



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

4 and 5 July, Senate Chamber, Assembleia da República, Lisbon, Portugal

EXECUTIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

On 4 and 5 July 2022, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) organized the Women Parliamentary Forum, in close cooperation with Portugal. The event was generously hosted by the Assembleia da República, at Palácio de São Bento.

The conference was attended by over 60 participants from 15 countries, with several international organizations represented alongside Portuguese organizations.

The inaugural session established the Terms of Reference of the WPF and its presidency team. The first day tackled the theme of “Women refugees in 2022 in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf region”. It offered an opportunity to debate the condition of the 5.5 millions of women and children refugees, who were forced to escape from Ukraine because of the ongoing Russian brutal aggression, as well as of the millions of refugees and forced migrants originating from the Middle East and Sahel. The panel also looked at the dangers women refugees are exposed to, including trafficking and exploitation.

The second day was dedicated to “Gender equality in Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries: perspectives in a post-pandemic era” with a focus on how women played and still play a significant role confronting the consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic, including in the education, social, health and economic sectors.

Monday, 4 July 2022

OPENING SESSION

PAM Secretary-General acted as master of ceremony during the opening session. In her opening remarks, **Hon. Joana Lima**, Head of the Portuguese Delegation to PAM, recalled that despite gender equality being widely recognised as essential to achieve peaceful societies and sustainable development, gender inequalities persist in most parts of the world, including the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf region. She advocated for the WPF to become a platform to

engage and push for transformative change. Parliamentarians have a crucial role in deciding ways to increase women's participation, representation and empowerment, at all levels.

PAM President, **Hon. Gennaro Migliore**, expressed the need to further step promote gender equality. He highlighted how gender equality and empowerment are essential to reduce poverty and for economic growth. Despite recent progress, and according to the 2021 Global Gender Gap Report, the average MENA region gender gap is the largest in the world, at around 60%. The establishment of the Women Parliamentary Forum represents an “institutional booster” to PAM's objectives. Overall, PAM average parliamentary female share is 25.2%, which is significantly lower than the 30% benchmark set by the United Nations Economic and Social Council already in 1990.

H.E. Ana Catarina Mendes, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs, shared that Portugal currently has 34.2% of women MPs in parliament. Women are the most vulnerable in situations of conflicts. She mentioned the aggression of Ukraine by Russia, as well as conflicts further afield such as in Yemen and Ethiopia. A new approach to migration policies was needed, in particular to fight networks of traffickers. It is also important to ensure migrants have their full rights and enjoy opportunities in the host countries. She lent Portugal's full support to the new Forum, which will be instrumental to build equality for the future generations.

SESSION 1 – Presentation of the terms of reference of the PAM WPF and establishment of the PAM WPF presidency

PAM Secretary General started by sharing a few statistics. At present, there are 6 women speakers (Andorra, Cyprus, France, Italy, Montenegro and Romania), and 25.2% of parliamentarians in the PAM region are women. He then presented the Terms of References of the PAM WPF, resulting from the answers to a questionnaire circulated in June 2021. The Forum will be inclusive of all genders. It will be headed by a President assisted by 2 vice-Presidents keeping in mind the geopolitical representation. Among other things, this platform will promote women's rights as fundamental human rights, it will foment contacts and coordination among parliamentarians, encourage participation of women parliamentarians in PAM's work and conduct studies on issues of common interest.

The Presidency designated team, led by **Joana Lima (Portugal)**, together with **Hon. Maryam Majed Bin Theneya (UAE)** and **Hon. Fatma Zohra Abdi (Algeria)** as **Vice-president designates**, will be tasked with establishing the Forum on solid grounds. As of 2024, the Presidency will then be rotating for a fixed term mandate of 2 years. The Chair will alternate between the northern and the southern geopolitical groups. A session of the Forum will take place in spring every year. It was suggested that the next Chair be elected during the 18th PAM Plenary Session to be held in Qatar in early 2024. The Forum will be tasked with producing studies, reports and recommendations, as well as conduct field visits.

SESSION 1 – Women refugees in 2022 in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf Region

Hon. Yana Chiara Ehm (Italy) moderated the session “Women Refugees in 2022 in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf region”. In her remarks, she presented alarming data on the number of women refugees. She highlighted how the outbreak of conflict and war further increases the exposure of women and children to rights violations and violence. The ongoing brutal Russian aggression against Ukraine forced 6.5 million women and children to leave their home behind, exposing them to violence and human rights violations. The Syrian war, dating back to 2011, has caused massive flows of refugees. Eleven years later, 1.7 million women are still refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. However, there are also large groups from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Palestine. In this regard, parliamentarians need to take the lead in implementing coherent legislations to safeguard women refugees’ rights.

The session was first addressed online by **Hon. Mariia Ionova**, MP, Co-chair of the Equal Opportunities Caucus, Ukraine, who stated that war had forced millions to flee and separate families as men aged 18-50 cannot leave the country. She emphasized the importance of continuous education for Ukrainian children abroad. She thanked EU countries, which had offered temporary protection and extended health, employment and housing for Ukrainian women refugees. Their psychological health needed to be taken care as well. We had to prevent the next food crisis, and Russia should be urged to release Ukrainian grain. Besides embargo on Russian oil and gas, Ukraine needed weapons to fight the war and defend itself. 87% of Russians support the war. They had made a different civilisation choice than the Ukrainians, who are fighting for European values. It was important to start discussions on UN reform and how the aggressor has to be punished. It was not only about Ukraine, but regional and global stability. She also stressed how since the attack in February 2022, more than one million people including children and orphans are forcefully deported out of Ukraine and into the Russian Federation to undisclosed locations.

H.E. Inna Ohnivets, Ambassador of Ukraine to Portugal, related how robberies, brutal murders and forced deportations are common in the occupied territories. 2 million of Ukrainian citizens are temporarily displaced and 6 million are abroad, from whom 83% are women. She recalled how it is necessary public and private initiatives to help and support the Ukrainian citizens, it is essential to provide support such as temporary residence, access to jobs and education, courses to study Portuguese, access to the health system and social services. She highlighted how important it is to protect their legitimate rights and interest. It is vital to start a dialogue about the place and role of women in post-war reconstruction. Assessment on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security shows that the participation of women in the resolution of crises and conflicts makes decisions more stable and effective. She recalled the chances of long-term peace increase by 35% when women are involved at the peace negotiating table.

Mr. André Costa Jorge, Coordinator, Plataforma de Apoio aos Refugiados, shared that his organisation had answered the call of Pope Francis to assist with the integration of refugee families. Refugees - children, men and women- who are forced to leave their home have a shared legitimate desire to have a better future. He acknowledged the many obstacles asylum-

seekers face, which the host-country institutions have to take into account. Countries and host societies should be prepared to embrace diversity and achieve full inclusion. He asked parliamentarians to fight every day for gender equality.

Ms Monica d'Oliveira Farinha, President of the Portuguese Council for Refugees, described the various local contexts of origin, transit and destination countries, as key determinants of refugees' vulnerability. She said in many cases it was more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier. She preferred to speak of stories of resilience rather than to give in to the victim narrative. She called on the parliamentarians to encourage ratifications of regional and international instruments, such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, as well as to take part in field visits to refugee camps and to support resettlement programmes.

H.E Isabel Almeida Rodrigues, Secretary of State for Equality and Migration of Portugal, stated that today's number of world refugees (27.1 million) is the historic peak. In addition, half of them are children. Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian forces, 8.4 million people have fled. The main five refugees' countries of origin are Syria (5.6 million), Venezuela (4.6 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.4 million) and Myanmar (1.2 million). In the European framework, Portugal is the 13th country in the ranking of refugees' reception. Accordingly, and since 2015 - when there was a change in doctrine, the Portuguese government has committed itself to the realization of a series of programs targeting inequalities and employing a gender-sensitive approach.

DEBATE

A **Jordanian delegate** described the Hashemite Kingdom's commitment to women's empowerment, especially since King Abdullah II's ascension. Indeed, Jordan has witnessed an increase of women's representation and participation in ministerial, parliamentary, trade union posts. In addition, the delegate illustrated Rania Abdallah's efforts to promote women's empowerment through her continuous visits to women's associations.

A **UAE delegate** underscored the crucial role of international law and agreements protecting the human rights of migrants and combating human trafficking in compliance with national sovereignties. Furthermore, he reminded the centrality of international organisations in the managements of economic and social crisis, which represent in many cases the main determinants of migrations. In addition, the delegate stated that every State has to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to Humanitarian Law and the Global Compact. Finally, he described UAE experience as one of the largest humanitarian and donor countries compared to its GDP.

A **Greek delegate** reminded that the world number of forcibly displaced people has reached over 100 million, which represents around 1% of world population. In this framework, in 2021, 3000 people died or went missing trying to cross the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. To counter the increasing frequency of abuses, arbitrary executions, detentions, sexual violence, slavery and forced marriages, countries have to strengthen their legal frameworks and operational capacities, by granting reliable travel routes and offering integration policies. In this sense, the

delegate argued that integration is an obligation for the states and a right for the refugees, instead of a concession. Accordingly, states have to take into consideration that women and girls refugees have particular needs. Furthermore, transit countries must guarantee them sexual and reproductive health rights. Conversely, host countries must make step forwards in the field of labour policies in order to integrate in the labour market. Training and language courses may represent crucial measures. In this sense, housing programs may be linked to the employment ones, especially in the touristic and agricultural sectors. By reminding the centrality of the Geneva Convention and New York Protocol, the delegate referred to the duty of welcoming refugees as a pillar of European political culture and renaissance. It was important to fight back the conservative policies of persecution and exclusion.

A **Portuguese delegate** said that if women and children who constituted 50% of the total of world refugees, they were more vulnerable because of their gender. Portugal has granted temporary protection to 40 955 Ukrainian citizens since the beginning of the war. He saluted the decision by the WPF to raise the issue of women refugees to the top of its agenda.

An **Albanian delegate** stated that in June 2022, the Albanian presidency of the UN Security Council organised an open debate, titled “Keeping Promise: The Role of Regional Organisations in Implementing Women’s Security Agenda in the Face of Political Unrest and Seizure of Power” on the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325. The situation of women representation within peace-building structures is still problematic today. The WPF can share best practices and support the work of women in civil society.

An **Algerian delegate** commemorated the 60th anniversary of Algerian independence, by highlighting the link between national colonial past and the theme of refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, the delegate stressed the importance of international dialogue and coordination. By looking at the Algerian contemporary context, the country nowadays represents a destination for many migrants and refugees from several neighbour states. Accordingly, Algeria has developed a net of basic health services for migrants. Nevertheless, the problem of discrimination is still on the table. Because women are amongst the most affected by these tragedies, women’s integration in the peace and justice process is crucial.

An **Egyptian delegate** stressed that 27% of parliamentarians were women in Egypt and called for more women parliamentarians to ensure women’s stances and needs are taken into consideration.

A **Moroccan delegate** exposed the various national governmental measures that had consolidated the progress made in the field of human rights in the Kingdom through the implementation of the outcomes of the Marrakech Conference, held in December 2000, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In addition, the Moroccan authorities have intensified their efforts to stop irregular movements towards Europe by dismantling trafficking and smuggling networks, and the intensification of border control operations. By looking at the domestic context, legal provisions regulate migrations and define the conditions for entry and residence of foreigners in the Kingdom of Morocco. Finally, the

delegate underlined the situation of refugee women, by stressing the necessity of effective protection mechanisms and institutions.

A **Jordanian delegate** reminded the national experiences in asylum-seeking and migration management, such as the Palestinian, Iraqi and Syrian cases. In addition, the delegate stressed the centrality of the education and health sectors. Furthermore, the delegate demanded a stronger commitment by the international community, by stressing its deterrent role in war times and reminding the vulnerable conditions of women and children. Finally, the delegate underscored PAM significant work.

A **Maltese delegate** exposed the national experience of Malta with regard to migration and asylum-seeking. A new organisation was looking at how to integrate refugees into society. The potential of refugees is underutilised. Training must however be differentiated according to the profiles of each migrant. Cultural sensitiveness must also be taken into consideration. The learning of English was crucial.

A **Portuguese delegate** quoted 2022 UNHCR data, by stating that there are nowadays more than 100 million displaced people equating to the 14th most populated country. It was important to remember that refugees were not ‘numbers’ but human beings with skills (engineers, doctors, scientists) and dreams.

Tuesday, 5 July 2022

SESSION 2 – Gender equality in Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries: perspectives in a post-pandemic era

Hon. Pedro Roque (Portugal), PAM Vice-President and President Emeritus, moderated the session “Gender equality in Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries: perspectives in a post-pandemic era”. In his remarks, he recalled the crucial role played by women during the COVID-19 pandemic both in hospitals and in education, while the level of domestic abuse had increased as result of the lockdown. In politics, parliaments are still heavily male-dominated and even where women are present, they are rooted in gender stereotypes. He stressed how inclusive governance and decision-making are key aspects to ensure women’s active participation and leadership in COVID-19 response. Finally, he pointed out how inclusive, quality, and sustainable health care systems and services that combat gender-based violence must ensure physical, emotional, and socio-economic security for all women. He then expressed his confidence that the WPF will bring concrete solutions to the table.

In a message read by Hon. Milosava Paunović, **H.E. Ms Danijela Djurović**, President of the Parliament of Montenegro, expressed her satisfaction on the occasion of the establishment of the Woman Parliamentary Forum. Women are an integral part of the political, business and social processes in the region. The WPF will be an important opportunity to address obstacles that women are facing with in modern societies with a focus on current issues of refugee women in 2022 and gender equality in our regions after the pandemic. **H.E. Djurović** pointed out that the Parliament of Montenegro established a woman caucus group in order to ensure significant and visible results in the area of gender equality and equal opportunities.

In her intervention, **H.E. Aawatrif Hayar**, Minister for Solidarity, Social Inclusion and the Family of Morocco, elaborated on Morocco’s work regarding the legislative and public policy efforts that aim at improving the conditions of women, and reinforcing the equality between genders. Morocco has been issuing laws and decrees to guarantee women’s rights in terms of political participation and representation at the level of local authorities and in professional fields. The Ministry for Solidarity, Social Inclusion and the Family of Morocco is promoting women’s resilience and conditions during peace and armed conflict and in the management of humanitarian crises, particularly health. Also, work has been undertaken to improve the economic integration and social status of women at the territorial level, particularly in rural areas.

Hon. Isabel Santos, Member of the European Parliament, explained online that women around the world have been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted persisting inequalities and has dealt a major setback across all areas, especially with respect to intimate partner violence and women's economic participation. Hon. Santos pointed out that the adoption of telework coincided with an increase in women's unpaid work. Women's economic participation in the Euro-Mediterranean region continues to face many issues, this

result from difficulties on assessing business support, services, and networks, from a limited access to productive and financial resources and from lack of training opportunities. Gender equality must be based on equal access to education from a young age into adulthood and on equal access to work and technical jobs. On the political side, the European Parliament committed itself to strengthening the gender impact analysis of all these regulations and to improving gender balance in the leadership of committees and delegations, and in the selection of external experts on panels or authors of studies.

Ms Mónica Ferro, Director of the UNFPA Geneva Office, presented the role of the organisation and its responsibility to promote international commitment. UNFPA provides technical assistance to states on democratic evolution, providing data assistance, and procuring accurate information on socio-economic data. She acknowledged the work of the UNFPA in guaranteeing women resources to limit the amount of challenges and obstacles they may face throughout their life. Efforts have been made to eliminate child marriage, genital mutilation of women refugees and the discrimination of disabled migrants. However, the cause of these issues begins with unpaid labour and is still extremely prevalent for women around the world. Nations' economies are benefiting from women's unpaid labour, and as the pandemic continues, more and more women face wage gaps. This is yet another issue that will lead to gender-based violence. Though these ideas are preliminary, it is urgent that they are taken into account, as the continuity of gender inequality will only limit the development of a greater and equal world.

Hon. Dherar Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi, UAE, PAM Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, related how wars, armed conflicts and sectarian conflicts play a major role in the spread of marriages of underaged girls. It is estimated that, each year 12 million girls around the world marry before their eighteenth birthday. Hon, Al Falasi warned how more than 150 million girls could become children brides by 2030 and how the number of child brides in Africa is expected to reach 310 million by 2050. Furthermore, he emphasized how in the Arab countries the situation is worsening especially in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and especially Yemen, which has one of the highest rates of child marriage.

Ms Sandra Ribeiro, President of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, reminded how equality between women and men is the only way to progress. If women achieve the same rights, prerogatives, duties and education as men, the development of society will be extremely high and extraordinary. She highlighted how we find gender inequality in all Mediterranean countries, where men and women have an unequal representation in parliament, governments and political life. Portugal is trying to change this by its quota law, compelling all the people in senior management positions to obey a balanced sex representation.

She underlined how women are still employed in specific areas such as care and education, however we find more men in engineering, technology and the digital field. This situation leads to a wage gap as these last areas are rising and workers receive higher wages. There is also a difference in work and responsibility at home, with women being usually the ones taking care

of the children and the house, with an estimation of around 2 hours per day in unpaid domestic work.

Lastly, she shared some of the findings of the UN and the European Institute for Gender Equality, in which they point out that it is necessary that all economic policies take into account a gender perspective in order to guarantee that the goals and progress already achieved are not lost.

Another important area of public policy is training and capacity building of public professionals in strategic areas such as justice and policing, public administrations should promote gender equality and non-discrimination.

Ms Susana Pavlou, Director at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, shared a presentation that focused on the impact of the lockdown measures and the pandemic on women's unpaid care labour. Globally women and girls are responsible for 75% of unpaid care and domestic work in homes and communities. Women experience the double shift; they work outside the home in addition to taking care of their children and home without any systematic attempt to shift the distribution of care among women and men. They also experienced the triple shift, where women disproportionately take care of emotional labour, ensuring the emotional wellbeing of children, parents and other family members. The reproductive work of everyday life performed by women and girls is underpaid, undervalued, and exploited; this work is compensated when done by people outside the household contributing to GDP. Member States and the EU should consider developing a project to develop gender disaggregated statistics of unpaid and paid work, as a basis for a new calculation of GDP. During the pandemic women in dual earner households took the hit with children out of schools, heightened care needs of the elderly and increasing demands on health and other essential services. Many women were expected to work from home, the distinction between paid work and unpaid care work and family life became blurred with associated stress and mental health risks.

With a looming global economic depression, women are likely to be the first to be fired and last to be rehired in the labour market. Women are more likely to be part time, flexible and less remunerative. They are also likely to be the ones who must opt to give up their paid job for unpaid care work at home. This situation is compounded by the heightened risk of domestic abuse due to the widespread confinement measures in place.

The crisis had a disproportionate impact on women that are particularly vulnerable to the negative and social economic impacts such as single mothers, women of colour, migrants refugee women, and working-class background. Another issue is the high number of women migrants who work in the EU's informal care sector, due to the pandemic there was a reduction of working hours or loss of jobs resulting from fear and restricted mobility associated with the primary measures. This means that most domestic workers who lost their jobs or saw a reduction of their number of working hours were no longer registered to Social Security and thus were not eligible for unemployment insurance or any benefits that came from the state during the pandemic. Women migrant workers must be included and afforded the same

treatment as nationals in national and local crisis response at recovery plans across all sectors of work so that they are not left behind in line with international standards.

Ms Alice Frade, Director of P&D Factor – Co-operation on Population and Development, stressed the fact that today’s challenges require more courage and determination by policymakers and representatives. It is necessary to highlight some widespread phenomena which affect mainly women, such as forced mobility, pregnancy, sexual abuses, forced marriage, genital mutilation. Ms Frade stressed how the lockdown has affected mainly women and young girls, with them witnessing a reduction of reliability of health services, social protection and sexual and reproductive medicines and an increased rate of forced marriages, unemployment and migrations. It is necessary to commit to the fight against inequality through massive investments in education and healthcare, such as family planning programs.

DEBATE

An **Algerian delegate** stated Algeria’s priority to protect women’s rights by adopting approaches that focuses on the following dimensions: First, the elimination of discrimination against women to ensure equal treatment between women and men. Secondly, combating violence against women through the development of an appropriate legal framework. Thirdly, improving the reception of women victims of violence, and consolidating the status of girls in the educational system. Fourthly, expanding women’s participation in all fields, improving women’s empowerment in health care and reproductive care, and setting up a monitoring and evaluation system that allows, when needed, to amend public policies taken by the government. In the organizational framework, Algeria has ratified in 1996 the International Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women in 2004, as well as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2016.

Algeria has stressed the equality between men and women during local law reviews in 2000, 2005, 2008, such laws that determine 19 years as the age of marriage for both men and women. A new piece of legislation ensures that children of Algerian women, who marry foreigners, can obtain the Algerian citizenship. Algeria continues to strive diligently to combat all forms of violence against women.

A **Croatian delegate** stressed the importance of guaranteeing equal participation and representation at every economic, political and social level. The presence of women leaders in every institution is the best way to build fairer societies and communities. The same strategy should be applied to the private sector, as the case of Iceland shows well. In addition, the delegate reminded that women were the most affected by the pandemic crisis. Indeed, there has been a rise of gender violence, femicides and female unemployment. Not by chance, the EU Recovery Plan conditionalities are tightly linked to gender equality policies. By looking at the domestic domain, the delegate shed light on two Croatian projects titled “Behind Closed Doors”, aiming at enabling citizens to report violence, and the “Red Button”, which is an online

reporting tool. Finally, she shared that none of the Mediterranean country was on top of the latest Gender Equality Index.

A **Moroccan delegate** argued that women play a crucial role in the creation of national wealth and, conversely, gender equality is a fundamental condition for sustainable development. In this sense, it was reminded that the full integration and inclusion of women in official economies hugely contribute to the increase of national income. By highlighting the great progress made by Morocco in these fields, the delegate linked the socio-economic benefits brought by gender equality to the advancements in the democratic process. By looking at the domestic legislation, it was highlighted the amendment of the Family Code, and a chapter of the Criminal Code dealing with the marriage of minors and rape victims. Furthermore, much emphasis was put on the electoral laws aiming at the increase of women political representation in the House of Representatives. Finally, the delegate exposed the Moroccan national strategy against sexual harassment and women, based on the introduction of a set of injunctive provisions criminalizing these kinds of practices. Finally, the establishment of mechanisms and committees, taking care of victims of violence and abuse, was a fundamental pillar of this all-round strategy.

A **Greek delegate** shared concerns over the fact that abortion will become illegal in 13 US States following the recent Supreme Court's ruling. Greece, as an EU and Council of Europe member, had made significant progress. However, gender equality is still a huge challenge and the pandemic had highlighted this. It is crucial to fight gender discrimination through education, to support women in politics and in research, innovation and entrepreneurship. It is necessary to remove legal barriers but to improve national legal frameworks is not enough. It is crucial to enforce implementation of gender equality legislation to see real progress.

A **Maltese delegate** discussed Malta's radical change within the Maltese electoral law thanks to the introduction of a gender corrective mechanism addressing female parliamentarian underrepresentation. During the last elections, 12 more female MPs were added. Now there are a total 22, and the female parliamentarian share shifted from 15% to 28%. Moreover, the parliament has unanimously approved the introduction of femicide in the national criminal code. Thanks to measures such as free childcare, which was approved in 2014, female employment rate had increased by 52% from 2010 to 2019. She also mentioned that Co-ed (mixed genders) education was now mainstream with a focus to fight stereotypes based on gender. We need to have more women role models in professions traditionally held by men (pilot, air traffic controllers etc...)

The Delegation of Portugal highlighted how the pandemic has affected on a greater measure women and girls and has accentuated all the inequalities. It is essential to have social legislation so that inequalities do not manifest themselves. Policies are needed, especially those from a female gender perspective in the school, education, places of decision making, war and crises. Work must be done to eradicate forced marriages, abortion and forced sterilization and human trafficking. Gender and domestic violence is a violation of human and fundamental rights.

CLOSING SESSION

Presentation of and address by the Vice-Presidents-designate of the PAM WFP

Hon. Mariam Majed bin Theneya (UAE), expressed the importance of parliamentarians' duties as representatives of the people, to protect women in the region from any violence or discriminatory acts through legislative work, proper implementation of these provisions and public awareness. The PAM WFP is a necessary tool to achieve cooperation and coordination to protect women and prevent future atrocities and violations, especially in the light of current issues such as COVID-19, wars, armed conflicts, climate change and instabilities.

Parliamentary efforts in the Gulf countries led to crucial reforms regarding women's rights and freedoms in preventing gender discrimination, domestic violence and sexual harassment by introducing new laws and amendments to the societies, especially in the UAE.

Hon. Fatma Abdi (Algeria), underlined the importance of participating in PAM WFP, as an opportunity for cooperation and coordination to address the problems faced by Mediterranean women and girls. The countries of the Mediterranean have achieved remarkable progress through the promotion of women's rights, freedom, leadership and political participation, but there is a need for more laws that contribute to protecting them from various types of violence, as well as promoting their rights. WFP will be an essential PAM platform for promoting women's rights, freedom, and to strengthen the role of women in society and decision-making process.

Regarding Algeria, the constitution promotes the principle of parity in various jobs, as well as protecting women from all forms of violence, and gave women the opportunity to hold senior positions in the administration and many high positions in the diplomatic corps.

Address by the President-designate of the PAM Women Parliamentary Forum

President-designate, **Hon. Joana Lima (Portugal)**, pointed out the inequalities and challenges that women and girls are facing especially during displacement. Gender-responsive measures should be adopted to prevent discrimination, violence, harassment, trafficking and other forms of exploitation and abuse. In addition, measures need to be taken to ensure that migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women have access to their human and social rights in relation to individual freedom, employment, housing, health, education, social protection and welfare where applicable, and access to information about their rights and the services available.

To achieve gender equality, parliamentarians should introduce political commitment and adequate legal policy frameworks to provide a level playing field for both women and men, especially supporting women in parliament and increasing the number of female parliamentarians through well-designed quotas, parliamentary caucuses and by

transforming parliaments into gender-sensitive institutions that deliver on women's rights. Hon. Lima mentioned that the PAM WPF will tackle issues such as political participation and representation, gender equality, economic empowerment, combating violence against women, and promoting disability inclusion and equality.

In closing, **H.E. Augusto Santos Silva**, President of the *Assembleia da República*, recalled how Portugal is the Atlantic facade of a Mediterranean world. Portugal has good relations with other Euro-Mediterranean countries and those in North of Africa. Portugal is part of the 5+5 Western Mediterranean Forum, that provides a meeting space for the 5 countries of Western Europe and of the North of Africa, and they are observers of the Arab League. He reminded the priorities for the Mediterranean cooperation: education, professional training, youth, human mobility and a policy of regulated, organised and safe migration policies, climate change and issues related to the empowerment of women and gender equality. He admitted how important the PAM Forum was, as it tackles problems from a gender-based perspective.

PROGRAMME | 4 July

9.00

Departure from the hotels

9.30

Arrival of the delegations to the *Assembleia da República*

10.00

OPENING SESSION

Address by Hon. **Joana Lima**, Head of the Portuguese delegation to PAM

Address by Hon. **Gennaro Migliore**, PAM President

Address by H.E. **Ana Catarina Mendes**, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs, Portugal

Group photo | External Staircase of the *Assembleia da República*

11.30

PRESENTATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PAM WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY FORUM & ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAM WPF PRESIDENCY

PAM Secretary-General, Ambassador **Sergio Piazzi**

12.15

Luncheon in the restaurant of the New Parliamentary Building (hosted by the *Assembleia da República*)

14.00–16.30

WOMEN REFUGEES IN 2022 IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND GULF REGION

Moderator: Hon. **Yana Chiara Ehm** (Italy)

Address by H.E. **Isabel Almeida Rodrigues**, Secretary of State for Equality and Migration of Portugal
Hon. **Mariia Ionova**, MP, Co-chair of the Equal Opportunities Caucus, Ukraine / online

H.E. **Inna Ohnivets**, Ambassador of Ukraine to Portugal / video message

Mr **André Costa Jorge**, Coordinator, Refugee Support Platform

Ms **Mónica d'Oliveira Farinha**, President of the Portuguese Council for Refugees (CPR)

Debate

Coffee break

17.00–18.00

Guided Visit to São Bento Palace (*Assembleia da República*)

18.15

Departure from the *Assembleia da República* to the dinner venue

19.00

Welcome reception and dinner hosted by the Head of the Portuguese Delegation to PAM at Seixas Palace (Cascais)



Women Parliamentary Forum
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean



PROGRAMME | 5 July

9.30

Departure from the hotels

10.00

GENDER EQUALITY IN EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AND GULF COUNTRIES: PERSPECTIVES IN A POST-PANDEMIC ERA

Moderator: Hon. **Pedro Roque**, Vice-President and President Emeritus of PAM

Message by H.E. Ms **Danijela Djurović**, President of the Parliament of Montenegro

H.E. **Aawatrif Hayar**, Minister for Solidarity, Social Inclusion and the Family of Morocco /
online

Hon. **Isabel Santos**, Member of the European Parliament / video message

Ms **Mónica Ferro**, Director of the Geneva Office, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
/ online

Hon. **Dherar Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi**, PAM Special Representative on Children and
Armed Conflict

Ms **Sandra Ribeiro**, President of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality,
Portugal

Ms **Susana Pavlou**, Director at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies / online

Ms **Alice Frade**, Director of P&D Factor – Co-operation on Population and Development

Debate

Coffee break

12.00

NEXT STEPS & CLOSING SESSION

H.E. **Augusto Santos Silva**, President of the *Assembleia da República*

Presentation of and address by the Vice-Presidents-designate of the PAM Women

Parliamentary Forum Presentation of and address by the President-designate of the PAM
Women Parliamentary Forum

12.40

Departure from the *Assembleia da República* to the lunch venue

13.00

Luncheon at the Restaurant Faz Figura, hosted by PAM

14.30

Departure from the lunch venue to the hotels

Women Parliamentary Forum – Inaugural Session
Forum parlementaire des femmes – Session inaugurale
Lisbon, Portugal
4-5 July 2022 / 4-5 juillet 2022

List of participants
as of 03/07/2022

NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

Albania	Hon. Klodiana Spahiu, MP
Algeria	Hon. Fatma Zohra Abdi, MP Hon. Abdelouahab Yagoubi, MP Sen. Lyes Achour, PAM Vice-President Sen. Nouara Saadia Djaffer, MP Ms. Fouzia Brahimi, Advisor
Croatia	Hon. Katica Glamuzina, MP
Egypt	Hon. Sherine Eleish, MP
Greece	Hon. Costas Zachariadis, MP Mr. Georgios Chondronasios, Advisor
Italy	Hon. Gennaro Migliore, PAM President Hon. Yana Chiara Ehm, MP
Jordan	Hon. Safa'a Al-Momani, MP Hon. Rahaq Alzawahreh, MP Mrs. Manal Abu-Ruman, Advisor
Malta	Hon. Katya De Giovanni, MP Hon. Graziella Galea, MP
Montenegro	Hon. Jovanka Bogavac, MP Hon. Milosava Paunović, MP Mr. Blagota Marunović, Advisor
Morocco	Hon. Nadia Touhami, MP Hon. Ilham Essaki, MP Mr. Hamza Soukah, Advisor
Portugal	Hon. Joana Lima, MP

	<p>Hon. Pedro Roque, PAM Vice-President and President Emeritus Hon. Maria da Luz Rosinha, MP Hon. Emília Cerqueira, MP Hon. Francisco Rocha, MP Hon. Ana Isabel Santos, MP Hon. Firmino Marques, MP Hon. Antonio Monteiro, MP Ms. Rita Ferreira, Director Mr. João Coelho, Advisor Ms. Nadia Loureiro, Advisor Mr. Nuno Paixao, Advisor Ms. Sandra Navalho, Staff</p>
Serbia	<p>Hon. Tijana Davidovac, MP Hon. Ivana Nikolić, MP Hon. Ana Beloica, MP Ms. Ana Trajković, Advisor</p>
Türkiye	<p>Ms. Sabahat Özgürsoy Çelik, MP Ms. Tuğçe Okumuş, Advisor Ms. Derya Baykal, Interpreter</p>
United Arab Emirates	<p>H.E. Maryam Majid Bin Theneya, MP H.E. Ayesha Mohammed Almulla, MP Hon. Dherar Al Falasi, PAM Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflicts Ms. Roudha Alshehhi, Advisor Ms. Salama Alshehhi, Advisor</p>

PAM SECRETARIAT

<p>Amb. Sergio Piazzì, PAM Secretary General Ms. Céline Cervi, Senior Advisor and Program Manager 3rd Standing Committee</p>
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Portugal	<p>H.E. Ana Catarina Mendes, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs H.E. Isabel Almeida Rodrigues, Secretary of State for Equality and Migrations Ms. Sandra Ribeiro, President of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender</p>
Ukraine	<p>Hon. Mariia Ionova, MP, Co-Chair Equal Opportunities Caucus H.E. Inna Ohnivets, Ambassador of Ukraine, Portugal</p>

Geneva Office, United Nations Population Fund	Ms. Monica Ferro , Director
European Parliament	Hon. Isabela Santos , Member
Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies	Ms. Susana Pavlou , Director
Morocco	H.E. Aawatif Hayar , Minister for Solidarity, Social Inclusion and the Family
Plataforma do Apoio aos Refugiados	Mr. André Costa Jorge , Coordinator
Portuguese Council for the Refugees	Ms. Mónica d'Oliveira Farinha , President
P&D Factor	Ms. Alice Frade , Director of Co-operation on Population and Development