



## 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 125<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Palestine

On 10 October 2011, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Palestine a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 125<sup>th</sup> Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Realizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination".

Delegates to the 125<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 125<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Palestine on Monday, 17 October, 2011.

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 will 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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL**

10 October 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to submit to you a request for inclusion in the agenda of the 125<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Realizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination"

which the delegation of Palestine intends to present to the 125<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly for its consideration.

Please find attached the related explanatory memorandum and draft resolution.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Saleem ZANOON  
Speaker  
Palestine National Council

## REALIZING THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION

### *Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Palestine*

Israel, the Occupying Power, has been and continues to occupy Palestinian land since 1967, and has committed systematic and organized violations of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, including in East Jerusalem.

Article 1 paragraph 2 of the IPU Statutes provides that: "As the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue since 1889, the Inter-Parliamentary Union shall work for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions. To that end, it shall:

- (a) Foster contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- (b) Consider questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
- (c) Contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development;
- (d) Contribute to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action".

Important steps have been taken by the Palestinian leadership to ensure full UN membership for Palestine, in particular the formal request for membership submitted by President Mahmoud Abbas to the UN Secretary-General and to the President of the UN General Assembly and the President of the UN Security Council on 23 September 2011.

The Palestinian people have a natural right to self-determination, and the Palestinian authorities have honoured their commitments and obligations as set forth in the Roadmap for Peace and at relevant international conferences.

The Palestinian National Authority has made significant achievements in terms of building State institutions in accordance with international norms and standards, including with regard to the latest reports by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other competent international organizations, in particular the European Union and the United Nations.

It should be recalled that over 131 countries have recognized the State of Palestine.

## REALIZING THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION

### *Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of PALESTINE*

The 125<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the IPU Statutes, particularly Article 1 paragraph 2, which states the organization's aims to "work for peace and cooperation among peoples", "consider questions of international interest" and "contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights",
- (2) *Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Articles 1 and 55 thereof, which affirm the right to self-determination of peoples, and *reaffirming* the need for scrupulous respect of the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations, as specified in the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as set forth in UN General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,
- (3) *Recalling* the decision of the IPU Governing Council of 15 October 2008, in which it decided to admit the Parliament of Palestine as a Member of the IPU,
  1. *Underscores* the pivotal role the IPU can play in fulfilling and realizing the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their most fundamental right of self-determination;
  2. *Recommends* that the relevant UN bodies, particularly the members of the Security Council, and international organizations, endorse the request made by Palestine to be admitted as a full-fledged Member State of the United Nations.