



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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153rd IPU Assembly

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Assembly
Item 2

A/153/2-P.3
5 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 Nepal

On 5 October 2026, the IPU President received from the delegation of Nepal a request and accompanying documents for the inclusion in the agenda of the 153rd Assembly of an emergency item entitled:

“Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions”.

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 Nepal 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 PRESIDENT
BY THE DELEGATION OF NEPAL**

5 October 2026

Dear Madam President,

I would like to bring to your attention that the Federal Parliament of Nepal would like to submit a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda of the 153rd IPU Assembly in accordance with Article 14.2 of the IPU Statutes.

The proposed emergency item is titled:

"Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions".

Kindly find attached a brief explanatory memorandum along with the draft resolution with regard to the above-mentioned title of the proposed emergency item. Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dol Prasad Aryal
Federal Parliament of Nepal

URGENT PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS AND STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION AND OTHER VULNERABLE REGIONS

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the delegation of Nepal

This request is submitted under Assembly Rule 11 and the IPU guidelines for the submission of an emergency item proposal. It concerns the recent “Himalayan Tsunami” occurring on the Nepal-China Border, a grave situation of international concern requiring urgent action by the international community and a broad parliamentary response. This request is accompanied by a concise explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution that clearly defines the scope of the subject covered, in line with the IPU’s practice, values and strategy.

On the morning of 26 August 2026, a devastating flood struck the mouth of the Lende River/Bhotekoshi River in the Langtang Lirung area, at Rasuwagadhi, Keyrung/Gyirong, along the Nepal–China border, about 130 km north of Kathmandu. Within seven minutes, enormous volumes of glacial meltwater, mud and debris swept downstream through the Bhotekoshi River and into the Trishuli River and Gandaki River systems, at an average speed of 188 km per hour. The disaster resulted into the loss of thousands of lives, sweeping away human settlements as well as critical infrastructure such as border, immigration and security facilities, hydroelectricity plants, roads and bridges, and severely affecting other communities, including leading to displacements in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Chitwan, Tanahun and Nawalparasi districts. The speed, height and destructive force of this wall of water led it to be described as a “Himalayan Tsunami”. As of 26 September 2026, 1,453 bodies had been recovered and around 5,285 people remained missing (including approximately 636 foreign nationals from 35 countries) as a result of the disaster, while 13,795 people had been rescued. The initial Rapid Damage Need Assessment Report has estimated damages caused by this catastrophe amounting to USD 2.7 billion, with reconstruction needs estimated at US\$ 4.8 billion.¹

Nepal has contributed less than 0.01% to cumulative global carbon dioxide emissions since 1751.² Nepal has nevertheless adopted an ambitious third Nationally Determined Contribution, with about 97% of its constituent emission reductions being conditional on international finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.³ The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development reports that the Hindu Kush Himalaya is warming at roughly twice the global average and expects rock and ice avalanches to become larger and more frequent.⁴ The impacts of climate change on high-mountain areas are adverse in nature, including the acceleration of glacier melt, as well as glacier lake outburst floods and landslides. When hazards exceed the limits of adaptation, the resulting loss and damage falls on communities that did the least to cause it. Addressing that loss and damage, through recovery and climate-resilient reconstruction has, in the words of the scientific assessment, become an unavoidable part of the climate response.

In its advisory opinion of 23 July 2025, the International Court of Justice confirmed that States have binding obligations under treaty and customary international law to protect the climate system, including duties of due diligence and cooperation, and that a breach of those obligations may entail international responsibility.⁵

It is important to include this emergency item in the agenda for the following reasons:

- The request meets all criteria under Assembly Rule 11 for the 153rd Assembly. The recent disaster has global implications, originating in a transboundary high-mountain region, affecting several countries, with nationals of around 35 countries remaining missing.

¹ ndrrma.gov.np/mediafiles/rasuwa/Rapid_Damage_and_Needs_Assessment_RDNA_Rasuwa-Bhotekoshi_Flood_2026.pdf.

² ourworldindata.org/profile/co2/nepal.

³ unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-05/Nepal%20NDC3.pdf.

⁴ www.icimod.org/press-releases/hindu-kush-himalaya-glaciers-losing-ice-at-double-the-rate-since-2000-new-icimod-report-confirm.

⁵ icj-web.leman.un-icc.cloud/sites/default/files/case-related/187/187-20250723-adv-01-00-en.pdf.

Urgent international action is required for recovery and reconstruction, as well as to scale up accessible loss and damage and adaptation finance, and for stronger high-mountain monitoring and transboundary data sharing. It is appropriate for the IPU to act, because each of these responses depends on parliaments: they ratify and implement climate treaties, adopt climate and disaster-risk legislation, approve budgets, and hold governments accountable for their Nationally Determined Contributions, climate actions and resource mobilization.

- An emergency resolution would build directly on existing IPU commitments, notably the *Parliaments for the Planet* campaign. It calls on parliaments to legislate and budget for emission reductions and inclusive adaptation and to hold governments to account on implementation of the Paris Agreement. It would also inform the work of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, which is preparing a resolution for the 154th Assembly on parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems. Nepal has consistently advanced mountain and climate concerns internationally, including through the *Sagarmatha Call for Action* in 2025.

The proposed resolution is deliberately focused. It covers three elements:

- Solidarity with the people of Nepal and all communities affected by the catastrophe of 26 August 2026, and support for search, identification of the deceased, relief, recovery and climate-resilient reconstruction
- Climate justice, meaning timely, adequate and accessible finance for loss and damage and for adaptation, accelerated mitigation consistent with the 1.5°C goal, and recognition of the specific vulnerability of mountain regions, small island developing States and least developed countries
- Parliamentary accountability, meaning concrete action by parliaments through legislation, budgets and oversight, including on early warning systems, high-mountain hazard monitoring and transboundary cooperation

This item does not seek to apportion responsibility for the disaster to any particular State, nor to address matters of bilateral relations. It is intended to unite parliaments around a shared response to a hazard that a warming world will make more common in the mountains, oceans and beyond.

**URGENT PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS AND
STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION
AND OTHER VULNERABLE REGIONS**

Draft Resolution submitted by the delegation of Nepal

The 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing deep concern* at the disaster on an unprecedented scale that struck the Rasuwa–Bhotekoshi region of Nepal on 26 August 2026, and *expressing* its deepest condolences for, and solidarity with, the people and communities affected by the multidimensional and devastating impacts of the disaster,
- (2) *Recalling* the purposes, principles and values of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which, as set out in its Statutes, Rules and Strategy, is the global organization of national parliaments working to advance questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by parliaments and their members,
- (3) *Reaffirming* the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,
- (4) *Welcoming* the unanimous advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 23 July 2025 on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, and *affirming* the importance of the Court's advisory opinion as an authoritative contribution to the clarification of existing international law,
- (5) *Underscoring* that States' obligations pertaining to the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, in particular the obligation to prevent significant transboundary harm under customary international law, are obligations *erga omnes*,
- (6) *Reaffirming* the commitment made in the Paris Agreement of 2015 to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels,
- (7) *Recalling* decision 1/CP.21 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on *Adoption of the Paris Agreement*, through which the international community pledged to mobilize US\$ 100 billion annually, including to finance the reduction of atmospheric CO₂ emissions in developing countries,
- (8) *Recalling also* the commitments agreed at COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, to deliver on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance by mobilizing at least US\$ 300 billion annually for developing country Parties by 2035, with developed country Parties taking the lead, and the call to scale up climate finance from all public and private sources to at least US\$ 1.3 trillion annually by 2035,
- (9) *Stressing* that climate change is an existential threat of civilizational proportions and that the well-being of present and future generations of humankind depends on an immediate and urgent response to it,
- (10) *Acknowledging* that climate-induced disasters such as storms, floods, glacier melt, glacial lake outburst floods, rockfalls, avalanches, landslides and droughts pose a borderless threat to current generations as much as to the future of humanity, and that the climate crisis is no longer a distant warning but instead a present, daily reality,
- (11) *Recognizing* that the Himalayan region is the roof of the world and that the ecosystem services it provides underpin the growth of civilizations and the livelihoods of over 2 billion people living along river basins and in coastal zones,
- (12) *Recognizing also* that developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, have contributed the least to anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere,

(13) *Welcoming* the Sagarmatha Sambaad organized by the Government of Nepal in Kathmandu in 2025 under the theme *Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity*, and its outcome document, the *Sagarmatha Call for Action*, which called for collective efforts towards the fulfilment of obligations for climate mitigation and adaptation,

(14) *Recalling* the address delivered by the United Nations Secretary-General at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly on 22 September 2026, in which he emphasized the observations and concerns he had expressed in Nepal in 2023 relating to accelerating glacier melt and the caving in of the rooftops of the world, and in which he stressed the urgent need for climate action, including climate justice focused on adaptation and finance,

(15) *Recognizing* that national parliaments have broad legislative and oversight powers over executive authorities, including in the areas of budgetary and foreign policy, and play a key role in translating international commitments into tangible national action,

1. *Expresses appreciation* to the international community for providing immediate relief assistance to Nepal for the people and communities affected by the Rasuwa-Bhotekoshi disaster;
2. *Encourages* the international community to maintain its focus beyond this current immediate relief, in order to sustain the political will needed to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, as well as risk-reduction efforts in view of future climate-related disasters;
3. *Calls upon* Member Parliaments to use their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to strengthen nationally determined climate action consistent with the Paris Agreement goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;
4. *Urges* Member Parliaments to consider the implications of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, in the exercise of their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions;
5. *Encourages* Member Parliaments to intensify parliamentary diplomacy and strengthen coordinated engagement through the mechanisms of the IPU and its geopolitical groups in order to build international consensus on the transboundary sharing of climate data, in advance and in real time, as well as on regional and international collaboration on early warning systems, particularly in transboundary mountain and river-basin regions;
6. *Calls upon* the world's parliaments, acting through the IPU and other appropriate parliamentary channels, to show readiness to support all genuine efforts aimed at reducing climate-induced disasters and ensuring speedy recovery and reconstruction;
7. *Encourages* Member Parliaments to make collective efforts to ensure equitable and simplified access for developing countries, particularly those vulnerable to climate change, including small island developing States and mountainous least developed countries, to international climate finance including scaled-up grants and concessional finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building from bilateral and multilateral sources, including the operating entities and funds of the financial mechanism under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and alternative sources;
8. *Calls upon* the Member Parliaments of developed countries to support efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
9. *Requests* the IPU to facilitate the exchange of parliamentary good practices, support capacity-building and report on parliamentary action taken to implement this resolution;
10. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to circulate this resolution to all Member Parliaments, to the UN Secretary-General and to multilateral development funds, with a view to mobilizing international support for enhancing parliamentary accountability for climate justice.