



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

Mid-Year Report
on the Activities of the
Parliamentary Assembly of the
Mediterranean

28 August 2018



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of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean
January- July 2018

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Introduction

During the first semester of 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean has performed very effectively focusing on those priority issues identified by its strategic plan of action and at the Plenary Session in Bucharest.

During this period, PAM's parliamentary diplomacy efforts focused on political dialogue, confidence building, peace efforts, human rights and socio-economic growth throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region, with particular emphasis in the Middle East, North Africa and the Balkans.

Most indicative of the critical importance of the UN - PAM growing partnership is the bilateral meeting between PAM President and Secretary General with H.E. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, and other executive officials of the UN in New York in April. In particular, the strategic partnership established with the UN Security Council and the UN Department of Political Affairs allowed PAM to uphold its effort aimed at facilitating the implementation of relevant UN initiatives to fight and contain foreign terrorist fighters, and the spread of violent extremism. PAM Secretariat continued encouraging Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, facilitated the delivery of medical aid to Gaza and remained committed to national reconciliation efforts in Syria and Libya. PAM continued to support democratic processes in the region and conducted two electoral observation missions in Egypt in March 2018 and Turkey in June 2018.

In parallel, cooperation with international parliaments and organizations continued to progress, in particular with the Arab Parliament, the Arab IPU, the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy, the European Commission and the League of Arab States.

Population movements northward, particularly from Sub-Saharan Africa, continue to represent a critical question on which PAM is particularly active. The collaboration, established last year, with the President of the UN General Assembly, is now aimed at preparing PAM for its contribution to

the UN Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact on Migration, scheduled to take place in Marrakesh, Morocco, in December. In preparation for this event, PAM, and the Pan-African Parliament as a special guest, will hold a dedicated meeting next November, hosted by the Turkish Parliament to address the nexus of security and migration and ensure a comprehensive approach to tackle this multi-faceted issue.

As a key element of its mandate to promote regional security and stability, in 2018, PAM has further structured its partnership with the World Trade Organisation, the World Bank, the IMF, the OECD, the UNECE and UNCTAD, and other European financial institutions aimed at sustaining structural investments and job-creation in the Western Balkans. With regard to climate change, PAM is still committed to organise the next parliamentary MEDCOP, which should take place in Fez, Morocco, back to back with the UN Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact on Migration. This is necessary to reaffirm the importance of the steps forward achieved in the negotiations within the COP meeting from Paris onwards.

On the model of the cooperation already established with the WTO, PAM and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have launched a long-term bilateral cooperation programme, based on the role of MPs to advocate for, promote and defend the application of Human Rights, as well as the implementation of the Universal Periodic Reviews. A precise road map has been agreed upon, and the activities defined there-in being already scheduled.

With reference to higher education at the service of regional security and stability, PAM will organize with the assistance of the Moroccan parliament and government a dedicated parliamentary hearing in Fez on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the launching of the PAM programme which carries the name of the city. Meanwhile, the PAM Academic Platform continues to attract new members from the entire region.

Details on the activities of the PAM Standing Committees in the first semester 2018 are listed below, and provide more information on the activities carried out so far, as well as those scheduled to take place in the coming months.

On the administrative side, the Secretariat is thankful to its members for having implemented the 10% increase of the budget, as adopted in Bucharest. With the new resources available the Secretariat has been able to meet its financial obligations and effectively implement its political mandate, making full use of its decentralized structure, regional offices and permanent observers. The Secretariat also resumed the cooperation with academic institutions in the framework of the Erasmus programme.

The basic preliminary financial figures, as of 28 August 2018, are:

Funds received: Euro 690,897 (78.1%) out of a theoretical budget of Euro 871,010 (100%)

Expenditures: Euro 435,972

Arrears due: Euro 545,913 (of which 190,813 for 2018 – 21.9 % of the annual budget)

VAT refunds due to PAM by the Ministry of Finance of Malta: Euro 12,500

1st Standing Committee on Political and Security Related Cooperation

The 1st PAM Standing Committee on **Political and Security** related issues has been very active in the first half of 2018. At the political/security segment of the 12th PAM Plenary Session in Bucharest, discussion focused on areas of continued instability and conflict in the region, namely the halting of the peace process between Israel and Palestine, the civil war in Libya, and the ongoing conflict in Syria. The debate was fruitful, with active high-level parliamentary and government representation from all of the countries concerned. Through the adopted resolution on the political and security developments in MENA region, it was clear that all delegates are willing to work towards the resolution of regional crises, and to continue to utilise PAM as the key instrument of parliamentary diplomacy in the region to this end.

On the occasion of the 12th PAM Plenary Session, PAM unanimously reaffirmed its position that a two-state solution is the only way for both peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, to achieve their legitimate aspirations to govern themselves, to live side by side within safe and recognized borders, in peace and security: the State of Israel and the independent State of Palestine, in accordance with the relevant international resolutions.

PAM addressed the issue of humanitarian crises caused by regional conflicts, notably participating in, and delivering the closing address at, the annual DIHAD conference, which in 2018 was dedicated to “The Sustainability of Emergency Aid”.

A PAM high-level delegation met in New York, in mid-April, with the President of the GA, the UN Secretary General and other senior officials to review activities and priorities for joint action and dedicated initiatives. The SG welcomed the continued commitment by the Assembly, in particular its efforts for confidence building and peace-negotiation support in the Middle East, including the choice to establish a liaison officer in Jerusalem to coordinate closely with and support UNSCO, UNIFIL, UNRWA and the other agencies operating in the area.

Terrorism continued to be the top security concern for PAM in the region, specifically in light of the potential threat posed by those foreign fighters who survived the battles in Syria, Iraq and Libya, and are now seeking to return to their country of origin, or exploit areas of instability, such as the Sahel region to regroup their criminal organisations.

PAM continued to be active on counter-terrorism by actively participating in a number of dedicated conferences on the issue in Vienna, New York, Rome, and Paris, and continuing our long-standing work with key partners, namely the UN Security Council CTED, UNODC, the newly established UN Office for Counterterrorism, OSCE, the EU, and others. Through this work, PAM continued to focus on the role of parliamentarians in the global fight against terrorism, and to advocate for a review of national legislations to ensure that they are fully in line with the key UN instruments, such as the relevant Security Council resolutions. This is necessary to ensure harmony and inter-operability between the legal systems of neighbouring states, to facilitate international cooperation to combat terrorism.

PAM actively participated in, and contributed to, the Sixth Biennial Review of the Global UN Counter-terrorism Strategy and the UN High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. The two events took place at the UN Headquarters in New York from 26 to 29 June 2018.

In the consultations leading up to the meetings, and during the high-level segment, PAM highlighted the indispensable role of national and international parliaments in the fight against terrorism, and the need for parliamentarians to ensure that national legislations are in line with the UN instruments on counterterrorism, in order to speed up international cooperation in criminal matters, and to achieve efficient investigations against terrorists and terrorist organizations while respecting the rule of law and human rights.

Additionally, PAM participated in an international conference on "International Criminal Law against Cybercrime", which was hosted by The Court of Cassation of France, and held in Paris on 28 June. PAM Secretary General Sergio Piazzzi, in his closing address, highlighted the key role of parliamentarians in keeping up with the evolution of the terrorist threat in cyberspace by enacting timely legislation that addresses the use of emerging technologies.

Political dialogue continued to be dynamic and constructive through inter-parliamentary diplomacy and PAM's active participation in a number of key events of the United Nations, NATO PA, IPU, Arab IPU, OSCE PA, PACE, PABSEC, IPA CIS, Arab Parliament, OIC, SEECF PA, Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy, Moscow Forum on "Development of Parliamentarism", UfM PA Speakers Summit, and Women Political Leaders Summit, among others. Moreover, PAM, as the key platform for parliamentary cooperation in the Mediterranean region, successfully organised another meeting of the Parliamentary Dimension of the 5+5 – Western Mediterranean Dialogue, in Algiers in January 2018.

PAM also continued to conduct direct dialogue with countries which are not members of PAM, but with which cooperation on certain issues is strategically important and mutually beneficial. In the first half of 2018, PAM met with MPS, ambassadors, and other high-level officials from Spain, UK, Russia, Hungary, Norway, and Qatar among others.

Additionally, PAM conducted two **electoral observation missions** to the Presidential and political elections, respectively in Egypt and Turkey. As the democratic process is central to peace and security in the region, PAM welcomes the renewed commitments of the key Libyan actors to work towards national reconciliation and to hold a general election by the end of 2018, and PAM stands ready to offer its support to this critical development.

Key events organized or attended on regional security:

- Al-Azhar International Conference in Support of Jerusalem. Cairo, Egypt, 16 – 17 January 2018.
- **High-level meeting of the Parliaments of the countries of the Western Mediterranean Forum – 5+5 Dialogue and Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue, Parliament of Algeria, Algiers, Algeria, 20 -21 January 2018.**

- **34th PAM Bureau Meeting and 12th Plenary Session.** Parliament of Romania, Bucharest, Romania, 14 – 16 February 2018.
- The 15th Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference (DIHAD), Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 5-7 March 2018.
- The United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People Conference on the Question of Jerusalem after 50 years of Occupation and 25 years of the Oslo Accords. Rabat, Morocco, 26 – 28 June 2018.

Key events attended on Terrorism:

- Enhancing synergies between the UN and regional and sub regional organizations to address the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime. United Nations, New York, USA, 9 April 2018.
- OSCE Counter-Terrorism Conference. Rome, Italy, 10 – 11 May 2018.
- 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Vienna, Austria, 14 – 18 May 2018.
- École de Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan Meeting "International Criminal Law Against Cybercrime". Paris, France, 28 June 2018.
- 6th Biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy and UN High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. United Nations, New York, USA, 26 – 29 June 2018.

Key events on political dialogue:

- 1st Part of the 2018 PACE Ordinary Session. Strasbourg, France, 22 – 26 January 2018.
- UN Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week. Geneva, Switzerland, 5 – 9 February 2018.
- 3rd Arab Parliament's Speakers Conference and **PAM Official visit to Egypt.** Cairo, Egypt, 10 – 12 February 2018.
- **34th PAM Bureau Meeting and 12th Plenary Session.** Parliament of Romania, Bucharest, Romania, 14 – 16 February 2018.
- 138th IPU Assembly / Interactive Session on the Sustainable Development Goals. Geneva, Switzerland, 24 – 28 March 2018.
- 27th Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union. Cairo, Egypt, 4 -5 April 2018.
- Plenary Session of IPA CIS. Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 13 April 2018.
- SEECF PA Plenary Session. Parliament of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 13 – 14 April 2018.
- 2nd Part of the 2018 PACE Ordinary Session. Strasbourg, France, 23 – 27 April 2018.
- 5th Summits of Speakers and 14th Plenary Session of PA UfM. Parliament of Egypt, Cairo, Egypt, 28 – 29 April 2018.
- NATO PA Spring Session. Warsaw, Poland 26 – 28 May 2018.

- Women Political Leaders' Summit 2018. Parliament of Lithuania. Vilnius, Lithuania, 6 – 8 June 2018.
- International Forum for the Development of Parliamentarism. Moscow, Russian Federation, 4 – 5 June 2018.
- 3rd Part of the 2018 PACE Ordinary Session. Strasbourg, France, 25 – 29 June 2018.
- 27th Annual Session of the OSCE PA, Berlin, Germany, 7-11 July

PAM electoral monitoring missions :

- **PAM Electoral Monitoring Mission - Presidential Elections in Egypt.** Egypt, 25 – 29 March 2018.
- **PAM Electoral Monitoring Mission - Presidential and Political Elections in Turkey.** Istanbul, Turkey, 22 – 25 June 2018.

2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation

With regards to the activities of the 2nd Standing Committee, the main event organized by the PAM Secretariat is a High-Level Parliamentary Conference dedicated to Trade Facilitation and Investment in the Mediterranean region. The event, held in cooperation with the WTO, took place in Belgrade, Serbia, on 12-13 July 2018. This conference was the continuation of the joint activities of PAM and WTO in the domain of investments and trade facilitation, following the success of the joint PAM/WTO parliamentary conference held in Rabat, Morocco on 8-9 October 2017 and was kindly hosted by the House of Councilors of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Assembly decided to continue focusing on these topics, which were considered as priorities for the years to come. The Belgrade event, to be hosted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, was organized also at the request of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, who identified the sub region of the Western Balkans as particularly crucial due to the different status of the countries of the area (EU membership, Euro as a currency, EU accession procedures etc.).

At the conclusion of the two-day conference, the following elements and actions were highlighted:

1. Trade and investments in the Euro-Mediterranean region and the Western Balkans can and must be further facilitated, and stimulated, especially with regards to international, inter-regional and intra-regional commerce. Dangerous international trade wars and national protectionism have to be further prevented or overcome;
2. Political stability, social progress, economic growth, peace, respect for human rights and adequate governance/management of the inter-regional and inter-continental migrations, are absolute priorities;
3. The inter-regional and intra-regional collaboration and cooperation between institutions, communities, economic and social operators and their associations; the dismantlement of barriers and the systems/markets integrations are crucial for regional economies and

societies in terms of job creation, GDP growth, sustainable development and better quality of life;

4. The exchange of know-how, best practices, lessons learned, together with research, innovation and education systems, are effective means to facilitate trade and investments, as well as to promote regional economic and social integration;
5. The WTO Agreement is a useful, fundamental instrument to facilitate trade and to promote market efficiency, fair competition and investments. Member Parliaments of countries that have not yet ratified the WTO Agreement are warmly encouraged to speed up the ratification process, in light of the benefits that the adoption of the agreement will bring. Multilateral trading system, market opening, their efficient regulation and integration are essential for the benefit of all the people;
6. Stability, reliability, transparency, clarity and regional/intra-regional harmonization of legislative, regulatory and legal frameworks are essential to facilitate trade and investments including regional and intra-regional infrastructural investment in energy, water, transport and telecommunication systems, to protect and develop the natural resources, the environment and to reinforce the consumers' care;
7. PAM will continue working with its member Parliaments, with other international Parliaments, other parliamentary or institutional Assemblies or Unions, the UN economic cluster, international financial institutions, OECD and WTO to promote and support the above mentioned proposals, initiatives and principles, keeping in mind its mandate and goal for the establishment of a unified, coherent and harmonized Euro-Mediterranean economic area.

In Belgrade, consensus was also reached on the establishment of the « Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum for Trade and Investment Facilitation ». This new endeavor is part of the well-structured PAM and WTO partnership, and shall be open to the participation of all relevant legislative and non-parliamentarian Institutions, their agencies, the UN system, OECD, the European Commission, International Financial Institutions, the private and academic sectors, and all relevant stakeholders, to contribute in facilitating trade and investments in the region.

In the first semester of 2018, the Assembly also contributed to a number of important events to which it was invited.

On 8 February PAM, represented by Hon. Clayton Bartolo (Malta) took part at the FEMISE Annual Conference 2018, which was dedicated to the theme “Neighbours of Neighbours: Relations and Cooperation of the EU-MED towards Africa”. The cooperation with FEMISE is relevant for PAM due to the contribution that FEMISE can provide to PAM within the framework of both 2nd and 3rd PAM Standing Committees, in terms of know-how on economics and participation to the Academic Platform, respectively.

On 6 March, PAM participated to the Second Meeting of the Secretaries General of the Parliaments of the BSEC Member States, held in Istanbul, Turkey. On that occasion, PAM underlined that the cooperation between the two assemblies goes beyond the topics of common concern, and that also includes administrative matters related to the Secretariat and its operations.

PAM participated and contributed to the Global Parliamentary Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, held in Washington, D.C. on 16-17 April 2018. PAM attaches high importance to the participation to this annual event, due to the wide array of topics addressed and to the opportunity to make his voice heard by parliamentarians coming from the entire world. PAM was represented in Washington by President Hon. Pedro Roque, Vice President Sen. Lhou Lmarbough and by the SG, Amb. Sergio Piazzzi. In his statement, PAM President stressed PAM's intention to strengthen its cooperation with the relevant international financial institutions in order to ensure that proper funding and ambitious infrastructure and development projects will be undertaken for the benefit of the Mediterranean region and its citizens.

Hon. Klodiana Spahiu (Albania) represented PAM at the 51st Plenary Session of the PABSEC, which was held in Tirana, Albania on 20-21 June. On that occasion, PAM offered its readiness and availability to organize a joint event with PABSEC, on the model of the numerous joint initiatives that PAM has undertaken in close cooperation with its partners, such as WTO and other UN agencies.

With regards to the second semester of 2018, PAM will participate and contribute to the 2018 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, which will take place in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, on 8-14 October 2018.

Another main activity for PAM in 2018 will be the organization of the Parliamentary MEDCOP, to be held on 7-8 December 2018 in Fez, Morocco, hosted by the Moroccan Parliament. The conference will gather all relevant Mediterranean stakeholders on environmental issues, as well as experts on energy, which is one of the sectors that account the most when it comes to CO2 emissions.

As done in recent years, PAM will also attend, and contribute to, the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), to be held in Katowice, Poland from 3 – 14 December.

Key event organized by PAM on Trade Facilitation and investments:

- **Meeting of PAM 2nd Standing Committee. Joint PAM/WTO meeting on the Critical Role of Regional Economic Areas.** Parliament of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia, 12 – 13 July 2018.

Key events relevant to the 2nd SC organized or attended during the first semester:

- FEMISE Annual Conference 2018. Neighbours of Neighbours: Relations and Cooperation of the EU-MED towards Africa. Valletta, Malta, 7 – 9 February 2018.
- Second Meeting of the Secretaries General of the Parliaments of the BSEC Member States. Istanbul, Turkey, 6 March 2018.
- Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), **(under the auspices of PAM)**. Salerno, Italy, 27 – 28 March 2018.
- Global Parliamentary Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF. Washington D.C., USA, 16 – 17 April 2018.
- 51st Plenary Session of PABSEC. Tirana, Albania, 20 – 21 June 2018.

3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights

In the framework of its 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights, in the first semester 2018, PAM has focused its activities on migration, human rights, interreligious dialogue and cultural heritage, and strengthened further its cooperation with the PAM Academic Platform members.

With reference to **Migration**, the Assembly has provided a major contribution, as a regional parliamentary organization, to the process of drafting the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, upon request of the President of the UN General Assembly. In particular, PAM attended the UN Parliamentary Hearing “Towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration: The contribution of parliaments”, which took place at the United Nations in New York, on 21-23 February. On that occasion, PAM shared with the participants the recommendations resulted from the PAM Parliamentary Conference on Migration, co-organized with IPU and the Parliament of Malta in Valletta in November 2017. That event stressed the need for a “Marshall Plan for Africa” that should not be intended only in economic terms, but also human rights, culture, education and welfare, for a real sustainable development that benefits all. Moreover, at its 12th Plenary Session, held in Bucharest in February 2018, the Assembly adopted a resolution on “The Mediterranean dimension of a Global Compact on Migration”, prepared by Hon. Badreddine Abdelkafi (Tunisia).

With reference to **Human Rights**, PAM Member Parliaments contributed to the preparation of the special report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on how to promote and enhance further synergies between national and international Parliaments and the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review. Moreover, PAM held, in cooperation with OHCHR, the Joint UN/PAM Seminar on Human Rights for PAM MPs on 21-22 June at Palais Wilson, in Geneva. A roadmap for a detailed structured cooperation and partnership between PAM and OHCHR was defined. It will build on: dedicated study tours for newly elected PAM MPs; specific hearings in connection with the various cycles of national UPR, including follow-up on the recommendations addressed by the High Commissioner to the individual countries; advocacy campaigns in relation to thematic and/or country reports; as well as strengthened interaction among PAM, civil society and OHCHR. In this framework, PAM also participated to the OHCHR Side event "increasing parliaments' engagement with human rights", held during the Human Rights' Council 38th session, on 28 June.

Finally, PAM signed an important cooperation agreement with FIDU – the Italian Federation for Human Rights.

With reference to **interreligious dialogue**, PAM reinforced its existing cooperation with UNAOC and established a fruitful cooperation with the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), by participating to various key events organized by the two organizations.

Moreover, PAM witnessed with satisfaction the practical implementation by the Government of Italy of the agreement reached with the Kingdom of Morocco on the fruitful cooperation in the field of training imams, and the subsequent arrival of several Imams to Italy to conduct prayers

during the month of Ramadan. The agreement was reached after the visit to Morocco that PAM and the Moroccan Parliament organized for the PAM delegations representing the countries members of the 5+5 Group of Dialogue to Morocco in February 2017. On that occasion, Sen. Fattorini, on behalf of the Italian Minister of Interior, officially requested the “Mohammed VI Institute for Training Imams Religious Guides” to assist in the training of imams in Italy.

In the field of **cultural heritage**, PAM adopted a resolution on “Protection of Cultural Heritage in the context of armed conflicts”, prepared by Hon. Gabriela Canavilhas (Portugal), at its 12th Plenary Session. Moreover, Professor Elena Merino, Director of the Program of Architecture at the University Nebrija of Madrid, Spain, has joined the PAM Academic Platform, as a Spanish member and expert of cultural heritage in the field of Architecture. This is relevant in view of the implementation by PAM of the UNSC Resolution 2347 of 24 March 2017 on cultural heritage, aiming at the safeguarding of the archaeological and artistic heritage of Mediterranean countries.

In the framework of its **Academic Platform**, PAM granted its high patronage to the Master's Degree in "Management of the migratory phenomenon and the integration process", which was launched on 19 March by “Aldo Moro” University of Bari, a new member of the PAM Academic Platform.

Moreover, the Project Evaluation Laboratory Workshop, jointly organized by the University of Salerno and the University of Shanghai on 27-29 March, focusing on the Belt Road Initiative (BRI), was held under the auspices of PAM. On that occasion, participants agreed to establish a program bringing together individuals and academic centers around the Mediterranean region to carry out research, education and business on BRI, within the PAM Academic Platform. PAM entrusted PEL/University of Salerno with the task of implementing the relevant academic and educational actions concerning this initiative.

PAM also contributed to the Seminar of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe on "Enhancing the Quadrilogue approach in the Euro- Mediterranean Youth Cooperation", held in Tunis on 10-11 May. This is very important also in view of the upcoming event that the Assembly will jointly organize with UfM on Education, Vocational Training, and the Labour Market in the second semester of 2018, as well as the PAM Conference on Higher Education, to be held in the city of Fez, Morocco, tentatively in December 2018, on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the PAM Fez Program.

Key events attended on **migration**:

- UN Parliamentary Hearing “Towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration: The contribution of parliaments”, New York, 21-23 February 2018.
- 138th IPU Assembly, Geneva, 24 - 28 March 2018.
- 5th Session of the Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Vienna, 4-5 July 2018.

Key events organized and attended on **human rights**:

- **Joint UN/PAM Seminar on Human Rights for PAM MPs**, OHCHR HQs, Palais Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 June 2018.
- Human Rights' Council 38th session - Side event "increasing parliaments' engagement with human rights", Geneva, 28 June 2018.

Key events attended on **interreligious dialogue**:

- UNAOC Group of Friends Meeting on "Preventing Violent Extremism and Sustaining", New York, 3 April 2018.
- Arria Formula Meeting of the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan and UNAOC on "Religious Leaders for a Safe World", New York, 24 April 2018.
- IAO Meeting on "Diversity in Unity and Fundamental Freedoms for Christians and Muslims in the Middle East: A Conference for Parliamentary Dialogue", Parliament of Lebanon, Beirut, Lebanon, 4-5 April 2018.
- 25th IAO General Assembly, Athens, Greece, 25-27 June 2018.

Key events attended in the framework of the **PAM academic Platform**:

- "Aldo Moro" University of Bari Master's Degree in "Management of the migratory phenomenon and the integration process", Bari, Italy 19 March 2018.
- Project Evaluation Laboratory Workshop on the Belt Road Initiative (BRI), Salerno, Italy, 27-29 March 2018.
- North-South Centre of the Council of Europe Seminar on "Enhancing the Quadrilogue approach in the Euro- Mediterranean Youth Cooperation", Tunis, Tunisia, 10-11 May 2018.