



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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139th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 14-18.10.2018

Assembly
Item 2

A/139/2-P.4
12 October 2018

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 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Kuwait

On 11 October 2018, the President received from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 139th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Cutting off aid to UNRWA: A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law".

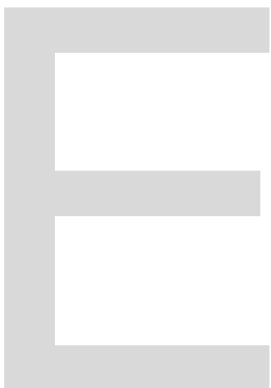
Delegates to the 139th Assembly will find attached the text of the communication submitting the request ([Annex I](#)), as well as an explanatory memorandum ([Annex II](#)) and a draft resolution ([Annex III](#)) in support thereof.

The 139th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Kuwait on Monday, 15 October 2018.

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.



#IPU139

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KUWAIT**

Kuwait, 11 October 2018

Dear Madam President,

I hope that you receive this letter in good health.

Please be informed that Inter-Parliamentary Group of Kuwait wishes to submit a request for inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 139th IPU Assembly in accordance with Article 14.2 of the IPU Statutes. The proposed emergency item is titled:

"Cutting off aid to UNRWA: A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law".

Kindly find attached a brief explanatory memorandum and the draft resolution, titled as stated above, proposed for inclusion as an emergency item.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Marzouq A. AL-GHANIM
Speaker
National Assembly of Kuwait

**CUTTING OFF AID TO UNRWA: A HUMANITARIAN BLOCKADE AND VIOLATION OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Kuwait

The UNRWA agency was established in 1949 by United Nation's General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) which provides for immediate relief for Palestinian refugees around the world.

To the present day, UNRWA has been working to support and facilitate the lives of more than five million Palestinian refugees. The decision to stop providing financial contributions to UNRWA, estimated at 350 million dollars a year, is a catastrophic decision for these innocent people and a clear violation to the most important foundations and pillars of international law, as UNRWA was created under a United Nations resolution adopted by the entire world.

Accordingly, the delegation of Kuwait requests the inclusion of this emergency item in the agenda of the 139th IPU Assembly to be held from 14 to 18 October 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The delegation of Kuwait also hopes that this item gets the support and backing of IPU Members, especially as it deals with continued violations of human rights and international law, in particular those related to the Palestinian cause.

CUTTING OFF AID TO UNRWA: A HUMANITARIAN BLOCKADE AND VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of KUWAIT

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Fully respecting* the governments who rejected and denounced the decision to suspend the financial aid which guarantees the continuation of UNRWA's work,
- (2) *Confirming* its continued support for the Palestinian refugee case and provision of all necessary financial contributions to UNRWA to enable it to continue fulfilling its responsibilities towards Palestinian refugees,
- (3) *Affirming* that UNRWA is not an agency affiliated to the Palestinian Authority, but an international organization established under United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) 1949, and that impeding the functioning of the organization is a clear violation of international law,
- (4) *Stressing* that the decision to cut all aid to UNRWA is damaging to the peace road map in the region and represents a new crisis in the Arab-Israeli conflict,
 1. *Denounces* the decision in its entirety as the work of an international organization established by a UN resolution should not be suspended;
 2. *Emphasizes* that the Zionist practices in the Palestinian territories should not be supported or condoned, and that making critical decisions based on political whims and motivations to serve Israeli interests at the expense of millions of innocent lives is unacceptable;
 3. *Demands* the continued global rejection of this decision, and the provision of more financial support to UNRWA to enable it to carry out its work with Palestinian refugees;
 4. *Calls* for respect for international law and conventions, in particular those pertaining to human rights and freedoms.