



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

1st Standing Committee on Political and Security-related Cooperation

Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East and Arab Spring

Political Developments in the Middle East and North Africa

Rapporteur: Hon. Dr. Justyne Caruana (Malta)

Resolution unanimously adopted during the 8th PAM Plenary Session in Marseille, 21 January 2014

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *whilst looking favourably and appreciating* the decision of the conflict parties in Syria to meet for negotiations in the context of the Geneva II conference;
- b) *Welcoming* the resumption of peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, notably through the continuous mediation efforts of the US;
- c) *Aware of the fact* that confidence-building measures by Israel and the Palestinians, like prisoner releases and the general renunciation of violence, are necessary steps towards a final peace settlement in the Middle East conflict;
- d) *Deeply concerned* about certain developments in some of the Arab countries affected by social unrest, such as the ongoing conflict in Syria;
- e) *Conscious of the fact* that the solution to the violence in Syria can only be political and that post-Arab Spring countries are in need of cooperation with international humanitarian organizations, parliamentary diplomacy and, especially in the case of Syria, of humanitarian aid;
- f) *Noting* the great risk to the so far successful transition of Tunisia posed by rising tensions between political parties and within society, as well as to Libya's transition which is challenged by the precarious security situation and to the transition process in Egypt which is highly unstable;
- g) *Recognizing* the positive reform efforts in Jordan and Morocco as an appropriate reaction to the social tensions in the region;

- 1) **Urges** Israel to refrain from settlement building activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to not jeopardize the current peace talks;
- 2) **Has regards** for UN Secretary-General's Ban Ki Moon's and Special Envoy of the Middle East Quartet, Tony Blair's call on the international community to prioritize the Middle East Peace Process;
- 3) **Calls on** Hamas and Fatah to continue their negotiations aiming at improved collaboration between the parties;
- 4) **Encourages** Israel to stick to its decision to release 104 prisoners until April 2014;
- 5) **Resolves** to support the UN in solving border and settlement issues based on the two-state solution framework;
- 6) **Requests** the international community to establish regular dialogue with Israel and the Palestinians;
- 7) **Strongly recommends** PAM Parliaments to support Libya in establishing the Rule of Law, building institutions and disarming militia groups;
- 8) **Exhorts** PAM Parliaments of countries in democratic transition to address their domestic socio-economic issues in order to avoid malaise among large portions of their populations;
- 9) **Has regards** for the effort and recent successes of the Committee of the 50 under the leadership of H.E. Amr Moussa to write a new constitution for Egypt that enjoyed large popular support, and that opens the way for the resumption of full parliamentary life in Egypt;
- 10) **Strongly encourages** PAM parliamentarians to assist countries in democratic transition through facilitating regional partnerships, trade agreements and foreign investment that is compatible with national sovereignty;
- 11) **Has regards** for the constitutional reforms in Morocco and Jordan as appropriate steps to address the needs of their populations;
- 12) **Urges** the conflict parties in Syria to ensure the protection of civilians, respect human rights and cooperate to enable the delivery of humanitarian aid in the entire country;
- 13) **Resolves** to support the UN to find a political solution to the conflict in Syria with the Geneva II conference as an important next step;

- 14) **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 transition;
- 15) **Confirms** its dedication to keep an open channel of communication and dialogue between international organizations and national authorities in countries that experienced the Arab Spring revolutions;
- 16) **Congratulates** Tunisian National Constituent Assembly for adopting the new constitution and appointing the members of the High Electoral Commission, and invites Tunisia to complete its transition by holding parliamentary and presidential elections;