



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
120<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings  
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 5 - 10 April 2009



Assembly  
Item 2

A/120/2-P.3  
24 March 2009

**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 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
submitted by the delegation of Oman, on behalf of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union**

On 23 March 2009, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Oman, on behalf of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The situation in Gaza".

Delegates to the 120<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 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Oman, on behalf of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union on Monday, 6 April 2009.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 CHAIRMAN OF THE MAJLISS A'SHURA AND PRESIDENT  
OF THE ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

Muscat, 21 March 2009

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We would like to renew our profound gratitude to the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for its remarkable efforts to strengthen and promote its activities throughout the world. I would also like to express my best wishes for the success of the 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings.

In accordance with Assembly Rules 11.1 and 11.2 of the IPU concerning requests to include an emergency item in the Assembly agenda, and based on the resolutions of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union at its recent meeting in Muscat, we would like to request the inclusion of the following emergency item in the agenda of the 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly:

"The situation in Gaza".

Please find attached a brief explanatory memorandum along with a draft resolution on the proposed emergency item.

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

(signed)

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed bin Mohammed AL EISSAI  
Chairman of the Majliss A'Shura  
President of the Arab  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

## THE SITUATION IN GAZA

### *Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Oman, on behalf of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union*

Israel waged a three-week war on the Gaza Strip, ending with the declaration of a unilateral cease-fire on 18 January 2009.

After a week of air strikes, Israeli tanks and ground forces entered the territory, flattening several neighbourhoods and industrial areas near the border.

Israeli troops used excessive and random force through the entire period of its act of aggression, resulting in the killing of 1,417 persons, 926 of whom were civilians, including 313 minors under the age of 18 and 116 women. A total of 5,700 persons were injured. In all, 15,000 houses and hundreds of businesses were destroyed. Some 158 schools and UN targets were hit, while fruit trees and large swathes of cultivated land were ruined. Many irrigation systems, water wells, warehouses and greenhouses were damaged or destroyed.

As a result of this act of aggression and the ongoing blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, 65 per cent of Gazans live below the poverty line and 37 per cent live in extreme poverty. Sixty-six per cent of the unemployed are extremely poor. Over 1 million of the 1.4 million inhabitants of Gaza live in precarious conditions as most households in the Gaza Strip have only limited access to basic amenities such as food, water, electricity and sanitation.

Against this backdrop, Israel continues its settlement, construction, house-demolition and land-confiscation activities in and around Jerusalem, in particular and the West Bank in general.

Such acts are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law, a number of UN resolutions and peace agreements, and only serve to deteriorate the situation and undermine opportunities for peace in the Middle East.

## THE SITUATION IN GAZA

### ***Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of OMAN, on behalf of the ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION***

The 120<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

- (1) *Considering* UN Security Council resolution 1860 of 8 January 2009 on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question,
- (2) *Mindful* of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
- (3) *Considering* the 1991 Madrid Conference, the 1993 Oslo Accords, the Middle East Quartet Roadmap of 30 April 2003 and the Commitments entered into at the Annapolis Conference in 2007,
- (4) *Mindful* of the Arab peace initiative of 28 March 2002,
- (5) *Considering* the IPU Resolution adopted by the 97<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference in 1997 on safeguarding the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem and utilizing all possible means likely to thwart manoeuvres which are prejudicial to its identity and gravely endanger security and the peace process in the area,
  1. *Expresses* its full sympathy with the Palestinian people in the occupied Gaza Strip who have been experiencing horrible events during the three-week Israeli war on them, and *strongly condemns* the fact that the civilian population and UN facilities were hit during the attacks;
  2. *Calls in the strongest terms* on the Israeli authorities to allow unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance and aid and *insists* on the permanent reopening of all crossing points to the Gaza Strip and on the lifting of the blockade so as to allow the movement of goods and persons without any restrictions whatsoever, and *further calls on* Israel to lift restrictions on the movement and access of Palestinians within, to and from the entire occupied Palestinian territory;
  3. *Calls on* donor countries to honour the pledges made at the Sharm El-Sheikh conference on the reconstruction of Gaza via the Palestinian-European socio-economic management and aid mechanisms and the World Bank Trust Fund;
  4. *Condemns* Israeli settlement, construction, expansion and other similar activities anywhere in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and *expresses its outrage* at plans to build 73,000 new units, including in the "E-1" area, and *calls on* Israel to cancel orders for the destruction of 88 Palestinian homes in Silwan, East Jerusalem;

5. *Calls on* Israel to end its excavations around and under the Al-Aqsa Mosque and to revoke all Israeli measures and actions aimed at altering the legal status and demographic structure of Jerusalem;
6. *Calls on* Member Parliaments to ensure that all weapons delivery from their respective countries to Israel are immediately stopped and *calls for* an investigation, based on strong evidence, into the use of white phosphorous munitions and DIME weapons, and bringing to justice those responsible for war crimes and the destruction of public and private property in the Gaza Strip;
7. *Urges* nationals and companies of the countries of Member Parliaments to refrain from any trade or commerce in or with Israeli settlements or enterprises in settlements built on the occupied Palestinian territories;
8. *Calls for* the release of all Palestinian detainees, especially elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, notably Dr. Aziz Dwek;
9. *Calls on* the Knesset to refrain from passing any legislation that contravenes international law, and which could undermine the peace process;
10. *Insists on* the fact that any future Israeli government should unambiguously endorse the two-State solution, recognize previous agreements and stop attacks against Palestinians;
11. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to resist occupation until full independence is attained and their independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital is established within 1967 borders, 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 on the right of return of Palestinians;
12. *Encourages* tangible steps towards intra-Palestinian reconciliation, including support for the mediation efforts of Egypt and the League of Arab States, as expressed in the Arab League's resolution of 26 November 2008, and consistent with Security Council resolution 1850 and others;
13. *Welcomes* the fact that the Middle East Quartet is considering holding an international meeting in Moscow in 2009.