



# 15th PLENARY SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

3-4 June 2021

Executive Report

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Thursday 3 June

## Opening Ceremony of the Plenary Session



In his Opening Address, PAM President, **H.E. Karim Darwish (Egypt)**, welcomed the participants to the Plenary Session, which was held virtually in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the PAM Secretariat for organising the meeting and all participants for their presence. Over the past year, the Assembly had made great efforts to find ways to address the many challenges in the region, including those posed by the pandemic. Cooperation must be a key priority to address the humanitarian crises, security threats, economic, environmental, and social challenges.

The recent military confrontation in the Middle East (Gaza) highlighted that the status quo between Israel and Palestine was unacceptable and unsustainable. PAM has a responsibility to support the resumption of the negotiating

process towards a Two-State solution as the only way for both peoples to live side-by-side within safe and recognised borders in accordance with relevant international resolutions. The President introduced the workplan of the Plenary Session, including sessions dedicated to the work of the Three Standing Committees, a special session to prepare for the launch of the “PAM Women Parliamentary Forum”, and the announcement of 2021 PAM Prize Laureates.

The agenda of the Plenary will reflect the work of the Standing Committees this year on domestic violence, artificial intelligence and human rights, post-pandemic economic recovery, climate change action, regional security, and counterterrorism.

The President gave special thanks to the PAM Secretariat for having enabled PAM to remain the top platform for parliamentary diplomacy and international cooperation on the important issues in the region. He looked forward to fruitful discussions and a positive outcome of the meeting.

United Nations Secretary General **António Guterres** addressed a message to the Plenary Session, which was read out by PAM Secretary General. In his address, he referred to the Mediterranean region as an incredibly rich melting pot of cultures, languages, religions, and nations.

Yet, over the past year the region had experienced considerable threats to peace and security. The recent violence in the Middle East showed how tenuous peace is. Efforts must increase to tackle the root causes of migration, and work collectively for safer and dignified pathways across the Mediterranean. The UNSG hoped for peace and stability in Libya and for presidential and parliamentary elections to consolidate gains since the signing of a cease-fire agreement facilitated by the UN. The COVID-19 pandemic affected lives and livelihoods, rolled back years of progress on sustainable development, and contributed to rising tensions and violence around the world, including in the Mediterranean region.

Terrorist groups continued to exploit its political and economic fallout, using their hateful narratives to attract the most vulnerable. Violence against women, including domestic violence, also increased. Although the pandemic was an unprecedented tragedy, it also presented a historic opportunity to work together, rebuild trust and address multiple crises in a sustainable manner. He called for urgent action on the climate crisis, and on sustainable development with safer and more resilient societies. He stressed the need for greater – including financial - commitments at the COP26 to adapt and build resilience going beyond curbing emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change. In closing, the UNSG pointed at the essential role of regional platforms such as PAM in reflecting on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and finding people-centred solutions in addressing recovery.

## Morning Session

### **Session of the 3rd Standing Committee on the Dialogue among Civilisations and Human Rights**

Chair, **Ms. Yana Chiara Ehm (Italy)**, President of PAM 3rd Standing Committee, summarised the main activities over the past year on key issues, such as mass migrations, gender equality, the protection of human rights as well as the promotion of education and dialogue between cultures across the Euro-Mediterranean region. PAM worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) to support parliaments in providing up to date information on the



scope of the health crisis and its impact on society. It was committed to enabling fast and direct access to the latest available research, evidence and data related to the management of the pandemic and vaccine policy thanks to the support of PAM Senior Medical Advisor, Prof. Mukesh Kapila. PAM followed closely the alarming and worsening situation of migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea. It joined IOM and UNHCR appeals for a region-wide action by PAM Member countries over the multiple tragedies, such as the shipwreck on 16 April 2021 off the coast of Sidi Mansour. These events showed the need to enhance and expand official search and rescue operations across the Mediterranean. In this regard, PAM invited all States to continue promoting a cooperative approach to prevent migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea in dangerous conditions as well as providing support to survivors and family members of those who disappeared. Movement restrictions forcing people to spend much more time at home resulted in a surge in domestic violence around the world. Addressing this issue therefore became one of the key priorities for the Committee. On the priority of gender equality, the Chair, Hon. Ehm (Italy) was pleased that the Assembly adopted, with 96% support, an amendment which she herself has proposed to enforce the gender balance provisions entrenched in PAM statutes, by requiring delegations to have both genders represented to enjoy full voting rights. Moreover, PAM Bureau members made an important step in deciding to establish the PAM Women Parliamentary Forum (WPF).

PAM has been closely examining the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and promoting policies to ensure that AI remains human-centred and sustainable. It is parliamentarians' duty to ensure appropriate legislation is in place for these developments to respect human rights.

As part of the Assembly's work on human rights and governance, PAM organised jointly with PLATFORMA, the association of European local governments, a virtual meeting on the "EU Neighbouring South-Safeguarding human rights in the post-Covid-19 context" in September 2020. The two organisations signed an MoU in February 2021. The Assembly was also preparing to conclude a similar partnership with UNITE, an independent global network of parliamentarians from 66 countries, aimed at preventing infectious diseases becoming a global health threat by 2030.

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Moreover, the PAM Academic Platform had recently entered into partnership with the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Macerata's CiRAM (Italy). An MoU with the Università Parthenope (Naples) was under discussion, aimed at fostering cooperation on energy security. The NATO South Hub will also officially join the PAM Academic Platform, as a leading research hub focusing on root causes of mass migrations and on security issues in the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Address by **Mr. Leendert Verbeek**, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, focused on the fight against terrorism and radicalisation, promoting human dialogue in the current pandemic, and the need for better protection and global solidarity. Local democracy must be at the base of a more just and sustainable order in the Mediterranean region, while territorial authorities had a responsibility for defending human rights, the wellbeing



and equal treatment of all communities and residents, regardless of gender, religion, political view, or sexual orientation. The COVID-19's impact on social rights was an example of the promotion and protection of human rights, with the role of local authorities to protect vulnerable members of communities and to encourage new forms of citizen-to-citizen cooperation of preventing, coping and recovery. A publication dealing with best practices on human rights to non-discrimination among refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons, would be followed by a volume on social rights and one on sustainable environmental issues. Decentralisation fosters effective dialogue and inter-level cooperation with a key role of territorial authorities, not just at national or European level. The work of PAM was complementary and helps by providing a platform for closer dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean.



**Mr. Vicente Miguel Garcés Ramón**, President of the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation (MCAF), stressed the need for urgent multilateralism in the response to the COVID pandemic. He referred to the major conflicts continuing in the region, e.g. Western Sahara, the Middle East, and the many questions remaining in Syria and Libya. He pointed at the pivotal role of civil society, as the rights of citizens

and their socio-economic conditions were declining with rampant abuses against women, minors, or minorities and the most vulnerable, and with climate change causing drought and hunger. One clear message was that vaccines need to be a public good. The MCAF called on the EU to play a more political role to protect fundamental rights and show initiatives, act in line with EU principles, and pave the way forward for migration, making use of new digital technologies, and taking the needs of all citizens into account. He encouraged PAM to build bridges with cities and to establish a dialogue with civil society and the citizens in the Mediterranean region.

Presentation of the Report on “Resolving Domestic Violence in the Mediterranean: Global Opportunity for Local Change” and the Recommendations “PAM MPs for an end to Domestic Violence” by **Hon. Sandrine Mörch (France)**. The Rapporteur reiterated that domestic violence mostly affects women, and directly or indirectly, children. Although some progress had been made since the signing of the Istanbul Convention, reported cases of domestic violence in the region due to



the lockdown had increased by 30%. The PAM report insisted on awareness creation of the root causes of the issue and the importance of the empowerment of women as a priority. Further actions were needed to reinforce the protection of victims of domestic violence; to ratify international instruments and legal frameworks to reduce violence and penalise perpetration (Istanbul Convention and Maputo Protocol); and to facilitate dialogue and interaction between states and NGO networks. She also stressed the need to work on data collection and sharing, to reinforce public services by use of new technologies for data sharing, and to share action plans and policies. She called on national parliaments to mark the International Day of Violence against Women on 25 November,

and to ratify and implement international instruments to provide a standardised approach to domestic violence. All PAM Member States were encouraged to contribute to the global database on violence against women promoted by UN Women. She applauded the innovative tools, such as smartphone applications, developed by several Member States. Stressing the need for research by PAM to continue, the Rapporteur invited PAM to organise in 2021 / 2022 a conference in France dedicated to this issue. She thanked the delegation of Palestine, Malta, and Turkey for their constructive feedback to the report and its Annex.

After her presentation, the Recommendations entitled " PAM MPs for an end to Domestic Violence" were read out by the PAM SG, and the floor was opened to delegates to address topics related to this session only.

## Parliamentary debate

**Portugal** had put several tools in place to fight domestic violence, affecting women, children, and elderly. While women were the most victims of violence within couples, children were also directly or indirectly concerned. The Parliament had five initiatives on this particular problematic under consideration, including the crime of violence, a public crime as per the Istanbul Convention to which Portugal was a party. The 'grey zone' of cases of domestic violence during the pandemic showed reports of increasing violence, although the real number of violations taking place was surely far higher as women being confined to their houses could not report their complaints to the authorities. The delegate also pointed out that, while the traditions of the Islamic community must be respected, acts such as female genital mutilation (FGM) must be condemned.

**Croatia** welcomed the creation of the WPF and stressed the importance of not only ratifying international instruments, such as the Istanbul Convention and the Maputo Protocol, but also to fully implementing them. As the pandemic showed the worrying rise of domestic violence, vigilance remained necessary in which the PAM WPF was expected to play a significant role.

**Algeria** mentioned that dedicated measures to combat violence against women was stipulated in the law only in 2015, although efforts have existed for many years. In 2012, a law introducing a quota system was enacted, allowing women to be represented in local councils, and as a result the issue of domestic violence



could now lead to sentences of life imprisonment for the perpetrator. Just recently a perpetrator of violence against his wife and son was condemned to life imprisonment. A hotline was established, and an awareness campaign led women from different social backgrounds to speak out.

**Palestine** faced an unbearable situation with occupation and destruction of homes and social security services. In this double violence, no future would exist for the Palestinian population with the poverty and dire economic situation and a 52%

increase in the rate of violence in Jerusalem, with total lack of respect for human rights and most projects to bring services to women to reduce violence destroyed. Women suffered inhumane treatment such as at checkpoints. For children in this climate of violence and conflict, a world without domestic violence would seem unthinkable. Women complained of many forms of violence and looked for some form of social justice to mitigate and reduce the violence.

**Turkey** clarified that the country's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention was based on the view that several parts of the convention were not applicable to Turkey. The delegation proposed to delete Paragraph III of the Recommendations by the Rapporteur as the country developed strong tools condemning violence against women, still being enacted in line with the most advanced norms. In 2020, services were rendered through centres and over two million civil servants were trained in addressing violence against women to completely eradicate violence.

**San Marino** had recently adopted a law to respond to the crisis of unaccompanied migrant children in camps without care or supervision and was preparing for an effective system for the protection of women and combatting use of all forms of violence against the female gender. Significant progress had been made at the regulatory and organisational level, but above all at the cultural level through respect, dignity, freedom, and autonomy not only of women but of all individuals. Furthermore, the legal system introduced a law condemning sexually explicit imagery as well as gender and domestic violence. The delegate stressed the need to make use of modern electronic technology.

**Syria** considered the issue of domestic violence extremely important for Syria, seeing its repercussions on society at large. After COVID-19 and other pressures, women and children were suffering from economic measures due to the economic sanctions, preventing them from meeting their basic needs. In 2020, work was carried out on reforming laws to improve the role of women and their empowerment.

**Algeria** had introduced many laws at all societal and legal levels, while a hotline for women and children was created to allow them to report all forms of harassment and bullying. But some laws needed to be reviewed to address international norms. The fact that in western countries Muslim women were subject to violence on the basis of their traditional clothing needed to be addressed urgently.

Presentation of the Report and Recommendations on “Protecting Human Rights in an increasingly automatized world: Artificial Intelligence, opportunities for parliamentarians” by **Hon. Marianne Amir Azer (Egypt)**. The Rapporteur stressed the need to regulate the new reality of Artificial Intelligence (AI) being increasingly present in daily life, which could cause an increase of unemployment. AI-influenced bias also posed a threat to perpetuate discrimination through the creation of discriminatory profiling, often in the forms of sexism and racism. Distrust for this new technology and its use could grow due to the lack of clear information and transparency.

An environment of trust must be created in an open dialogue among governments, the scientific community, and all AI-related industries to establish a shared framework to govern AI to ensure respect for International Human Rights principles. For this legislative framework on AI, Parliamentarians should contribute by sharing knowledge, experiences, and good practices. Many positive initiatives already existed at national level with also with the establishment of the AI Policy Observatory by the OECD, and the Council of Europe’s guidelines for the ethical use of algorithms applicable within justice systems, among others. A debate at the regional level would help to achieve normative harmonisation and to develop a set of AI guidelines for the Euro-Mediterranean region. PAM should serve as a parliamentary platform for exchange of good practices on AI.

The Parliamentary After the SG read the Recommendations on the issue of “Protecting Human Rights in an increasingly automatized world: Artificial Intelligence, opportunities for parliamentarians”.

**Croatia** opined that with AI ever more present in different areas of our lives, interaction between specific stakeholders such as academics, IT companies and human rights bodies would be the way to resolve technological issues, but also reduce the negative effect AI could have in professional and private life.

Until EU bodies implement oversight will be established to address AI implementation problems and provide solutions for citizens' rights and freedom (Equinet system), and be effective and known and taken full advantage of by the citizens, other systems had to be created to enhance utmost respect for human rights and ethical principles.

**UAE** called on all parliaments to review how far their legislations were adequate in the protection of the principles of privacy and transparency.



In 2016, the UAE stipulated legislation on protection of personal data and privacy in social media to combat cybercrimes and violations of individual privacy. Implementing a policy of internet protection by blocking forbidden content and preventing any form of hacking was imperative, while AI companies should be abiding by the UN Guidelines on trade and human rights.

**Palestine** expressed support for penalising perpetrators of human rights violations, and appreciation for efforts to put forward the recommendations for human rights protection as its fundamental rights were violated under occupation for 70 years. Palestine would like to insert in the Recommendations under B the word "all" resolutions, and recommend including reference to the violation of human rights in the area. The delegate called on all to not give up on bringing justice to the victims and ensuring accountability, and stressed that digital rights for access to AI technologies were violated, denying Palestine access to AI to further develop and safeguard its human rights. Furthermore, the delegation proposed to include in the Recommendations for PAM to enter into a partnership with the EU, support a Palestinian project recipient of an EU award in 2020, and put an end to the occupation violating all rights of the Palestinian people.

**Portugal** questioned at what price digital technologies and AI could have great potential, as shown by the COVID pandemic. AI interaction could endanger human rights and privacy and be discriminatory on race or religion. Super blocking systems and many applications track information to become more appealing. One of the biggest risks was violation of data protection, processing sensitive information on race, religion, sexual or political orientation in a discriminatory way, promoting criminality or terrorism, excluding certain groups from society or automatically removing information from social media.

The misuse of AI in times of elections could affect transparency, manipulating data and distributing false information. MPs had a duty to continue promoting initiatives, sharing ideas, involving ethical guidelines on AI, safeguarding full respect for the fundamental principles to ensure benefit from the full potential of AI without affecting women's human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Portugal was counting on PAM to be a platform for dialogue and promoting mutual assistance among all.

**Greece:** The digital era was fast shifting all balances in technological development, productive and consumer models, energy safety, health care provision and protection, raising the question whether progress, prosperity, and Human Rights protection could still be ensured. Regulating the market and ensuring harmonisation of political systems were key in this transition of which technology should be the precursor and not the outcome. Training must ensure all can participate in this transition and ensure all citizen's rights irrespective of finance or accessibility. The digital world might help to deal with the threat of climate change by an expansion of knowledge.

**Algeria** confirmed its firm commitment to common goals as well as its willingness and determination to meet the aspirations of the people and address the challenges facing the Mediterranean region. The proposal by the Italian delegation to amend the PAM statutes to encourage Member States to have a balanced gender representation in their national delegation to PAM was commended and in line with the Algerian approach towards strengthening women's political participation, access to



decision-making and role in the economic development of the country. Regarding its path to consolidate democracy, Algeria announced early legislative elections to be held on 12 June 2021. Concerning the violence against women, strengthening national laws would be necessary. Concerning AI, reducing the gap in knowledge between the two shores was essential.

**Palestine** repeated there were many constraints on the Palestinian population in the field of IT, preventing accessing information and obtaining the 4G and 5G technology, considering it unacceptable, especially since the pandemic showed how necessary internet access is. The delegate also mentioned the violation of Palestinians' digital rights by censorship, particularly on Facebook during the recent fighting.

# Preparatory Meeting of the PAM Women Parliamentary Forum (WPF)

In opening the discussion, **Hon. Chiara Ehm (Italy)** expressed appreciation and pride for the establishment of the PAM Women Parliamentary Forum (WPF) aimed at promoting women's rights and empowerment and reaching for gender equality. Portugal wished the Forum to be established as a platform for dialogue on gender issues, along the model of similar initiatives of various institutions such as the IPU. The holding of the Preparatory Meeting was an important step in the realisation of this vision to provide a space for dialogue in an effort to challenge negative norms, transform habits, introduce legislative initiatives, and to promote a Mediterranean region free from gender-based discrimination.

**Hon. Joana Lima (Portugal)** provided the background on the proposal for the establishment of the WPF, considering the gender imbalance in access to education, employment and basic services, and with women also being the main victims of violence and being under-represented in political and economic decision-making. Members of Parliament were instrumental by deciding on ways to increase women's participation in politics, and in particular in parliaments, and to see to it that gender issues be taken into account in all areas.



## PAM Women Parliamentary Forum

MP Joana Lima,  
Head of Delegation,  
Assembleia da República, Portugal

3rd June 2021

The WPF would be a unique platform for dialogue on issues involving gender, and respond to wishes from female members of PAM to be more involved in decision-making and parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace, security, and stability in the region. She shared the ToRs of the Forum, giving several options for its composition - either only women to allow for a dedicated only-for-women space, or open to both genders to build a gender-equal future; chairing -

either a rotating presidency of one Chairperson or a co-chair system with one chair from either geopolitical group; meeting frequency and topics for discussion were still up for consideration. The Forum shall obey by the relevant rules of the PAM statutes with regard to the budgetary management, including the cost of travel and hospitality for the meetings. She announced that Portugal will host the inaugural meeting in the autumn of 2021.



**Ms. Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, President and Founder of Women Political Leaders (WPL), congratulated PAM for the launch of the Forum at a crucial moment. The Forum needed to be open to all, dedicated to women parliamentarians to interact and move forward together to achieve peace and security. The WPL was the global network of women leader politicians, aimed to increase both the number and influence of women politicians, including women parliamentarians, presidents,

and prime ministers. It worked together with similar fora to share experience on issues such as maternal health, women refugees, or women in peace and security in the Mediterranean region. WPL's core are women politicians only with an almost 50/50 global advisory board membership, and men frequently invited to speak. In support of the UN Women "He or She" campaign, male presidents and prime ministers addressed why it was necessary and what they were doing to have more women as political leaders. In conclusion, the WPF was an important strategic move, providing an opportunity for strengthening the parliamentary world and bringing about the most important outcomes of decision-making with which WPL would be most pleased to cooperate.

In her message, **Hon. Lesia Vasylenko (Ukraine)**, President, IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, agreed that the establishment of the WPF could not have come at a better time as the world was struggling to recover from the monumental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and work for a better and greener tomorrow. As the problems of the pandemic were not gender neutral, women parliamentarians needed to sound the alarm and lead the way to make women's voices heard. The IPU Bureau and its partners advocate for gender equality and aim for gender parity in its structure. The IPU Forum started as an informal gathering of women delegates at IPU Assemblies but now had a formal mandate to make amendments in draft resolutions before their adoption in line with IPU's gender standards and gender quota

for participating members of the IPU bodies. Inclusive leadership in the public and private sectors was needed to achieve an ambitious gender responsive green recovery agenda; the pandemic exacerbated gender inequality, requiring strong structures to ensure women's economic empowerment; the "building back better" of parliaments had to come with a model of gender sensitivity. The IPU Forum shared the gender equality agenda of the WPF and will support a robust gender mandate and leadership and accountability mechanism to contribute to a greener economy.

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

**Serbia** mentioned that, thanks to a system of quotas, the Serbian Parliament went from 30% female representation in 2012 to 40% today, and opined that men need to be partners of the WPF.

**Tunisia** welcomed the opportunity for women parliamentarians to exchange their experiences as they had an important role in contributing to justice and equality. Numerous laws were passed in Tunisia to allow for the valuable participation of women in political decision making, and a management role at the top of the



political pyramid, although still rather limited. Women parliamentarians played an encouraging role in the country's democratic transition. Progress was made to preserve democracy and advance development of women in public roles in the pandemic as medical staff and volunteers, teachers, and for women to realise their rights.

**Palestine** reiterated that under occupation the mere existence of female MPs was restricted and MPs cannot meet their electorate. The specific issues of Palestinian female refugees also needed to be addressed by the WPF.

**Portugal** highlighted the importance of the proposal for the WPF due to the long struggle for gender equal representation in politics, the business world and in all parts of society in general. According to the law adopted in 2002, women should represent at least a 30% share in political decision making, while since 2009 all elections should have at least 40% female candidates. Thus, women could be members of the parliament, and also be in local structures. Now enterprises also needed an increased share of women in their board to be listed at the stock exchange. The proposed WPF will allow for better exchange of experiences among parliaments from both shores of the Mediterranean, including members of the EU,

where a long road is ahead. However, the road for the rights of women, refugees, children, and for gender balance is even longer for the non-EU Member States. The voice of women must be heard and their vision taken into account in how policy decisions affected their lives. The invitation for the inaugural meeting of the WPF to be held in Portugal was repeated.



**Croatia** stressed that feminism was not reserved for the female gender only, but rather to bring gender balance. As men can be and are excellent feminists, women should not work in isolation and men should be able to participate in the Women's Forum on a voluntary basis, on the understanding that issues discussed at the Forum be brought to the Assembly to the attention of all parliamentarians. The Delegate also proposed that topics to be discussed should include gender mainstreaming, gender-based income gaps, gender balance, tax reduction as well as setting a minimum of 50% of women representation in parliaments.

**France** agreed that men could be good feminists and should be welcome in the WPF. The delegate also wondered why women were mostly relegated to jobs in education and social services and much less in politics. Women were more affected by poverty, had less access to education and the labour market. Discussions should be based on clear evidence.

**Algeria** greeted the initiative and hoped that its country will be strongly participating, stressing that while the WPF was intended as a means for negotiations between parliamentarians, it should also be a means for the attention of governments themselves to agree on a definition of democracy. For now, human rights were still focused on the rights of men. Therefore, the rights of women should be inscribed in the human rights in a general way and not as just a variable.

**Italy** favourably supported the Forum as an important platform, and considered the contributions received in the debate as most valuable. The recent vote in favour of amending the PAM Statutes with regard to a balanced representation had shown the preparedness to support moves in the direction of better gender representation.

**Romania** believed in women MPs' great responsibility to encourage women's participation in decision making roles. While the number of women MPs had fallen to 17.5% in Romania, for the first time the president of the parliament is a woman. During the pandemic, the role played by women became more prominent and led to greater interest for women's role in decision-making processes. The delegate encouraged close cooperation with all involved in the Forum.

**Palestine** congratulated the launch of the Forum and expressed its appreciation that the WPF was established during the southern Presidency of PAM. In Palestine, women possessed a unique place as the kind grandmothers, the struggling mothers, the educator, the wife as well as the wonderful daughter. In addition, women participated in every field of work as scientists, journalists, and professors. With that in mind, Palestine will support the work of the WPF.

In closing, **Hon. Lima** thanked all participants for their contributions and announced that the PAM Secretariat will gather input from all delegations to help define further the structure of the Forum.

## Afternoon Session

# Session of the 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation

**Hon. Pedro Roque (Portugal)**, President of PAM 2nd Standing Committee, opened the session by summarising some of the key achievements of the 2nd Standing Committee and the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments since the previous Plenary Session, focusing on economic and environmental challenges and opportunities member Parliaments faced in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He highlighted a series of events PAM organised in July 2020, and in March 2021 together with TURKPA, aimed at promoting investments and entrepreneurship, and post-pandemic recovery strategies based on sustainability, digitalisation, and equitable vaccine distribution. The events benefited from inputs from strategic partners, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Investment Bank, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), among others.

**Hon. Roque** highlighted the need for Parliaments to take full advantage of COVID-19 recovery plans to move climate action forward through cohesive and evidence-based policies. To support parliamentarians in gathering information and knowledge on effective mitigation and adaptation strategies, PAM strengthened its partnerships with various international partners, and was in the process of signing a cooperation agreement with the UN Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP).



It will continue to represent the parliamentary dimension within the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development. The President reaffirmed the Assembly's endeavours to create a regional coalition for carbon neutrality, and close collaboration with Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MedReg) and Mediterranean Transmission Systems Operators (Med-TSO) to promote the development of cost-effective and sustainable energy systems. He also announced collaboration with the University of Naples Parthenope on a policy report on energy security in the Mediterranean. Finally, PAM would be hosting a high-level meeting in July to prepare parliamentarians for the international and regional climate negotiations COP26 taking place in Glasgow (UK) in the Fall and the Mediterranean COP22 in Antalya, Turkey.

In his keynote address, **H.E. Francesco La Camera**, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), stressed the relevance of regional engagement at a time of dramatic social and economic fragility. He noted how the impact of the pandemic on societies, coupled with the threat of climate change, could seriously stress the stability of the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions. He highlighted that an increase of two degrees Celsius in human beings can mark the difference between sickness and health, and the same goes for the planet. However, he also provided parliamentarians with a clear sense of optimism, underlying that the Mediterranean region, blessed with considerable renewable energy resources, had the potential of becoming a renewable energy hub. At a time of rapid population growth and increasing energy demand, the green energy transition would allow for renewed economic resilience, job creation and low-carbon economic diversification. In 2020, 80% of global new energy derived from renewable sources resulted in considerable cost reductions and a growing belief that green energy benefits not only the environment but also economic growth. His statement was concluded with a call to action, inviting policymakers to immediately respond to the climate emergency and align recovery plans with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Hon. Giulio Centemero (Italy)**, Co-Chair of the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments, indicated three main paths pursued by the Panel in the past year: promoting and attracting investment opportunities, fostering job creation, and promoting trade and tourism across the region. In the context of investment opportunities, he stressed the crucial role of SMEs in the region, representing the heart of the economic fabric in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries. He also underlined the Panel's commitment to building partnerships that aim at promoting common investment standards and sustainable finance across the PAM region. Regarding job creation, regional policies should aim to go beyond pre-pandemic employment levels and target employment protection schemes with special attention to vulnerable and marginalised populations. Building upon the previous speaker's remarks, the Chair pointed at the demonstrated job creation effect of renewable energy, unlike the fossil fuel industry. In this respect, the Assembly had worked with the OECD, World Bank and IMF Parliamentary Networks to improve regulatory convergence on labour market integration to develop the green sector at the regional scale. The Economic Panel supported the implementation of the South Days Initiative in Caserta/Naples, aimed at strengthening trade and business synergies between both shores. A new sectoral group was established within the Panel, dedicated exclusively to tourism promotion and chaired by Hon. Krapovic, Head of the Delegation of Montenegro to PAM. The Chair concluded by stressing that the long-term survival of any initiative depended on the extent to which it addressed climate change and adopted sustainability as its guiding principle.



**Hon. Dragan Krapović (Montenegro)**, Chair of the Sectoral Group on Tourism Promotion within the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments, announced Montenegro's interest to host the First Meeting of the PAM/WTO Forum on Trade and Investments, with a special session to be dedicated to the recovery of tourism. He highlighted that Montenegro was now a modern international tourism destination and the first ecological state in the world, having for the last 30 years focused on nature conservation and cultural heritage.

As the current chair of the PAM Trade and Tourism Group, he expressed his delight in bringing political attention to this critical topic.

Presentation of the Report and Recommendations on “Economic impact of COVID-19 in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions in 2020: the policy response for an effective recovery” by Hon. Ljubica Maksimcuk (Croatia), Rapporteur on Economy. Hon Maksimcuk stated that the pandemic had led to the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, with a decrease of up to 44% of GDP in the most vulnerable economies in the PAM region. The crisis showed the fragility of global value chains and the importance of financial diversification. Stressing that going back to the “old normal” was not enough, she called for economic recovery strategies to focus on three policy areas: 1. Relaunch of economies based on inclusivity, especially of women, youth, and workers in the informal sector. 2. Revival of tourism in the region: harmonised guidelines and safety measures, for which the PAM Group on Tourism within the Economic Panel will work with relevant partners to promote a rapid and sustainable relaunch of this vital industry; 3. Recovery as an opportunity to accelerate green and digital transitions for sustainable models of development and economic prosperity: better access to and equitable development of internet usage and digital services, together with the transition towards a green economy, would enhance the competitiveness of the region on a global scale.

The PAM Secretary General read the Recommendations on the economic impact of COVID-19 in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions in 2020, which included a call for greater investment in IT infrastructure and full implementation of policies supporting the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

## Parliamentary debate

**Greece** stressed the importance of collaboration on peace, security, economic stability, and tourism in the region and underlined a series of measures undertaken by the government to mitigate the effect of the pandemic on economic sustainability: Operation Blue Freedom, the national action plan for vaccinations; national plans to improve the country’s competitiveness with innovative measures; and strategies to promote the environmental sustainability of SMEs. The delegation called for the creation of institutional frameworks to allow Mediterranean countries to facilitate mechanisms of financing and exchange experiences and know-how. To this end, it supported the strengthening of PAM’s collaboration with WTO, OECD and the World Bank in their endeavour to support SMEs, micro-enterprises and start-ups. It also stressed that employment-generating opportunities must take into consideration the younger generation as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Portugal** underlined that the revival of tourism will be important for the commercial and employment recovery for countries across the region with new forms of multilateral rather than unilateral economic cooperation for recovery financing. More equitable distribution of vaccines, fair access to IT services, and active involvement of all Parliaments in post-pandemic lifestyles and economic growth models were essential in achieving the SDGs. Portugal suffered extensive losses in production, exports, energy, and tourism with a rise of unemployment, and the Portuguese government implemented a 20-year economic recovery plan to build a resilient economic model. The delegate expressed appreciation for the valuable initiatives and partnerships PAM forged with its key stakeholders.

**UAE** highlighted the importance of the recovery of the world economy after the decline in supply and demand and limited employment opportunities, resulting in a decline in remittances, due to the pandemic. The delegation recommended a shared strategy among the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries to face challenges which cross borders and sectors. The health care and economic recovery should also include climate change, helping countries to build their capacities to overcome economic and climate challenges.

**Jordan** stressed the importance of collaborating on economic and environmental issues for economic and political stability at the regional level, as both national and regional actions were needed to safeguard natural resources for future generations. The political aspect behind collaborative efforts was certainly important for the PAM region in view of concerns about shared resources, upstream-downstream management of water bodies, and high salinisation of underground water.

Jordan was looking into creating research and development centres in collaboration with Egypt, Israel, and Palestine to address the implications of climate change on salinisation effects on crops; with the UAE on renewable energy; and with Portugal on geopolitical strategies to achieve SDGs.

**San Marino** pointed out that not being part of the EU, the country did not have access to the European COVID-19 vaccination mechanism, nor to EU recovery funds. Nevertheless, San Marino was becoming a COVID-19-free country, with 88.6% vaccinations performed with the Sputnik V vaccine and 11.4% with the Pfizer vaccine, an effort completely funded with internal resources. The delegation underscored that the Sputnik V two-doses' 99.3% efficacy should be recognised in international vaccination passports and promoted to give concrete support to tourism and SMEs on the road to economic recovery.

**Palestine** stressed that the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the COVID-19 pandemic also impacted the country's economy, food and health security. Now the population was moving towards a new economy of agricultural cooperatives and trade solidarities. Donations of

the Palestinian government and large banks and societies were helping to prevent the collapse of the economy and infrastructure, while the recession led the Palestinian Authority to work harder for the economic and governmental independence from Israel.

**Cyprus** focused on the impact of COVID-19 on global economic structures and on smaller and poorer countries lacking infrastructures for health and social welfare. To ensure no country is left behind, Southern European, Mediterranean, and Gulf countries needed solidarity and resources from wealthier countries, particularly for vaccination strategies, with a focus on protecting and saving human lives, rather than the profit of pharmaceutical companies.

**Israel** pledged to support all aspects of regional cooperation for the benefit of the people, and welcomed the cooperation with Jordan. The delegation insisted that the recent peak in violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict had started with Hamas rocketing Israeli targets. Furthermore, the delegation called for a better allocation of aid in support of the economy, health, and environmental protection of the region, rather than for military purposes. After the recent cease-fire, it should now be possible to resume negotiations to achieve peace on an equal basis.

**Romania** agreed that joint efforts were needed to support SMEs and the tourism sector to recover. The country created tools to facilitate loans and encourage investments and green development, and was hoping to boost tourism as an effective tool for economic recovery.

**Algeria** had changed the country's policies during the pandemic, putting investments in place to supply necessary resources while preserving the dignity of the population. Despite some progress regarding Agenda 2030, greater efforts must focus on post-pandemic social protection and assistance to the population. To this end, Algeria had designed an action plan together with the WHO to help the country build fiscal and monetary policies in line with the SDGs and local inclusivity.

**Syria** called for increased cooperation in economic issues, which is very difficult at a time of blockade. In this sense, the delegation requested the cancellation of unilateral measures and for the blockade to be lifted, in view of their disastrous consequences on the Syrian population.

**Tunisia** underlined that the country had suffered more than others from the lockdown, the suspension of tourism and trade, rising unemployment, and the devaluation of the national currency. However, all parts of society worked towards supporting families, promoting distance-working and education to reduce the direct impact of the pandemic. The delegation called for cooperation to support investments in health and vaccination strategies, to increase trade in agricultural products, and to make the Mediterranean a region of prosperity



Presentation of the Report and Recommendations on “Climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region: an urgent call for cooperation” by **Hon. Alain Péréa (France)**, PAM Rapporteur on the environment. The Rapporteur provided an overview of the state and consequences of climate and environmental changes in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions. He highlighted how, despite lockdown measures, the planet in 2020 witnessed only a slight reduction in air pollution. The rapid warming of air and water, coupled with marine heatwaves, biodiversity losses, and extreme weather events, led scientists to define the Mediterranean as a climate change hotspot.

He indicated how the region was set to lose half of its fresh water resources by 2050, spurring an urgent need for better scarce resource management.

The Rapporteur highlighted three ways in which PAM member Parliaments could work together for climate action:

- Rapidly adopt national declarations of environmental emergency: Join a regional coalition on carbon neutrality by 2050 and adopt a carbon added tax. At COP26 and the Mediterranean COP22, PAM will put forward the crucial role of the region’s parliamentarians in developing cohesive climate policies.
- Ensure protection of biodiversity and natural resources: The Mediterranean fish population was reduced by 34% since 1950, but 92% of stocks were yet being overexploited. The region’s growing population and depleting resources required integrated fishing and agricultural management policies to preserve biodiversity.
- Adopt sustainability and circularity in economic models to allow for a resilient and forward-looking recovery: Improving pollution prevention and adopting new resource utilisation models should become a top priority for all governments.

The region’s long-term recovery depended on holistic approaches to protecting nature and local populations. A rapid transition to carbon-neutral societies and thus ensuring prosperity for future generations was crucial. A set of recommendations assisted parliamentarians in placing sustainability and climate action at the centre of monetary and financial policies for the post-COVID-19 recovery. PAM members were to design climate policies that respect local traditions and support the goals of the Paris agreement, the Agenda 2030, and the Barcelona Convention.

After the read-out by the PAM Secretary General of the recommendations related to the issue of “Climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region: an urgent call for cooperation”, the parliamentary debate was opened.

**Portugal** urged local and regional action to face the threats posed by climate change and environmental degradation to the PAM region. In particular, the need for an urgent introduction of measures for the maritime and agricultural sectors as well as a rapid reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions was highlighted. Climate change was at the top of Portugal’s priorities to ensure a just transition, and the country expected to hold governments accountable for their promises. Furthermore, the delegation stressed that the European target of carbon emissions reduction by 55% by 2030 was imperative.

**Palestine** underlined how the country’s environment suffered from the occupation which impacted different local resources such as water, energy and fishery. The establishment of industrial zones directly impacted the Palestinian territory and produced dangerous chemical waste and gases, in addition to land deprivation and the establishment of colonies in green areas. The smuggling of dangerous waste into the Palestinian lands was contrary to international law and destroyed natural reserves close to the Dead Sea.

The PAM President thanked everyone for the excellent work, the rapporteurs and the staff of the 2nd Standing Committee, the interpreters, and all participants for the lively discussions.

Thursday 4 June

## Session of the 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security-Related Cooperation

**Chair: Sen. Alia Bouran (Jordan)**, President of PAM 1st Standing Committee. The Chair highlighted the issues related to peace and security in the region, stressing the need to respect international law and follow the measures presented in relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The region continued to face a challenging security climate characterised by conflicts, political crises, and lasting instability. Recently, the Middle East was affected by a new cycle of violence in Gaza, where innocent people died, and a vast part of the civilian infrastructure was destroyed.



A lasting solution had to be found, allowing the parties, the region and the rest of the world to be able to live in peace and security. Proactive steps were needed to return to the negotiating table and come to a Two-State solution as the only option in respect to international law for both peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, to achieve their legitimate aspirations to govern themselves, to live side by side within safe and recognised borders in peace and security. Meanwhile, the international community was encouraged to continue providing the necessary aid and resources to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza and beyond.

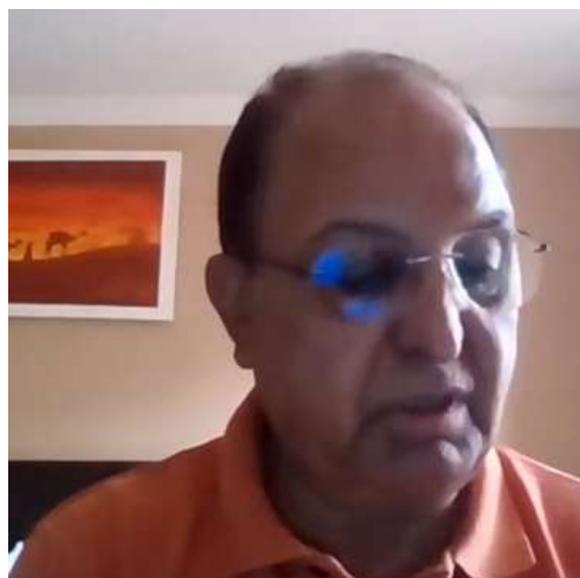
While Libya was showing some promising signs of progress in the process of national reconciliation, in Syria great human suffering continued. Alarming rates of violence, terrorism and humanitarian crises posed great threats in the Sahel and parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, which if left unaddressed would provide a fertile ground for a drastic expansion of terrorist activities beyond these regions. According to the UN, Yemen represented the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. In this regard, PAM parliaments needed to work together with the leaders of these areas in order to ensure stability. In Syria and Iraq, the issue of ISIL survivors remained unresolved and continued to pose terrorist threats and challenges in the region. PAM member countries needed to closely look at the status of their nationals held in former ISIL territories as battlefield detention was inherently temporary and not a sustainable option. Terrorist recidivism was another key issue, as many persons convicted of terrorism offences were to be released in the near future.

PAM Parliaments needed to address the legislative gaps these groups might try to exploit and should reevaluate the effectiveness of deradicalisation efforts. PAM signed a cooperation agreement with UNOCT for further joint actions in the areas of counterterrorism and violent extremism, and co-organised several major conferences on parliamentary actions on counterterrorism. Security policy should always be accompanied by comprehensive economic development and financing, governance strengthening, addressing environmental security and focusing on providing opportunities for people. PAM remained the unique and best platform for parliamentary diplomacy because of its experience and knowledge of the region. The Chair reiterated that whatever happens in the Middle East has a large impact on the region as all areas are interconnected.

In his video message, keynote speaker **Mr. Annadif Khatir Mahamat Saleh**, UNSRSG and Head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), referred to the PAM report on security issues in the Mediterranean region, which are inter-linked with West Africa and the Sahel. The access to humanitarian aid and safety of humanitarian workers represent key concerns; cooperation at the international, regional, and national levels must continue. The fight against insecurity needed to be in full respect of human rights obligations, and particularly the rights of women and children, in which Parliamentarians should play a key role. UNOWAS' strategy in the region was committed to supporting security sector reforms in the Sahel and West Africa regions and addressing the root causes of crises. It counted on key partnerships and initiatives to guarantee the economic security for those populations in need. In 2017, the cooperation with the African Union allowed the adoption of the Lake Chad Basin Strategy to create the ground for stabilisation in the Sahel region. Regional partnerships on governance also cover topics such as the creation of a platform for ministers of justice, and institutional cooperation between UNOWAS and ECOWAS on the question of gender and youth. The lack of representation of women and youth in decision-making fora remained one of the biggest challenges in the region

Presentation of the report and recommendations on "Security issues affecting the PAM region", by **Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh (Morocco)**.

*Note: As the report was finalised at the end of April 2021, it did not include the latest developments in the Middle East. All delegations who already submitted comments to the PAM Secretariat, in particular Palestine, were thanked while others were encouraged to provide during the debate their comments and suggestions.*



The Rapporteur referred to the UN data on the most recent events in the Middle East with 220 victims in Palestine, of whom 66 were innocent children, and on the Israeli side at least ten people killed as well as over 130 buildings with more than 600 housing and commercial units destroyed in Gaza, including offices of international media.

Libya reached a successful cease-fire after years of harsh confrontations, an achievement also due to the key work conducted by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the United Nations. However, recent disagreements regarding the new Constitution and the upcoming elections formed a source of major concern, and PAM hoped for consensus and successful general elections, which it is ready to support.

In Syria, the overall situation was dire with steep price increases for basic supplies and food insecurity.

PAM Bureau had recently decided to include Yemen in its work due to the impact of the serious crisis on our collective security. PAM must show solidarity with the civilian population of whom more than 30 million people now needed some form of assistance. In a recent meeting with the UN Special Envoy, Martin Griffiths, PAM pledged support to the political process once a cease-fire was achieved.

The situation in the Western Sahel region, Lake Chad Basin, East Africa, and Mozambique as well as the recent events in Mali and Chad remained of great concern. In the Western Sahel, 13.4 million people needed humanitarian assistance, a 60% increase in one year, and some five million people were displaced, including 870,000 refugees.

In Lake Chad Basin, 27.1 million people could face a food crisis shortly, an increase of ten million in just one year. The recent incursions in North-Eastern Nigeria, the Central African Republic and Mozambique were worrisome. Parliamentarians, and particularly members of PAM, had to work for peace, security, and stability in the region with parliamentary diplomacy as an instrument capable of mobilising the necessary political support for all humanitarian efforts.

After the Secretary General's reading of the recommendations on "Security issues affecting the PAM region", the floor was opened for Parliamentary debate.

Syria clarified that after ten years of conflict, education and social conditions had deteriorated. Many armed groups, mercenaries, ISIL terrorists and foreign forces were still present, and had stopped water supply to millions of people and blocked access for students to take their final exams, using them for trafficking and blackmail purposes, stealing crops, burning cereals of opposing farmers, killing and wounding civilians. The US army was keeping Daesh and ISIS prisoners, preventing the access to the Syrian army. A national delegation named by the Syrian government was committed to carry out UN Resolution 2254 (2015) for the creation of a new constitution, but this mission was not shared by the other party.

The UN had declared presidential elections to be an internal Syrian affair, and their outcome should be respected. The delegation proposed a text in the Recommendations to lift the blockade on Syria.



**Portugal** reiterated that the pandemic had further exacerbated the great security and stability challenges faced by the Mediterranean region over the last several decades, increasing human trafficking networks and migrant crossings of the Mediterranean Sea. The UN Secretary-General's appeals for global cease-fires and efforts to solve the Middle East issue were without success., and negotiations for a Two-State solution in light of relevant international resolutions should rapidly resume.

The delegation also highlighted the dire situation in Mozambique and the need to prevent international terrorism networks from operating in Africa. A technical EU-team was on the ground to prepare an EU-mission in Cabo del Gado, and special military forces were being trained. Parliamentary diplomacy and collaborative efforts continued to be important to promote security and stability in the region.

**Palestine** reiterated that the occupation and the population revolts in Jerusalem showed to the world the suffering of the Palestinians as also discussed in Human Rights Watch and the UN Human Rights Council. The Palestinians would never accept the new right-wing Israeli government, and fighting would not stop until the right conditions for the creation of an independent Palestinian state would be in place. Egypt and Jordan were thanked for their negotiations to stop the bloodshed. On this issue, PAM needed to take action for a comprehensive peace.



**Israel** saw hope that the new government with Palestinian participation may work well as the country is an open society. The delegate expressed the hope for peace and stability in the region and the return to the negotiating table, and thanked for the important role of neighbouring leaders. The only road towards peace and stability in the region was through negotiations. For the records, many of the donations for the reconstruction of schools in Gaza had been used for barracks and tunnels and rockets sent to Israel by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad which did not even accept the Palestinian Authority.

**Algeria** stressed that peace challenges and fighting terrorism are two related issues in the region. Large countries needed to move out of a close-minded strategy and work towards peace and stability. Algeria had suffered violence and learned its lesson, and now the violence in the Middle East had to be faced. More than 140 international organisations have raised their voice in favour of the Palestinian population, but there was a need to go to the core of the problem and work for a Two-State solution for which PAM was a relevant forum. Algeria worked on fighting corruption and supporting youth and planned to hold elections in the near future.

**Palestine** reminded that the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory was not fairly mentioned in the Recommendations of PAM 1st Standing Committee. The delegation wanted fair treatment and these attacks to be denounced. The international solidarity against the occupation was expressed by the EU Parliament asking for a halt to the evictions. Palestinians were just asking to live in peace.

The Chair stressed that PAM is a platform to consolidate honest voices to be able to address the concerns of both parties. The Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 adopted by 53 Arab and Islamic countries addressed the concerns of security with responsibility for peace and security in the region. It was still on the table and its adoption would result in a viable Two-State solution.

**San Marino** had in April 2021 approved a specific law to assist unaccompanied migrant minors, many of whom were forced to live in poor conditions with little access to basic services. San Marino acted out of solidarity and remained available to contribute to fighting this issue, hoping its measures will serve as an example of a sense of humanity that must accompany action of the region and for lasting peace to be restored as soon as possible.

**Tunisia** had managed to counter terrorism in coordination with Algeria and other neighbours and remained determined to promote democracy. The response to the issues of migration, terrorism and peace discussed in PAM should not only rely on political decisions but be based on a development approach. The cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean required the sharing of experiences and expertise in ad-hoc sessions and within workshops.

Presentation of the Report and Recommendation on “Countering the evolving threat of terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean region” by **Hon. Gennaro Migliore (Italy)**.

The Rapporteur indicated the areas needing close monitoring to prevent them becoming magnified terrorist threats in the near future:

1. To consider the potential threat posed by the thousands of former ISIL affiliates, including fighters, women and children remaining in battlefield detention in Syria and Iraq without a comprehensive and lasting solution



Minors and women housed in these facilities must be received by their countries of origin, in compliance with international human rights obligations. Similarly, they needed to get access to deradicalisation programmes to prevent threats of recidivism.

2. In 2020 alone, 41% of all victims from terrorism came from Africa, especially from the Sahel region and the Lake Chad Basin. Moreover, Mozambique and the Horn of Africa regions remained sources of major concern with terrorist groups – particularly ISIL, Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram – recruiting and exploiting children for military and labour purposes who had little hope for a future.
3. Support was needed for counterterrorism measures and to address the root causes leading to the rise in violent extremism. Throughout 2020 and the first half of 2021, PAM had been very active on counterterrorism, facilitating dialogue and policy exchange among the parliaments of the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions by bringing the concerns of PAM Members to the forefront of global discussions. In collaboration with its partners, PAM organised three key events: together with UNOCT and the OSCE PA, a virtual conference to take stock of the terrorism threat in the context of the pandemic; a virtual joint Parliamentary meeting with UNOCT on the “Challenges of the post-territorial ISIL context”, allowing for an open discussion on the challenges of repatriation, prosecution, deradicalisation, the evaluation of the threat of recidivism, and strengthening international cooperation. The event also marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between PAM and UNOCT; and lastly, together with several inter-parliamentary assemblies and the UN, a major global conference on parliamentary action against terrorism.

After the PAM Secretary-General read out the recommendations on “Countering the evolving threat of terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean Region”, the floor was opened for the **Parliamentary Debate**.

**Greece** pointed out that territorial and air space integrity must always be respected, and the migration crisis must not be used as a political weapon, but rather countries needed to effectively cooperate to find common solutions to common problems. Moreover, the delegation stressed that Greece will continue to act in line with the EU decisions, such as its support for a Libyan-owned political solution in accordance with the UN resolutions and the Berlin process. Collaboration was also needed for the Middle East crisis in which Greece supported a comprehensive Two-State solution and the Abraham accords for normalisation of relations in the region. On Syria, it was stressed that a situation not foreseeing a balance of power on the ground cannot continue.

**Turkey** described the country as the most active partner in the global coalition against Daesh, supporting the UN efforts in finding a definite and stable solution for a prosperous Syria. It also condemned the serious attacks against the Turkish as well as the Syrian population, with now more than 3.5 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Greece and Turkey had agreed that pushbacks should be stopped and children be protected. The delegation stressed that Libya’s legitimate government worked in line with international law and international efforts to increase economic and political security, and that a common approach was needed in the fight against terrorist organisations. Turkey was ready to work with other countries in the region on a common strategy rather than different strategies leading to different results.



Romania stressed that parliamentary diplomacy needed to be intensified to find lasting solutions to the crises that affect the Mediterranean region. In order to do so, it was essential to take advantage of the expertise by joining efforts to treat terrorism’s root causes. In addition, PAM’s work in promoting a multi-dimensional approach to security and focusing on good governance and human rights was highly valuable.

**Portugal** stated that, although the pandemic slowed down our lives, terrorist activities remained manifold and continued to spread both inside and outside the region. This had taken the world to a new stage of recruitments and dissemination of the terrorists' destructive ideologies. The return of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) has become a global problem with dramatic consequences and urgently requires effective legislative frameworks to follow up on FTFs' repatriation, reintegration as well as deradicalisation programmes. A new UN office for Parliamentary action in counterterrorism was recently established in Qatar. Portugal set up a new UN strategy in 2015 and a plan of action for the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism. Portugal's EU presidency is important to address questions regarding the fight against violent terrorism as coordinated action based on dialogue and best practices sharing was needed.

**Algeria** insisted that threats and challenges exacerbated in the Mediterranean region needed to be addressed to reduce tensions which hinder the region. Any form of radicalisation needed to be eradicated to prevent increase in terrorism and violent extremism activities. Algeria had a global and complete experience in fighting this phenomenon and was ready to cooperate and share strategies and lessons learned. Regarding Libya, the delegation stressed that foreign interventions were complicating the situation on the ground.

**Algeria** supported the success of national reconciliation and was ready to guarantee an open maritime line and open borders as well as the resumption of trade for economic and commercial cooperation to help Libya move forward. Algeria was aware of the economic and health challenges in the region, including the need to achieve a Two-State solution in order to create the basis for lasting peace, stability and security in the Middle East.

**UAE** reiterated that in order to move forward and eliminate terrorism and counter its negative and threatening impact, it was essential for all International Organisations and national parliaments to work together to find a common definition of terrorism. Terrorist organisations were using electronic means, radicalising and mobilising youth. Economic and social welfare must be urgently funded. The UAE has undertaken many actions to address terrorism, for instance with the Law of 2014 and the law against violence on the basis of religion, ethnic background or nationality. It established a centre together with the UN, signed more than 14 international agreements to fight terrorism, and was continuing to cooperate with other initiatives.

**Morocco** agreed that meetings had been organised to fight terrorism linked to the stabilisation of the political and economic situation in many areas of the world, but that the COVID-19 crisis allowed terrorist groups to grow further. In this regard, more work on the creation of appropriate legal frameworks was needed to organise the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices.

Moroccan Parliament established a committee to analyse the conditions of ISIL prisoners and their families in Syria and Iraq to understand their situation and bring them back home. Morocco would like PAM to organise a meeting to exchange experiences on this complicated challenge at the legal level as each country has its own way to face this situation. Especially the situation of women and children merited attention to be able to return to peace and security in the region.

**Qatar** referred to the comprehensive legal framework on all actions of money transfer follow-ups as contained in Law 11 of 2015 in the Constitution of Qatar. The Decree was coherent with all actions to fight terrorism in the country and the world at large, in respect of all UN resolutions and treaties signed to face terrorism and extract it from its roots. An MOU had been signed with UNOCT to make available all resources and actions towards fighting terrorism and allowing for a relevant UN Office to be based in Qatar. Several other laws had been voted, e.g. laws against money laundering, and to fight terrorism. Furthermore, in 2015 a bilateral agreement treaty with the United States was signed to fight money laundering and terrorism in the effort to fight corruption and setting the highest transparency possible in money transactions.

**Palestine** appreciated all initiatives to support the right of Palestinians to live in peace and security, and repeated that violent actions cannot lead to peace and stability.

Chair repeated that the Arab initiative was still on the table and it was necessary to work with all parliaments in the region for further negotiations.

**Algeria** was concerned that COVID-19 had delayed the progress in the fight against terrorism. It remained urgent to find the root causes of terrorism as many countries were still ignorant and others were subject to corruption, dictatorship or other root causes. An increase of all forms of extremism was also seen in Europe. One common definition of terrorism must be agreed upon as terrorist actions violated the laws of the countries and injected instability, both domestically and internationally. A guarantee of respect for human rights and security in the country of return was a prerequisite, in particular for children who were now living in terrorist camps and were forced to carry out crimes.

**Amb. Laborde** considered the peace proposals for Libya and the Sahel to be thought-provoking and instrumental for the work to bring peace to the region. PAM cooperated with UNOCT in an MOU for formal cooperation, and on guidelines for parliamentarians of all UN Member States in the context of the global fight against terrorism. On behalf of PAM, he planned to accept the invitation of Egypt's constitutional court for the presidents of all constitutional courts of the region and Africa, and also represent PAM's positions on fighting terrorism. If timely, France might also propose a dialogue to be organised between higher courts in the region and the PAM members in an international framework for open dialogue. This recommendation was welcomed by the President of the 1st Standing Committee as an important initiative to move matters forward.

## 2021 PAM Prize laureates award ceremony:

The PAM Secretary General explained that, due to the Plenary being held online, the prizes were announced but were to be awarded hopefully in person at a ceremony hosted by the Italian Parliament at the next possible occasion. The PAM Prize was awarded to those institutions and individuals who have demonstrated through their activities a strong commitment to the work of PAM contributing to peace, welfare and solidarity in the region. The laureates include:



**Arab Forum for Environmental Development** – In appreciation for the 2020 report on “Health and Environment in Arab countries” which represents a pivotal instrument to comprehend the current developments in Arab countries in light also of the consequences set off by Covid-19.

**World Health Organization** - In appreciation of its crucial role during the Covid-19 pandemic, delivering its expertise in the vaccine field, through the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS), and establishing the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) for 2021.

**COVAX** – In recognition of its role in the global collaboration “Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator”, intended at quickening the progress and production of COVID-19 vaccines, and guaranteeing acceptable and fair access to them for every country in the world.

**Waterfalls Initiative of the UAE** – In appreciation for their constant work at providing education to medical professionals and specialists across the world via high-level webinars as a way to address the pandemic.

**Observatory Tutti Media (Italy)** – In recognition of their relevant role in fighting for gender equality through their projects “Il Ruolo della Donna nel Mondo” and “Donna è innovazione”, the first promotes women empowerment while the second focuses on policy strategies on innovation and gender inclusion.

**Dr. Andrea Castro (Portugal)** – For her outstanding medical support after a massive explosion occurred in the port area of Beirut and the essential role in raising funds, along with Association Romã Azul, to personally deliver medical supplies to hospitals and institutions in need in Beirut.

**Kingdom of Jordan, as a State** – for being the first country organizing a special vaccination programme for refugees / migrants

**Team Hope (Lebanon)** – In appreciation of their program which provide student refugees with the opportunity of learning robotics and STEM subjects, relying on also the potential of robotics as a way of affecting adolescents' mental health. In 2016 a small team won a robotics competition at the American University of Beirut thanks to their mascots "Robogee", the robot refugee.

**Associatione Mediterran (France and Italy)** – In recognition of the incessant work done in promoting, through cultural and policy exchanges, the Mediterranean diet as a viable and resilient model for socio-economic recovery in the PAM.

**Najib Delaby Kasem (Tunisia)** - For his graphic novel, "Stupor Mundi", winner of the Prix Révélation Quai des Bulles 2016 and selected among the best graphic novels at the Angoulême 2017 festival. The novel is a keen reflection on man divided between ambitions for power and thirst for knowledge but also a reflection on the correlation between science and religion, power and creation, in the Mediterranean region.

**Sabrina Gahar (Algeria)** - for being an outstanding women's rights activist in Algeria, for her strong commitment to eliminate domestic violence, as well as her dedication to the children psychology, especially traumatic effects post- sexual abuse against children. Her contribution is highly valuable for protecting women from discrimination, violence and extremism.

**Mr. Kamal Hachkar (Morocco)**- for a documentary (in 2012) "Tinghir Jerusalem: the echoes of the mellah".

**A collective prize to eleven PAM Member States** – (Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, San Marino, Turkey) for supporting work for women affected by domestic violence in time of COVID-19 through the development of smartphone applications to provide assistance to victims.

## **Closing address by Hon. Karim Darwish, PAM President**

The PAM President recalled the work done by the Rapporteurs over the past year on artificial intelligence, economic recovery, climate change, and security challenges. He particularly stressed that “words are not enough” to describe the dire situation of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, and he called for collective efforts towards safe and orderly migration and to address root causes of the migration phenomenon and the threat of terrorism in the region. Parliamentary diplomacy remained an important tool for dialogue. He congratulated the delegations for supporting the launch of the Women Parliamentary Forum, and the incoming PAM President, Hon. Gennaro Migliore, and the incoming Bureau members, and looked forward to continued support.

## **Address by the new PAM President Hon. Gennaro Migliore**

In his acceptance speech, the incoming PAM President thanked Hon. Sandrine Mörch who had also candidated for this role and whose work on the issue of domestic violence and gender had been appreciated by all. He also thanked the outgoing president, the Bureau, the PAM Secretary General and the Secretariat staff for their excellent work under these difficult times, and his own country and parliament for their trust in him and for the work – beyond political differences – dedicated towards the work of the Assembly. He was addressing the Assembly as a man from the Mediterranean, born in Naples. Parliamentarians had the duty to answer to their people who had chosen them as their representatives, they needed to place the Mediterranean, a rich and diverse identity, and a true cradle of civilisations, at the centre – and not the periphery - of a political vision for peace, while cultivating tolerance, fighting fundamentalism, and working towards the common good. The southern shore of the Mediterranean was facing a tsunami of instability, competition for resources and infrastructures and an especially dangerous security situation with the threat of a global Jihad, while the pandemic had also shown the economic fragility of the northern shore. He was proud there were Israeli and Palestinian vice-Presidents at PAM and reiterated that parliamentary dialogue was an effective tool to deal with even the most complex situations. Urgent needs included economic recovery from the pandemic, to have vaccines available to all, and for southern countries to be able to produce their own. He was proud that PAM had voted in favour of more gender-balance within the Assembly, and of the creation of the Women Parliamentary Forum. He recalled the work undertaken in favour of an ecological transition, the fight against terrorism, and the signature of a collaboration agreement with the UNOCT, and stressed that PAM could encourage national assemblies in designing policies to address new issues. The next year would bring opportunities to collaborate with the Italian presidency of the G20 and with COP26, while Expo Dubai would allow for further political-economic collaboration among the Mediterranean countries. In conclusion, he quoted Giorgio la Pira, mythical mayor of Florence, who had said that the Mediterranean should be a border of peace. He looked forward to working together with colleagues in the Bureau and all Members of parliament.

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**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**  
**ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**  
برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

**15<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**3-4 June 2021** (virtual)

**Agenda**

(All times are CET/ Paris time)

**Thursday 3 June**

**10:00 Opening of the Plenary Session**

Opening address by **H.E. Karim Darwish**, PAM  
President

Message by **H.E. António Guterres**, Secretary General of the United  
Nations

**10:30 Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations  
and Human Rights**

**Chair: Hon. Yana Chiara Ehm (Italy)**, President of PAM 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee

Address by **Mr. Leendert Verbeek**, President of the Congress of Local  
and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Address by **Mr. Vicente Miguel Garcés Ramón**, President of the  
Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation

Presentation of the Report on “Resolving Domestic Violence in the  
Mediterranean: Global Opportunity for Local Change” and the  
Recommendations “PAM MPs for an end to Domestic Violence”,  
presented by **Hon. Sandrine Mörch (France)**

Parliamentary debate

Presentation of the Report and Recommendations on “Protecting  
Human Rights in an increasingly automatized world: Artificial  
Intelligence, opportunities for parliamentarians”, presented by **Hon.  
Marianne Amir Azer (Egypt)**

Parliamentary debate

**12:30 Preparatory Meeting of the PAM Women Parliamentary Group**

Welcome address by **Hon. Yana Chiara Ehm (Italy)**, President of PAM 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee

Introduction and Moderation by **Hon. Joana Lima (Portugal)**

**Ms. Silvana Koch-Mehrin**, President and Founder of Women Political Leaders (WPL)

Message by **Hon. Lesia Vasylenko**, President, IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Parliamentary debate

**13:30 Break**

**15:00 Session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation**

**Chair: Hon. Pedro Roque (Portugal)**, President of PAM 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee

Message by **Francesco La Camera**, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Address by **Hon. Giulio Centemero (Italy)**, Co-Chair of the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments

Address by **Hon. Dragan Krapović (Montenegro)**, Chair of the Sectoral Group on Tourism Promotion within the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments

Presentation of the Report and Recommendations on "Economic impact of Covid-19 in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions in 2020: the policy response for an effective recovery", presented by **Hon. Ljubica Maksimčuk (Croatia)**

Parliamentary debate

Presentation of the Report and Recommendations on "Climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region: an urgent call for cooperation" presented by Hon. **Alain Perea (France)**

Parliamentary debate

**17:00**      **End of working session**

**Friday 4**

**June**

**09:00**      **Session of the 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee on Political and Security-Related Cooperation**

**Chair: Sen. Alia Bouran (Jordan)**, President of PAM 1<sup>st</sup> Standing Committee

Message by **Annadif Khatir Mahamat Saleh**, UNSRSG and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

Presentation of the Report and the Recommendations on “Security issues affecting the PAM region”, presented by **Sen. Lhou Lmarbough (Morocco)**

Parliamentary debate

Presentation of the Report and Recommendations on “Countering the evolving threat of terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean region”, presented by **Hon. Gennaro Migliore (Italy)**

Parliamentary debate

**11:00**      **2021 PAM Prize laureates Award ceremony**

**11:45**      **Management and financial report** by Amb. Sergio Piazzi, PAM Secretary General

*[Session for PAM parliamentary delegates only]*

**12:30**      **Announcement of the results of the virtual elections of the new PAM Bureau and of PAM Presidency**

**12:45**      **Closing remarks**

**H. E. Karim Darwish**, PAM President

Address by newly elected PAM President

**13:00**      **End of Plenary Session**

## List of registered participants

### PAM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

<b>Albania</b>	<p><b>Hon. Klodiana Spahiu</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Milva Ekonomi</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Lefter Koka</b>, MP</p>
<b>Algeria</b>	<p><b>Sen. Lyes Achour</b>, MP  <b>Sen. Mohamed Zakaria</b>, MP  <b>Sen. Leila Aslaoui</b>, MP  <b>Sen. Malik Khediri</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Jawad Bouteraa</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Ammar Moussi</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Mounia Benziada</b>, Advisor</p>
<b>Andorra</b>	<p><b>Hon. Raul Ferré</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Berna Coma</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Marc Magallón</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Jordi Font</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Eulàlia Rich</b>, Secretary of Delegation</p>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<p><b>Hon. Mehmedovic Šemsudin</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Darijana Filipović</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Sredoje Nović</b>, MP</p>
<b>Croatia</b>	<p><b>Hon. Ljubica Maksimčuk</b>, MP, Head of Delegation, PAM Rapporteur on Economy  <b>Hon. Anita Pocrnić-Radošević</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Katica Glamuzina</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Snježana Ramljak</b>, Secretary of Delegation</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p><b>Hon. Stefanos Stefanou</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Charalambos Theopemptou</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Marina Adamidou</b>, Director  <b>Mr. Andreas Ioannides</b>, Officer  <b>Ms. Ioanna Sygrasiti</b>, Officer  <b>Ms. Georgia Neophytou</b>, Officer</p>

<b>Egypt</b>	<p><b>Hon. Karim Darwish</b>, MP, PAM President, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Mohammed Abou El-Enein</b>, PAM President Emeritus  <b>Sen. Mohsmed El Sebae</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Rasha Ramadan</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Magda Bakri</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Yahia Essawy</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Marianne Azer</b>, PAM Rapporteur on Artificial Intelligence  <b>Hon. Shireen Eleish</b>, MP,</p>
<b>France</b>	<p><b>Hon. Alain Péréa</b>, MP, PAM Vice President, PAM Rapporteur on Environment  <b>Sen. Sylvie Goy-Chavent</b>, MP  <b>Sen. Marie-Arlette Carlotti</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Sandrine Mörch</b>, MP, PAM Rapporteur on Domestic Violence  <b>Mr. Mohamed Sadoun</b>, Staff  <b>Ms. Upinder sharanjit</b>, Staff</p>
<b>Greece</b>	<p><b>Hon. Christos Kellas</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Maximos Senetakis</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Costas Zachariadis</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Pinelopi Nikole</b>, Official, Head of European Regional Cooperation Conferences and Partnerships Department  <b>Mr. Georgios Chondronasios</b>, Secretary of Delegation  <b>Ms. Christina Balkamou</b>, Official</p>
<b>Israel</b>	<p><b>Hon. Yitzhak Ze'ev Pindrus</b>, MP, Head of Delegation, PAM Vice President  <b>Hon. Galit Distel</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Ram Ben Barak</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Moshe Arbel</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Efrat Rayten</b>, MP</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p><b>Sen. Giuseppe Moles</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Sen. Pier Ferdinando Casini</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Yana Chiara Ehm</b>, MP, PAM Vice President, President of the PAM 3rd Standing Committee  <b>Hon. Giulio Centemero</b>, MP, Co-Chair of the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments  <b>Hon. Gennaro Migliore</b>, MP, Chair of the PAM Special Committee on Counterterrorism  <b>H.E. Francesco Maria Amoruso</b>, PAM President Emeritus  <b>Mr. Roberto Sorbello</b>, Secretary General of the Italian PAM Delegation  <b>Ms. Susanna Radoni</b>, Advisor  <b>Mr. Stefano Thaulero</b>, Advisor  <b>Mr. Giuseppe Trezza</b>, Advisor  <b>Ms. Monica Delli Priscoli</b>, Advisor  <b>Ms. Antonella Usiello</b>, Advisor  <b>Ms. Nadine Chirizzi</b>, Advisor</p>

<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Sen. Alia Bouran</b> , MP, President Emeritus, PAM Vice-President, President of the PAM 1st Standing Committee
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Hon. Chamel Roukoz</b> , MP, Head of Delegation
<b>Libya</b>	<b>Hon. Mohammed Alfeeras</b> , MP <b>Hon. Sabah Alhaj Faraj</b> , MP <b>Mr. Mohamed Algabasi</b> , Secretary of Delegation
<b>Malta</b>	<b>Hon. Aaron Farrugia</b> , MP, Head of Delegation <b>Hon. Julia Farrugia Portelli</b> , MP <b>Hon. Karl Gouder</b> , MP <b>Hon. Kevin Cutajar</b> , MP <b>Ms. Eleanor Scerri</b> , Staff
<b>Monaco</b>	<b>Hon. Marie-Noëlle Gibelli</b> , MP, Head of Delegation <b>Ms. Victoria Campana</b> , Secretary of the Delegation
<b>Montenegro</b>	<b>Hon. Dragan Krapović</b> , MP, Head of Delegation <b>Hon. Dejan Djurović</b> , MP <b>Hon. Jovanka Bogavac</b> , MP <b>Hon. Suzana Pribilović</b> , MP <b>Mr. Blagota Marunovic</b> , Secretary of Delegation
<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh</b> , MP, PAM President Emeritus <b>Sen. Abdelhamid Fathi</b> , MP <b>Hon. Abdellatif Berroho</b> , MP <b>Hon. Mohamed El Hejira</b> , MP <b>Hon. Amam Chokrane</b> , MP <b>Mr. Taib Cohen</b> , Secretary of Delegation <b>Mr. Imane Aggour</b> , Secretary of Delegation <b>Mr. Hamza Karmoun</b> , Secretary of Delegation
<b>Palestine</b>	<b>Hon. Belal Qasem</b> , MP, PAM Vice-President <b>Hon. Omar Hamayel</b> , MP <b>Hon. Jihad Ab Znied</b> , MP <b>Hon. Munther Merai</b> , MP <b>Mr. Khaled Ayyad</b> , Focal Point

<b>Portugal</b>	<p><b>Hon. Joana Lima</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Pedro Roque</b>, MP, PAM President Emeritus, PAM Vice-President, President of the PAM 2nd Standing Committee  <b>Hon. Ana Paula Vitorino</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Emilia Cerqueira</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Francisco Rocha</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Joana Sá Pereira</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Rita Ferreira</b>, Director  <b>Ms. Dalila Maulide</b>, Chief Advisor to the Delegation  <b>Ms. Nádia Loureiro</b>, Parliamentary Advisor</p>
<b>Republic of North Macedonia</b>	<p><b>Hon. Gjorgjija Sajkoski</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Enes Ibraim</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Bleta Bilali</b>, Secretary of Delegation</p>
<b>Republic of San Marino</b>	<p><b>Hon. Adele Tonnini</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Matteo Ciacci</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Denise Bronzetti</b>, MP</p>
<b>Romania</b>	<p><b>Hon. Mirela Furtună</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Sen. Sebastian Cernic</b>, MP  <b>Sen. Irina Elisabeta Kovács</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Rodica-Luminița Barcari</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Dumitrița Gliga</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Ruxandra Cazacu</b>, Secretary of Delegation  <b>Ms. Ioana Andrei</b>, Secretary of Delegation</p>
<b>Serbia</b>	<p><b>Hon. Veroljub Arsic</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Tijana Davidovac</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Ivana Nikolic</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Ana Beloica</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Natasa Mihailovic Vacic</b>, MP  <b>Ms. Ana Trajkovic</b>, Secretary of Delegation</p>
<b>Syria</b>	<p><b>Hon. Boutros Merjaneh</b>, MP, Head of Delegation  <b>Hon. Ammar Alasad</b>, MP  <b>Hon Ahmad Merie</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Shireen Alyousef</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Zain Elabiddin Abbas</b>, MP</p>
<b>Tunisia</b>	<p><b>Hon. Kenza Ajala</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Jedidi Sboui</b>, MP  <b>Hon. Mohamed Ammar</b>, MP  <b>Mr. Morched Hajji</b>, Focal Point</p>

<b>Turkey</b>	<b>Hon. Atay Uslu, MP, Head of Delegation</b> <b>Hon. Mustafa Canbey, MP</b> <b>Hon. Mehmet Altay, MP</b> <b>Hon. Ensar Aytakin, MP</b> <b>Hon. Mahmut Celadet Gaydali, MP</b> <b>Mr. Neslihan Temelat, Advisor</b> <b>Mr. Tuğçe Okumuş, Advisor</b>

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

<b>Holy See</b>	<b>Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, Secretary of the Holy See's Relations with States</b> <b>Msgr. Emil Paul Tscherring, Apostolic Nuncio to Italy</b>
<b>Qatar</b>	<b>Hon. Dahlan Al-Hamad, MP</b>
<b>Sovereign Order of Malta</b>	<b>Amb. Alberto di Luca, Permanent Representative of the Order to PAM</b>
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	<b>Hon. Maryan Bin Theneya, MP, Head of Delegation</b> <b>Hon. Dherar Belhoul, MP</b> <b>Hon. Hend Al-Aleeli, MP</b> <b>Mr. Ahmed Al-Aqili, Advisor</b> <b>Ms. Roudha Al-Shihhi, Advisor</b> <b>Ms. Afra Al-Basti, Assistant Secretary General</b> <b>Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Shehhi, Parliamentary Division Manager</b>
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<b>Sen. Andrei Klimov, MP</b> <b>Mr. Pavel Ermoshin, Advisor</b> <b>Ms. Irina Kuzmina, Advisor</b>

#### REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

<b>Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union</b>	<b>H.E.. Fayez Al-Shawabkah, Secretary General</b>
<b>Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)</b>	<b>H.E. Bodo Bahr, Secretary General</b>

<b>European Parliament</b>	<b>Hon. Salima Yenbou, MP</b> <b>Ms. Marion Stonner, Staff</b> <b>Ms. Lisa Smihi, Staff</b>
<b>Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China</b>	<b>Hon. Emanuelis Zingeris, MP</b>
<b>Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation</b>	<b>H.E. Asaf Hajiyev, Secretary General</b> <b>Dr. Miltiadis Makrygiannis, Deputy Secretary General</b>
<b>Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)</b>	<b>Hon. Lesia Vasylenko, MP</b>
<b>Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States</b>	<b>H.E. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, Secretary General</b> <b>Mrs. Sharareh Fathizadeh, Executive Secretary</b>
<b>Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA)</b>	<b>H.E. Altynbek Mamaiusupov, Secretary General</b> <b>Mr. Ali Yıldız, Deputy Secretary General</b> <b>Mr. Emin Hasanov, Secretary of Commission on Environment and Natural Resources</b>

## INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

<b>Council of Europe</b>	<b>H.E. Leendert Verbeek, President of the Congress Local and Regional Authorities</b> <b>Ms. Laura Esselin, Assistant</b>
<b>European Investment Bank</b>	<b>Ms. Mary O'Mahony, Policy Advisor</b>
<b>IRENA</b>	<b>Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)</b>
<b>OECD</b>	<b>Ms. Silvia Terron, Public Affairs Manager</b> <b>Ms. Stéphanie Véron, Public Affairs Manager</b>
<b>UN ESCWA</b>	<b>Mr. Akram Khalifa, Regional Adviser on Gender Equality &amp; Women's Empowerment</b> <b>Mr. Fidèle Byiringiro, Economic Affairs Officer</b>

<b>UN OCT</b>	<b>Mr. Mauro Miedico</b> , Deputy Director, Chief of Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) <b>Ms. Olga Lanchenko</b> , Programme Management Officer <b>Mr. Andres Castelo</b> , Programme Management Assistant
<b>UN ODC</b>	<b>Mr. Antonio Giovanni Luzzi</b> , Programme Officer
<b>UN OWAS</b>	<b>H.E. Annadif Khatir Mahamat Saleh</b> , UN Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel
<b>Union for the Mediterranean</b>	<b>Ms. Mafalda Gomes</b> , Senior Advisor
<b>World Health Organisation</b>	<b>Mr. Santino Severoni</b> , Director of Global Health and Migration Programme
<b>WHO/EMRO</b>	<b>Mr. Hala Abou-Taleb</b> , Regional Advisor
<b>World Trade Organization</b>	<b>Mr. Omar Rocchi</b> , Head of Unit

## GUESTS & PARTNERS

<b>Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue Cultures</b>	<b>Ms. Elisabeth Guigou</b> , President
<b>Associazione <i>Mediterran</i>: il nostro stile di vita (France/Italy)</b>	<b>Mr. Salvatore Giannino</b> , President
<b>BUSINESSMED</b>	<b>Ms. Jihen Boutiba Mrad</b> , Secretary General <b>Ms. Federica Bruni</b> , Network and Development Officer
<b>DIHAD/DISAB</b>	<b>H.E. Abdul Salam Al Madani</b> , Executive Chairman
<b>Enterprise Greece</b>	<b>Me. Vasso Kyrkou</b> , Director General of Communication, Marketing and Stakeholder Relations

<b>Euromed Cities Network</b>	<b>Ms. Cécile Remion, Manager</b>
<b>Global Parliamentary Services, LLC</b>	<b>Ms. Shazia Rafi, Managing Director</b>
<b>Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation (FACM)</b>	<b>Mr. Vincent Garcés Ramón, President</b> <b>Ms. Esma Kucukalic, Assistant</b>
<b>Mediterranean University Podgorica</b>	<b>Dr. Radislav Juvovic, Vice Rector for International Cooperation</b> <b>Mr. Petar Krivokapic, Advisor for International Cooperation</b> <b>Ms. Dragica Andjelic, Head of Legal Services Office</b>
<b>Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope</b>	<b>Dr. Silvana Bartoletto, Professor</b>
<b>University of Catania</b>	<b>Dr. Fulvio Attina, Professor</b>
<b>Women Political Leaders</b>	<b>H.E. Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President</b>

#### DIPLOMATIC CORPS

<b>Embassy of Egypt</b>	<b>H.E. Hisham Badr, Ambassador</b> <b>Mr. Nagui Ghaba, Deputy Chief Mission</b>
<b>Embassy of Malta</b>	<b>H.E. Carmel Vassallo, Ambassador</b>
<b>Embassy of Mauritania</b>	<b>H.E. Zeineb Ely Salem, Ambassador</b> <b>Mr. Mohamed Lemine Cheikh Oubey, 1st Secretary</b>
<b>Embassy of Morocco</b>	<b>H.E. Youssef Balla, Ambassador</b> <b>Mr. Hassan Ben Allal, Deputy Chief Mission</b> <b>Mr. Hamza Chougrani, Advisor</b> <b>Ms. Sara Ouafi, Advisor</b>
<b>Embassy of Turkey</b>	<b>Mr. Samet Ekici, First Secretary</b>

<b>Maltese Mission to EU</b>	<b>Hon. Ian Paul Bajada</b> , Representative of the Parliament of Malta to EU Parliament and EU institutions.
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## ORGANIZERS

<b>PAM Secretariat</b>	<p><b>Amb. Sergio Piazzi</b>, PAM Secretary General</p> <p><b>Amb. Qazi Shaukat Fareed</b>, PAM Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York</p> <p><b>Amb. Gerhard Putman-Cramer</b>, PAM Permanent Observer to the United Nations in Geneva</p> <p><b>Amb. Peter Schatzer</b>, Permanent Observer to the United Nations in Vienna</p> <p><b>Amb. Majallie Whbee</b>, PAM Roving Ambassador, Senior Advisor for the Middle East</p> <p><b>Amb. Jean-Paul Laborde</b>, PAM Roving Ambassador, Senior Advisor on Counterterrorism</p> <p><b>Amb. Florin Urcan</b>, PAM Roving Ambassador, Senior Advisor on the Balkans</p> <p><b>Dr. Mukesh Kapila</b>, PAM Senior Medical Advisor</p> <p><b>Eng. Alessandro Ortis</b>, Co-Chair of the PAM Economic Panel, Senior Advisor on Energy</p> <p><b>Mr. Mario Bracco</b>, Head of Administration and Protocol</p> <p><b>Mr. Vladimir Kirushev</b>, Deputy to the PAM Secretary General a.i.</p> <p><b>Ms. Céline Cervi</b>, Senior Advisor</p> <p><b>Dr. Joseph Sammut</b>, PAM Legal Advisor</p> <p><b>Mr. Francesco Senese</b>, PAM Legal Advisor</p> <p><b>Mr. Lahoucine Khabid</b>, Senior Program Officer</p> <p><b>Ms. Irene Pasqua</b>, Program Officer</p> <p><b>Ms. Marwa Maher</b>, Public Information Officer</p> <p><b>Ms. Magda Ninaber</b>, Plenary Session Rapporteur</p> <p><b>Ms. Ilaria Savoia</b>, Administrative Assistant</p> <p><b>Mr. Giacomo Bogo</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Mr. Giunio Santini</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Ms. Rania Himeur</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Mr. Luca Tonelli</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Ms. Sofia Cornali</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Ms. Léna Noël</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Ms. Gabrielle Fabre-Pinatel</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Ms. Marie David</b>, Researcher</p> <p><b>Ms. Anna Zaccaro</b>, Researcher</p>
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