



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

132nd IPU Assembly

Hanoi (Viet Nam), 28 March - 1 April 2015



Assembly
Item 2

A/132/2-P.6
19 March 2015

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 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

On 19 March 2015, the President of the IPU received from the Speaker of the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic, a request for the inclusion in the agenda of the 132nd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in addressing the terrorism and extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups".

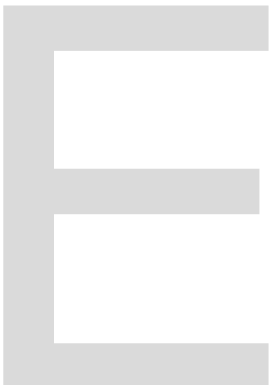
Delegates to the 132nd Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 132nd Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday, 29 March 2015.

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 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 ADRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU
BY THE SPEAKER OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Damascus, 19 March 2015
Number 63

Dear Mr. President,

Based on the goals and objectives contained in the IPU Statutes, the role of the IPU should be to effectively address major international issues, especially those whose negative effects transcend national and geopolitical borders. In accordance with Assembly Rule 11, the People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic has the honour to request the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 132nd IPU Assembly, to be held in Hanoi (Viet Nam), from 28 March to 1 April 2015, entitled:

"The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in addressing the terrorism and extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups".

Please find enclosed with our request:

1. A brief explanatory memorandum;
2. A draft resolution;
3. Translations of the explanatory memorandum and the draft resolution in English, French and Arabic.

We are confident that this subject, which concerns a serious threat, will capture the attention of the IPU and its Members and prompt them to take the necessary measures to mitigate the impact of terrorism and extremism.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Mohammad Jihad AL-LAHHAM
Speaker of the People's Assembly
Syrian Arab Republic

**THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN ADDRESSING THE TERRORISM
AND EXTREMISM OF THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL),
AL-NUSRA FRONT AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic

The People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with Assembly Rule 11, hereby requests the IPU and its Member Parliaments to include the following emergency item in the agenda of the 132nd IPU Assembly: *The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in addressing the terrorism and extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups*, based on the considerations presented below.

Both Syria and Iraq have been exposed for more than three years to a war waged by *takfiri* terrorist groups calling themselves the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), "Al-Nusra Front" and "The Islamic Front", and by other terrorist groups that have adopted the terrorist ideology of Al-Qaida. These organizations have managed to expand their control over several areas in Syria and Iraq thanks to the fact that they receive cross-border funding and are trained and armed by governments, associations, institutions, entities and individuals. As a result, these groups pose an imminent danger to the countries in the Middle East, especially with the expansion of terrorist organizations in Libya and other countries, and are threatening to spread to Asia, Europe, the United States of America and other regions. This is because these terrorist organizations are attracting large numbers of foreign fighters from Europe, Asia, Africa and other countries. Upon returning home, these fighters risk committing terrorist acts there as well.

The above-mentioned terrorist organizations could invade large areas of western Iraq and eastern Syria. They have carried out mass executions of innocent civilians, slaughtering children, women and men, and displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes because of their religious, ethnic or political affiliation. They have displaced thousands of Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, hundreds of thousands of citizens in Syria, looted oil and energy resources, and destroyed infrastructure, places of worship and historical monuments, targeting the cultural and human heritage of the region.

The ability of these organizations to maintain and enhance their military capabilities is linked largely to the sources of funding that they receive. These take the form of financial transfers from governments, associations, institutions, entities and individuals, or proceeds from the illegal sale of oil following the seizure of oil wells in Syria and Iraq. Some governments and States continue to facilitate the arrival of fighters and jihadists from around the world and the transfer of advanced weapons to these terrorist organizations. They justify their actions by claiming to support the "rebels" in Syria and Iraq.

The rise of ISIL and Al-Nusra Front – terrorist entities in Syria and Iraq with wide-ranging sources of funding, arms and recruitment – constitutes a real threat to international peace and security.

We express our support for the latest international measures taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, namely: UN Security Council resolution 2170 (2014), which was adopted unanimously at a meeting held on 15 August 2014 and condemns ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and individuals, groups, undertakings, entities and other terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida; UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), on preventing the international flow of terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones; and UN Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), on the ways and means of cutting off financing for ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and similar terrorist organizations.

We also express our support for the efforts of the Syrian and Iraqi Governments to tackle these terrorist and extremist organizations.

The People's Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic considers that it is very important for the IPU and its Member Parliaments to lend their support to regional and international efforts aimed at addressing this threat and restoring security and stability in the Middle East. On this basis, international and parliamentary efforts must be mobilized to provide assistance and relief to persons affected by the criminal actions of these organizations.

**THE ROLE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN ADDRESSING THE TERRORISM
AND EXTREMISM OF THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL),
AL-NUSRA FRONT AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* its commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to the need to preserve the independence of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq and the sovereignty and integrity of their territory,
- (2) *Recalling* previous IPU resolutions regarding respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the need to uphold the UN Charter in dealings between countries in order to maintain international peace and security,
- (3) *Underscoring* the inherent right of States to self-defence, as recognized in the UN Charter and in UN Security Council resolution 1368 (2001),
- (4) *Noting with deep concern* the rise of terrorist acts in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Iraq, perpetrated by groups bearing the names "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) and "Al-Nusra Front" and by other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida,
- (5) *Mindful* of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 and 2178 (2014), relating to the fight against terrorism and efforts to stem the recruitment of foreign fighters by ISIL and Al-Nusra Front, UN Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), on cutting off funding for the two terrorist organizations, and resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and other UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions dealing with the fight against terrorism, which underscore that all forms and manifestations of terrorism represent the most serious threats to international peace and security, and which appeal to the international community to adopt a firm stance against terrorism by taking appropriate measures to prevent terrorist acts and to hold to account the perpetrators and financiers of such acts as well as those who harbour terrorists, incite them to commit such acts or fail to take appropriate measures to prevent such acts or bring their perpetrators to justice,
- (6) *Reaffirming* previous IPU resolutions on combatting terrorism and terrorist acts committed under any banner,
- (7) *Also reaffirming* that all forms and manifestations of terrorism constitute some of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that all terrorist acts are crimes against humanity,
- (8) *Expressing deep concern* over the seizure and control of large swathes of eastern Syria and western Iraq by two terrorist organizations – ISIL and Al-Nusra Front – and their impact on the security and stability of the region and on the civilian population in the form of deaths, ill-treatment and displacement,
- (9) *Welcoming* the decision of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq to openly cooperate with any regional or international effort aimed at fighting terrorism, in particular terrorist acts committed by ISIL and Al-Nusra Front or other terrorist groups in the Middle East,
 1. *Condemns* in the strongest terms the terrorist acts committed by ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida;
 2. *Condemns in particular* the systematic human rights violations committed by ISIL, such as massacres, mass executions, beheadings and the extensive displacement of civilians, including those based on ethnic, factional or sectarian considerations;

3. *Further condemns* the systematic destruction of religious symbols, places of worship, antiquities and historical monuments that are of great importance for the cultural and human heritage of the peoples of the region and the world, the destruction of schools and hospitals, which denies children, especially girls, access to education and medical care, the fact that women are stripped of all their rights, and the looting of oil and energy sources in Syria and Iraq;
4. *Calls upon* all States and governments to put up a global front in the fight against terrorism, with the participation of all countries suffering at the hand of terrorist groups, especially ISIL and Al-Nusra Front;
5. *Encourages* IPU Member Parliaments to pass national laws on combatting terrorism and develop regional and international strategies to stem the sources of terrorism and stop incitement to terrorist acts, funding, arms transfers and recruitment to terrorist organizations;
6. *Appeals* to all countries to counter terrorist and extreme ideology on the cultural, religious, political and media fronts by inculcating the values of tolerance and co-existence among peoples, based on the principles of mutual respect and equality and the promotion of citizenship and general humanitarian values of civilization, as a means of curbing the spread of terrorist ideology, which is founded on the rejection of other religions and sects and incitement to hatred and violence;
7. *Calls upon* all States that support the armed terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq with money or weapons to immediately stop funding, arming and abetting them, as doing so is a flagrant violation of international law and State sovereignty and flouts the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, thus fuelling the conflict and leading to the deaths of more innocent victims;
8. *Urges* the countries neighbouring Syria and Iraq to refrain from harbouring, training and allowing the passage of weapons and terrorists through their territories, and to coordinate border controls and prevent any direct or indirect trade through the purchase of oil, gas or any other business transactions that contribute to funding terrorist organizations;
9. *Calls upon* all States, governments and parliaments to pass the necessary laws and take other measures aimed at preventing incitement to terrorism and violence, justification of terrorist acts and the spread of sectarian, doctrinal and ethnic divisions, in particular in audio-visual, print and social media (radio and television, newspapers and magazines, websites, etc.);
10. *Also calls upon* all States, governments and parliaments to support the efforts made by Syria and Iraq to deal with the terrorist groups, especially ISIL and Al-Nusra Front;
11. *Calls upon* all IPU Member Parliaments to exert political pressure so as to stop some countries from interfering in the internal affairs of Syria and Iraq;
12. *Also calls upon* Member Parliaments to make practical efforts to support a political solution in Syria that obliges the parties to the conflict to commit to dialogue without preconditions;
13. *Urges* all States and international relief agencies to provide aid and urgent humanitarian assistance to persons affected by acts committed by terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq, in cooperation with the Governments of these two States;
14. *Also urges* the institutions, bodies and civil society organizations that play a significant part in shaping public opinion to step up their campaigns to expose and confront terrorist and extreme acts and ideologies, which lack the most basic of civilized concepts.