



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 148th IPU Assembly

## Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

Assembly  
Item 2

A/148/2-P.4-rev.2  
24 March 2024

## 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 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegations of Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom

On 23 March 2024, the IPU Secretary General received from the delegations of Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 148th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“Call for urgent action regarding the conflict in the Middle East”.

Delegates to the 148th 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 148th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegations of Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom on Sunday, 24 March 2024.

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 IPU 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 recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. 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.

E

#IPU148

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE IPU SECRETARY GENERAL  
BY THE DELEGATIONS OF DENMARK, FRANCE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, PORTUGAL,  
SWEDEN and UNITED KINGDOM**

23 March 2024

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Enclosed please find a proposal for an emergency item from the Danish IPU Group.

"Call for urgent action regarding the conflict in the Middle East".

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Peter RIIS  
International Senior Adviser  
Secretary to the Danish delegation to the IPU

**CALL FOR URGENT ACTION REGARDING THE CONFLICT  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegations of Denmark, France, Hungary,  
Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, and United Kingdom***

The current conflict between Israel and Palestine has created immense human suffering and global geopolitical instability. The scale of the humanitarian crisis and loss of life in Gaza and the enormity of the grievous acts of terror against the Israeli people must be immediately and constructively addressed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

To bring about an immediate and sustainable end to this suffering, we must immediately find a common starting point from which to begin, which is rooted in a shared desire to end human suffering.

This resolution proposes that this starting point be focused upon calling for an immediate ceasefire to protect civilians on all sides, the release of all hostages, the immediate and unimpeded delivery of essential humanitarian assistance, and respect for all relevant international laws.

The resolution's focus on these aspects alone recognizes that the complexity, division and geopolitics that surround the conflict have to date prevented action that could alleviate human suffering. It would allow for delegations to raise a multitude of these issues and positions during the debate while providing a clear call to action that would act as a starting point upon which Member Parliaments could act.

The 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union failed to establish a unifying emergency resolution on this urgent situation. The civilians involved in this conflict cannot afford for the 148th Assembly to have the same outcome. We should leave united in a shared desire to end human suffering, not divided.

**CALL FOR URGENT ACTION REGARDING THE CONFLICT  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegations of DENMARK, FRANCE, HUNGARY, IRELAND  
PORTUGAL, SWEDEN, and UNITED KINGDOM***

The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* all relevant resolutions from multilateral institutions, international law, and international obligations,
- (2) *Appalled* by the scale of the humanitarian crisis and enormous loss of life in Gaza and the grievous acts of terror that the Israeli people faced on 7 October 2023,
- (3) *Alarmed* that the suffering continues to this day without a clear path to immediate action which would alleviate human suffering,
  1. *Calls for* an immediate ceasefire to protect civilians on all sides, the release of all hostages, the immediate and unimpeded delivery of essential humanitarian assistance, and respect for all relevant international laws.