



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.8  
5 April 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 Canada, on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group**

On 5 April 2009, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Canada, on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of parliaments in respect of the G20 agreement to mitigate the social and political impact of the global economic crisis on the world's most vulnerable".

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 Canada, on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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  
SECRETARY OF THE CANADIAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

Addis Ababa, 5 April 2009

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Canadian Group of the IPU would like to propose the following revised emergency item for inclusion in the agenda of the 120<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. This item has received the unanimous endorsement of the Twelve Plus Group:

"The role of parliaments in respect of the G20 agreement to mitigate the social and political impact of the global economic crisis on the world's most vulnerable".

Please find attached an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution on the proposed item.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Mark D'AMORE  
Secretary of the Canadian  
Inter-Parliamentary Group

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE G20 AGREEMENT TO MITIGATE  
THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS  
ON THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of Canada, on  
behalf of the Twelve Plus Group***

What started as a mortgage problem in the United States has become a worldwide financial crisis.

The global financial crisis has highlighted the need for countries to examine a number of important issues, including financial system regulation, among others.

While the crisis has had detrimental effects on individuals and businesses in a number of countries, the impact on those in developing countries must be considered as a particularly urgent priority.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indicated that a global recovery will be delayed until well into 2010, even if countries adopt the correct policies to fight the recession.

The IMF has also indicated that while most low-income countries escaped the early phases of the global crisis, they are now being hit hard, mostly through the effects on trade in goods as there is a reduced demand by developed countries for goods imported from developing countries.

The World Bank has indicated that several countries, including 17 of the G20 countries that signed the November 2008 pledge to avoid protectionist measures, have implemented 47 measures that restrict trade at the expense of other countries.

The global financial crisis is affecting developed countries in a variety of ways: lower exports, reduced availability and higher cost of credit, lower levels of foreign direct investment, and reduced foreign aid, among others.

These impacts are compromising the ability of developed countries to provide necessary supports.

Global economic decline leads to a deepening of poverty. It is estimated that each 1 per cent drop in global economic growth could mean that an additional 20 million people live in poverty.

A variety of actions have been suggested to help resolve the current global economic crisis, and they should be examined by legislators who should act together for a common cause. In particular, there is a need to examine the following actions, among others: greater transparency regarding new trade restrictions and an analysis of their effects; a renewed commitment to avoid protectionist measures; progress in the context of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations; greater aid for developing countries; and the development of policies that promote global economic growth and poverty alleviation.

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE G20 AGREEMENT TO MITIGATE  
THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS  
ON THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE**

***Draft resolution submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Group of CANADA,  
on behalf of the TWELVE PLUS Group***

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

- (1) *Considering* the consequences of the global financial crisis and its adverse impacts on the global economy, in particular on developing nations,
- (2) *Noting* the recent indication by the International Monetary Fund that a global recovery will be delayed until well into 2010 even if countries adopt the correct policies to fight the recession,
- (3) *Considering* the further indication by the International Monetary Fund that while most low-income countries escaped the early phases of the global crisis, they are now being hit hard,
- (4) *Recognizing* the World Bank announcement that countries, including 17 of the G20 countries that signed the November 2008 pledge to avoid protectionist measures, have implemented 47 measures that restrict trade at the expense of other countries,
- (5) *Bearing in mind* the further indication by the World Bank that every 1 per cent drop in global economic growth could trap an additional 20 million people in poverty,
- (6) *Aware* of speculation that world leaders are likely to extend, by 12 months, their November 2008 commitment to avoid protectionist measures,
- (7) *Considering* the importance of parliaments' role, in cooperation with national governments, in trying to reduce the negative impacts of the global financial crisis on the world's most vulnerable,
- (8) *Bearing in mind* the shared and differentiated responsibilities of all countries to address the global financial crisis for humanitarian and other reasons,
- (9) *Recognizing* the need to ensure the establishment of a stable, fair and secure global economic system,
- (10) *Mindful* of the interdependence of national economies and global economic systems,
- (11) *Concerned* that the global financial crisis is affecting developed countries through lower exports, reduced availability and higher cost of credit, lower levels of foreign direct investment and reduced foreign aid, as well as through other means,

1. *Urges* parliamentarians and relevant parliamentary committees to explore ways to mitigate the negative effects of the global financial crisis, particularly on developing nations;
2. *Calls on* national parliaments to ensure effective regulation of financial systems in order to avoid future financial difficulties of the current nature and magnitude;
3. *Requests* the governments of developed nations to assume appropriate responsibility for developing countries, particularly as strategies to address the global financial crisis are being developed;
4. *Calls* for urgent action in respect of the global financial crisis at the forthcoming Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis scheduled for 7 and 8 May 2009.