliament.

**THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION SUPPORTS THE PARLIAMENT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, THREATENED IN ITS FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND EXISTENCE**

***Draft Resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of CHILE***

The 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Considering* that, in accordance with Article 1 of its Statutes, the IPU is the "focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue since 1889" and works for peace and cooperation among peoples and, in particular, "for the solid establishment of representative institutions",
- (2) *Considering* that the IPU works towards democracy in a variety of ways, ranging from political declarations, in particular the Universal Declaration on Democracy adopted in 1997, to programmes designed to strengthen parliamentary institutions, defend and promote human rights, and to the construction of partnership mechanisms between women and men in politics; undertakings reflecting the principle that strong parliaments are the reflection and living symbol of healthy democracies,
- (3) *Reiterating* that the Speakers of the IPU Member Parliaments from all regions of the world, speaking at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2005, also firmly declared that in a democracy, parliament "is the central institution through which the will of the people is expressed, laws are passed and government is held to account",
- (4) *Considering* that both the President and the Secretary General of the IPU expressed their deep concern at the escalation of violence and bloodshed in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and that the situation was aggravated by the decision of the country's President to organize the election of a national constituent assembly with a view to rewriting the Constitution,
- (5) *Bearing in mind* that the President of the IPU called on the authorities to re-examine that decision, which would only undermine the prospect of finding a peaceful solution to the current situation,
- (6) *Considering* that, on 7 July 2017, the IPU strongly condemned the attack on the Venezuelan National Assembly and deplored the assaults against parliamentarians and the violation of the physical integrity of the Institution itself, incidents that followed earlier aggressions against several parliamentarians on 26 June 2017,
- (7) *Regretting* that the Executive ignored the call of the President of the IPU, and that the process held violated the provision of the Constitution stipulating that a referendum must be held and the electorate consulted on whether to establish a national constituent assembly to reform the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela adopted in 1999,
- (8) *Considering* that, with the establishment of the National Constituent Assembly, the necessary separation and independence of the powers of the State, typical of all representative democracies, have ceased to exist, and as a result of which, the Executive controls all the powers of the State and the National Assembly has been disavowed of all the functions for which it was elected in free, informed and direct elections with the participation of all duly registered voters,
  1. *Denounces and condemns* with the utmost firmness the de facto dissolution of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
  2. *Demands* the immediate restoration of the National Assembly, its independence and the exercise of all the legislative and oversight functions conferred to it to unambiguously in the 1999 Constitution;
  3. *Denounces* the breakdown in the constitutional order and the concentration of powers by the Executive, which constitutes a breakdown in representative democracy;

4. *Repudiates* the National Constituent Assembly and the acts and decisions emanating from it;
5. *Condemns* the violation of human rights through violent repression and political persecution which has resulted in the taking of numerous political prisoners, who demand their immediate release;
6. *Expresses* its deep concern for the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the country and *condemns* the fact that the Executive does not allow access to the country, in particular the provision of medicine and food for the Venezuelan people;
7. *Welcomes* the position taken in this regard by many regional and International organizations and *urges* all parliaments of the world to act firmly and swiftly with a view to the re-establishment of peace and democracy in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.