



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
118th Assembly and related meetings
Cape Town (South Africa), 13 – 18 April 2008



Assembly
Item 2

A/118/2-P.1
11 March 2008

**CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE 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 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
submitted by the delegation of Egypt**

On 10 March 2008, the Secretary General received from the Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 118th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The humanitarian situation in Gaza and the need to accelerate the creation
of a Palestinian State to achieve peace in the Middle East".

Delegates to the 118th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory note (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 118th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Egypt on Monday, 14 April 2008.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member of the Union 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL
BY THE SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF EGYPT**

Cairo, 8 March 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

With reference to the 118th IPU Assembly and related meetings scheduled to be held in South Africa (Cape Town) during the period 13 to 18 April 2008, I wish to inform you that the Egyptian Inter-Parliamentary Group requests the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the Assembly entitled:

"The humanitarian situation in Gaza and the need to accelerate the creation of a Palestinian State to achieve peace in the Middle East".

Please find enclosed the text of an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution on the proposed item for your kind consideration and action.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dr. Ahmed Fathi SOROUR
Speaker
of the People's Assembly of Egypt

**THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN GAZA AND THE NEED TO ACCELERATE THE
CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Egypt

Israel is blockading the Gaza Strip and is heavily shelling its civilians. Such acts have caused dozens of deaths and injuries as a result of the collective punishment policy implemented in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. Procrastinating the establishment of a Palestinian State, in fulfilment of President Bush's promise under the Road Map, has led to this deteriorating situation, and hence to undermining opportunities for peace in the Middle East. The achievement of such peace, which requires concerted efforts, would consolidate world peace and security.

**THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN GAZA AND THE NEED TO ACCELERATE THE
CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of EGYPT

The 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Declaring* its full sympathy with the Palestinian people in occupied Gaza who have been experiencing a sustained and stifling political, economic and humanitarian blockade for more than one year now that climaxed in January last when Israel cut off energy and power supplies to the Gaza Strip, which further worsened the humanitarian situation there and interrupted essential services, especially health services, basic utilities and water and power supplies,
- (2) *Holding responsible* Israel, which, as the Occupying Power, is legally bound to respect human rights in the territories it occupies,
- (3) *Denouncing* the week-long "hot winter" operation carried out by Israeli occupation forces on 27 February, which represented a treacherous criminal assault against Gaza with the use of tanks, aircrafts and helicopters, thereby constituting a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and a blatant contravention of several UN resolutions and all signed agreements and understandings,
- (4) *Condemning* in the harshest terms this criminal act of aggression that resulted in the death of 130 martyrs, including more than 20 children, and injuring over 225 unarmed civilians, leaving behind widespread destruction of essential services in Gaza, and inflicting heavy losses on the daily livelihood of Palestinians, thereby constituting innumerable violations of international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in armed conflict and under occupation,
- (5) *Denouncing* Israel's continued detention of scores of Palestinians and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, notably Speaker Abdel Aziz Dweik,
- (6) *Considering* that the practices of Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians in Gaza constitute collective punishment on a civilian population that are incommensurate with the missile strikes launched against Israel insofar as they constitute a war crime and massacre in contravention of international charters and instruments, necessitating decisive action by the international community to bring such acts to an end and hold the perpetrators of such acts to account,
- (7) *Rejecting* the use by certain Israeli military leaders of the term "holocaust" to describe the genocide war Israeli forces waged against civilians in the Gaza Strip; *recalling* the response of the international community to this term and its full support for the Jews who experienced this holocaust and the tragedies and agonies implicit in this expression for Jews, considers it rather inappropriate for Israeli leaders to use this term to threaten the Palestinian people under its occupation,

(8) *Welcoming* the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 6 March calling for an immediate cessation of Israeli military attacks on the Gaza Strip and the cessation of missile-launching by Palestinian activists on southern Israel,

(9) *Recognizing* the right of the Palestinian people to resist occupation until full independence is attained and their independent State is established within 4 June 1967 borders in accordance with Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle; *considering* that the Palestinian resistance must reconsider the launching of missiles on Israeli lands, mindful of the Israeli civilians who fall prey to such attacks, not to mention the disproportionate violent Israeli responses and the derailment of the peaceful settlement process,

(10) *Underscoring* that the Arab peace initiative still presents the optimal solution for the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, being an integrated project to achieve just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, and regards the peace process as one indivisible whole based on international legitimacy and relevant UN resolutions, with particular emphasis on Security Council resolutions 425, 338 and 242 and General Assembly resolution 194, the land-for-peace principle and the Madrid terms of reference, while corroborating the right of the Palestinian people of return, the right to sovereignty and to have an independent State of their own with East Jerusalem as its capital,

1. *Requests* an immediate lifting of the blockade imposed on the occupied Palestinian territories, especially Gaza, in order to facilitate the provision of food, medical and fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip to help alleviate the humanitarian tragedy experienced by its population, with chances of renewed flare-ups and outbreaks of violence at any moment, and UN support for alleviating humanitarian situation in Gaza;
2. *Calls on* the different countries, governments, peoples and non-governmental organizations to scale up their political, moral and financial assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to compensate them for intermittent and suspended aid; *appeals* to EU Member States in particular to maintain their mechanisms for providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people and to bring pressure to bear on the Israeli Government to reach an agreement on the opening of the border crossings in a bid to mitigate the severity of the blockade imposed on the occupied territories;
3. *Urges* all parties to conduct legal investigations into civilian killings on both sides under independent and transparent international supervision, provided that their findings call for holding to account those responsible for such acts;
4. *Reiterates* its complete solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just cause as well as with detained members of the Legislative Council; *calls on* all other regional and international parliamentary and human rights organizations to declare their solidarity with the Palestinian people, and their condemnation of hostilities against them, and to pressure Israel to stop its offensive forthwith and release Palestinian prisoners of war and detainees in Israeli jails;

5. *Calls for* giving effect to efforts of the Middle East Quartet and the international community to bring to an end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories since, including the holy city of Jerusalem, and the creation of an independent Palestinian State in compliance with relevant UN resolutions, the Arab peace initiative and the foundations of the peace process;
6. *Appeals for* accelerated action to achieve peace in the Middle East and establish an independent Palestinian State;
7. *Calls on* the United States, as the sponsor of the Roadmap initiative, to take the necessary steps to speed up the creation of an independent Palestinian State according to the two-State solution contained in the Roadmap, which offers the most suitable settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in an effort to put an end to the deteriorating security situation and break the cycle of reciprocal violence into which the region has been plunged.