



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

Statement by PAM President Karim Darwish
14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Excellencies,

It is an honour to address the Congress, in my capacity as the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and I wish to thank UNODC and the Government of Japan for organizing this important event.

As you know, PAM is an international organization composed of 34 Member Parliaments from the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions.

As identified by this Congress, and in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, crime prevention must encompass security policy and criminal justice, coupled to a comprehensive approach, based on economic development, good governance, inclusive societies, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

For us to ensure the success of this approach, it is critical to cooperate internationally and share expertise and experience, including legislative strategies.

Parliaments play a key role in shaping policies and building those legal frameworks within which comprehensive crime prevention takes place, and we do exercise oversight over implementing institutions.

Therefore, it is imperative that lawmakers are engaged in a constant and constructive dialogue with experts and practitioners to ensure that our legislations are up to date, effective, and in line with the global strategies of crime prevention.

PAM regularly gathers around the same table the lawmakers from our 34 Member Parliaments to directly engage with our partners at the UN, senior officials of national security services, and top global experts to enhance the capacity of our Member States in crime prevention policymaking.

Through this approach, PAM tackles issues such as corruption, organized crime, human trafficking, arms trafficking, cybercrime, and most notably counterterrorism and prevention of violent extremism.

As an example, last month, PAM and the UN Office for Counter Terrorism organized a high-level meeting to discuss the challenges of the post-territorial ISIL context. One of the top priorities identified was to review relevant legislation and the effectiveness of de-radicalization programs, to prevent incidents of terrorist recidivism, as many convicted terrorists and affiliates will soon reach the end of their prison sentences.

Dear colleagues,

PAM participation in this important forum is a further chance for our MPs to interact with the global community in order to advance crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law. I am confident that this congress represents another important opportunity to consolidate further our joint efforts in this regard.

Thank you.