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الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

NATO Parliamentary Assembly
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Political and Economic Transition in the Maghreb, Machrek and Persian
Gulf Countries

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Presentation by PAM President,
H.E. Sen. Fayez Al-Tarawneh (Jordan)
The role of external actors in the MENA region
PAM Mediterranean parliamentary diplomacy
in an evolving region

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Honorable Members of NATO Parliamentary Assembly,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to thank your Excellency for the warm reception which we are enjoying in this beautiful region and this wonderful city.

I am extremely grateful to H.E. Dr. Karl A. Lamers, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly for the kind invitation he addressed to me for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) to attend this meeting and deliver its message based on our shared values of individual liberty, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as reiterated by NATO at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010 Basin. PAM is fully mobilized to promote these principles in the Mediterranean. I am convinced that discussions today in Marseilles, in such a fruitful atmosphere for exchanges of views and sharing of good

practices and experiences, will help us to make some decisive steps forward in a crucial period for the Mediterranean region.

As you may know, PAM is a unique forum gathering parliamentarians from the Mediterranean region. We are an inter-state organization, with its own international legal personality and capacity, composed of 28 Member States, and many Observers and Partners. Our Assembly was born in 2006, in Amman, as the result of the maturation of a regional political process initiated within the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the late 80's, and known as the "Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM)".

PAM is also a Permanent Observer to the United Nations General Assembly since 2009. In this historical period for the South of the Mediterranean, PAM joint action with the UN system to address the aspirations expressed by the peoples of our region has been decisive and timely.

The fruitful cooperation established between NATO PA and our own Assembly, which also regards itself as a complementary tool to traditional diplomacy, has allowed to strengthen our action and to establish vital bridges to overcome obstacles to dialogue and freedom in the MENA region. Please be assured that PAM is fully committed to develop further its structured strategic partnership with your Assembly and Parliamentarians that we perceive as key partners in our mission to promote and achieve stability and security in the Mediterranean.

At the outset of the Arab Spring, PAM stood with the peoples of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya to collaborate with all the components of local societies to facilitate the transformation of the democratic aspirations expressed in the street into legislative processes.

PAM immediately mobilized, in a coordinated manner, its network of parliamentary diplomacy aimed at encouraging complementarity and

cross-fertilization of efforts, and increasing efficiency and effectiveness, in crisis situations. PAM is proud to have been an operational bridge between the two shores of the Mediterranean, and the international community, at the peak of the crises.

This concerted action was instrumental in providing immediate and long term humanitarian assistance, as well as legislative expertise, to facilitate democratic transition processes through constitutional reforms and fair elections, with very positive and still encouraging results.

The Assembly's action included high-level field missions as the one to Tunis where we met with the President of the Tunisian Republic at the outset of the Jasmine Revolution. In close collaboration with the UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, PAM maintained a channel of communication open with Libya, to facilitate UN Envoys missions to the country and to secure the humanitarian corridor to Misrata, in the midst of the conflict.

PAM was among the regional organisations invited to participate at the Syria Humanitarian Forum held in Geneva on 8 March 2012, under the auspices of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). On that occasion, PAM reiterated its full readiness to support the implementation of the humanitarian efforts and political dialogue in Syria. PAM Secretary General is in contact with Kofi Annan, the Joint Special Envoy of the UN-LAS on the Syrian crisis, the President of the Parliament of Lebanon and that of Syria, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, to facilitate dialogue, as requested by UNSG, H.E. Ban Ki-moon.

Since its inception, the Assembly has also mobilized its instruments to facilitate the Middle East Peace Process. PAM is the only forum in which the Vice Presidents of the Knesset and the PNC, who are both also PAM Vice Presidents as members of our Bureau, meet regularly to facilitate the negotiations. PAM works closely with UN Secretariat to assist UN Special Coordinator, Ambassador Robert Serry,

who participated in our Bureau meeting in Amman last January, together with the Jordanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Nasser Judeh.

As approved by the members of the Assembly during last Plenary Session in Palermo, PAM is undergoing a process of restructuring of its activities in order to address, in an even more efficient and comprehensive way, the new challenges of our region. PAM has now become, thanks to the commitment of its parliamentarians, a fully operational Mediterranean parliamentary tool devoted to the welfare, safety and stability of Mediterranean citizens. Within the framework of its Economic Panel, we aim at formulating operational solutions to tackle key topics such as Energy, Water, Environment, Food Security, Unemployment by fostering jobs creation, and Education, and the attention they deserve in the aftermath of the Arab spring. Sectoral matters have become determinant in ensuring right and fair answers to our peoples in the evolving context in our region.

PAM has developed a structured cooperation with the EBRD to foster sectoral investments amounting to 2.5 billion Euros in 4 MENA countries. I had the honour to launch this collaboration, and will receive next May the EBRD President in Amman for in-depth consultations on regional economic priorities.

On all these strategic issues of common interest, PAM has proved to be a solid regional organisation able to merge the efforts of political, social and economic actors to consolidate freedom, peace and security, and we look forward further strengthening our cooperation with you.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to take this opportunity, in my capacity as the Head of the Jordanian Delegation to extend to your Excellency and to this August Meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly the warm wishes of the two Chambers of the Jordanian Parliament for excellent and successful deliberations.

I thank you for your attention.