



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

**PAM High-level Mission to Cairo**

*Cairo, 10-12 February 2018*

**Executive report**

A PAM delegation paid an official visit to Cairo, from 10 to 12 February 2018, and attended the Third Conference of the Arab Parliament and the Heads of Arab Councils and Parliaments. The event was held in Cairo on 10 February, at the Headquarters of the Arab States League. The delegation was composed by the PAM President, Hon. Pedro Roque, the PAM Vice-President, Hon. Belal Qasem, the PAM Secretary General, Amb. Sergio Piazzzi, and the PAM Honorary President, Hon. Mohamed Abou El-Enein.

In addition to the Conference, PAM delegates also held a number of dedicated bilateral meetings with the Speaker of the Arab Parliament, H.E. Hon. Meshal bin Fahmi Al-Sulami; the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, H.E. Gabriela Cuevas Barron; the Speaker of the Advisory (Shura) Council of Qatar, H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid al-Mahmoud; the Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, H.E. Ali Abdel-Aal; and with the Head and members of the new Egyptian delegation to PAM. Discussions focused, inter-alia, on the status of negotiations between Israel and Palestine; Counter-terrorism and the implementation of UNSC Resolution on ISIS and Foreign Terrorist Fighters, Violent Extremism and Radicalization; the ongoing crises in Syria and Libya; Economic Migrations from Africa to Europe, as well as Human Rights and Education. Moreover, a gathering with several Ambassadors of Euro-Mediterranean countries took place on the evening of 10 February.

PAM would like to express its most sincere thanks to the Parliament of Egypt and to Hon. Mohamed Abou El-Enein, who both assisted the PAM delegation throughout the mission in Egypt.

**\*\*\*\* 10 February \*\*\*\***

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Arab Parliament and the Heads of Arab Councils and Parliaments**

The Conference was attended by, among others, the PAM delegation, the Secretary General of the Arab League, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit; the Speaker of the Arab Parliament, H.E. Hon. Meshal bin Fahmi Al-Sulami and the presidents of IPU and NATO PA. The agenda of the conference included discussions on the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, the issue of Jerusalem and terrorism. In the morning, the Heads and speakers of Arab Parliaments held a closed consultation meeting to discuss the current situation and conflicts hitting some Arab countries. A comprehensive document on fighting terrorism and violent extremist was then issued, providing a comprehensive strategy and vision aimed at eradicating terrorism at all social, intellectual, and economic and security levels in the entire Arab world, and disseminating the upright Islamic teachings, which promote the constructive dialogue among various religions and cultures. The conference also issued statements on Jerusalem. Participants pledged to provide Palestine with the needed Arab support, at the financial and political levels, and called on the United Nations to lead the Peace Process and

preserve the sovereignty of Palestine and the legal status of Jerusalem, in line with the UN resolutions and the 2002 Arab initiative. The conference also condemned foreign interference in Arab affairs, particularly in Egypt and Libya.

In a keynote speech, the Secretary General of the Arab League, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Abul-Gheit called for the creation of a more effective Arab mechanism embracing security, financial, judicial, media and religious measures to address terrorist threats. He also requested a more coherent Arab response to prevent terrorist plots and threats against Arab countries. On his part, the Speaker of the Arab Parliament Speaker, Hon. Meshal Al-Sulami, called for the doubling of Arab efforts to stand against terrorism and extremism in the Arab region, and added that the Palestinian cause is a central and essential issue for the Arab world, reiterating Arab support to an independent Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital.

### **Bilateral meetings**

On the margins of the Conference, the Speaker of the Arab Parliament and the PAM President signed a Memorandum of Understanding. It is intended to enhance parliamentary cooperation between the two Assemblies in fields of mutual interest, in order to address the modern challenges, which undermine international peace and security in the two regions and achieve their common objectives, based on the principles of respect for human rights and freedoms, social justice, the promotion of democracy and the rule of law. In particular, they identified the following issues for future cooperation, through the instrument of parliamentary diplomacy: conflict resolutions, confidence building, fight against terrorism and violent extremism, peace enhancement, migration, human rights, promotion of the role of women and youth in inclusive sustainable development, promotion of dialogue among cultures and civilizations, support of civil society institutions in the areas of social solidarity, and charitable and humanitarian work.

After the signing of the MoU, the two Presidents issued a joint statement, in which they affirmed the support for the right of all peoples to self-determination, and to live in peace in accordance with the Principles of International Law and Resolutions of the United Nations. They condemned foreign interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, as well as the formation and support of armed militias affecting regional security and stability. They called for the launch of a reliable and tangible Arab – Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue to achieve peace and security in the Arab and in the Mediterranean Regions, as well as a comprehensive settlement of the Arab – Israeli conflict, reaching a just and lasting settlement that guarantees the Two-State solution, in accordance with the United Nations, and called upon the UN Secretary General of to lead the Peace Process.

During the meeting with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Hon. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, the Presidents of PAM and IPU discussed about the terrorism and migration, and the related human trafficking and money laundering. In particular, they emphasized that terrorism has no religion or border or nationality, and they also reflected on the possible consequences on the peace process of the US decision to transfer the American Embassy to Jerusalem.

On the occasion of a bilateral meeting requested by the Speaker of the Advisory (Shura) Council of Qatar, HE Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid al-Mahmoud, the two presidents discussed the efforts of PAM in the Middle East, including the peace process in the region, as well as bilateral relations between the Shura Council and PAM, started in 2009. They recalled the visit that PAM President Rudy Salles of France, and the PAM Secretary General, Amb. Sergio Piazzzi, paid to H.E.

Mohamed Bin Mubarak Al-Khulaifi, then President of the Advisory Council of Qatar, in April 2009, in the framework of a PAM mission to the Gulf Countries.

**\*\*\*\* 11 February \*\*\*\***

H.E. Hon. Ali Abdel-Aal, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Egypt, welcomed Hon. Pedro Roque and the PAM delegation at the Egyptian Parliament. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Ahmed Saad Al-Din, Secretary-General of the Egyptian Parliament, Hon. Tareq Radwan, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament, Hon. Karim Darwish, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Head of the Egyptian delegation to PAM, and Dr. Salah Hasballah, Member of the Council and Media Spokesman of the Egyptian Parliament. The PAM President was accompanied by Hon. Belal Qasem and Amb. Sergio Piazzzi.

H.E. Abdel-Aal stressed Egypt's key role in the security of Europe. This is achieved by fighting against terrorists and combating illegal immigration through the adoption of a new law that imposes sanctions on its perpetrators and by hosting thousands of refugees fleeing conflicts in the region, granting them health and education rights, despite the difficult economic conditions experienced by Egypt, and without receiving any international economic assistance in this regard.

For his part, Hon. Pedro Roque, stressed Egypt's leading role in the region, as one of the founding countries of PAM, and recalled the exceptional decision adopted by the Assembly, which allowed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt to represent the country at PAM meetings, even at the time when there was no parliament in Egypt. He also referred to the PAM's role as facilitator, through its economic platform, of the Deville Partnership for EBRD/EIB investments in Egypt, as well as the special consultation PAM held with the President of EBRD to sustain Egyptian programs for critical infrastructure in the transport and energy sectors. On terrorism, PAM President emphasized the key role of Egypt, which is holding the chairmanship of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee, and praised the Grand Imam of Cairo, a model for the responsibility of the religious leaders to counter violent extremism and radicalization. With reference to Palestine, Hon. Roque stressed the active role of PAM in supporting the negotiations between Israel and Palestine, and praised the role of Egypt in facilitating the intra-Palestinian dialogue, and invited Egypt to be associated to the special meeting that PAM will organize on the issue at the Dead Sea.

The meeting also dealt with the relations between PAM and PA-UfM, which is currently chaired by the Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, as well as the still ongoing crisis in Libya and Syria and the active role of PAM to facilitate the national reconciliation in the two countries.

Finally, the President of the Parliament indicated that a PAM observer team to monitor the forthcoming Presidential elections would be welcome, as already done with the parliamentary elections in 2015.

**\*\*\*\* 12 February \*\*\*\***

In the morning, the PAM delegation met with Hon. Karim Darwish, Head of the Egyptian delegation to PAM, and Hon. Rasha Abdelfattah Elsaid Ramadan. The two members of Parliament were briefed by the PAM Secretary General, who presented PAM and its activities in the fields of security, economic trade and investments, environment, migration, human rights, education and dialogue among religions and cultures. They also reiterated the commitment of the Egyptian Parliament to be involved in the PAM activities and programs.

In the afternoon, the PAM delegates took part in the official cultural programme.

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### **Program**

#### **Friday, 9 February 2018**

*Arrival of members of the delegation*

#### **Saturday, 10 February 2018:**

- 09:30 – 12:30** Third Conference of the Arab Parliament and the Heads of Arab Councils and Parliaments
- 11:00** Meeting with **Hon. Gabriela Cuevas Barron**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- 13:30** *Lunch in honor of the Hon. the Heads of Arab Councils and parliaments*
- 14:15** Meeting with **H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud**, President of the Shura Council of Qatar
- 14:30** Meeting with **H.E. Meshal Al-Sulami**, Speaker of the Arab Parliament Speaker, and signing ceremony of the MoU between PAM and the Arab Parliament
- 20:00** *Dinner with the Ambassadors of the Mediterranean countries in honour of the PAM Delegation hosted by H.E. Mohamed Abu El Enein, PAM Honorary President*

#### **Sunday, 11 February 2018**

- 15:30** Meeting with **H.E. Ali Abdel Aal Sayed Ahmed**, President of the Parliament of Egypt

#### **Monday, 12 February 2018**

- 13:00** Meeting with **Hon. Karim Darwish**, Head of the Egyptian delegation to PAM, and **Hon. Rasha Abdelfattah Elsaid Ramadan**, member of the Egyptian Delegation to PAM
- Afternoon** *Official Cultural Programme*

#### **Tuesday 13 February 2018**

*End of mission and departure of delegates*