



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



Assembly
Item 2

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10 October 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 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

On 7 October 2017, the Secretary General received from the Co-Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

"Promoting spaces for the establishment of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration".

Delegates to the 137th 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 137th Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on Sunday, 15 October 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 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 THE DELEGATION OF
THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA**

La Paz, 5 October 2017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

In accordance with Article 14.2 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Rule 11.1 of its Rules, I have the honour to submit on behalf of the parliamentary delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for inclusion in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to be held in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) from 14 to 18 October 2017, an emergency item entitled:

"Promoting spaces for the establishment of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration".

Attached please find a brief explanatory memorandum, a draft resolution and the Declaration of the World People's Conference for a World without Walls: Towards Universal Citizenship, held in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, from 20 to 21 June 2017.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Edith MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ
Co-Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the
Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Inter-
Parliamentary Union

PROMOTING SPACES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

The parliamentary delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia proposes the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), entitled *Promoting spaces for the establishment of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018*, for the reasons set forth below.

According to the United Nations (UN), the number of international migrants rose in 2015 to 244 million. The causes relate to economic, social and environmental factors as well as political instability and armed conflict.

The number of forced displacements and refugees in recent years has been alarming. The 2015 Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated the number of displaced persons and refugees that year at 65 million – the highest figure ever recorded, as stressed in the report – as a result of armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, economic crisis and climate change.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has estimated that in 2015, 3,771 people died attempting to escape war by crossing the Mediterranean, representing one of the greatest migratory crises since World War II. Those who survive such crossings are again victimized as they encounter legal and physical barriers that deny them their human rights.

This trend has been accentuated by a new migration category, "climate migrants", individuals forced to abandon their countries by the effects of climate change, environmental degradation, droughts and floods affecting poor countries in particular, as their environments and means of survival are destroyed.

Under the guise of national security, some countries have hardened their migration policies, systematically establishing restrictions. Their governments have rolled out policies that criminalize migrants through measures to prevent the free movement of persons. Such measures, are inspired by xenophobia, discrimination and divisions, within societies and among peoples, and thus have a decisive effect on human rights.

It should be mentioned that the international community has made significant progress and committed to further advances in defending migrant rights, and that the conclusions of world meetings of popular movements have contributed to the analysis and the advancement of proposals in that regard.

On 19 September 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, which provides for the initiation of a process of intergovernmental negotiations culminating in the approval of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018.

In that context, the Government and Social Movements of the Plurinational State of Bolivia convened the World People's Conference for a World without Walls: Towards Universal Citizenship, held in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, from 20 to 21 June 2017. That event culminated in a declaration that includes a "Decalogue of proposals".

The aim of the World Conference was to create an inclusive space for reflection, seeking to dismantle physical walls, invisible legal walls and mental walls, such as discrimination and racism, recovering paradigms and visions of the people, promoting alternatives and proposals that contribute to overcome borders, to build bridges of integration and to work on a plan of action of the peoples, towards "universal citizenship".

**PROMOTING SPACES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE,
ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

Draft Resolution submitted by the delegation of the PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights", and that "they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood",
- (2) *Also reaffirming* that there shall be no "distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty",
- (3) *Recalling* that under Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State, as well as the right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's country,
- (4) *Also recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,
- (5) *Further recalling* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- (6) *Recalling, as well,* the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 December 2015, entitled *Protection of migrants*, and on 19 September 2016, entitled *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*,
- (7) *Stressing* that the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 19 September 2016, entitled *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to include the proposed global compact on refugees in his annual report to the General Assembly in 2018, for which purpose UNHCR has established a roadmap for efforts in three areas, beginning in September 2016 and culminating at the end of 2018,
- (8) *Also stressing* that the UN General Assembly resolution of 19 September 2016 provided for the initiation of a process of intergovernmental negotiations, at an intergovernmental conference to be held in 2018, leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration,
- (9) *Recalling* that all States have the authority to delineate their migration policies within the framework of their sovereignty, but when policies exceed that framework or disregard international law they are likely to affect human rights,
- (10) *Emphasizing* that building walls and hardening migration policies can infringe and violate human rights and represent a step backward on the path toward integration,
- (11) *Considering* that recent bloodshed around the world has borne the signs of xenophobia and intolerance, which stem from hatred, discrimination and racism,
- (12) *Highlighting* that debate, analysis and proposals around the concept of universal citizenship have become so pervasive and necessary as to permit the delineation of effective and lasting mechanisms for coexistence, development and integration from the social, political and cultural points of view, matching the scope and degree of consolidation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

(13) *Recalling that, concerned over these developments, and with the aim of contributing to the debate, reflection and proposals in this regard, the Plurinational State of Bolivia together with social movements in the country, convened the World People's Conference for a World without Walls: Towards Universal Citizenship, held at Tiquipaya, Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, from 20 to 21 June 2017. The Conference was attended by indigenous representatives and social movements, defenders of migrant rights, government representatives, men and women parliamentarians, former presidents, representatives of the UN, Nobel Prize recipients and prominent figures from around the world,*

(14) *Highlighting the participation in the aforementioned World Conference of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the representative of Pope Francis, Mr. Juan Grabois, former Secretary-General of the Union of South American Nations Mr. Ernesto Samper and others,*

(15) *Announcing that the result of the World Conference is to issue the Declaration of the World People's Conference for a World without Walls: Towards Universal Citizenship, including a "Decalogue of proposals",*

1. *Commends the Plurinational State of Bolivia for having organized the World People's Conference for a World without Walls: Towards Universal Citizenship, held in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, from 20 to 21 June 2017, as a space for encounter, reflection, debate and proposals that has made an important contribution to work on the urgent question of migration, and in particular, the conclusions reached by the Conference and the "Decalogue of proposals" contained in the Declaration;*
2. *Invites the States to promote greater space for dialogue and the exchange of views, involving society in the process, with a view to contributing to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be concluded in 2018;*
3. *Commits to creating space for, and participating actively in, work on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, following the roadmap set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and*
4. *Assumes that the challenge of formulating a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration is imperative to establish the principles, mechanisms and commitments required for immigration that is safe and respectful of human rights.*