



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

3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights

Special Task Force on Migrations in the Mediterranean

Forced Migration

Rapporteur : M. Mahmoud Muhaidat (Jordan)

*Resolution unanimously adopted during the IVth Plenary Session
On 24 October 2009 in Istanbul*

- Recalling the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights ;
- Recalling the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees ;
- Recalling the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant workers and members of their families ;
- Recalling the PAM Resolution on Migrations adopted by consensus on 14 November 2008 in Monaco ;
- Recalling the PAM Declaration on Environmental Refugees adopted by consensus on 14 November 2008 in Monaco;
- Recalling the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1449 (2000) on Clandestine migration from the south of the Mediterranean into Europe;
- Having regards to the UNHCR 10-Point Action Plan;
- Acknowledging that the Mediterranean region is rich of intense migratory flows and that the migration of Mediterranean peoples make an undeniable asset for the societies, economies and cultures of the region;
- Considering that all PAM countries are countries of origin, of transit and/or of destination ;
- Acknowledging that poverty, under-development and the remaining conflicts in the Mediterranean region and further afield are major causes of migration;

- Acknowledging the growing importance of migration caused by environmental factors in the Mediterranean region ;
- Concerned with the potential negative impact of the current global economic crisis on the perception of migrants whether in regular or irregular situation while migration in itself can be a positive pull factor in solving the current economic problems;
- Acknowledging the specific case of forced migration resulting from conflicts;

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean:

- 1) Believes that the migration phenomenon, if well managed, can be beneficial to the countries of origin, the countries of destination and the migrants themselves, and supports international migratory policies set up with that objective in mind ;
- 2) Believes that it is essential to insist on distinguishing between the legal and illegal aspects of the migratory phenomenon within political, media and religious rhetoric so as not to create stigmas about the peoples living on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea; underlines the important role played by politicians, the medias and spiritual leaders in that respect;
- 3) Believes that organized crime networks linked to illegal migration pose a far more real threat than the irregular migrants themselves to the security apparatus of countries of origin, transit and of destination and to the safety of lives of the migrants themselves;
- 4) Calls on PAM governments to actively fight organized crime networks linked to illegal migration and supports a strengthened regional collaboration to dismantle those regional networks;
- 5) Encourages scientific research/analyses and studies pertaining to the root causes of migration in the Mediterranean as well as to the link between migration and development;
- 6) Insists that migrants' basic human rights be respected in the strict sense of international conventions and fundamental human rights principles regardless of the migrants' future status in the transit countries or countries of destination;

- 7) Condemns all sorts of forced migrations due to political reasons and underlines that a just settlement of the problem of displaced persons constitutes an indispensable element to any political solution to conflicts ;
- 8) Commits to study in depth the question of forced migration of the Palestinian people (its root causes, its impact on neighboring countries, and on the living conditions of the Palestinian peoples themselves) and recalls in that respect paragraph 11 of UNGA Resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948¹;
- 9) Commits to also study in depth the question of forced migration in the Balkans ;
- 10) Is deeply grateful to the IOM, the UNHCR and UNRWA for the assistance lent to migrants and refugees alike in their daily lives and intends to continue collaborating with these bodies in the future ;
- 11) Is committed to remain an active forum for the exchange of best practices among parliamentarians and all other regional actors involved on migration issues in the Mediterranean;
- 12) Is committed to act as a catalyst for the prevention of conflicts and environmental disruptions, which constitute the main causes of forced migration.

¹ UNGA Resolution 194 (III) Paragraph 11 reads as follows: *“Resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practical date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible”*