



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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153rd IPU Assembly

Arusha,
United Republic of Tanzania
5–9 October 2026



Assembly
Item 2

A/153/2-P.1-rev
6 October 2026

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 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union submitted by the delegation of Bahrain, with the support of the Arab Group and Chile

On 4 October 2026, the IPU Secretary General received from the delegation of Bahrain, with the support of the Arab Group and Chile a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 153rd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“Ensuring freedom of navigation, maritime security, and the flow of international trade through maritime corridors and straits, in accordance with international law: A call for urgent parliamentary action”.

Delegates to the 153rd 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 153rd Assembly will be required to take a decision on the request of the delegation of Bahrain, with the support of the Arab Group and Chile on Wednesday, 7 October 2026.

Under the terms of Assembly Rule 11.1, any Member Parliament 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, and indicate how it is in line with the principles and values of the IPU and its Strategy. Requests must be submitted to the IPU Secretariat at least 48 hours in advance of the vote on the emergency item. The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and accompanying documents immediately to all Member Parliaments.

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, including after the 48-hour deadline for submission, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject and the combined proposal maintains the overall scope of the original proposals.
- (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 DELEGATION OF BAHRAIN, WITH THE SUPPORT OF
THE ARAB GROUP AND CHILE**

4 October 2026

Dear Madam Secretary General,

Kindly find attached the emergency item proposal submitted by Bahrain with the support of the Arab Group.

"Ensuring freedom of navigation, maritime security, and the flow of international trade
through maritime corridors and straits, in accordance with international law:
a call for urgent parliamentary action"

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

H.M. Jaber Mattar (Ms.)
Parliamentary Relations Development
Specialist Executive
Council of Representatives
Bahrain

**ENSURING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, MARITIME SECURITY, AND THE FLOW OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE THROUGH MARITIME CORRIDORS AND STRAITS,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW: A CALL FOR
URGENT PARLIAMENTARY ACTION**

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Bahrain,
with the support of the Arab Group and Chile***

This request is submitted under the terms of Assembly Rule 11 relating to the submission of emergency item proposals, in light of the recent emergence of a serious situation that raises international concern, which requires urgent action and justifies its submission to the IPU Assembly for consideration and for the taking of a parliamentary position thereon. The request is accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum setting out the grounds for the inclusion and scope of the item, as well as a draft resolution on the proposed subject.

Global maritime trade routes, corridors and straits used for international navigation face increasing risks in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea regions, amid escalating threats to the safety of navigation and the regularity of trade, and the resulting disruptions to the flow of goods, commodities, energy supplies and maritime services. These disruptions portend severe repercussions for the global economy and the stability of international supply chains, hinder progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the well-being of peoples, affect continued growth across various economic sectors, and threaten the regular supply of food and raw materials essential to agricultural and industrial activity in countries around the world. This is reflected in supply chain disruptions, rising inflation rates, increasing pressure on financing costs, and higher trade costs resulting from disruptions in the movement of goods and services, in addition to rising shipping, fuel and insurance costs. This contributes to market instability and supply shortages, affects purchasing power and limits opportunities for economic growth.

Unlawful threats targeting the safety and freedom of international navigation continue, and the risks faced by commercial and civilian vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes along international maritime corridors and through straits, particularly the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab Strait – including acts of targeting, detention, sabotage and threats to impose unlawful tolls or fees – are increasing. These developments necessitate that the Inter-Parliamentary Union assume its responsibility. This includes expressing the international parliamentary stance rejecting any practices that would obstruct international navigation, threaten the safety of ships or disrupt global trade, and emphasizing the need to respect the relevant rules of international law, thereby ensuring freedom of navigation and the safety of international maritime corridors, as well as the continued flow of goods, energy and services through them, and protecting the stability of supply chains and the global economy from the repercussions of these threats.

The subject matter of this emergency item is consistent with UN Security Council resolution 2817 (2026), particularly its affirmation of the need to respect the exercise of navigational rights and freedoms by merchant and commercial vessels, and its condemnation of any actions or threats aimed at closing, obstructing or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, or threatening maritime security in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, given that any attempt to obstruct lawful passage through these international waterways constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security.

This request is also based on what was previously addressed by the UN Human Rights Council in draft resolution A/HRC/61/L.38, adopted as resolution 61/1 (2026), regarding the implications of disturbances affecting maritime security and commercial navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, which directly impact international trade, energy security and the global economy. This affects the fulfilment of human rights. The resolution also emphasizes the importance of continuing to ensure the safety and security of navigation corridors, protecting maritime transport, ports, seafarers and civilian infrastructure, and continuing to secure trade routes in accordance with international law and freedom of navigation. In addition, the resolution condemns any acts or threats aimed at

closing the Strait of Hormuz, obstructing international navigation therein, or threatening maritime security in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, thereby affirming that the repercussions of disruptions to maritime navigation are not limited to their immediate geographical scope, but rather extend to international trade, energy security and the stability of the global economy.

The inclusion of this topic as an emergency item is directly consistent with the principles, values and strategic objectives of the IPU, particularly those related to: the consolidation of peace and security; respect for the rule of law and international law; the promotion of multilateralism and international cooperation; the use of dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy to prevent conflicts, reduce tensions and resolve disputes by peaceful means; support for sustainable development; and the protection of societies from the effects of conflicts and their humanitarian, economic and developmental repercussions. The importance of this connection stems from the fact that the safety and freedom of navigation through maritime corridors and straits used for international navigation are not merely a matter of transportation and trade, but are closely linked to international peace, security and stability. Any threat to, or disruption of, these routes can exacerbate tensions and conflicts, disrupt the flow of food, energy and essential goods, and increase economic and humanitarian pressures on peoples and societies, particularly those that are most vulnerable and affected by conflicts. Consequently, bringing this issue before the Assembly provides an appropriate framework for activating the role of the IPU in: parliamentary diplomacy, conflict prevention and peacebuilding; promoting multilateralism, dialogue and cooperation among parliaments; supporting respect for international law; and helping to mitigate the humanitarian and economic consequences of conflicts, thereby protecting societies and strengthening the foundations of sustainable development, peace and stability.

**ENSURING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, MARITIME SECURITY, AND THE FLOW OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE THROUGH MARITIME CORRIDORS AND STRAITS,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW: A CALL
FOR URGENT PARLIAMENTARY ACTION**

***Draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Bahrain,
with the support of the Arab Group and Chile***

The 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant provisions, to the rules and principles of international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to the obligations arising from relevant international treaties and conventions, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, and the rules and principles of customary international law, which must be respected to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the protection of civilians and civilian objects, the guarantee of respect for the rules of navigation and transit established under international law, the protection of merchant ships and their crews, and the safety of straits and other maritime corridors used for international navigation,
- (2) *Recalling* the IPU resolution *The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions*, adopted by the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye, which emphasized the importance of resuming a serious, sustained and inclusive diplomatic process to address major issues of divergence, including matters relating to maritime security and freedom of navigation, the situation in the Middle East, and related political, security and humanitarian concerns, and *reaffirming* the importance of continuing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions and protecting freedom of navigation and the safety of maritime corridors,
- (3) *Noting* the growing economic repercussions of disruptions to international trade and global supply chains, as well as the need to maintain market stability and promote opportunities for economic growth, particularly in developing countries and in those countries most affected by rising transportation, energy and food costs,
- (4) *Expressing deep concern* over the continued rise in transportation, shipping and marine insurance costs, and the resulting negative impacts on international trade and on the competitiveness of developing and emerging economies, particularly in light of rising food and commodity prices,
- (5) *Recalling* the rules and principles established in international law on freedom of navigation and the regulation of traffic in straits used for international navigation, in particular the relevant provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982,
- (6) *Emphasizing* the importance of ensuring the continued flow of trade, energy supplies and commodities, free from the repercussions of armed conflicts,
- (7) *Mindful* of the principles established in relevant UN Security Council resolutions concerning the protection of freedom of navigation and the safety of merchant vessels, in particular UN Security Council resolution 552 (1984), which reaffirmed the right of free navigation in international waters and sea lanes, condemned attacks on commercial ships travelling to and from the ports of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, demanded that such attacks cease and that there should be no interference with ships en route to and from States not party to the hostilities, and emphasized the threat posed by such attacks to the safety and stability of the area and their implications for international peace and security; and *taking into account* subsequent relevant resolutions, in particular UN Security Council resolution 2722 (2024) concerning attacks on merchant and commercial vessels in the Red Sea, and UN Security Council resolution 2817 (2026), which affirmed the exercise of navigational rights and freedoms by merchant and commercial vessels in accordance with international law, and condemned any actions or threats aimed at closing, obstructing or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, or threatening maritime security in the Bab al-Mandab Strait,

(8) *Recognizing* that the growing risks threatening freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the resulting escalation of regional tensions, constitute a threat to international peace and security and exacerbate the humanitarian and economic repercussions of existing conflicts,

(9) *Emphasizing* the importance of national parliaments and international organizations fulfilling their roles in addressing the economic and humanitarian implications of disruptions to international navigation and trade, particularly with regard to rising energy, transportation and insurance costs, and in preventing the regional and international repercussions of armed conflicts from spreading,

(10) *Believing* that the international parliamentary community, as the conscience of humanity and the voice of the people, bears a historic responsibility to raise awareness of the dangerous repercussions of armed conflict for the security of commercial vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes, and of the necessity of revitalizing growth opportunities for commercial markets in a manner that ensures reasonable prices for energy and resources and an acceptable and humane level for global food prices,

1. *Calls upon* all States to respect and ensure freedom of navigation and the safety of commercial vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes in straits and other maritime corridors used for international navigation, in accordance with international law and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982;
2. *Calls upon* the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations to address unlawful attacks and threats targeting commercial vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, thereby contributing to the protection of freedom of navigation and the maintenance of international peace and security; and *affirms* that governance of the Red Sea and the maintenance of security therein remain the exclusive responsibility of the Arab and African States bordering it;
3. *Calls upon* States to: take all necessary measures to protect commercial vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes and ensure the safety of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab Strait; prevent any acts that may impede freedom of international navigation or endanger vessels and their crews; strengthen mechanisms for monitoring, coordination and information-sharing with regard to threats to international navigation and trade; and ensure that acts committed in violation of international law are investigated and that those responsible are held accountable in accordance with applicable legal norms;
4. *Rejects* the use of international maritime corridors as a means of exerting pressure, escalating armed conflicts or jeopardizing the security of international navigation and trade, given the potentially grave repercussions of such acts for energy and food markets;
5. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts and other relevant actors to comply with their obligations under international law, to respect the safety of commercial vessels, vessels carrying energy cargoes and vessels not engaged in hostilities, and to refrain from any acts that would threaten freedom of international navigation or endanger the lives of crew members;
6. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding those responsible for unlawful attacks on commercial vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes accountable in accordance with international law and relevant domestic and international rules, and of ensuring that there is no impunity;
7. *Condemns* the detention or kidnapping of crew members of commercial vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes, as well as violations of their rights and safety that may result from their unlawful targeting or detention, and *affirms* the need to protect them in accordance with international law;

8. *Calls upon* States to take the necessary measures to prevent the imposition of any unlawful levies, fees or financial burdens on commercial vessels and vessels carrying energy cargoes, of any restriction on freedom of navigation, or of unlawful conditions or demands upon the exercise of the right of passage established under international law in straits used for international navigation; and *urges* national parliaments to monitor these practices through their legislative and oversight mechanisms and to strengthen legal frameworks for the monitoring, reporting and addressing of such practices in accordance with international law and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982;
9. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening international efforts to mitigate the economic repercussions resulting from disruptions to international navigation and trade, including rising shipping and insurance costs, and to ensure the continued flow of food, energy, fertilizers and essential inputs for agricultural and industrial activity, thereby contributing to food security and economic stability, particularly in developing countries;
10. *Calls upon* national parliaments to fulfill their legislative and oversight roles, within the scope of their respective jurisdictions, in supporting the protection of international navigation and trade, monitoring the economic and humanitarian consequences of disruptions to maritime corridors, and strengthening relevant legislative frameworks and national policies in accordance with the rules of international law and relevant international conventions;
11. *Encourages* national parliaments to strengthen cooperation and coordination on legislation and policies related to the security of international navigation and trade, and to exchange experiences and legislative and oversight practices, thereby contributing to the implementation of relevant international obligations and enhancing the capacity of States to address the economic and humanitarian repercussions resulting from disruptions to international maritime corridors;
12. *Requests* the President and the Secretary General of the IPU, within the scope of their respective mandates, to: use the good offices of the IPU to facilitate comprehensive and regular parliamentary dialogue on security of navigation and freedom of passage through maritime corridors and straits used for international navigation; promote communication among the parliaments concerned, with a view to contributing to reducing tensions, building trust, and supporting efforts to protect freedom of navigation, ensure the safety of ships, and maintain the uninterrupted flow of international trade and energy supplies; and submit the outcomes of such dialogue to the relevant bodies of the IPU;
13. *Requests* that this resolution be circulated to all IPU Member Parliaments, as well as to the UN and international and regional bodies concerned with international navigation, maritime security, trade and maritime transport, in particular the International Maritime Organization, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and relevant regional organizations and mechanisms, each within its respective sphere of competence; and *requests* the President and the Secretary General of the IPU to follow up on the measures set forth in this resolution and to report to the IPU Assembly on progress made in this regard.