



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

Chairman: Hon. George Vella (Malta)

Resolution adopted on 29 October 2011, during the VI Plenary Session, Palermo

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) Having regards to the failure of the indirect and direct talks held since May 2010 between the Israelis and the Palestinians to revive the Middle East Peace Process,
- b) Noting with concern the resignation of Sen. Mitchell, US Special Envoy for the Middle East on 13 May 2011 and its non replacement to date,
- c) Having regards to the tragic humanitarian situation in Gaza since the imposition of an air, sea and land blockade by Israel in June 2007,
- d) Having regards to the recent uprisings in the Middle East and in North Africa and their direct impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,
- e) Welcoming the Report entitled “Palestinian State Building: A Decisive Period” published on 13 April by the Office of the United Nations Special coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process,
- f) Noting President Obama’s speech on US policy in the Middle East of 19 May 2011 calling for negotiations to begin for a Palestinian State based on Israel’s pre-1967 borders,
- g) Recalling that United Nations resolution on the future government of Palestine ([A/RES/181\(II\) A](#)) was adopted with 33 votes in favour, 13 against and 10 abstentions and that both China and the UK abstained during a Security Council vote. Noting in that respect President Barack Obama’s statement of 22 May 2011 that “no vote at the United Nations will ever create an independent Palestinian State and that the United States will stand up against efforts to single Israel out at the United Nations or in any international forum”,

- h)* Deeply convinced that the need for people's aspirations for freedom, peace and justice must be heard and acted upon,
- I. Underlines that current political changes in the Middle East and North Africa offer a unique opportunity for lasting peace and urges both sides to re-launch direct or indirect talks in good faith,
- II. Welcomes the Reconciliation agreement signed between Fatah and Hamas in Cairo on 27 April 2011 calling for parliamentary and presidential elections to be held in 2012, and its subsequent endorsement by several other Palestinian political factions on 4 May 2011,
- III. Welcomes the Declaration of Unity signed in Moscow on 29 May 2011,
- IV. Strongly exhorts Israel and the Palestinians to meet the political conditions set out by the quartet,
- V. Regrets that Israel's continuation of the settlement expansion continue to hamper and endanger any possibility of negotiations, and constitute a "provocative" action, which the UN Secretary General recently called "unacceptable" and "contrary" to international law, and to Israeli obligation under the roadmap.
- VI. Calls on the Palestinian leaders to maintain unity and cohesion and on Israel to seize the chance to broker peace,
- VII. Calls on Israel to lift the Gaza blockade as a matter of urgency and to abide by international law and shoulder its international responsibilities as an occupying power,
- VIII. Salutes the decision of 25 May 2011 by the Government of Egypt to reopen the border crossing with Gaza in Rafah,
- IX. Regrets that developments on the ground were such that the Palestinian side was compelled to have recourse to the United Nations General Assembly in September asking for recognition of its statehood,
- X. Agreeing that while genuine lasting peace can be achieved through well intentioned negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians themselves, the Palestinian's request for recognition of the State of Palestine by the UN was legitimate, justified, merited, and long overdue.

- XI. Calls on the European union and the international community at large to support current political transformation of the region both politically and financially,
- XII. Remains committed to work with the Quartet and the international community at large to strive towards a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based previous agreements and all relevant UN resolutions, as well as direct and unconditional negotiations between the two parties,
- XIII. Hails the agreement reached to release 1027 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, and augurs that such diplomatic breakthroughs will help to bring all parties involved in the Israeli Palestinian Conflict around the negotiating table
- XIV. Stands ready to make use of all available parliamentary diplomacy tools towards bridge-building in the current circumstances, including by providing assistance to all actors engaged at legislative and governmental level and among civil society, in the search for peace in the region,
- XV. Remains seized of the matter and requests the PAM *ad Hoc* Committee on the Middle East to keep the Bureau and the Assembly abreast of all relevant developments on the issue.