



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

Hon. Dherar Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi (UAE)
**PAM Rapporteur on Counterterrorism and Special Representative for Women and
Children in Armed Conflicts**

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*Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, let me express my gratitude to have the opportunity to speak in front of this distinguished audience, representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

Since PAM participation in the 31st Commission last year, I have today the pleasure to share with you some follow-ups on the work of the Assembly, to advance Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice policy and procedures in the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions.

In this regard, PAM has and is devoting its efforts on three specific issues: advocating for the rights of victims of terrorism and armed conflicts, preventing and combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and environmental crimes.

In 2022, PAM co-organized and contributed to several UN meetings on the victims of terrorism.

PAM is committed to provide concrete support to the victims of terrorism, to heal and live with dignity. To have their voices heard, their needs met, and their rights protected through the effective synchronization of parliamentary efforts with the global counter-terrorism strategy and the international instruments.

First and foremost, I wish to recall the UN Model Legislative Provisions for the victims of terrorism, document to which PAM had to honor to substantially contribute.

Today, our thoughts are also with the victims of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in particular innocent women and children, who are enduring enormous suffering, because of an unlawful and unjustified aggression, which has profound impacts on all our societies, and must be addressed in the appropriate judicial and legal venues.

Regarding human trafficking and migrant smuggling, at PAM 17th Plenary Session, held in Rabat last March, PAM delegates had the opportunity to be briefed by the Special Representative and Coordinator of OSCE for Trafficking in Human Beings.

PAM holds regular exchanges with the OSCE to monitor the trend of trafficking in persons and migrants in PAM Member States, as many of them are countries of origin, transit and/or destination of migration flows.

During our Plenary Session, PAM delegations unanimously adopted a resolution, in order to, among others, encourage national parliaments to ensure that legislation leads to the prosecution of traffickers, avoiding the criminalisation of the victims, and urge safe return, readmission and reintegration of smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking, with due respect to their dignity and fundamental human rights.

The Assembly is also conducting a series of research to look carefully at reports, according to which the Wagner Group is playing a direct role in fuelling irregular migration from North and Sub-Saharan Africa towards Europe, particularly Italy.

Concerning environmental crimes, PAM is working closely with international partners, to monitor, prevent and contrast the impacts of transnational criminal activities on the terrestrial and maritime environment.

In addition, the Assembly supports the effort of the international community to find a common definition of “ecocide.”

As a concrete deliverable of the MoU signed between PAM and UNEP/MAP in 2022, PAM is currently working to contribute to the drafting of a set of Guidelines for Parliamentarians aimed at protecting the Mediterranean Sea and prevent Coastal erosion.

To further advance the work on environmental crimes, PAM has decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Environmental Crimes. This role has been entrusted to Hon. Adele Tonnini from San Marino, who currently also serves as Head of State of the country.

In conclusion, I believe that it is worth to recall that all PAM activities related to countering transnational criminal networks, and their nexus with terrorist groups, are implemented under the framework of the PAM Naples Declaration on Countering Transnational Organized Crime.

This political document was unanimously adopted by PAM delegations in June 2022, and has been presented by PAM President at the UNHQ in Vienna to all State Parties of the Palermo Convention.

Thank you for the attention.