



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



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)

AND

UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (UNAOC)

Vienna, 27 February 2013

Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) is undertaken to formalize the support of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (“PAM”) for the accomplishment of the mission established for the Alliance of Civilizations (“UNAOC”) by the United Nations Secretary General, namely to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions, notably between Western and Muslim societies, and to help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism.

Article 1

This MoU is premised upon the mutual benefit flowing from joint PAM and the UNAOC efforts to promote cross-cultural understanding and reconciliation among cultures globally, with particular emphasis on actions relating to tourism stakeholders, youth, education and media.

Article 2

PAM and the UNAOC agree to support each other’s efforts and wherever possible, to strengthen their relations in the areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to the following:

- Preserving cultural diversity and promoting intercultural dialogue and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,
- Improving relations between peoples of different cultures, religions and traditions so as to counter emerging tendencies of extremism, to favour mutual understanding and respect, through formal, informal and non formal education activities, to increase confidence and, more broadly to help resolve issues that may divide people

- Promote human rights, democracy, rule of law as well as education for democracy, human rights and pluralism, particularly among youth.
- Support the creation of new opportunities for dialogue and cooperation among parliamentarians in the Mediterranean region by using intercultural dialogue as a tool to build inclusive, pluralist, tolerant and democratic societies

Article 3

PAM and the UNAOC will develop their collaboration to achieve the aims above by:

- a. Considering the design, development and implementation of joint initiatives;
- b. Organizing joint events;
- c. Providing assistance for projects carried out by either organization that deal with the promotion of intercultural issues by sharing know-how and expertise and other efforts deemed relevant in this context;
- d. Building synergies and undertaking joint efforts.

Article 4

Joint initiatives mentioned in Article 3 will be listed in a Plan of Action for 2013-2015 that will form an integral part of this MoU and will be signed at a later stage. This Action Plan will be updated whenever necessary and revised every two years by both parties.

Article 5

In the frame of the present MoU, PAM and the UNAOC will regard themselves as collaborating entities. They will inform each other about their activities, aimed at fulfilling their statutory aims and purposes, and maintain contacts in order to identify and pursue areas of mutual interest. The two parties will continue bilateral cooperation and will consider each other's proposals on specific joint projects or events within the framework of the aims of this Memorandum. Such projects and events will be implemented in accordance with the present Memorandum or, if necessary, additional agreements or protocols.

Article 6

In order to implement their cooperation, the Parties can associate other partners - including international and regional organizations, public authorities and civil society as well as the private sector - with a view to coordination and/or implementation of joint programs, projects and initiatives that are likely to bring added value to their action and create new synergies.

The cooperation will aim for added value and make the best possible use of existing resources. Measures implementing this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the Parties' policies and also subject to the availability of the appropriate financial and other resources.

Article 7

In furtherance of their shared advocacy objectives, PAM and the UNAOC agree to organize joint activities, to maintain regular dialogue and to participate in each other's events as appropriate.

Article 8

To facilitate cooperation, PAM and the UNAOC agree to designate focal points.

Article 9

PAM and the UNAOC will disseminate this MoU within their organizations as each sees fit.

Article 10

This MoU shall not give rise to any legal or financial responsibility on the part of PAM in respect of any action undertaken by the UNAOC and vice versa.

Article 11

PAM and the UNAOC shall each be responsible for their own staff and other personnel or sub-contractors, and shall defend and hold each other harmless with respect to any claims or liabilities arising in connection with their respective activities, or any claim brought by third parties for damages, injury or death as a result of any act or omission by their respective staff, other personnel or sub-contractors.

Article 12

Nothing in or relating to this MoU shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of PAM or the United Nations.

Article 13

PAM and the UNAOC shall use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct negotiations any dispute controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this MoU or any breach thereof. Any such dispute controversy or claim which is not settled within thirty days from the date either party has notified the other party of the nature of the dispute controversy or claim and of the measures which should be taken to resolve it shall be referred to the PAM Secretary General and the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

Article 14

Unless authorized in writing by PAM, the UNAOC shall not use in any manner whatsoever the name, emblem and/or official seal of PAM or any abbreviation of the name of PAM in connection with their joint cooperation or otherwise and vice-versa.

Article 15

This MoU enters into force at the date of the signature by PAM and the UNAOC and continues in force unless and until terminated by either side, effected by means of written notice of at least one month. The MoU may be amended by agreement in writing by PAM and the UNAOC.

Signed on 27 February 2013, in Vienna



Hon. Maria da Conceição Pereira

Vice President of the Parliamentary
Assembly of the Mediterranean



Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

United Nations High Representative
for the Alliance of Civilizations

ANNEX
ACTION PLAN 2013-2015

For the purposes set out in Article 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, joint initiatives carried by both parties shall include:

- Develop close cooperation in the framework of the implementation of the 2nd Action Plan for 2013-2105 implementing the UNAOC Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean, in particular with regard to actions aimed The first Action Plan for a period of five years (2011 – 2015) aims at making progress in the following ten interdependent priority domains of action:
 - i. Respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, social cohesion, citizenship and participation;
 - ii. Promotion of gender equality, equal enjoyment of human rights and equal opportunities for women and men;
 - iii. Encourage efforts made by non-State actors in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue as a tool to promote tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity and to fight against extremism and radicalization;
 - iv. Promotion of independence of the press and fundamental rights, media literacy and respect for plurality of views, including those received and imparted through information technologies such as the internet;

- Organize a meeting between Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentarians aimed at fostering pluralism and good governance of cultural diversity in our societies. It is proposed that the meeting is co-convened by the

speakers of the two parliaments one from the North, the other from the South as a joint initiative under the auspices of the UNAOC.

This meeting should be the starting point for launching a process aimed at creating a platform to engage further parliamentarians interested in discussing together a broad range of cross-cutting issues of common concern for the future of the Euro–Mediterranean region.

Designed as a platform for exchanges between its members, who as parliamentarians have the capacity to work as catalysts for change, its main purpose could be to promote the 3Ds (democracy, development and dialogue) and anticipate change.

Before the first meeting takes place (in 2013), some papers should be commissioned to assess the thematic areas that it could be interesting for the parliamentarians to address, proposing therefore a working plan for the platform; furthermore these papers should also assess the development of parliamentary systems in PAM member states. An opinion survey on how citizens see the role of parliament and parliamentarians could also be commissioned from Gallup to help deciding the topics to be dealt by the group.