



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

136th IPU Assembly

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Assembly
Item 2

A/136/2-P.3
27 March 2017

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 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Belgium

On 24 March 2017, the Secretary General received from the President of the Belgian Inter-Parliamentary Group a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 136th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"The famine affecting the populations of Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northern Kenya".

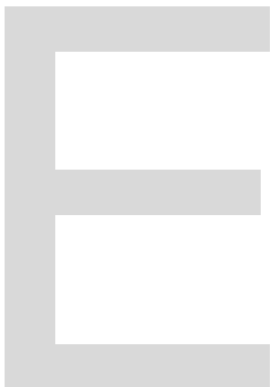
Delegates to the 136th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request (Annex I), as well as an explanatory memorandum (Annex II) and a draft resolution (Annex III) in support thereof.

The 136th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Belgium on Sunday, 2 April 2017.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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



#IPU136

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE BELGIAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

Brussels, 24 March 2017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with Rule 11 of the Rules of the Assembly, the Belgian Inter-Parliamentary Group wishes to request the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 136th Assembly entitled:

"The famine affecting the populations of Yemen, South Sudan,
Somalia and northern Kenya".

Please find attached a short explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution in support of this request.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Pol VAN DEN DRIESSCHE, Senator
President of the
Belgian Inter-Parliamentary Group

**THE FAMINE AFFECTING THE POPULATIONS OF YEMEN, SOUTH SUDAN,
SOMALIA AND NORTHERN KENYA**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Belgium

On 10 March 2017, the United Nations alerted the international community to the fact that the populations of Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northern Kenya were being hit by famine. It has the potential to become the most severe humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War. Parliaments must do everything in their power to contribute to providing appropriate humanitarian aid.

**THE FAMINE AFFECTING THE POPULATIONS OF YEMEN, SOUTH SUDAN,
SOMALIA AND NORTHERN KENYA**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of BELGIUM

The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Referring to* the report to the UN Security Council of 10 March 2017 from the UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator regarding the famine affecting the populations of Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northern Kenya,
- (2) *Overwhelmed by* the scale of the famine and its dramatic impact on the health of those living in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northern Kenya,
- (3) *Considering* that in Yemen, two thirds of the population – 18.8 million people – need assistance, that, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a child dies every 10 minutes in Yemen, and that more than seven million people "don't know where their next meal will come from",
- (4) *Considering* the worsening food crisis in South Sudan, where more than 7.5 million people are suffering from hunger, which is 1.4 million more than last year;
- (5) *Considering* that in Somalia, 6.2 million people need assistance, of whom 2.9 million are threatened by famine,
- (6) *Considering* that in northern Kenya, more than 2.7 million people are also living in food insecurity and that this figure could rise to four million in April,
- (7) *Expressing* deep concern for the future of the populations affected,
- (8) *Expressing* complete solidarity with the peoples of Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northern Kenya who are suffering from famine,
- (9) *Aware* that humanitarian crises also have manmade causes, including armed conflict, and that parties to these conflicts should be reminded of their responsibilities, but *emphasizing* that we have a collective responsibility to urgently provide the humanitarian aid that is needed,
- (10) *Recalling* that the lack of effective funding for humanitarian aid is seriously harming current efforts,
- (11) *Supporting* the ministerial-level pledging conference to be held in Geneva on 25 April under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General and on the initiative of Switzerland and Sweden,
- (12) *Condemning* anything that hinders humanitarian access,
 1. *Urges* all Members of the IPU, other international organizations and the international community as a whole to powerfully strengthen their efforts to provide all necessary support and humanitarian aid to the peoples of Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northern Kenya;
 2. *Calls on* Members of the IPU who have not already done so to commit to funding voluntary humanitarian aid contributions according the means at their disposal;
 3. *Urges* the international community to work together so that humanitarian aid can reach the affected regions as soon as possible;

4. *Calls* in particular on governments to end hostilities and immediately remove anything that hinders humanitarian access;
5. *Urges* the authorities to ensure the safety of the staff and activities of humanitarian organizations, as well as the operational healthcare infrastructure and its staff in the regions affected by famine;
6. *Calls on* the African Union (AU), governments, relevant international organizations and the IPU Secretariat to help the countries concerned to strengthen their democratic institutions, while fully respecting their sovereignty and territorial integrity, including through devising programmes to help them establish the rule of law;
7. *Also calls on* the Women, Gender and Development directorate of the African Union, the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO), UN Women, the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and other relevant international organizations to support the affected populations, especially women and children, in rebuilding their livelihoods and strengthening their capacity to care for their families, so as to enable them to regain their health;
8. *Requests* that the IPU Secretary General reports back to the 137th IPU Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution.