



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

PAM Mission to the United Nations

New York, 22- 26 September 2014

Executive Report

Background and Objectives

At the invitation of the UN Secretary General, a delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), led by PAM President, Senator Francesco Maria Amoroso (Italy), attended and contributed to the meetings and the General Debate of the High-Level Segment of the 69th session of the General Assembly, from 22 to 27 September 2014, and to the Climate Summit 2014, which was held in New York on 23 September 2014, under the auspices of UN Secretary General and US President, Barack Obama.

On the margins of the High-Level Segment, and as done in the past, the PAM President and his fellow parliamentarians held a series of political bilateral meetings with UN Executive Officers in relation to the current crises related to the Mediterranean region; namely, the latest developments in the Middle East, the situation in Syria and the political crisis in Libya.

The mission to the UN and some of the political bilateral meetings were held in preparation of the PAM Middle East Mission scheduled to take place by the end of October 2014, and that will include Cairo, Gaza, Jerusalem, Ramallah and the Golan Heights. The exchange of views with senior UN officials resulted extremely fruitful in portraying the current situation on the ground, and to envisage specific actions that PAM, using its Parliamentary Network, could undertake under the mandate of its Bureau and its 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security Cooperation.

The mission to the UN HQ also represented a good opportunity to share and measure with the International officers the outcome of PAM political missions in 2014, such as the missions to Moscow and Cairo, plus the political and humanitarian efforts mobilized during the Gaza Crisis, and the outbreak of the recent political crisis in Tripoli. An overview of PAM future activities was also given to UN Officials in order to synchronize the efforts in regards to some specific programmes.

The mission to New York represented also an important opportunity to discuss, in detail, with the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council and with the UN ASG/Executive Director of Counter terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), cooperation in the Mediterranean under the provisions of UN SC Resolution 2178 of 24 September 2014, following the preparatory meeting which took place at PAM HQ on 17 September 2014. During this meeting, which was requested by the UN side, the Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch at the UNODC, and three of his colleagues from the Vienna office and UN CTED, requested a high-level cooperation with PAM to organize a Parliamentary meeting, in Malta, tentatively at the end of February 2015, on Counter Terrorism Legislation, targeting the 5 Maghreb countries as the first phase of a wider regional approach.

In New York, the PAM delegation also met with three senior Special Representatives to the UN Secretary General to the most tensed spots in the region, namely: Amb. Robert Serry, Special Coordinator for Middle East; Amb. Bernardino Leon, UN SG Special Representative to Libya; and Amb. Staffan de Mistura, UN SG Special Envoy to Syria.

During the General Debate of the High-Level Segment of the 69th session of the General Assembly, PAM delegation met with a number of Heads of States and Governments, and

Ministers of Foreign Affairs. These meetings also gave the chance to discuss further the regional situation, the developments of the Peace talks, and the impact of the Syrian conflict in view of the rise of ISIL, as well as, the ongoing developments in Arab countries following to the Arab Spring.

Summary of the bilateral meetings

Sen. Francesco Amoroso, PAM President, led a PAM delegation in New York which participated at the 69th United Nations General Assembly.

A series of constructive high level bilateral meetings were held with H.E. Amb. Raimonda Murmokaitė, Chair of the UN Security Council Committee for Counter Terrorism; Mr. Herve Ladsous, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Amb. Robert Serry, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Middle East; Amb. Bernardino Leon, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya; Amb. Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Syria; Mr Jean-Paul Laborde, UN Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED); UN ASG Kang and Mr.Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization – WMO.

The delegation had also the opportunity to exchange views with key actors in the region, such as **H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**, President of Arab Republic of Egypt; **H.R.H. Albert II, Prince of Monaco**; **H.E. Dr. Joseph Muscat**, Prime Minister of Malta, **H.E. Dr. George Vella**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta; **H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy; **H.E. Mr. Nasser Judeh**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan; **H.E. Dr. Fayez Tarawneh**, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court of Jordan; **H.E. Mr. Walid Al-Moualem**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Syria; **H.E. Mr. Mongi Hamdi**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia; and **Major General Luciano Portolano**, Head of Mission and Force Commander, UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Discussions

H.E. Amb. Raimonda Murmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania, and Chair of the UN Security Council Committee for Counter Terrorism. (UN SC CTC)

On 22 September, **Amb. Murmokaitė** provided the PAM delegation with an overview of the activities of the Committee and the latest resolution being prepared at the Security Council, condemning violent extremism and underscoring the need to prevent travel and support for Foreign Terrorist Fighters (the Resolution 2178/2014 was then unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council on 24 September 2014).

In this regard, PAM delegation discussed with **Amb. Murmokaitė** the organization of the joint UNSC/PAM Parliamentary meeting, to be hosted by PAM in Malta, at the end of February 2015, on Counter Terrorism Legislation in Maghreb. It was agreed the importance

of cooperating on the legislative level to ensure the best practice of all related UN resolutions aiming to combat terrorism.

Amb. Raimonda also shared with the PAM delegation her concern, and that of the UN SC CTC, over the establishment of international terrorist networks in the Middle East region. Namely, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusra Front (ANL) and other affiliated groups of Al-Qaida. This could represent a serious threat to Europe.

During the meeting it was agreed the necessity of mobilising all international efforts to combat this increasingly dangerous phenomena, and that counter terrorism political action must take into consideration the socio-economic background which caused the creation of extremism and fundamentalism in this part of the world. It was stressed also that the use of force should be parallel with unremitting development projects and efforts to resolve the problem from its roots.

It was also noted that it is important to differentiate between Islam as a peaceful religion, and the shameful acts of these groups, which they falsely try to associate with religion. The crucial role of Islamic moderate Imams in making this differentiation clear to all was highlighted. The experience of Morocco was praised as a model.

PAM President, Sen. Francesco Maria Amoruso, extended to **H.E. Amb. Raimonda Murmokaitė** an invitation to be a key note speaker at PAM 9th Plenary Session, which will take place in Monaco, on 3-4 February 2015, to share with the PAM members the role of the Committee and the importance of the Legislative approach in countering terrorism.

Amb. Robert Serry, Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Process

On 23 September, the meeting with **Amb. Serry** represented a continuation to the ongoing cooperation between PAM and the Office of UN Special Coordinator. Amb. Serry praised the active role of PAM being the sole organisation with cross regional contacts. He then briefed PAM delegation on the latest development in the Middle East, the cease-fire agreement, the role of Egypt and the Palestinian reconciliation process.

On Gaza, Amb. Serry praised the mediation role played by Egypt to reach the cease-fire agreement and called for more international support to ensure the duration of this agreement. He also highlighted the need for fully breaking the siege on Gaza, with all the security measures respected, based on the trilateral agreement between the UN, Israel and the Palestinian Authorities. He also mentioned the necessity of re-establishing the trade links between the West Bank and Gaza to help in easing the economic pressure on Gaza. Donors are now sceptical to spend their money into a political vacuum and that push all sides into reaching a permanent and comprehensive peace agreement.

Amb. Serry also pointed out the importance of reaching a reconciliation agreement among the Palestinian factions. He emphasised on the need for the new Palestinian Government to take control in Gaza. This would be a step forward in the path of building trust and to renew hope for the Two-States solution. He also highlighted the enormous pressure on the Palestinian President from his own inner circles. Amb. Serry called for a renewed commitment by the Quartet.

Sen. Lhou Lmarbou, Vice President of PAM, referred to the latest developments in Syria and Iraq, and the rise of ISIL, calling on the UN, USA and Europe not to forget the Middle East peace process and to continue exerting all their political efforts to reach a final peace agreement based on the Two-States Solution.

PAM delegation informed Amb. Serry about the PAM upcoming mission to the Middle East, which should include Cairo, Gaza, Jerusalem, Ramallah and the Golan Heights. This mission aims at assessing the humanitarian situation in Gaza, promoting regional and international efforts for rebuilding infrastructure and housing for the people of the Strip, and to discuss with key figures in Cairo, Jerusalem and Ramallah the measures needed to strengthen the cease fire agreement and the resumption of the direct peace talks. It has been agreed to keep an open channel between PAM and the office of Amb. Serry and to share the outcome of this mission.

Mr. Herve Ladsous, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

On 24 September, the situation in the Middle East and the status of the Peace Keeping missions in the area were also thoroughly discussed with **Mr. Herve Ladsous**. He provided the PAM delegation with a detailed overview of the work of the UN Observers in the Middle East, namely, in Egypt, Lebanon and the Golan Heights. He added that the tension is recently all coming from the Golan Heights due to the increasing power of the ISIL in the Syrian territory. And as a result of that, the UN had to evacuate all Observers from Syria, and to hand its main base, still under UN control, to the Syrian Government. The rest of the demarcation strip was occupied by ISIS, which had also captured a large number of UN vehicles and material.

Mr. Ladsous welcomed the upcoming PAM mission to the Middle East and especially that it will include a visit to the Golan Heights. He highlighted the important role that PAM can play in supporting the UN in general and the UNPKO in particular, in the Middle East region.

With reference to a possible deployment of UN Peace keepers in Libya, UN USG indicated that such a mission would be beyond the capability of the organisation at this stage. He also referred to a suggestion circulated, for DPKO to have a role between Gaza and Israel. With reference to the ongoing operations in Mali, he referred to the weakness of the present set-up after the withdrawal of French forces. The rules of engagement must be reviewed as peacekeepers are being targeted by Islamic militias and do not possess the necessary power capacity to defend themselves and implement the mission. Finally, with reference to Minurso, he indicated that no change in the mandate of the mission was being considered.

It has been agreed to maintain a close cooperation between PAM and the USG Ladsous for any support needed for PAM mission in the region, and to convey to him the findings after the mission.

Mr Jean Paul Laborde, UN ASG and Executive Director of Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)

On 25 September, in the meeting with ASG **Jean Paul Laborde**, the counter terrorism file was openly discussed. **PAM President, Sen. Amoruso** emphasised the fact that terrorism is a global phenomenon and not only limited to the Arab World. He also pointed out the importance of having a synchronised and harmonized legislations that would enable states to deal with the “Foreign Fighters” on their return to the homelands. He also highlighted that PAM is the first Regional Organisation that had adopted, unanimously, a definition to Terrorism, which has been used later on by the UN Security Council. He added that PAM has the experience and the network needed to cooperate with the UN system in dealing with this phenomenon.

Sen. Lmarbough, Vice President of PAM, spoke more in depth about the spread of terrorism in the Mediterranean Region, and stating that this region had witnessed different kinds of terrorism throughout the last decades, from the terrorism of the state, such as Libya under Kaddafi, or the current kind of terrorism, falsely, under the name of Islam. He also raised the importance of resolving the Middle East problem and reaching an agreement based on the Two States solution, as a way forward in combating terrorism in the region.

ASG. Laborde referred to the excellent relations existing with PAM and the preparatory work carried out by PAM SG in Vienna, and expressed his gratitude for the support of PAM in accepting the request by CTED and UN SC CTC to host the upcoming Parliamentary meeting in Malta on Counter Terrorism Legislation. He explained that this meeting will be considered as a pilot project that will include Five States from the Maghreb Region (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania) as the first phase of wider regional approach that shall involve all the Mediterranean countries. Mr. Laborde also highlighted the importance of the UN Security Council Resolution which was adopted the day before, under Chapter 7, regarding combating the Foreign Fighters. He added that this resolution shall be the framework for all the upcoming joint activities between PAM and the UN Security Council.

Amb. Piazzini, PAM Secretary General, also informed the CTED Director that the support to CTED that PAM can offer would exceed the Maghreb region and should be extended to the rest of the Middle East, the Balkans and also the States of the 5+5 dialogue, of which PAM facilitates the Parliamentary dimension.

Mr. Michel Jarraud, SG of the World Meteorological Organization – WMO

On Climate Change, the PAM delegation met with **Mr. Michel Jarraud** on the same day. The Head of WMO requested PAM’s support in preparing for the COP 20 in Lima, and indicated the importance of PAM presence there, as already done at previous events. In Lima the main targets of Paris COP 21 will be outlined, but there will be no details discussed. These will have to be sorted out in the period between Lima and Paris, and this represents a major danger, as there are still extreme divergent opinions between G7 countries and the BRIKS. USG Jarraud also informed PAM that the UNSG had appointed him as the UN Special Coordinator for Water, and that in this capacity he would continue developing cooperation with PAM, as already being done by PAM with Mr Junkella for the Energy sector.

PAM President invited the SG WMO to the Monaco Plenary Session, and it was agreed that the Deputy will attend, as he will be chairing the Water Summit the same days.

PAM SG also asked Mr. Jarraud to share with PAM the results that WMO would consider as essential to be reached in Lima, so that PAM could promote them among the Parliamentarians of the region.

A joint meeting is to be organised after the meeting in Lima, tentatively after Easter and in Morocco, building on the outcome of the meeting in Lima and paving the road to the Paris Summit.

Mr. Bernardino Leon, UN Secretary General Special Representative to Libya

Amb. **Bernardino Leon** thanked the Assembly for its commitment to support the international efforts aiming to stabilise the political situation in Libya. He was aware of PAM's action in Libya thanks to the bilateral coordination with PAM Secretary General, and he briefed the PAM delegation on his recent mission to Libya and the talks he had with different political factions in Tripoli and Tobruk. Amb. Leon pointed out that the main problem in Libya now is that of having two parliaments, namely: the newly elected one in Tobruk, and the old one which was reconvened at the request of some militias in Tripoli. He stressed the role that PAM must play in this regard to diffuse the problem using its connections in Libya, highlighting that only the newly elected parliament, based in Tobruk, was recognized by the international community. He also briefed the PAM delegation on the expected outcome of the High-Level meeting on Libya, held in New York the same day.

Amb. Leon also informed PAM that the UN mission to Libya (UNSMIL) is currently functioning from Tunisia, and is awaiting the security situation to permit them to move back to Tripoli. He further highlighted that the international community had entrusted to the UN the task to lead the negotiations with Libyan groups.

PAM SG, Amb. Piazzini, highlighted that PAM maintains very close contacts with different political levels in Libya, and that a high-level parliamentary mission had been scheduled to take place in June 2014, with the aim to discuss with the newly elected Parliament how PAM could concretely assist this delicate phase, and that PAM Bureau had decided, in Athens, after consulting with Libyan Foreign Minister, to postpone the mission due to security concerns.

Amb. Piazzini also added that PAM had received a request from the Libyan Government to assist in establishing relations between the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and Libya. This was required in order to mobilize support for socio-economic measures and to benefit from the institution's experience in transition countries to build a solid base for long term infrastructural projects, in the framework of the Deauville Partnership.

It was pointed out that PAM is also following the Libyan developments on the regional level, being entrusted with the Parliamentary dimension of the 5+5 Dialogue.

With reference to a possible deployment of UN Peace keepers or NATO in Libya, UN ASR indicated that such a mission would not be justified as the nature of the crisis in Libya is political and not military. Time must be given to the Parliament and to the various Libyan communities to find a political solution based on dialogue and shared interest.

It has been agreed that PAM would exert all its Parliamentary effort in order to assist in solving the current legislative crisis in Libya, and to support, in all possible ways, the UN mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, UN ASG for Humanitarian Affairs

On 26 September, in an extensive meeting with **Ms. Kyung-wha Kang**, the current humanitarian situation in the Mediterranean region was thoroughly discussed, with emphasis on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and at the Turkish borders.

The UN Assistant Secretary General referred to the consultations held in Geneva with PAM Secretary General and noted with satisfaction the efforts PAM has been doing recently in the region and the outcome of its missions to Syria in July 2013 and those to Cairo and Moscow in 2014. She highlighted the complementary role of PAM in supporting OCHA action plan in the Middle East region, whether in raising awareness among all the Parliaments of the region to the devastating humanitarian situation or by using PAM's parliamentary network to facilitate dialogue, access, and delivery of humanitarian aids and supplies. She praised the work of PAM's SG and Permanent Observers in New York, Geneva and Vienna, who represented an excellent channel for communications and coordination.

Ms. Kang shared with the PAM delegation the latest development on the ground and the impact of the air strikes of the allies' forces against ISIL in Syria and Iraq. She added that these strikes, though justified, but they are making the humanitarian situation even more complicated, with 400,000 civilians fleeing to Turkey since the beginning of these operations. The territories under the control of ISIL are very hard to reach but they are still receiving some UN assistance through local partners by means of cross-borders' convoys, thanks to a dedicated UN Security Council's resolution.

On Gaza, Ms. Kang mentioned that the major problem there remains to be housing for the population. With more than 60,000 staying in schools operated by UNRWA, building houses remains to be the immediate challenge to be addressed, then comes the other long term plans. In this same regards, Ms. Kang noted the importance of the upcoming conference in Cairo, on 12 October 2014, entitled "Reconstructing Gaza". She also expressed the need for the sanctions on Gaza to be lifted by Israel. The UN ASG welcomed the effort of PAM and its upcoming mission to Gaza. She recommended that PAM delegation meet with the local staff of OCHA in Gaza.

With reference to the role of Jordan, PAM President shared with Ms. Kang that the Assembly had been requested by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan that the needs were infrastructure sector (hospitals, schools and housing) rather than pure humanitarian.

She informed of the World Humanitarian Summit which will take place in Turkey in 2016 and confirmed that the UN will count on PAM's support especially on the different regional consultations leading up to the Summit.

It has been agreed that PAM will be invited to actively participate in regional consultation of the Middle East and North Africa region, which will take place on 3-5 March 2015 in Jordan, and that for the European Region, which will take place on 3-4 February 2015 in Budapest.

Amb. Staffan de Mistura, UN SG Special Envoy to Syria

The same afternoon, the meeting of the PAM delegation with **Amb. Staffan de Mistura** was a great opportunity to exchange views with regards to recent developments in Syria. The PAM delegation outlined the strong ties that link the Assembly with the Syrian parliament, as a result of the first meeting in Ecuador, which had opened the doors to soft diplomacy, confidence building and the facilitation of humanitarian assistance. This approach proved its effectiveness during the PAM mission to Damascus in July 2013, and those that followed to Moscow and New York.

Amb. De Mistura, aware of the encounter between PAM delegates and the Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs the day before, noted with great satisfaction the efforts of PAM in Syria. He referred to his recent mission to Damascus and stressed on the importance of the Parliamentary diplomacy that PAM is excelling in lately. He also discussed the current situation on the ground in Syria, and the game changer that shuffled the positions after the rise of ISIL.

PROGRAMME of the Visit

Monday 22 September

10:00 – 11:00 H.E. Amb. Raimonda Murmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania, Chair of the UN SC Committee for Counter Terrorism. (CTC)

13:00 – 21:00 Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development – UN HQ

Tuesday 23 September

08:00 – 19:00 UN International Summit on Climate Change – UN HQ (All Day event)

10:00 – 11:00 Amb. Robert Serry, Special Coordinator to the UN SG for Middle East

Wednesday 24 September

All day UN General Assembly

16:30 – 17:30 Mr. Herve Ladsous, UN Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations.

Thursday 25 September

All day UN General Assembly

10:00 – 11:00 Meeting with Mr Jean Paul Laborde, UN ASG and Executive Director of Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)

11:30 – 12:30 Michel Jarraud, SG of the World Meteorological Organization – WMO

15:00 – 16:00 Amb Bernardino Leon, UN SG Special Representative to Libya

Friday 26 September

All day UN General Assembly

16:00 – 17:00 Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, UN ASG for Humanitarian Affairs

17:00 – 18:00 Amb. Staffan de Mistura, UN SG Special Envoy to Syria

PAM Delegation

1. Sen. Francesco Maria Amoroso, PAM President and Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Senate;
2. Sen. Lhou Lmarbouh, PAM Vice President and Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Moroccan Senate;
3. Hon. Mohammed Abu El Enein, PAM Honorary President and former member of the Egyptian Parliament;
4. Amb. Sergio Piazzi, PAM Secretary General;
5. Mr. Mourad Youssry, Deputy to PAM Secretary General for Assembly Affairs;
6. Ms. Susanna Radoni, Assistant to PAM President, Protocol Officer at the Italian Parliament.