



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

1st Standing Committee on Political and Security related Cooperation

“Countering the evolving threat of terrorism in the Euro-Mediterranean region”

Rapporteur: Hon. Gennaro Migliore (Italy)

Resolution adopted by consensus on 20 February 2020 during the 14th Plenary Session in Athens

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Condemning* terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as defined in PAM Resolution adopted during the 4th Plenary Session on 23 October 2009 in Istanbul, and *affirming* that terrorism is a global phenomenon and is not related to any particular religion, culture or geographic region as stated in the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with the necessity of the international community of adopting a comprehensive approach to fight terrorism and all terrorist organizations without exception;
- b) *Stressing* the concept of the national state, respecting the principle of the “State primary responsibility” and the central role of its national institutions in law enforcement in the context of efforts in fighting terrorism and extremism, and the need to respect what relates to the principle of state sovereignty in this regard;
- c) *Stressing* lack of discrimination between “extremist incitement rhetoric” leading to terrorism and material acts of terrorism, and the importance of the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2354 (2017) on countering terrorist narratives;
- d) *Welcoming* the establishment of the PAM Special Committee on Counterterrorism, as a dedicated mechanism, which will meet annually in Rome to enhance and coordinate the activities of the Assembly on counterterrorism, and provide recommendations for national legislations and international initiatives;
- e) *Alarmed* by the risks posed by the release of ISIS fighters held in makeshift prisons and camps in North Eastern Syria on international peace and security, especially after the recent developments in that area and possibilities of them moving to other countries;
- f) *Deeply concerned* about the situation of hundreds of thousands of children born under occupation or living in a war situation and who are subject to inhumane conditions,

including those who were born/raised under the ISIL regime, many of whom remain in camps without proper identification or established nationality;

- g) *Recalling* the responsibilities of States included in UN Security Council resolutions 1373, 2178, and 2396 to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts, or in supporting terrorist acts, is brought to justice, also keeping in mind a special attention when developing tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for women and children associated with foreign terrorist fighters, as some of them may have been themselves victims of terrorism;
 - h) *Alarmed* at the growing decentralization of ISIL, the emergence of affiliate groups throughout the world, and notably in the Sahel, and the exploitation of local low-intensity conflicts by jihadist groups;
 - i) *Stressing* the need for increased international cooperation to stem terrorist movements across borders, and *recalling* the mandatory provisions of UN Security Council resolution 2396 to establish and implement Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record systems (PNR);
 - j) *Noting with concern*, the increased use of technology by terrorist groups, including the use of digital communications, social media platforms, “dark web” spaces, encryption technology, money transfer systems, and the use of drones, among others;
 - k) *Highlighting* that all counterterrorism measures must be undertaken within the rule of law, while fully respecting the human rights of all people;
- I. ***Encourages*** its member countries to support the its proposal to establish a UN-mandated *Mission of Inquiry* in order to address the situation of ISIL survivors, including with the provision of assistance to identify, repatriate, prosecute, and rehabilitate individuals, as appropriate;
 - II. ***Calls on*** member parliaments to pass the necessary national legislation to comply with the obligatory provisions of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, namely 2178 on foreign terrorist fighters, 2396 on returning and relocating FTFs, 2462 on countering terrorism financing, and 2482 on addressing the nexus between organized crime and terrorism, among others;
 - III. ***Emphasizes*** the necessity of ensuring accountability for countries that sponsor terrorism and embrace its elements, including foreign terrorist fighters, and provide them with a safe haven or arms, train them and facilitate their movement through their territories to other regions to destabilize them, or provide them with financial, logistical, political or media

support, and the need for all member States to respect their obligations in this regard under international law and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;

- IV. **Encourages** member countries to share valuable data related to terrorism threats both within and among countries through agreed platforms;
- V. **Calls on** member parliaments to provide the legislative frameworks and earmark the necessary resources for the establishment and implementation of API/PNR systems, which include strong safeguards and oversight mechanisms, to prevent terrorist movements;
- VI. **Stresses** the need to regularly update national legislations to address the evolving threat of terrorism, notably the increased use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, and to address related pressing issues, such as the regulation of the private sector to ensure investigative cooperation.
- VII. **Recalls** the importance of preventing terrorist organizations - and their supporters - from using social media and modern means of communication to spread extremist ideology and hate speech, whether it stems from takfirist ideology, racism or xenophobia;
- VIII. **Stresses** that providers of social media platforms must remove inflammatory extremist content from their websites, while ensuring the respect for the right to freedom of expression and preventing the abuse of this right for terrorist purposes;
- IX. **Invites** member parliaments to examine and reflect on the challenging balance between security and privacy rights, and to enact clear and effective legislation in this regard;
- X. **Encourages** member countries to utilise the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe (Budapest Convention), as the most operational international instrument available to all states on dealing with electronic evidence across borders in terrorism cases, as it provides procedural tools on mutual legal assistance, extradition, expedited preservation, production orders, search and seizure, and interception of computer data, among others, as well as dedicated 24/7 points of contact, who cooperate in real time;
- XI. **Urges** member countries to take proactive steps to address the spread of extremist ideologies, as for instance in prisons through deradicalization programs; in society by addressing the root causes of extremism such as social exclusion, inequality, xenophobia, habituation of violence, lack of access to education and meaningful employment; and online through stronger regulation and enforcement regarding extremist conduct in the cybersphere;
- XII. **Urges** member parliaments to harmonize their national legislation in accordance with their international obligations in connection with combating terrorism and enhancing cooperation among them in this field, to reduce bureaucratic obstacles to this end, while respecting individuals' human rights;

- XIII. Calls on* its member parliaments to condemn and reject any legislation which violates the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law, which supports occupation, settlement, detention of children and violates basic human rights;
- XIV. Resolves* to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue on effective counterterrorism policies and strategies, through the mechanism of the PAM Special Committee on Counterterrorism, among PAM member parliaments and with expert representatives of governments, international organizations, academia and civil society.
- XV. Urges* its Member States to provide aid and assistance to countries affected by armed conflicts and security tensions, and to support their authorities and agencies in order to accomplish their functions in countering terrorism.