



VI Meeting of the PAM Standing Committees

Palazzo dei Normanni, Palermo (Italy)

27-28th October 2011

Executive Report

Thursday 27 October

Welcome Speech by Hon. Tayseer Quba'a

Hon Tayseer Quba'a (Palestine), PAM Vice President, opened the session. In welcoming all the delegates, he thanked the Italian Parliament and Regional Assembly of Sicily for their generous hospitality before touching on the history of Sicily, which, having borne testimony to many foreign dominations over the centuries, remained central to Mediterranean history, culture and thinking. Returning to practical matters before the Committees, Hon. Quba'a informed the participants that delegates only would be allowed to take the floor and participate in voting draft reports and resolutions.

Welcome speech by Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso,

Sen. Amoruso (Italy), PAM Vice President and Head of the Italian delegation to PAM, spoke of the difficult challenges facing the Mediterranean region, not only following the dramatic events of the Arab Spring Revolutions in the South and East Mediterranean, but also due to rapidly evolving demographic issues such as the relentless push of migrants northwards and unemployment, and strategic issues, such as energy, which had assumed particular urgency this year in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster. In the midst of these particular events, the Mediterranean and Europe continued to be beleaguered by the global financial and economic crisis, which had again taken a turn for the worse. The mission of PAM therefore continued to be that of increasing the strategic importance of the region, building cohesion and cooperation among its member States and beyond.

Briefing by Sen. Messaoud Laifa (Algeria)

Sen. Messaoud Laifa (Algeria) reported to the delegations on the institutional reforms under way in Algeria, which would lead to general elections in 2012. He stated that the disruptions and upheavals in the region were the result of the drive for greater democratic participation of the Arab peoples, and could not be ignored by the ruling classes. Algeria had opened the way towards social reconstruction so that the democratic transition could take place in a peaceful way, as part of a larger

process that has been going on since the 1980s. Good governance, strength of democracy and rule of law, were all part of the president's global reform program. These included reforms to the electoral process, extending female participation in political decision-making (with the introduction of the so-called "pink quota" whereby one third of parliamentarians were to be women), greater transparency, professional ethics in areas of information, as well as freedom of association. Changes would also be economic, so that private companies became eligible for State subsidies to ensure job creation, social justice and diversification. The reform process would also affect domestic and international policy-making for instance in the fight against terrorism.

Sen. Laifa concluded that Algeria was a very proactive and ambitious partner for the Mediterranean and willing to engage with other countries throughout the region. He considered the need to overcome "slogans" and "stigmas" as the major challenge for parliamentarians and called for pan-European and Mediterranean commitment to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Presentation of the work of the 1st Standing Committee on Political Cooperation and Security by Hon. Tayseer Quba'a (Palestine), PAM Vice President

Ad hoc Committee on the Middle East - Update by Hon. George Vella (Malta)

Hon. George Vella commented that his report had been updated since its presentation at the Standing Committees meeting in Dubrovnik, to keep abreast with the most recent developments in relations between Israel and Palestine, notably, the reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas, and European sentiment towards reaching an Israeli-Palestinian negotiated peace, as well as to document reactions of the EU and US to the Palestinian application for membership of the UN. The report also touched on difficulties of reaching common EU position on the conflict; it was nonetheless obvious that Fatah and Hamas must subscribe to non-violence for there to be a settlement. The report also referred to Obama's recent speech at the UN following up on his Cairo speech which could form basis of an Arab-Israeli settlement. It also focused on PAM's role in the peace-building process.

The most important issue was the Palestinian request for membership. Parties had been urged not to take unilateral action that might damage peace, but it was obvious that the EU could not oppose the Palestinian request, and the Quartet partners had called for an immediate resumption of direct negotiations although it had failed to achieve this in July. Netanyahu had confirmed that Israel wanted peace, but also recognition of the Israeli State, including by Fatah and Hamas. The EU had stated that further building in Palestinian occupied territories was not acceptable. Turkey had taken a bold step unilaterally declaring it would recognize Palestine and President Sarkozy, France, had proposed an intermediate "observer Status" in support of Palestine, while the EP had adopted a resolution declaring Palestine's request for statehood legitimate. The Rapporteur, however, remained disappointed by Obama's UNGA address, as it had offered nothing tangible to follow up on his Cairo speech where the Obama Administration had pledged its commitment to bringing peace to the conflict. In his emotive speech, Abbas declared his country had requested UN membership; yet Netanyahu thought that settlements were not the major issue. Hon. Vella concluded that there needed to be significant steps forward on territory and security issues to achieve concrete progress

within 6 months. The Rapporteur also noted amendments that had been incorporated to the draft report and resolution based on suggestions made by his colleagues.

Debate

The Palestinian delegation thanked Hon. George Vella for his comprehensive report before reiterating that this conflict was the key issue for peace throughout the Mediterranean, and that it needed to be resolved in a fair way. Palestinians wanted their State with Jerusalem as its capital, which was part of the two-state solution endorsed by the Quartet. He argued that the prime responsibility was that of the occupiers, and that the major problem blocking negotiations was that of occupation and settlement building. Palestine called for Europeans to take a clear position and behave responsibly in determining what Israel needed to do for progress to be made. The French delegation stated that all the elements of the solution were known, but that duties were reciprocal, if direct negotiations were to be resumed, before concluding that the tragedy had to cease as it had persisted for too long. The delegation commented favorably on the exchange of prisoners, but reminded the delegates that other hostages were still being held. The Slovenian delegation supported the amendments included by Hon. George Vella to make his report up-to-date, and informed delegates that the Slovenian Parliament had also issued a declaration in favor of recognition of Palestinian statehood and membership to the UN. It was also important for Israel to be expressly recognized by all Arab States and Hamas. The Israeli delegation called for a return to direct negotiations and supported the two-State solution, but it was important to improve security in Gaza, and the fact that missiles were launched from Gaza on Israel was intolerable. The Palestinian delegation also reiterated that it supported the two-State solution, but argued that *de facto* Israel had until now failed to recognize this option, because of its unilateral actions and use of force and continuous building of settlements. The Palestinian delegation argued that it was not necessary for Hamas to recognize Israel as the legitimate Palestinian authority, the PLO, was in itself an umbrella organization, and had already done so. Palestine did not call on all Israeli political factions to recognize Palestine as a condition precedent for the resumption of negotiations. The Algerian delegation commented that all the organizations and people managing the peace process to date had failed to resolve the conflict, while innocent civilians continued to be killed. It supported self-determination of the Palestinian people and called for respect of the UN peace resolutions. The Algerian delegation reiterated that radical changes were occurring in the region and that it was of utmost urgency to reach a solution. The Turkish delegation reiterated that it believed a solution was still possible and that Turkey was able to talk to both sides in this process. The Palestinian delegation stated that the request for membership before the UN opened a new chapter in the history of the Palestinian people, and reminded delegates that Israel itself had been an occupied territory before it was granted recognition by the UN Security Council in 1948, and it had only been accepted as a State by the UN when it accepted a double commitment for the return of exiled Palestinians.

The Rapporteur, Hon. George Vella, called on the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to avoid accusations and recriminations as this would not lead anywhere before commenting on proposals for

amendments to the latest text. In conclusion, Hon. George Vella stated that for negotiations to resume, the parties should avoid any form of provocation, and that PAM members as well as actors involved in the peace process needed to take a clear stance on what was acceptable or not.

After further debate, it was agreed that the Article 4 would be redrafted for the resolution, strongly exhorting both Israel and Palestine to accept the conditions set out by the Quartet.

The Report and Resolution were approved by majority vote: 11 votes in favour and one vote against with no abstentions

Constitutional changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Update by Hon. Miro Petek (Slovenia)

Hon. Miro Petek stated that stability was essential for the development of each member of PAM. His report described how the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement had set down the conditions for peace mapping the borders of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, but that it was no longer an adequate instrument to reflect the country's pluralist political representation needs today, and which was one of the major reasons constitutional reform was urgently needed. The report also referred to the issue of security and attempts made to date at constitutional reform, a process which went back to 2003. In 2007, Bosnia and Herzegovina had plunged into deep political crisis. In 2010, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) had issued a judgment against Bosnia and Herzegovina for discrimination against national minorities insofar as they could not stand in local elections, not being of Bosniak, Croat or Serb origin. In the case in point, the plaintiffs, Sejdic and Finci, were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina but of Roma and Jewish origin, respectively. Constitutional reform was postponed due to general elections held in October 2010, so that the new Parliament could make constitutional reform a priority.

The report welcomed changes made so far, and also referred to the PAM mission to Sarajevo ahead of the elections in June 2009 to meet with different representatives of the Bosnian Parliament. At the request of the UN and OSCE, in December 2011, PAM would hold a joint meeting hosted by the Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, Dr. Michael Frendo.

The Rapporteur informed the delegates that amendments received from the Bosnian, Greek and Serbian delegations had been incorporated into the latest text of the report.

Debate

The Serb representative of the Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation felt that the report was inopportune as it interfered with the Bosnian sovereign issues and called for it to be rejected. It also considered that the report did not contain enough detail on how to achieve consensus to implement the ECHR ruling. The delegation further criticized the ruling of the ECHR itself as implementation of constitutional changes would be to the detriment of the exercise of Serb rights in Bosnia Herzegovina. The Bosniak representative of the Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation appreciated the efforts of the Rapporteur to move the situation forward, but explained the situation being one of stagnation due to two opposing political blocks: one calling for strengthening of State apparatus and the other for strong local entities. The Bosniak supported the report and resolution. The Slovenian

delegation also supported the draft texts, stating that one of the main responsibilities of the international community and PAM was to create conditions for dialogue among different actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Slovenia closely monitored the situation in the Western Balkans, and felt it was time to make progress and surpass the Dayton Agreement, which had been extremely important as a wartime agreement, but no longer represented a good framework for cohabitation of different ethnic groups and citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Slovenian delegation considered that the main problem of Bosnia and Herzegovina was that its constituent peoples did not have a sense of belonging to one State because of their three major ethnicities (Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs). The Turkish delegation congratulated the Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation on its starting of a process of constitutional reform, supporting the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the formation of compromise solutions, and offering mediation towards all sides in that process.

The Rapporteur, Hon. Miro Petek concluded that the report had incorporated changes suggested by the Serbian delegation, but that it had not gone into greater detail due to the need to be concise. The intention of the draft report and resolution was to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in the search for a peaceful solution, not superimpose its will on the actors.

The report presented by Hon. Miro Petek relating to “Constitutional changes in Bosnia-Herzegovina” had resulted in a parity vote before the 1st Standing Committee. It was therefore decided to continue the work on this key question at the international PAM meeting to be held in Malta tentatively on 16-17 December 2011, under the patronage of the Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, together with the UN and the OSCE. The Assembly thanked Hon. Petek for the excellent work accomplished and unanimously requested him to remain seized to the dossier, to be presented at a next meeting of the Bureau and of the 1st Standing Committee. The report presented in Palermo will be used as a background document for the Malta meeting.

Special Task Force on Organized Crime by Hon. Angela Napoli (Italy)

Hon. Angela Napoli's draft report and resolution focused on the nexus between terrorism and organized crime. Criminal organizations sought economic gain and even carried out very violent acts to influence politics to legitimate their positions. In terrorism, on the contrary, the aims were political and/or ideological seeking to destabilize the legitimate political authority and undermine the State apparatus, despite the fact that the methods on both sides were interwoven, and both resorted to trafficking in drugs, weapons and stolen vehicles. It was important to acknowledge that crimes today were transboundary, and the Mediterranean a hot spot, effectively being the external border of the EU. Cooperation between terrorism and organized crime, however, was not normally direct. In this context, national policies were no longer sufficient to combat terrorism and organized crime and the Rapporteur called for concerted policies of international cooperation as the global economy provided ever increasing scenarios for illegal activities. PAM States needed to deepen their commitment to strengthening legislation on transboundary organized crime and terrorism. Hon. Napoli also urged

States that had not done so to adopt UN and international conventions against corruption and advocate good practices for the Mediterranean.

The Rapporteur informed the Committee that she had included reference to the arrest of the Zemun clan at the request of the Serbian delegation. Moreover, she welcomed calls for a police network at Mediterranean level, that might be called “MEDPOL”, to cooperate with international police organizations such as Interpol and Europol. The Rapporteur also warned that PAM needed to address the root causes of poverty in the region which made poor and needy people more vulnerable to exploitation by organized crime and terrorist organizations.

Debate

The Greek delegation commented that illegal immigration had not been referred to in the report, while the abolition of internal borders under the Schengen Agreement had facilitated border crossing, strengthening the links between international terrorism and organized crime. It called for stronger border controls and international policing to combat crime, and supported the establishment of a police organization for the Mediterranean (MEDPOL). The Turkish delegation asked for direct reference to Turkey to be deleted in connection with drug trafficking routes from the East, and argued that reference could be made to the PKK as a terrorist organization that resorted to organized crime activities as a source of funding. The Slovenian delegation thought it important to focus on effective fiscal and legislative policies, and that both the European and Mediterranean area should take concrete steps to eliminate tax havens, which allowed money laundering to take place. Organized crime could also be combated through the confiscation of proceeds from criminal activities. The Moroccan delegation called for concerted policies between North and South Mediterranean countries. For example, illegal immigration could be stemmed by effective visa policy for the Mediterranean area, as today, the South Mediterranean people should no longer be considered as second class citizens. The Cypriot delegation found that the reference to Cyprus made by the Slovenian delegation in connection with money laundering unfortunate. The Palestinian delegation asked for the report not to isolate Islamic extremism as resorting to terrorism activities as many other religious group did the same. The Algerian delegation asked for mention to be made in the report of States paying ransoms to terrorist organizations for the release of citizens as this weakened State apparatus and funded illegitimate activities. Reference to UNSC Resolution 1844/2008 should be made in this respect.

To wrap up the observations from the delegations, Hon. Angela Napoli stated that direct reference to Turkey would be deleted in the context of drug trafficking routes. She stated that reference to Islamic extremism was to exemplify the exploitation of religion for political ends, as evidence of the proceedings of a court case in the UK. She further agreed that all PAM States should enact laws to confiscate the proceeds of organized crime, and agreed with Morocco’s call for a change of vision bringing greater parity between North and South Mediterranean peoples.

The Report and Resolution were unanimously approved

Special Task Force on Terrorism – New strategies and Perspectives in Countering Terrorism -
Rapporteur, Hon. Askin Asan, presented by Hon. Menderes Turel (Turkey)

Hon. Menderes Turel, traced the outstanding work of Hon. Askin Asan, which had led to agreement on a definition of international terrorism in 2008, adopted at the Istanbul Plenary in 2009. In this report, Hon. Asan had focused on the need to develop new strategies to improve security, but at the same time argued that the key to curbing terrorism lay in widening democracy to all peoples, as it brought more accountability and transparency by constructing a natural barrier to the establishment of connivance networks. PAM Member States also needed to improve their coordination with the UN, adopting international conventions on global counter terrorism strategy, and at the same time, enhancing their cooperation at regional level possibly by setting up a regional level agency. Hon. Turel also referred to the fact that one amendment had been forwarded, removing specific reference to the PKK, as it was already included in the list of EU terrorist groups.

Debate

The Palestinian delegation asked for an amendment to the draft resolution, which stated that revolutions in the Arab world created a potential vacuum that could present terrorist groups with greater opportunities. He suggested that this paragraph should be amended to also include a statement to the contrary, declaring that the Arab Spring revolutions were part of a democratic transition process that would actually galvanize democratic processes constructing a natural barrier against terrorism and terrorist activities. The Moroccan delegation called on all PAM States, whether they were in the North or South, to strengthen their efforts against terrorism as all our societies were its potential victims.

The draft report and resolution were approved unanimously

Presentation of the work of the 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation & Development by Sen. Francesco Amoruso, PAM Vice President and President of PAM's 2nd Standing Committee (Italy)

Sen. Amoruso commented generally that the lack of confidence in the global economic situation had again slowed down growth and dampened the prospects of a recovery. He added that the Arab Spring had also impacted negatively on economic growth and tourism in the South Mediterranean, and acknowledged that the burgeoning demand for raw materials in Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC countries) placed Mediterranean resources under additional stress. He called on all PAM States to intensify their efforts to better understanding the current climate.

Keynote speech by Laurent Thomas, Assistant Director General, FAO

Mr Laurent Thomas congratulated PAM on its contribution to developing democracy and social justice in the Mediterranean. FAO's specific mission in this sense was to ensure that all people

received sufficient access to safe and nutritious food. In 2008, as the economic crisis hit, there were spiraling food prices, and governments had to deal with poverty and events that triggered instability and crises, posing a threat for the planet. Today, 925 million people suffered from chronic hunger, which was far greater than the target set by the Millennium Summit. The Mediterranean played an important role in food production, yet some countries, particularly in the South had problems in providing sufficient food and were more dependent on imports. It was also true to say that all countries were to some extent affected by malnutrition.

A further major demographic problem for the region was unemployment, particularly in the South Mediterranean where youth and female unemployment levels were spiraling. Poverty had also risen in the past 10 years, which combined with price unpredictability for staple food products, generated instability in the region, again especially in rural Southern Mediterranean areas. A further problem that affecting the Mediterranean region was climate change, which in the long term threatened peace and stability in the region.

Despite this grim picture, there were several ways FAO and Member States could formulate and implement responses. FAO provided support to all Mediterranean countries with short to long-term investments to develop national capacities. As a regional group PAM States needed to exchange their experiences. Agricultural self-sufficiency needed to be high on the agenda of all States, as did research into food markets to understand needs and capacities. Through organizations like PAM, more could be done to develop cooperation and solidarity strategies in the event of food shortages.

PAM Secretary General pointed out that the Council of Europe (PACE) had requested PAM's cooperation on food security.

Special Task Force on Environment and Climate Change – Natural Disaster Prevention and Management in the Mediterranean marine space caused by oil or gas leakage, by Hon. Nikolaos Nikolopoulos (Greece)

Hon. Nikolopoulos stated that the huge ecological catastrophe that had beset the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 needed be avoided in the Mediterranean. As a closed Sea, with a coastal population of approximately 150 million, which doubles during the summer months, any disaster on a similar scale to that of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil drilling spill would wreak untold devastation to the Mediterranean coastline. The Rapporteur therefore called on all European and Mediterranean States to investigate the adequacy of practices and regulatory framework governing deep sea exploration and drilling for oil and gas in the Mediterranean, as well as the response preparedness of the whole region to deal with such emergencies.

In fact, in addition to significant offshore gas and oil production near the coasts of Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey, the report identified new exploration planned in the vicinity of Cyprus, Lebanon and Malta. Moreover, it identified an additional seismic risk for the Mediterranean, particularly near its northern coasts, as well as risk of volcanic eruption.

As to legislative actions to be taken, the report pointed out that a common legislative framework existed for drilling, operation, storage and transportation, as well as in relation to pollution from ships, exploitation and exploration, and called on all PAM States to implement that regulatory framework¹. However, it also called for concerted action in relation to developing thorough licensing procedures, enhanced controls by state authorities, addressing legislative gaps, improving disaster management within the EU, and developing response capacity through cooperation to promote security and safety in the open sea including legislation on the seaworthiness of vessels. Yet the report's overriding concern remained that of sensitizing people to the issue of possible ecological consequences of such disasters, given that it was PAM's mission to ensure peaceful and stable development of the region. The report called for the setting up of an independent regulatory body to monitor practices in the sector, and encouraged States to exchange information with one another about best practices. The EU adopted the "polluter pays" principle, but voluntary schemes also need to be implemented to cover the costs of damage, especially for large scale disasters that could surpass the means of individual companies.

Debate

There was no debate on the draft report and resolution.

The draft resolution and report were unanimously approved without any amendments

Update by Special Rapporteur on Energy – Civil Nuclear Energy by Hon. Lhou Lmarbouh (Morocco)

Hon. Lmarbouh stated that while addressing of subject of civil nuclear energy remained a difficult issue in the wake of this year's Fukushima tsunami and ensuing nuclear disaster, the question of solving the increasing energy needs remained. The report presented by Hon. Lhou Lmarbou examined the prospects for developing civil nuclear energy in the context of growing energy consumption against a backdrop of finite hydrocarbon-based energy sources. It argued that nuclear energy should not be discarded simply because of its potential risks to the environment, and suggested that in fact civil nuclear energy could be produced safely and was cheaper to produce than energy produced from renewable sources.

At present, there were 480 operative reactors, 350 under construction and a further 340 in the design and planning stages, so that within the next 20-30 years, there would be approximately 1000 nuclear reactors globally. At the same time, approximately 30 countries had placed a moratorium on nuclear energy development.

¹ The report called for all PAM States that had not done so to ratify two international instruments dealing with oil and chemical spillage drawn up by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), namely: The 1990 International Convention on Oil Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC 90) and The Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000).

Having presented the statistics on civil nuclear energy, the Rapporteur argued that no energy production could be truly without risks, especially when debated from the perspective of the geopolitical safety of a region. Nuclear energy should therefore not be excluded as a viable energy source for the future. In conclusion, the Rapporteur argued that civil nuclear energy should be considered a State issue, rather than a governmental policy question, as governments changed.

Debate

The French delegation argued that the South Mediterranean should be part of developing energy goals for the region. As regards control, international agencies needed to adopt stricter rules for monitoring safety of such energy plants, and urged PAM to call on States to strengthen their control mechanisms so that a disaster similar to Fukushima could not happen again. The Turkish delegation stated that Turkey had decided not to abandon nuclear energy as part of its developing its energy needs, and the Parliament had recently approved an agreement relative to the construction of a nuclear power station. The Palestinian delegation expressed its concern over civil nuclear power stations developing collateral bellicose uses and suggested that all nuclear power stations needed to fall under the inspection and monitoring of a single international authority.

Hon. Lhou Marbhou agreed that a paragraph needed to be inserted to the report whereby national inspection authorities would be obliged to collaborate with the IAEA.

The draft report and resolution were unanimously approved.

Update by Special Rapporteur on Water “Water and Tourism”, prepared by Sen. Jacques Blanc (France), presented by Hon. Michel Vauzelle (France)

Hon. Vauzelle, replacing Senator Blanc, informed the members that the peak tourist season in the Mediterranean coincided with the period of least rainfall, and was therefore a period of great stress for most coastal areas. It was also the period when water consumed far exceeded treatment capacity, which created the additional problem of controlling the quality of drinking water. The report called for more precise scientific data to be collected to be able to analyze these phenomena better. In addition to seasonal and geographic consumption disparities, the report focused on ethical issues, such as watering golf courses when agricultural water was scarce. Comprehensive water management policies therefore needed to balance tourism consumption with agricultural needs. The report further dealt with the issue of the quality of swimming water, and by way of example, explained the self-certification program adopted by France.

Moreover, the report spoke of the actions that could be taken to improve water management: including modernizing water distribution networks, developing water-saving and re-using waste water. The report also suggested implementing regulatory measures to carry out inspections on major water consumers. It also argued that increasing water prices, during periods of water scarcity at tourist destinations should be considered as an option, or levying a water tax in alternative. Further still, the report referred to ways of increasing awareness about the issues of water consumption in tourist areas, and finally, called for transboundary cooperation and contingency

policies to be developed for water sharing during times of scarcity. Hon. Vauzelle also informed the members that the amendments submitted at the Dubrovnik meeting had been included in the report.

Debate

The Palestinian delegation referred to the issue of appropriation of Palestinian water by Israel from the Jordan Valley, which it alleged, took 75% of water from the river. The Turkish delegation did not appreciate the relevance of acknowledging water as a fundamental human right in the draft resolution and called for it to be deleted or for its relevance to be adapted to national contexts. The Portuguese delegation referred to the fact that it had already developed environmental guidelines rationalizing water use in the watering of its golf courses, and asked for it to be included in the report's reference to countries listed with golf courses in tourist destinations. The Israeli delegation contested the Palestinian observation about water consumption in the Jordan Valley arguing that there was a joint committee to manage water distribution needs, and therefore the matter was technical rather than political in nature. It also agreed that common steps should be taken among PAM Member States to develop cooperation strategies for countries that suffered greater water stress than others. The Palestinian delegation further argued that it had no effective sovereignty over the West Bank and so could not control the amount of water taken by Israel.

In concluding, Hon. Vauzelle agreed that the reference in the report to water as a human right was not relevant.

The draft report and resolution were unanimously approved.

Report on the activities of the PAM Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean by Hon. Mohammad Zureiqat (Jordan)

Hon. Zureiqat summarized the brief history of the Panel since its establishment in Lisbon May 2010, stating that among its aims were those of bringing together parliamentarians and members of financial and economic communities, as well as investment agencies, the private business sector and academic world, to assess measures to be taken to drive enterprise in the Mediterranean region. In particular, he referred to this year's Joint Conference held by PAM in Geneva, in collaboration with UNECE and UNCTAD to debate, among others, the measures to be taken in the Mediterranean to remove technical barriers to trade and facilitate transport, as well as on how to increase productive capacity in the region. The report argued that the latter question was of particular urgency given the burgeoning levels of youth unemployment, especially in the South Mediterranean, and called for job creation to focus on agricultural productivity and sustainable energy, which needed a high degree of technical support. The report also focused on work to relaunch the idea of a Mediterranean investment/partnership fund. Hon. Zureiqat called on all members to bring the findings of the Panel to the attention of their respective national parliaments, to relaunch and promote further integration of economies of the region.

Debate

There were no questions raised

The draft report and resolution were unanimously approved

Friday 28 October Continuation of the VIth Meeting of the PAM Standing Committees

Presentation of the work of the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations & Human Rights – Hon. Ziyaeddin Akbulut, Vice President and President of PAM's 3rd Standing Committee(Turkey)

Hon. Akbulut referred to the recent tragic events and loss of lives caused by the earthquake in the East of Turkey, and thanked all countries from the world that had offered aid and solidarity. He also stated that the terrorist attacks carried out by the PKK would not thwart Turkey's determination to adopt a new civil constitution granting greater participation for all segments of society, extending democratic rights regardless of faith and ethnicity.

As to the work of the 3rd Standing Committee, while being complementary to the work of the other two Standing Committees, Hon. Akbulut reminded the delegations that cultural heritage was an asset that should unite us through our diversity. Over the past twelve months the 3rd Standing Committee had given prominence to immigration issues and gender equality.

Keynote speech by Sen. Anna Maria Abramonte, Holy See representative

Sen. Abramonte stated that the Holy See had been a keen observer of the work of PAM and appreciated PAM's contribution to developing dialogue among the peoples of the Mediterranean, with its emphasis on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. She reported that that very week, Pope Benedict XVI had taken part in a day of reflection and prayer in Assisi on peace and justice, and reminded members that dialogue was indispensable for the building of peace whether as a believer or non believers of religious faiths. Sen. Abramonte also stated that Christians could make a special contribution to the building of peace, justice and reconciliation in their everyday lives.

Keynote speech by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly representative Sen. Luigi Compagna (Italy)

The OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) had its headquarters in Vienna and traced its origins to the early 1970s, when the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) had been created to serve as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. The Parliamentary Assembly had 320 members from 55 parliaments. OSCE was a tool of parliamentary diplomacy for parliamentarians of its member States and on 1 August 1975, the CSCE had adopted the Helsinki Final Act, which contained a number of key commitments on politico-military, economic and environmental and human rights issues that had become central to the so-called 'Helsinki process'. It had also established ten fundamental principles (the 'Decalogue') governing the behavior of States towards their citizens, as well as towards each other.

The OSCE's cooperation with PAM is an expression of its attachment to the Mediterranean in particular the human rights dimension.

Keynote speech by Mr Peter Schatzer, Chief of Staff, IOM

Mr Schatzer stated that while today's demographic challenges for the regions presented new scenarios and pressures to migrate, migration itself was by no means a new phenomenon for the region, and the history of the Mediterranean itself was based on peoples migrating throughout the region. Today, he argued that the phenomenon of migration could be summarized by two "C's": crisis and control. He referred in particular to the increase in the numbers of deaths resulting from boat crossings this year, and the issue of "trapped" migrant workers in Libya, who had often been discriminated against, and mistakenly assumed to have served as mercenaries during the final period of the Ghadaffi regime. The other major problem for the region, which resulted in pressure to migrate northwards, was the intolerably high levels of youth unemployment. Mr Schatzer stated that migration pressure would continue to be high in the immediate and foreseeable future, and therefore the South and East Mediterranean would continue to need assistance in dealing with the phenomenon.

Special Task Force on Migrations – *"Revolutions and Migrations – the Impact of the Arab Spring on the movement of people in the region"*, Rapporteur, Hon. Tasos Mitsopoulos (Cyprus) presented by Hon. Aristos Damianou (Cyprus)

Hon. Damianou referred to the fact that the Mediterranean migration flows, which had long been a phenomenon in the Mediterranean were intensifying. While boat arrivals continued to capture media attention, he pointed out that the majority of migrants arrived irregularly through Turkey, which was essentially a country of transit, to Greece. This year, due to the events of the Arab Spring, particular pressure had been placed on Egypt and Tunisia by stranded migrants and refugees fleeing Libya. The report called for the development of a comprehensive migration policy for the whole Mediterranean region, which required effective solidarity instruments from the rest of the EU, capability of mobilizing funding and capabilities at short notice. Some small Mediterranean States, such as Malta and Cyprus were experiencing overwhelming migration influxes that far outweighed their capacities to manage the dramatic situation, potentially undermining their security. The Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Mellila, as well as the Italian island of Lampedusa, had been placed under enormous strain this year. The report expressed its solidarity to the peoples of the Mediterranean sustaining the burden of migration flows and reiterated PAM's commitment to developing a viable solution for the region. The report also contained an Annex reproducing the recommendations of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in dealing with the migration crisis in the Southern Mediterranean Region. As to the wording of the draft report, the Turkish delegation had pointed out an error at para. 4, which would be duly amended.

Hon. Damianou called for an international conference on migration in the wake of the Arab Spring as an urgent necessity for the region.

Debate

The Greek delegation referred to the problem of traffickers intentionally drowning migrants when the EU-deployed Frontex boats arrived to make patrols, and called for exemplary punishments to be taken against traffickers. Moreover, it stated that Turkey was a country of transit but that Greece was the final destination and called on Turkey to adopt and respect all international agreements on migration and refugees. The Palestinian delegation called for psychological support to be given to exiled peoples who had been forced to leave their countries of origin in their destination countries. In concluding, the Rapporteur referred to three amendments forwarded by the Greek delegation and minor linguistic changes that needed to be made. He called on all countries to act in accordance with international law and bear up to their collective responsibilities. There were issues to be dealt with in countries of origin, transit and destination.

The delegation also suggested inviting the Orthodox Parliamentary Union to share their experiences with PAM.

The report and resolution were approved unanimously.

Special Task Force on Gender – “Domestic Violence” by Hon. Maria Conceição Pereira (Portugal)

Hon. Pereira stated that domestic violence was not country specific, nor did it know discrimination or only affected particular segments of society; in fact domestic violence concerned all of us regardless of geography, age, class and prosperity, race, ethnicity, religion etc. However, the victims were the more vulnerable segments of society, usually women, and to a lesser extent children. Moreover, the phenomenon often affected people close to us but we were unaware of it. The Rapporteur stated that domestic violence was a public health issue and called for society to act responsibly to denounce it by supporting its victims and punish its perpetrators. One of the major problems in denouncing the crimes was that the victims preferred silence for fear of recrimination which often took place with the connivance of family members and friends.

In addition to punishment, the report called on civil society to develop educational policies to sensitize people to the problem, stating that political and religious leaders could play an important role, as could the media and international organizations. The report provided a definition of domestic violence.

Debate

The Maltese delegation stressed that victims and children needed protection, and only if victims felt safe would they denounce the perpetrators. It called on all PAM States to adopt effective legislation to protect victims through protection orders and eviction orders. The delegation further considered that the report should take account of violence against disabled people as this phenomenon was increasing, and suggested the following amendment: “Special consideration should be given to the disabled who are more vulnerable. Studies reveal that disabled women are twice as likely to be victims of domestic violence compared to women who are not disabled.” The Greek delegation stated that domestic violence also undermined the equality of women, and it was most often

perpetrated by the partner, and it included sexual violence. It agreed that providing effective assistance and protection to victims was the key to denouncing it. The delegation called for awareness programs to be developed through parliaments, and exchange of information about best practices. Several amendments were submitted. The Moroccan delegation emphasized the need to protect minors and the aged from domestic violence. The Monaco delegation called on all States to provide shelter accommodation where victims could enjoy effective protection. The Cypriot delegation also referred to the need for rehabilitation programs and not only prosecution of the perpetrators of domestic violence, because only through rehabilitation could perpetrators be safely reintegrated into society.

In concluding, Hon. Pereira agreed that the report needed to refer to the disabled, children and also elderly people, and that education was the key to the future eradication of domestic violence.

The draft report and resolution were approved unanimously

Michele Capasso, Fondazione Mediterraneo commended PAM as being the only pan-Mediterranean organization addressing the major issues of the whole region. He invited PAM to host a meeting under the auspices of the Fondazione Mediterraneo on women, in preparation for the Forum of Cultures in 2013.

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting of the Standing Committees was adjourned.

Following the closure of the Standing Committees, the Members of the Bureau met to discuss, among others, the candidacy for PAM President for the remainder of the term, until end 2012.

Thereafter, the South Geopolitical Group Meeting was held to further discuss the candidacy for the presidency, and elect a 4th representative from the South to the Bureau.

In the late afternoon, the delegates transferred to Agrigento, where the Agrigento Declaration was signed between PAM and the Italian Parliament, before attending a dinner in Agrigento, hosted by Senator Benedetto Adragna.



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

VIth Plenary Session of the PAM

Palermo (Italy)
Palazzo dei Normanni

29th October 2011

Executive Report

Saturday, 29th October

Opening speech by H.E. Mr. Abdelwahad Radi, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (Morocco)

H.E. Abdelwahad Radi, PAM President, thanked the Italian Parliament and President of the Italian Senate, H.E. Renato Schifani, as well as the Regional Assembly of Sicily for their warm hospitality and assistance in the preparation and hosting of the VIth PAM Plenary. He then referred to the convulsive changes taking place throughout the Mediterranean which affected both the South and North shores, contextualizing the changes as part of a regional reorganizational process that had begun with the fall of the Berlin Wall back in 1989. This year, the focus on changes had also required PAM to renew its thinking with the onset of the Jasmine Revolution that mushroomed into the Arab Spring. He called on all the PAM members to adapt to the times and to embrace the changes with due caution but the necessary enthusiasm required to complete the democratic transitions urgently required in the South Mediterranean.

President Radi also stated that, as Mediterranean partners, we were all equally worried by the effects of the global economic and financial crisis impacting on the region, which was perhaps more acute in the South, where a lack of investments and downturn in trade and fall in tourism had sent youth unemployment spiraling. He urged all members to redouble their efforts with PAM to build democracy and peace in the region. He also commended PAM for being the only regional entity to have continued its activities without interruption despite the sweeping changes in the region.

President Radi then read a message for the United Nations Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-Moon

Message by H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

“We attach great importance to the work of PAM in promoting peace democracy and development in the region. Throughout the Arab Spring, PAM has remained with the people and supported democratic processes under way in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. PAM has taken a very clear stance in denouncing human rights violations in Libya by the Ghedaffi regime.

With respect to the Middle East process, peace is long overdue and the Quartet is working hard for the resumption of negotiations, and final status issues can only be achieved through negotiation. It is important for both parties not to carry out unilateral actions that undermine trust. We are worried about Syrian repression and violence and I continue to call for wide democratic reform.

Beyond these events, our world faces an increasingly complex set of realities from climate change and unemployment to distrust of institutions.

We need to focus on five imperatives: sustainable development, conflict prevention, standing up for democracy and human rights, supporting countries in transition, working for rights of women and children.

Parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in advancing these goals and facilitating change embodying the hopes of your peoples.

I renew my call for your commitment to these causes.”

Address by Benedetto Adragna, Quaestor of the Italian Senate

Sen. Adragna read the letter of his colleague, Speaker of the Italian Senate, Renato Schifani.

“I am here in spirit, and my congratulations to President Radi who has been recently elected as President of the IPU. I am pleased to see such a high profile event here in Palermo focusing on the geographic, cultural and regional traditions are the heart of the city. We can bring together many disciplines here whether economic, scientific or cultural. Many countries are attending the Plenary and the Mediterranean must unite us not divide us. Democracies are being consolidated in North Africa, yet we must also remember the importance of developing trade and addressing environmental issues throughout the region. This Assembly contributes in a very important way to these processes”.

Sen. Adragna informed the Plenary of the previous day’s events in Agrigento which he had hosted, and where the Agrigento Declaration had been signed between the Italian Parliament and PAM, in the interests of promoting peace and friendship, fundamental to the consolidation of the democratic process. Over the past three days, the Italian parliamentary committees had been working very hard in their respective fields of competence to consolidate Italian links throughout the Mediterranean region. Sen.

Adragna also complemented PAM on its new status of observer to the United Nations and offered his sincerest wishes for a successful outcome to the Plenary.

Address by H.E. Antonio Martino, President of the Italian Group of the Inter-parliamentary Union

Sen. Martino referred to the PAM Plenary as representing the crowning of an extraordinary vision and journey for the Mediterranean thanks to the creation of its own autonomous regional assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. Events of this year, with democratic uprisings in the South (Egypt, Libya, Syria and Tunisia) and to the North, with the financial and debt crises (Greece, Italy and Spain) indicated the importance of having a body to unite the sentiments and interests of the peoples on all its shores. As President of the Italian Inter-parliamentary Group, Sen. Martino affirmed that the shaping of PAM goals had been the outcome of great attention to the fate and future of the Mediterranean. The region had its own history, and needed to build peace, and he called on PAM members to be inspired by the economic liberalism of 19th-20th century Italian philosopher, Benedetto Croce, who believed that liberty was not a natural right but an earned right arising out of continuing historical struggle for its maintenance, and who also had a far-sighted vision of the Mediterranean.

Address by Mr Pippo Enea, Deputy Mayor of Palermo

Mr. Pippo Enea stated that it was an honor for the city of Palermo to host such a high profile meeting of PAM, and that the city of Palermo was truly a representative city of the Mediterranean, its history having been profoundly marked by many European and Arab civilizations over the centuries. Not only did Palermo have a unique historical heritage, but it was a city that prided itself on respecting diversity and solidarity, which underpinned the goals of this Assembly. Mr Enea spoke of the need to speed up the peace process in the Middle East, and to strengthen democracy without discrimination, especially in the Arab world where the people had paid a high price through bloodshed.

Address by Mr Andrea Praino, Region of Sicily

Greeting the Assembly on behalf of the President of the Region Sicily, Mr Raffaele Lombardo, Mr Praino stated that Europe should not ignore the role of the Mediterranean in identifying strategies to overcome the economic crisis, which equally affected states to the North and South. He also called on all PAM States to support the democratic transition processes under way in the South Mediterranean.

Keynote speech by H.E. Ambassador Amr Helmy, Assistant Minister for European Affairs, Egypt

H.E. Ambassador Helmy stated that it was a great pleasure to participate in the PAM Plenary on behalf of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. PAM carried out a unique role for the Mediterranean in sharing the aspirations of transforming the region into a area of peace and security. By enhancing the parliamentary dimension, peoples of the Mediterranean would be able to bridge the gap between north and south in the economic, cultural and social spheres. Moreover, at times of conflict in the region, PAM played a vital role in achieving just solutions, contributing to the building of freedom, independence and social justice.

Speaking on the mixed fortunes of Egypt since the Arab spring, he explained that there had been very positive democratic developments insofar as Egypt had held a referendum on laws on political participation and political parties, and reforms would penetrate deep into the fabric of society. However, there had also been setbacks, and the country's sectarian uprisings leading to the intervention of the armed forces and deaths of Coptic Christians on 9th October were unacceptable. He affirmed, however, that although Egypt was a country with a large population, it was still on target to hold free and democratic general elections on 28th November in an independent and transparent manner. The political challenges facing Egypt were enormous and could not happen in a political vacuum, so job creation and poverty reduction were priority tasks for the peaceful future of Egypt and the whole region.

Keynote Speech by H.E. Mr. Naceur Mestiri, Ambassador of Tunisia to Italy

H.E. Ambassador Mestiri was honored to represent the new Tunisia at this Assembly, and informed the delegates that Tunisia had held its first free democratic elections in the presence of many observers from regional and international organizations on 23rd October to elect 217 constituent members of parliament. He noted that there had also been no less than 83 expatriate polling stations in Italy for those elections. Accordingly, the newly-elected constituent assembly would be designating a President and Prime Minister with a coalition government, and a new constitution would be adopted establishing the Second Republic, through a referendum process. The urgent challenges to be faced by the new parliament were unemployment and marginalization of some inner territories. He informed the Plenary that Tunisia would work towards its goals in a spirit of determination, serenity and confidence.

PAM Secretary General, Dr Sergio Piazzì

Dr Piazzì informed the Plenary that the session would continue with the voting on draft reports and resolutions prepared by PAM's three Standing Committee meetings. The Standing Committees had met on 27-28th October to finalize and approve draft texts before submitting to the Plenary for adoption.

Presentation of the work of the 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security related Cooperation carried out under H.E. Mr. Abdelwahad Radi, PAM President and President of PAM's 1st Standing Committee

On 27^h October, the activities undertaken in 2010/2011 by the 1rd Standing Committee on Political and Security-related Cooperation were reviewed by the 1st Standing Committee. Accordingly, four reports and resolutions had been presented to the 1st Standing Committee for approval.

- Hon. George Vella (Malta), gave his update on "the situation in the Middle East";
- Hon. Miro Petek (Slovenia) presented his work on the "Constitutional Changes in Bosnia-Herzegovina";

-Hon. Maria Angela Napoli (Italy) presented her work on the “Interconnection between Organized Crime and Terrorism”;

-Hon. Menderes Turel presented the work of Rapporteur Askin Asan on “New Strategies and perspectives in Countering Terrorism”.

The work presented by the Hon. Miro Petek relating to “Constitutional Changes in Bosnia-Herzegovina”, resulted in a parity vote before the 1st Standing Committee. It was therefore agreed to continue the discussion at the meeting to be held in Malta in December 2011, under the patronage of the Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta and the auspices of the PAM, the UN and OSCE. He then called on the Assembly to adopt the reports and resolutions on the work of the 1st Standing Committee.

Voting

1. “The Situation in the Middle East”

Report and resolution were adopted by majority, with one contrary delegation.

2. “The interconnection between Organized crime and Terrorism in the Mediterranean”

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

3. “New Strategies and Perspectives in Countering Terrorism”

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Presentation of the work of the 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation carried out under Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso, PAM Vice President and President of PAM’s 2nd Standing Committee

On 27^h October, the activities undertaken in 2010/2011 by the 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation were reviewed by the 2nd Standing Committee. Accordingly, four reports and resolutions had been presented to the 2nd Standing Committee for approval, namely

-Hon. Nikolaos Nikolopoulos (Greece) presented his work on “Natural Disaster Prevention and Management in the Mediterranean marine space caused by oil or gas leakage”;

-Hon. Lhou Lmarbouh (Morocco) gave an update on “Civil Nuclear Energy”;

-Hon. Michel Vauzelle (France) presented the work by Sen. Jacques Blanc on “Water and Tourism”;

-Hon. Mohammad Zureiqat (Jordan) presented an update on the activities of the “PAM Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean”.

The draft reports and resolutions were then presented to the Plenary for adoption.

Voting

1. "Natural Disaster Prevention and Management in the Mediterranean marine space caused by oil or gas leakage"

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

2. "Civil Nuclear Energy"

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

3. "Water and Tourism"

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

4. "PAM Panel on External Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean"

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Presentation of the work of the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights carried out under Hon. Tevik Zivaddein Akbulut, PAM Vice President, and President of 3rd Standing Committee

On 28th October, the activities undertaken in 2010/2011 by the 3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Cultures, Civilizations and Human Rights" were reviewed by the 3rd Standing Committee 2011. Accordingly, two draft reports and respective resolutions had been presented to the 3rd Standing Committee for approval, and are now submitted for adoption by the Plenary Session of the Assembly, namely:

-Hon. Maria Conceicao Pereira (Portugal) reported on "Domestic Violence";

-Hon. Aristos Damianou presented the work of Hon. Tasos Mitsopoulos (Cyprus) on "Revolutions and Migration – the impact of the Arab Spring on the movement of people in the Region".

Voting

1. "Domestic Violence"

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

2. "Revolutions and Migration – the impact of the Arab Spring on the movement of people in the Region"

Report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Election of the PAM President for the remaining part of the Biennium 2011-2012

Nomination of new members to vacant posts on PAM Bureau for the remaining part of the biennium 2011-2012

Hon Tayseer Quba'a presented the candidature of Senator Fayez Tarawneh endorsed by the Bureau and South Geopolitical Group, respectively, for the Presidency of PAM for the remaining period of the 2011-2012 biennium. Senator Fayez Tarawneh (Jordan) had studied in California, had been Prime Minister of Jordan, Advisor and Secretary State of Foreign Affairs for Jordan, as well as the chairman of the Jordanian delegation to the Israeli Palestinian peace agreement. Sen. Tarawneh had also been awarded the Star of Supreme Merit for his services to his country. Hon. Quba'a was proud to present a candidate of such calibre, and his candidacy was unanimously supported by both the Bureau and South Geopolitical Group.

President Radi based on the overwhelming applause of the Assembly for the candidature, confirmed that the Plenary had unanimously elected Hon. Fayez Tarawneh to be President of PAM and congratulated him accordingly.

PAM Secretary General, Dr Sergio Piazzi

The PAM Secretary General informed the Plenary that there had been no increase to the PAM budget for 2012 but called on the assistance of all delegations to ensure payments were made on time, particularly as PAM did not have a reserve fund to cover the transition period from one year to the next. The official budget of Euro 910,000, adopted in Istanbul, had been reduced in 2010-2011 by 16% at the request of Tunisia, and as a result the operational budget of Euro 765,000 was retained, until the economic crisis has been overcome. Particular thanks were extended to the Maltese Parliament and its Speaker Michael Frendo for having agreed to host the PAM Plenary every fourth year and for having set aside Euro 700,000 to finance renovation work to the PAM Secretariat building. To potentialize the focus of the work of PAM, the Secretary General also proposed a number of changes to the operative functioning of the Standing Committees, which had been reviewed and approved by the Bureau. He suggested that each Standing Committee should have a maximum of two Special Task Forces to focus on issues pertaining to the region.

Accordingly, the 1st Standing Committee would extend the focus of its Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East to security and the democratic transitions under way in the region in the light of the Arab Spring, while the second STF would work on unemployment and job creation.

The 2nd Standing Committee would address two main topics: the Panel on external trade and investments in the region, and secondly, its other Special Task Force would focus on the environment as an umbrella issue.

The 3rd Standing Committee, which by nature was complementary to the work of the previous two Standing Committees, would continue to focus on women's rights (which is guaranteed by the PAM Statute) and education.

The Secretary General also informed the delegates that the Bureau had approved the adoption of the UN guidelines for reports and resolutions, as follows: reports should not exceed 10 pages, including a narrative section, a 1 page executive summary, and draft resolutions of action-oriented

activities of a maximum 2 pages, to facilitate the work of national parliaments. He also confirmed that all documents would be made available electronically and it would be the duty of the national focal point for each delegation to distribute documents to members. He therefore called on all focal points to ensure that all communications are fully operative between the PAM Secretariat and MPs. This was a priority for the proper functioning of PAM.

The Secretary General was also pleased to inform members that PAM would be signing a cooperation agreement with FAO early next year, similar to that already signed with UNESCO.

The Secretary General then informed the members of the remaining events scheduled for 2011 and provisional of the calendar for 2012. The Secretary General also informed of the changes required to ensure a more effective funding of the Secretariat by reviewing the terms of reference and competencies among its staff.

Address by the new PAM President, H.E. Fayez Tarawneh

The President elect, H.E. Fayez Tarawneh, thanked the members for having elected him, and expressed his gratitude to the Italian Parliament and city of Palermo for its warm hospitality in having hosted the Plenary. He also greeted the Plenary on behalf of the Jordanian Houses of Parliament, and thanked in particular, H.E. Radi for his ongoing commitment to PAM since its establishment, and wished him well in his new position as President of the IPU.

The President expressed his hope that PAM would, under his Presidency, be able to intensify its work with national parliaments and governments. He saw the Israeli-Palestine issue as the major issue for the Assembly and called on all actors in the 1st standing Committee to increase their coordination and participation in the Middle East issue. Palestine had asked for membership to the UN and he hoped this would contribute to the resumption of negotiations, as it was just for Palestine to be internationally recognised. President Tarawneh commented favourably on the progress made by Tunisia and Egypt towards achieving their democratic ambitions stated PAM strongly supported these processes and would contribute to resolving any problems standing in their way. He also spoke of extensive reforms under way towards improving democratic participation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The President concluded by thanking PAM Secretary General, Sergio Piazzi for his unswerving commitment to the goals of PAM, and his staff.

Laureates of the “2011 PAM Prize”

The PAM Prize was awarded to the following persons for their outstanding contributions to furthering the interests of the Mediterranean peoples, notably:

Hon. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malta, for his commitment to supporting PAM activities;

UNESCO represented by Ms Lidia Brito, Director of Science Policy and sustainable Development in the Natural Sciences sector, in recognition of UNESCO’s role in the field of science and technology;

Arch. Michele Capasso, President of Fondazione Mediterraneo, for his long standing commitment toward intercultural dialogue in the region;

UNECE represented by H.E. Mr Jan Kubis, Executive Secretary, for promoting economic development and social integration;

Dr Miltiadis Makriyannis, Head of Department of Regional Cooperation and Partnership of the Hellenic Parliament in charge of the Mediterranean, Black Sea and South East Europe Affairs for long service and enhancement of parliamentary democracy;

Mr Lino Spiteri, President of Inspire, Foundation for Inclusion, for sensitizing people to issue of disability and social disadvantage in the Mediterranean;

Mr Mauro Pandimiglio, President of Handy Cup, Onlus, for sensitizing people to issue of disability and social disadvantage in the Mediterranean;

Prof Umberto Veronesi, President of Fondazione Veronesi, for his contribution to the Science for Peace Programme 2011, and endeavors in medical research;

Hon Alain Delcamp, Secretary General of the French Senate, for hosting the secretaries general meeting in France 2001;

H.E. Mr. Abdel Mawgoud El Habashi, Egyptian Ambassador to Malta, for facilitating special PAM mission to Libya;

The Prefect Franco Gabrielli, Head of Civil Protection Department Italy, for hosting conference on the risk of Oil Spill disaster in the Mediterranean;

H.E. Dr. Saadun Ismail Suayeh, Libyan Ambassador to Malta, for his outstanding efforts to maintain diplomatic relations with Libya throughout the democratic transition process;

H.E. Amb. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Italian Ambassador to Washington, in appreciation of his long standing support for the high level PAM delegation visit to the United Nations in New York and the US Administration in Washington.

The Serbian delegation also made a special gift of books to the PAM library about the life of Niko Bartulovic, Roman Catholic theologian, who remained true to idea of a liberal Yugoslavia.

Closing of the VIth Plenary Session

President Radi closed the session, thanking all the participants for their hard work and sterling effort, congratulated the new PAM President and Honorary PAM President Rudy Salles, and thanked all those who had contributed to the success of this Plenary Session.