



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

PAM participation at the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 23-30 September 2018

Executive Report



A senior PAM delegation participated in the 73rd High-level segment of the United Nations General Assembly, from 23 to 30 September 2018, in New York. The delegation was led by PAM President Hon. Pedro Roque and PAM Secretary General Ambassador Sergio Piazzini, and included PAM Vice-President Hon. Amir Peretz (Israel), Hon. Nathalie Amoratti-Blanc (Monaco), Hon. Sandrine Morch (France), Amb. Mohamed Abu El Enein – President Emeritus and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, Amb. Shaukat Fareed - PAM Permanent Observer to the UN in New York, Amb. Majallie Whbee - Senior Advisor on the Middle East, Amb. Jean-Paul Laborde - Senior Advisor on Counter-Terrorism, Amb. Iqbal Riza - Senior Advisor on Political Affairs.

In addition to attending the General Debate, PAM delegates also held a number of bilateral meetings with senior UN officials.

PAM delegates met with Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the United Nations, Amb. Miroslav Jenča. The discussion focused on strengthening PAM-UN relations through the signature of a dedicated bilateral agreement that will structure the working relationship on a number of priority issues. The key priorities identified include, among others, the Middle East peace process, national reconciliation and constitutional reform in Syria, and the assistance to Libya to support the processes of elections and national consolidation. Additionally, developments in issue of the Western Sahara region were discussed.

The delegation then met with the Director of the UNDP Regional Office for the Arab States, Assistant Secretary General Mourad Whabba. During the discussion, the parties talked about the future political PAM-UN agreement, as well as a more technical agreement with the UNDP to ensure a better exchange of information and effective coordination on joint activities. Issues of concern to both parties were discussed, namely the strategies to strengthen security, stability and development in neighboring regions such as the Sahel, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Asia. Additionally, the need for PAM to support the role of the Parliament in the process of Libyan reconciliation was highlighted.

PAM delegates met with the Under-Secretary General for Peace Operations, Amb. Jean-Pierre Lacroix. Issues of importance to both parties were discussed, specifically regarding the need to strengthen the security in southern Syria on the border region with Israel through the continued presence of UN peacekeepers and the need to summon political support peacekeeping operations in Mali, which are crucial to the security of the entire Sahel, and therefore the Euro-Mediterranean region.

With reference to the current and future work of PAM on countering terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization, the delegation held two dedicated meetings, one with UN Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Amb. Vladimir Voronkov and one with the newly appointed Executive Director of the UN CTED, Assistant Secretary General Michèle Coninsx.

In both meetings the unique role of PAM was highlighted, as the partner of the two Offices in the promoting the correct implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions at the national and regional levels. Having recalled the joint conferences already organized on these specific themes, it was agreed to further increase the level of cooperation with a number of activities dedicated to the harmonization of national legislation, which is key to the interoperability of law enforcement agencies, as well as the problem posed by the failures of deradicalisation processes, and the new threat represented by ISIS terrorists having moved from Syria/Iraq into the sub-Saharan region. The forthcoming PAM event that will be hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey was considered by all as an excellent opportunity to address priority issues in this specific area.

PAM delegates met with the UN Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, Mr. Mohammad Ibn Chambas. The worrisome and deteriorating situation in the Sahel was discussed at length. It was noted that due to the lack of financial assistance, which was promised but not realized, the development in the region has been halted in favor of strengthening security to respond to the rapid rise of terrorist activity. The delegation was particularly concerned, when it was reported that increase of terrorist operations is the direct consequence of the safe passage the terrorists have enjoyed to leave Iraq and Syria and reach Africa. The continent is experiencing an exponential rise in radical extremist activity from Mali and Niger, south to Mozambique and Ivory Coast. Furthermore, deteriorating economic, social and security conditions are forcing local populations to seek better opportunities abroad, but due to the lack of legal channels, they end up in the hands of human smugglers and traffickers on their way to Europe. A need for better coordination amongst all the strategies announced by the UN, the EU, China, and other actors to develop the Sahel region was emphasized.

PAM delegates then met with Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Ms. Ursula Mueller. The discussion focused on the strategies and problems of delivering humanitarian aid and protection to civilians in Syria, Libya, Gaza, and Yemen. A particular issue was raised with alarm in regards to the cut of US funding to the budget of UNRWA and the need to mobilize political and financial support to fill that gap. The role of PAM as a mediator, with direct channels to parliaments and national authorities of countries who may be in dispute, was highlighted as a means of assisting the UN to gain access to restricted areas in order to deliver humanitarian aid.

In addition to these bilateral meetings, PAM delegates participated in numerous seminars, meetings, and side events. President Roque addressed the Ministerial meeting of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, while Hon. Sandrine Mörch and Hon. Nathalie Amoratti Blanc participated in and contributed to the *He For She Summit*, which addressed accelerating women's economic empowerment and ending gender based violence.

PAM delegates also actively contributed to the "Road to Marrakech" event on migrations, and to the special session dedicated to "New Partnership for Countering Violent Extremism Narratives".

Members of PAM were also able to meet with a number of Heads of States and Governments, ministers, and senior officials of both the UN and other international organizations. These encounters included, inter-alia, H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of France, H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of Portugal, H.E. Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, President of Egypt, H.E. Nicos Anastasiades, President of Cyprus, H.E. Enzo Moavero Milanesi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, H.E. Mohamed Syala, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya, H.E. Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner General of UNRWA, and H.E. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, among others.

The value of PAM parliamentary diplomacy was highlighted when PAM Secretary General managed to arrange an encounter between the President of the Palestinian National Authority, H.E. Mahmoud Abbas; the chief Palestinian negotiator for the peace process with Israel, H.E. Saeb Erekat, and PAM Vice President Hon. Amir Peretz, former member of the government of Israel.

List of PAM Delegates

Hon. Pedro Roque – President

Hon. Amir Peretz – Vice President, Head of the Delegation of Israel

Hon. Nathalie Amoratti Blanc – Head of the Delegation of Monaco

Hon. Sandrine Mörch – Member of the Delegation of France

Amb. Sergio Piazzi – Secretary General

H.E. Mohamed Abou El Enein – President Emeritus and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States

Amb. Qazi Shaukat Fareed – Permanent Observer to the UN in New York

Amb. Majallie Whbee – Roving Ambassador and Senior Advisor on the Middle East

Amb. Jean-Paul Laborde – Senior Advisor on Counter Terrorism

Amb. Iqbal Raza – Senior Advisor for Political Affairs

Mr. Shay Gal – Advisor to Hon. Amir Peretz

Ms. Elham Mohamed Abdelsalam Abouelfath – Assistant

Ms. Lelia Mörch – Assistant

Mr. Adrian Curley – Assistant (PAM)

PAM Program	Time	Event
Sunday, September 23	3:00 PM	“Partnering to Address Acute Food Insecurity”, co-organized by the World Bank and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
	7:00 PM	PAM coordination meeting
Monday, September 24	8:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Side Event- Women Political Leaders: Blockchain for Social Good: Utilizing Blockchain to Aid Economic Development
	9:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Concordia Annual Summit
	9.30 AM – 6:00 PM	Nelson Mandela Peace Summit
	11:00 AM	Bi-lateral meeting: with Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (DPA) Mr. Miroslav Jenča
	12:00 PM	Youth 2030: Launch of the United Nations Youth Strategy and the Generation Unlimited Partnership” co-organized by the Office of the Special Envoy on Youth, UNICEF, and the Department of Public Information
	12:15 PM	Bi-lateral meeting: With Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director Regional Bureau for Arab States, United Nations Development Program Mr. Mourad Wahba
	3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Secretary-General’s High-Level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
	3:15 PM	Bi-lateral meeting: With Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix of France - Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations
	6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Women Political Leaders – Women Lead Reception (Concordia Annual Summit)
Tuesday, September 25	8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Side Event - Demystifying the narrative of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
	9:00 AM	Annual Treaty Event (25th Sept. – 28th Sept) “70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention”
	9:00 AM	Opening of the UN General Debate (25th Sept. - 30th Sept)
	9:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Concordia Annual Summit
	1:15 PM	Luncheon hosted by UN SG in honor of Heads of State and Government, Vice-Presidents and Crown Princes/Princesses.
	3:00 PM – 7:00 PM	High-level meeting on action for peacekeeping
	5:15 PM	Bi-lateral meeting: With Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (OCT) Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Wednesday, September 26	8:30 AM -10:00 AM	“Civilians Under Fire: Humanitarian Protection and Respect for International Humanitarian Law”, co-hosted by the European Union, Belgium and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
	9:00 AM	Bi-lateral meeting: With Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) Ms Michèle Coninx
	10:00 AM- 11:30 AM	Side-Event – The Crime-Conflict Nexus: analyzing Global Illicit Flows and the Response of the UN Security Council organized by The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime in collaboration with Interpol and RHIPTO – the Norwegian Centre for Global Analyses
	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	HeForShe IMPACT Summit, hosted by UNWOMEN
	11:00 AM	Bi-lateral meeting: With Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) Mr. Mohammad Ibn Chambas
	11:00 AM	Informal High-Level Leaders Dialogue on Climate Change: “Implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Towards COP24 and Beyond”
	11:15 AM	High-level side event - “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: A Prevention Tool to Achieve Peace and Sustainable Development”, co-organized by France, Germany, Costa Rica, the Republic of Korea and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

	2:00 PM	High-level event - "The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration entitled "Road to Marrakech" organized with the co-sponsorship of the governments of Brazil and Canada.
	2:00 PM	One Planet Summit on Climate Change, high level event co-organized by the government of France and the UN
	3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	"Collection, Use and Sharing of Evidence for Purposes of Criminal Prosecution in Terrorism Cases" side-event organized jointly by CTED, UNODC, and the International Association of Prosecutors, with the co-sponsorship of France, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Switzerland and the European Union.
	3:30 PM – 6:00 PM	High-level meeting on Mali and the Sahel
	5:00 PM	High-level Panel on "Countering Anti-Semitism: The Power of Education", organized by UNESCO
	6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	UNGA73 High-Level Event on Universal Health Coverage - "UHC Leaves No One Behind: working together towards good health and well-being for all", co-hosted by the Royal Thai Government and the Government of Japan
Thursday, September 27	8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Side-Event: "New Partnerships for Countering Violent Extremist Narratives" organized by the EU and Government of Denmark
	10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Bi-lateral meeting: With Ms. Ursula Mueller of Germany - Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
	3:00 PM	Side-Event: "Public-private efforts to address terrorist content online: a year of progress – what's next? co-hosted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism.
	3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) on principal policy-level coordination mechanism for development assistance to the Palestinian people
	7:00 PM	Dinner in honor of the PAM delegation hosted by Amb. Shaukat Fareed
Friday, September 28	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	UNAOC Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting