



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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143rd IPU Assembly

Madrid, Spain

26-30 November 2021



Assembly
Item 2

A/143/2-P.3
25 November 2021

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 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Mexico

On 25 November 2021, the Secretary General received from the delegation of Mexico a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 143rd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Impetus to regional development of countries
with high levels of international migration".

Delegates to the 143rd 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 143rd Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Mexico on Saturday, 27 November 2021.

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- (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item, unless it is clearly referred to in the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 SECRETARY GENERAL BY
SENATOR GEOVANNA DEL CARMEN BAÑUELOS DE LA TORRE, SENATE OF MEXICO**

Mexico, 23 November 2021

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with the provisions of Article 14.2 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly, I have the honour to submit a request to place on the agenda of the 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which will take place in Madrid, Spain from 27 to 29 November 2021, an emergency item on the subject of:

"Impetus to regional development of countries
with high levels of international migration".

Please find attached a short explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution defining the scope of the subject matter covered by this request.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Geovanna del Carmen BAÑUELOS
DE LA TORRE (Ms.), Senator
Senate of Mexico

IMPETUS TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRIES WITH HIGH LEVELS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Mexico

International cooperation is key to resolving the problems in our region. The creation of appropriate mechanisms, through dialogue and agreement, to protect the most vulnerable persons living in a situation of grave inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean is a priority.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the inequalities in the different countries in our region by completely changing education, the economy, the world of labour and the society. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimates show that 209 million persons in the region lived in poverty in the region at the end of 2020 which was 22 million more than the previous year. However, the pandemic is not the only cause of the profound poverty crisis and inequalities that affect millions of persons who live between the Rio Bravo and Patagonia.

Different kinds of imbalances in the global economic system have plunged millions of persons into poverty and extreme poverty or have been made vulnerable due to social deprivation. In parallel, there emerged violations of economic, social and cultural rights of the population which started the process of the disintegration of the social fabric.

For example, in the case of the Haitian migrants, serious poverty and lack of opportunities in the country were worsened with the 2010 earthquake after which the Haitian population has not experienced any development in more than 10 years.

This situation, of the last 11 years, has caused the dispersal of Haitian migrants throughout Latin America and has resulted in the terrible images of Haitian migrants on the border of Mexico and the United States where they hope to be granted asylum. Briefly, what we are living through today is the result of a decade-long process during which these persons have been unsuccessfully looking for life opportunities and security in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The additional factor in Latin America and the Caribbean is the armed and organized criminal groups that profit from this poverty and recruit thousands of young people to reinforce their organizations. The new generations who live in economically difficult conditions and with few development perspectives see as their survival option either to escape from their place of origin because of violence and poverty or to join a criminal organization.

For example, since 2014, the number of migrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador seeking asylum in Mexico and the United States has grown substantially. The violence in the north of Central America has reached alarming levels as can be seen in the unfortunate example of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, which is considered an extremely insecure place as there are 87.14 murders for every 100,000 inhabitants. The reality is overwhelming as we face a grave humanitarian crisis in Central America and the Caribbean.

To put it clearly, no one who can meet their basic needs and personal and professional development needs will leave their place of origin, their roots, family and friends, and their possessions to migrate to another country. Migration is a social phenomenon provoked by the people's need to have security and possibilities to overcome poverty and helplessness in their place of origin.

As for migration in the American continent, those opting to migrate to the United States of America by undertaking a voyage during which they are exposed to perils and hardships that are a threat to their physical integrity and lives, with the hope of reaching the so-called "American dream" is nothing more than a search for a decent job to provide for the family.

Parliaments can act to protect the human rights of migrants seeking international protection. The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees adopted in 1951 and its 1967 Protocol define the term "refugee" and determine their rights as well as the obligation of States to protect them.

We must deal with the structural causes of migration. To this effect, the Government of Mexico has decided to design and implement policies aimed at creating zones of economic development, as well as to implement social wellbeing programmes so that people enjoy living in their places of origin instead of having to emigrate because of poverty and marginalization.

One such example is the "Sembrando vida" (Sowing Life) Programme whose main aim is to convert rural communities into strategic sectors by developing the countryside, to increase the productivity of these low-producing areas and guarantee sustainable regional short-, mid- and long-term development. The Programme was fully welcomed by the United States Special Envoy John Kerry who committed to cooperate to have the programme implemented in Central America.

On his part, the President of the United States Joseph Biden agreed with the President of Mexico Mr. Andrés Manuel López Obrador to promote the Youth Constructing the Future Programme in Honduras which offers opportunities for the professional integration of youth to enhance their opportunities for professional development.

We must combat the structural causes of migration and abandon xenophobic policies. There must be respect for the principles of non-refoulement, non-rejection at borders, non-detention of children and adolescents and family unity as central elements of migratory policies.

Let us advance in line with a paradigm that offers full protection of the rights of migrants and asylum seekers through international cooperation as an instrument that can resolve the structural causes of migration which force thousands of people to flee their country.

**IMPETUS TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRIES WITH HIGH LEVELS
OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of MEXICO

The 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing* its deep concern at the globally prevalent marginalization, exclusion and violence against the migrant population that enjoys international protection,
- (2) *Convinced* that peace, security and development are closely interlinked,
- (3) *Recognizing* that migration is a global phenomenon caused by the socioeconomic conditions people face in their country of origin,
- (4) *Noting* the insecurity that various regions in the world are currently experiencing, more specifically Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, Haiti and the Caribbeans, that forces their populations to flee and seek refuge in other countries,
- (5) *Seeking to guarantee* the rights of migrants and persons seeking asylum as laid down in various international treaties, in particular the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol,
- (6) *Reaffirming* the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions, as well as the values and principles of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
- (7) *Affirming* that migration, forced displacement and the flow of refugees are due to the socioeconomic and political conditions in countries of origin necessitating international cooperation in addressing these structural causes of migration,
- (8) *Convinced* that the phenomenon of refugees who flee for economic reasons is a reality,
 1. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to transmit the present resolution to the IPU Member Parliaments, the United Nations Secretary-General and all relevant institutions;
 2. *Urges* the IPU Member Parliaments to ensure that their governments commit to implement the norms of international law and the resolutions of the international community and the United Nations Security Council;
 3. *Requests* the strengthening of international solidarity with Latin American and the Caribbean countries, as well as with countries in Africa and the Middle East where economic and security conditions incite the migration of persons to developed countries;
 4. *Calls upon* all IPU Member Parliaments to design and undertake actions to eliminate violence and inequality by implementing development programmes in countries with high levels of international migration and migrant transit countries to offer perspectives of development in places of origin;
 5. *Calls upon* all governments in the world to design and implement development programmes that help eliminate inequality, poverty, lack of opportunities and violence experienced by persons in countries with high levels of international migration and migrant transit countries in order to develop opportunities in places of origin so that people are not forced to leave their place of origin;
 6. *Calls upon* the parliaments of the world to combat all forms of stigmatization and discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, nationality or migratory status; and, consequently, to legislate in favour of the rights of migrants seeking international protection and to guarantee the principles of non-refoulement, non-rejection at borders, non-detention of children and adolescents and to privilege family unity.