



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

First Standing Committee on Political and Security Cooperation

Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East

Chairman: Hon. George Vella (Malta)

Middle East Peace Process & events in the Arab World

**Resolution unanimously adopted on 12 October 2012, during the 7th Plenary Session,
Malta**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Welcoming* the democratic transition processes that have started in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya which led to the holding of elections, the establishment of new governments and the drafting of new constitutions,
- b) *Aware of* the fact that such uprisings and democratic changes create a need for more cooperation and that further common efforts to face the challenges in the region must be made,
- c) *Deeply concerned* by the difficult economic, social and security circumstances currently faced by the populations of some of the countries that experienced the Arab revolutions,
- d) *Conscious* of the need to support these processes through parliamentary diplomacy and by cooperating with other international bodies in order to help the region's population to fully achieve their aspirations,
- e) *Deeply regretting* the civil strife and bloodshed still taking place in Syria and the non-respect of the ceasefire agreement by both sides of the conflict,
- f) *Viewing with appreciation* the achievements of the United Nations and other international bodies in bringing humanitarian aid, helping secure peace and fostering democratic transitions in the region,
- g) *Noting* the Fatah-Hamas agreement reached by the Palestinian Authority President H.E. Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas leader Kahed Meshaal,

- h) *Recognising* that the events of the Arab Spring, partly due to their direct impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, could represent a unique opportunity for the establishment of lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,
1. **Urges** Palestinian leaders to maintain unity and cohesion and Israel to seize the chance to negotiate peace, so that direct talks can be re-launched in good faith,
 2. **Calls for** renewed collaboration between Fatah and Hamas in order to create a coalition government through the holding of new national elections,
 3. **Welcomes** the decision made by Egypt to reopen its Rafah border with Gaza as well as President Mohamed Morsi's recent easing of travel restrictions and border controls in the area,
 4. **Calls on** Israel to do the same and to abide by international law, in order to resolve the humanitarian crisis that civilians in the Gaza strip are still facing,
 5. **Strongly encourages** PAM parliamentarians to organise a new fact-finding mission to Gaza, Ramallah and Jerusalem in order to follow up on the one sent in 2009 and be able to define the appropriate actions that need to be taken in order to ease the current local situation,
 6. **Has regards** for the fact that Palestinian authorities felt compelled to submit a statehood request to the UN in September 2011, and encourages both Israel and Palestine to work towards a fair, negotiated Two States Solution based on pre-July 4th, 1967 borders,
 7. **Exhorts** Hamas to renounce to violence and to recognise Israel's right to exist by accepting to comply with the Two State Solution,
 8. **Calls on** PAM parliamentarians to work towards further coordination between the PAM and The Middle East Quartet to ensure that the best possible conditions for resuming the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians in a peaceful and fair way are assured through work on both the political and the parliamentary levels,
 9. **Exhorts** national parliaments in countries currently transitioning to democracy in the aftermath of Arab Spring revolutions to work not only on the democratic process but also on tackling social and economic issues, as a healthy, growing economy and good social conditions are key for a country's political stability,
 10. **Requests** PAM parliamentarians to keep dedicating their efforts to economic growth and social development in the region, focusing specifically on the abovementioned countries,
 11. **Encourages**, in this regard, European and Islamic financial institutions to direct their assistance towards critical social issues in the region, especially the promotion of gender equality and better legal protection and economic opportunities for women,

12. **Affirms its resolve** to collaborate with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in sending a mission to Libya aimed at assisting the local authorities in their efforts to re-establish a fully functioning parliament, as requested by Libyan Foreign Affairs delegates to the two organizations,
13. **Calls upon** PAM parliamentarians to further collaborate with the IPU on its work related to the situation in Syria, and expresses its readiness to send a mission to the country, as decided at the 126th IPU Assembly and directly requested to PAM, in order to maintain a dialogue with local authorities and find out the ways in which assistance can be provided by both the IPU and PAM through parliamentary diplomacy,
14. **Resolves** to support the United Nation's efforts to end the ongoing conflict in Syria, establish a political dialogue with its authorities and send humanitarian aid to the country,
15. **Strongly recommends** parliaments of member states to give their full support to the United Nation's Special Envoy to Syria in his mission to put an end to the conflict,
16. **Stands ready** to use its parliamentary diplomacy tools and to put them at the disposal of the UN System and other international organizations in order to put forward a coordinated strategy in helping to bring peace to the region and support the ongoing democratic transitions,
17. **Confirms** its dedication to keeping an open channel of communication and dialogue between international organisations and national authorities in countries that experienced the Arab Spring revolutions.