

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Intervention

Speech of H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC,

Secretary General of the Parliamentary

Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)

at the 11th session of the Parliamentary

Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

Portugal, 23-24 February 2017

1st standing Committee

Excellency President of PAM,

Excellency Speaker of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Republic of Portugal,

H.E. Secretary General of PAM, H.E. Foreign Minister of Portugal,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Excellencies,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله و بركاته.

I would like to express my utmost thanks and appreciation for your kind invitation to the PUIC to attend and participate in the meetings of the 11th Session of PAM. In my capacity as PUIC Secretary General, I have been always keen to respond to your kind invitations pursuant to our interest to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and exchange of expertise between your august Assembly and our PUIC. Our interest to continue participation in your important meetings is further enhanced by the participation of a number of esteemed parliaments which are members of our two organizations.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the basis of my experience as PUIC Secretary General for a period of more than nine years, I am convinced that national parliaments have significant roles which cannot be overlooked when reviewing the necessities of political, economic and social life in our societies, irrespective of their geographical locations. These roles assume more importance when reflected in the role which parliaments may play at regional and international levels, particularly in consolidating democracy and the pillars of good governance which is materialized, not exclusively, in realizing peoples' prosperity which includes security, peace, human rights and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The standing committees of your august Assembly will discuss important themes in political and economic domains, as well as dialogue among civilizations and human rights. These are pivots in which parliamentary diplomacy is active to achieve successes which help to enhance international solidarity for the sake of realizing international security and peace. I will try to refer to some of them in brief which may be of benefit and good consequence in the enrichment of your deliberations thereon.

I will not break new ground by stating that the formidable and many challenges that prevail in our tumultuous world-in various parts-are headed by terrorism and extremism, coupled by economic difficulties and problems of climate changes, the prevalence of cross-border crime, migration and displacement, and spiraling animosity that threaten dialogue which we have expected to prevail among civilizations. However, we maintain that all the above-mentioned difficulties should not be allowed to impede the activities of parliamentary diplomacy. The latter is certainly able to address them seriously in order to find solutions. Undoubtedly, good intentions, political will and consensus will be the best help to overcome all those impediments.

Concerning PUIC endeavors to defeat terrorism, we affirm that our conferences, on all levels, as well as standing specialized committees, have approved resolutions on combating terrorism, and adopted a document in this regard that calls for refrain from financing terrorism or offering training to any terrorist activities. Furthermore, the document urges to double efforts in order to take measures to tackle the root causes of terrorism and the long-lasting conflicts, eliminate social injustice, promote understanding between religions, cultures and civilizations, and expand the roles of civil society.

These resolutions also requested parliaments to enact effective counter-terrorism legislations that conform with international instruments and commitments. Our PUIC also has approved resolutions on combating terrorism under UN umbrella.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Population migrations in terms of asylum, displacement and human trafficking have become a security worry of unprecedented proportions in our modern history. All of these gave rise to cases some of which have surpassed prevailing international laws and conventions in such a way that it necessitated quite often addressing each case according to its circumstances, causes and receiving body. The question remains whether alternative laws will be formulated in lieu of the laws of asylum of 1951 and subsequent protocols, for example. And what about coercive displacement and migration? What about the modality of international and regional cooperation to curb human trafficking, and transporting people on death voyages across borders and seas? All of this requires bigger international cooperation that takes into consideration the harsh humanitarian circumstances that face all these categories as well as their right to decent living.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The dangers of climate change are threatening all human communities, including food and health security. All of these are man-made in the First World and developing world, in varying degrees, which necessitate international cooperation in order to eliminate their negative impacts.

The Paris Conference on climate change in December 2015 has constituted a practical step in the world action plan to curb the impacts of climate change, the Marrakech Conference of November 2016 aimed at enhancing such international effort. However, the greater challenge remains the commitment to adopted resolutions, as well as the modality of equally obliging developed and developing states to take effective steps to lower levels of carbon emissions, and offer transparent reports on progress made.

The post-Paris and post-Marrakech phase makes incumbent on our parliaments and governments to implement the resolutions and recommendations adopted by noteworthy conferences; to make their respective communities aware of the risks of climate change; enact necessary legislations to

protect the environment and the climate; approve ambitious budgets to finance such actions; raise the standard of science and technology; and increase the fields of clean and renewable energy. All this in addition to urging the United Nations and its specialized agencies to play a substantial role that is apt to be more effective.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I conclude by addressing the role of parliaments and their governments at national, regional and international levels in protecting the cultural heritage. We have to propagate the culture of respecting heritage, its preservation and projection of its advantages and beneficence, following the example of many states that made heritage into important sources for economic development through tourism and investments. We ought to commend and praise the response of parliaments by promulgating laws that preserve and protect heritage, and penalize those who tamper with or destroy it tantamount to punishing transgression on human rights. We must laud the work of UNESCO and its cooperation with all countries of the world for preservation of human heritage and propagation of its culture as well as projection of its importance which greatly contributes to its preservation.

Cultural heritage in terms of libraries, manuscripts, engravings, monuments, temples, etc., are facing now, more than ever before, the danger of destruction, demolition, theft and plunder, in various parts of the world, especially those regions where there is extremism, terrorism and aggressions on the culture and civilization of the "other" because of war and occupation. In this case, it is important to initiate international cooperation to defeat the risks that endanger such heritage, and seriously act to value the culture of peace and rejuvenate the dialogue of cultures and coexistence of civilizations.

In conclusion, I wish your proceedings all success. And thank you for listening.

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.