



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola
23–27 October 2023



Assembly
Item 2

A/147/2-P.3
23 October 2023

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 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Malaysia

On 23 October 2023, the IPU Secretary General received from the delegation of Malaysia a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 147th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“A multifaceted approach to the question of Palestine:
Parliamentary diplomacy and Sustainable Development Goal 16”.

Delegates to the 147th 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 147th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Malaysia on Tuesday, 24 October 2023.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE IPU SECRETARY GENERAL BY
THE SECRETARY TO THE DELEGATION OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA**

23 October 2023

Dear IPU Secretariat,

We are pleased to enclose our emergency item entitled:

“A multifaceted approach to the question of Palestine:
Parliamentary diplomacy and Sustainable Development Goal 16”.

for your reference and further actions.

We look forward to your cooperation in adding our emergency item to the list.
Should you require any further clarification, please do let us know.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Nurul FADHILAH IBHARIM
Secretary to the Delegation
Parliament of Malaysia

**A MULTIFACETED APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE:
PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Malaysia

The current humanitarian situation in Palestine originates in a conflict that extends back to the early 20th century and involves territorial disputes, political tensions and social inequality. The 1948 establishment of the State of Israel displaced many Palestinians, creating an unresolved refugee crisis. Israel's military occupations, blockades, and movement and resource restrictions have only aggravated the situation throughout the years. These have significantly impacted the economic, social and health infrastructure in the Palestinian territories, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank.

Since the beginning of October this year, the Israeli Air Force has continuously attacked Gaza, resulting in the deployment of at least 6,000 rockets and the fatalities of over 1,500 Palestinians, including civilians. The severely damaged infrastructure makes evacuation difficult, and medical treatment is limited and difficult to obtain. In addition, the dense population of the region increases the likelihood of civilian casualties, particularly among minors. Human casualty numbers are staggering for both parties. There have been thousands of Israelis injured, and hostages have been seized. According to the most recent reports, over 9,200 Gazans have been injured, and over 2,450 have been killed. In Gaza, hospitals are overcrowded and medical supplies are running low. In the West Bank, clashes have resulted in the deaths of 54 Palestinians.

Gaza has been under a blockade and the current conflict has caused a severe shortage of food, fuel, medication and clean water. The situation was heightened by Israel isolating the territory. This resulted in dire humanitarian consequences. For example, despite assurances by the Israeli Defence Forces that the evacuation route was secure, several airstrikes were launched on a fleeing Palestinian convoy, resulting in a number of casualties, including women and children. The scope of violence in the current conflict has already surpassed that of the most recent severe conflict, which occurred in 2021, and is anticipated to escalate further. Israel, an undeclared nuclear power and a major recipient of US military aid, has the potential to wage an all-out conflict against Gaza.

Israel proclaimed war on Palestine and imposed a "complete siege" on Gaza, resulting in daily rocket exchanges and a humanitarian catastrophe. Due to an Israeli aid blockade, Gaza is presently running out of basic supplies. This escalation has had a detrimental effect on health care, with over 115 attacks on health care facilities in Palestine, including the brutal shelling of al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza on 17 October 2023, resulting in hundreds of civilian deaths. The lacklustre response of the international community is exemplified by the UN Security Council's refusal to adopt a resolution led by the Russian Federation and Brazil, calling for humanitarian pauses to enable UN agencies and their partners full, safe and unimpeded access to the war zone.

The ongoing conflict has also raised concerns regarding the legality of both factions' actions. According to United Nations experts, international law prohibits collective punishment, which Israel's actions may constitute.

The blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt has resulted in a protracted humanitarian crisis in Gaza, marked by extreme poverty, food insecurity, and lack of access to clean water and essential health care. We anticipate that the present conflict will significantly intensify these conditions. Numerous nations, including Brazil, India, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom, as well as the European Union, are collaborating with the Egyptian government to establish a humanitarian corridor, but their efforts are being hampered.

While it is too early to completely assess the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the global economy, the world stands on the brink of a dangerous abyss. This conflict could alter not only the trajectory of Israeli-Palestinian relations but also the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East and, by extension, the entire globe.

The relationship between crude oil prices and economic recessions is a fundamental geopolitical principle. As a considerable contributor to global oil supplies, the Middle East is especially susceptible to instability. Recent Israeli-Palestinian tensions have led to speculative increases in oil prices due to potential supply disruptions, echoing the economic effects of the 1973 Arab-Israeli conflict.

The possibility of the present conflict escalating and further destabilizing the region and, by extension, the entire globe, is not merely theoretical but a tangible possibility.

The inability of the international community to find an enduring solution has resulted in a stalemate with devastating effects on civilians, particularly Palestinians. Consequently, this resolution seeks an immediate cessation of hostilities and addresses the fundamental causes of the conflict through parliamentary diplomacy including establishing peace talks. In accordance with SDG 16, it calls for a multifaceted approach involving conflict resolution, peacebuilding and the promotion of justice.

In light of the escalating violence and worsening humanitarian situation, the resolution urges the international community to establish a committee to monitor the humanitarian situation and the actions of all parties involved. The resolution is an urgent appeal to parliamentarians, national parliaments and the international community to take immediate and comprehensive action to resolve the crisis.

**A MULTIFACETED APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE:
PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of MALAYSIA

The 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Bearing in mind* the principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations, which emphasizes the importance of respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,
- (2) *Recognizing* the theme of the 147th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly, *Parliamentary action for peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16)*, as the guiding principle for this resolution,
- (3) *Recognizing also* the importance placed by the United Nations General Assembly on achieving peace, justice and strong institutions by 2030 as targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 16,
- (4) *Recalling* previous IPU resolutions that emphasized peace, justice and strong institutions, particularly those aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 16 and those relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including but not limited to *The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of the UN Charter and resolutions* (138th Assembly, Geneva, March 2018), and the Doha Declaration on *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law* (140th Assembly, Doha, April 2019),
- (5) *Recalling also* the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council, United Nations General Assembly, and other significant international documents on the question of Palestine,
- (6) *Expressing grave concern* over the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, which has led to a severe humanitarian crisis impacting civilians on both sides and a multifaceted and detrimental impact on human security, affecting not just combatants but also the civilian population, as corroborated by international reports and briefings,
- (7) *Noting with deep concern* the recent surge in violence, particularly after the attacks on 7 October 2023, that has further intensified the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,
- (8) *Taking into account* the statement made by the United Nations Secretary-General regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which highlights the urgency of ending violence and providing humanitarian aid,
- (9) *Recognizing* the insufficient attention given by the international community to the complexities and humanitarian concerns stemming from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,
- (10) *Expressing deep concern* over the ongoing illegal occupation and blockades of Palestinian territory and the immense human suffering caused, as well as the continuous desecration of Al-Aqsa and the policies of apartheid and dispossession implemented by Israel as the occupying power; and *acknowledging* these actions as grave violations against humanity,
- (11) *Welcoming* the opening of the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza on Saturday, 21 October 2023, which has allowed the entry of a humanitarian convoy of 20 aid trucks delivering desperately needed food, water, medicine and medical supplies,
- (12) *Mindful of* the significant impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on global oil prices and supply chains and, consequently, the world economy,

(13) *Recognizing* the importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a valuable addition to traditional diplomatic channels, with the goal of promoting dialogue, influencing public opinion and finding peaceful resolutions to conflicts,

(14) *Acknowledging* the distinct role of parliamentarians as elected representatives of the people, with the ability to shape policies, rally public support and foster diplomatic ties,

(15) *Realizing* the crucial role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening global collaboration, upholding human rights and fostering peaceful conflict resolution,

(16) *Emphasizing* the power of parliamentary diplomacy to serve as a connection between official diplomatic endeavours and the general public, thus enhancing the peace process by promoting inclusiveness,

(17) *Stressing* the importance of addressing the targets of SDG 16 in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which include reducing violence, promoting the rule of law and developing effective, accountable institutions,

1. *Condemns* all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction;
2. *Urges* all Member Parliaments to actively participate in parliamentary diplomacy to ensure that all parties involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict abide by the principles of international humanitarian law, especially in terms of safeguarding innocent civilians on both sides;
3. *Urges* parliamentarians around the globe to actively participate in parliamentary diplomacy as a crucial means for resolving conflicts, fostering peace and advancing justice in alignment with SDG 16;
4. *Encourages* all parties involved to avoid any actions that could worsen the conflict and to commit fully to peaceful negotiations;
5. *Urges* all parties involved to promptly halt any acts of violence and hostility, following the objectives set out in SDG targets 16.1 and 16.2, and to uphold international humanitarian law;
6. *Calls for* the prompt and absolute enforcement of a ceasefire by all parties concerned, in line with the principles outlined in SDG target 16.1;
7. *Urges* Member Parliaments to actively support peacebuilding efforts in the region by engaging via diplomatic channels, providing humanitarian aid and participating in multilateral discussions;
8. *Reminds* the international community to consider the economic ramifications of the conflict and support parliamentary initiatives aimed at de-escalating tensions and promoting global economic stability;
9. *Calls upon* all Member Parliaments to consider the use of parliamentary diplomacy as an additional means to support ongoing diplomatic efforts, foster dialogue and trust, and find a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
10. *Strongly insists* that all parties involved should strictly adhere to the international agreements and resolutions that have been established regarding the conflict;
11. *Expresses strong support* for the Palestinian people's rightful struggle to end the Israeli occupation and reclaim their rights to return and establish an independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital;

12. *Urges* all parliaments to encourage their governments to recognize the State of Palestine with its capital in East Jerusalem, based on the 1967 borders outlined in United Nations resolutions;
13. *Calls for* the revitalization of the peace process through a collaborative effort in line with United Nations resolutions via traditional and parliamentary diplomacy;
14. *Urges* the prompt opening of all borders, with particular emphasis on the Rafah crossing, to facilitate the crucial delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians;
15. *Expresses strong support* for the need to urgently establish a humanitarian corridor at the Rafah crossing, which will facilitate the delivery of essential aid items, particularly food and medicine, to alleviate the immense suffering of those affected by the ongoing conflict;
16. *Calls for* the swift reinstatement of Palestinians' access to vital utilities and resources, such as electricity, water, fuel and food, as an imperative humanitarian action aimed at safeguarding the human security of affected civilian populations;
17. *Supports* the establishment of a two-State solution between Palestine and Israel, with East Jerusalem as the capital of an independent State of Palestine, to achieve a lasting peace and end hostilities as per United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016);
18. *Suggests* establishing a dedicated IPU committee to closely monitor the situation and provide a report at the next IPU Assembly;
19. *Recommends* that this resolution be shared with all pertinent international organizations for further action;
20. *Urgently calls* for the convening of an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council in accordance with its mandated Charter to demand the respect and protection of innocent civilian lives by all parties involved;
21. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.