



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

PAM high-level delegation mission to New-York and Washington D.C.
19-26 September 2011

Draft executive Report

PAM high-level delegation attended, as an Observer to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the High-level meetings and general debate of the 66th Session of the UNGA, in New-York, from 19 to 20 and from 22 to 26 September 2011.

PAM delegation also paid a visit to the US Administration, Senate and Congress in Washington D.C. from 21 to 22 September, to hold in-depth bilateral consultations on key issues such as the Peace Process in the Middle-East, the democratic transition in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, the political situation in Syria and appropriate strategies to ensure the peace and stability of the Mediterranean.

Composition of the PAM high-level delegation:

- Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso (Italy), Head of the delegation, PAM Vice President and Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Senate;
- Hon. Majalli Whbee (Israel), PAM Vice President and Vice President of the Knesset;
- Hon. Rudy Salles (France), PAM Honorary President and Vice President of the French National Assembly;
- Hon. George Vella (Malta), President of the PAM Ad hoc Committee on the Middle East and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta;
- Dr. Sergio Piazzì, PAM Secretary General.

Schedule of PAM mission to New-York and Washington D.C.:

- 19-20 September: UN General Assembly 66th Session high-level segment and meetings with UN Senior Officials in New York;
- 21-22 September: Visit to Washington D.C. to meet with US Administration and Congress;
- 23-26 September: UN General Assembly 66th Session general debate in New York, including notably the intervention of Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia and Syria, as well as bilateral meetings on the margins of the debate with UN Senior Officials and Representatives of the Palestinian, Libyan and Lebanese delegations.

- 66th Session of the UNGA, New-York (19-20 and 23-26 September):

PAM addressed the High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases on 20 September 2011, both at the General Assembly and in the framework of Round table 3.

On 20 September, PAM high-level delegation held an in-depth bilateral meeting with United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, H.E. Ms. Catherine Bragg, to discuss, inter alia, PAM support to facilitate the humanitarian assistance to the peoples of Libya and Syria. On the latter, H.E. Ms. Bragg has requested PAM to assist the UN in ensuring the protection of civilians.

On 22 September, PAM high-level delegation discussed with the Director of Europe Division at the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA), Ms Elizabeth Spehar, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Sven Alkalaj, the political situation in the Balkans and the process of constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in preparation of the forthcoming High-Level meeting on the process of constitutional reform in Bosnia-Herzegovina in Malta, on 12 December 2011, at the invitation of the Maltese Parliament and at the request of the United Nations and with the support of the Bosnian authorities, US Congress, Russian Federation Duma and the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly.

On 23 September, the members of the PAM delegation reiterated PAM support to the UN action to foster peace, security and stability in the Mediterranean region and beyond during their meeting with the newly appointed UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, H.E. Mr. Herve Ladsous.

On 23-26 September, PAM delegation members held bilateral meetings on the margins of the general debate, notably the interventions of Palestine and Israel, to discuss key issues such as, inter alia, the proposal for Palestinian Statehood or the appropriate support to the democratic transitions in the Arab world. Consultations took place with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority, H.E. Mr. Riyad al-Maliki, the Permanent Representative of Libya to the UN, H.E. Amb. Abdel Rahman Shalgam, as well as with members of the Lebanese and Syrian delegation to the UN.

The delegation also met with the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, H.E. Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, to exchange on perspective of cooperation in this sector following PAM high-level meeting on Disaster prevention and management in cooperation with the Italian Office of civil protection in Rome, at the invitation of the Italian Parliament, in May 2011.

- Meetings with the US Congress and Administration in Washington D.C. (21-22 September):

PAM delegation discussed perspectives of cooperation in relation to the Middle East Peace Process and the democratic transition processes unfolding following the Arab spring with Mrs. Elizabeth Dibble, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs at the US Department of State; Senator Benjamin Cardin, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection at the U.S. Senate and Congressman Dan Burton; Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia, at the U.S. House of Representatives.

Further discussions with Dr. Judith Yaphe and Dr. Denise Natali, Distinguished Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies National Defense University and Dr Neyla Arnas at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, allowed in-depth exchanges of views and a broader analysis on the situation in North Africa and the Middle East in this decisive period to promote democracy and stability in the region. This Institute is the one providing policy and intelligence analysis to the Pentagon and the White House. It also provides inputs for President Obama's speeches.