



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

1st Standing Committee
on Political and Security-Related Cooperation

Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East

Rapporteur: Hon. George Vella (Malta)

***Resolution endorsed by the 1st Standing Committee
at its 4th meeting on 24 June 2009 in Lisbon.¹***

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- Recalling its statement calling for the Immediate Cessation to all Forms of Violence in Gaza and Southern Israel of 28 December 2008,
- Strongly condemning the Israeli military intervention in Gaza in December 2008 and January 2009, which killed and injured thousands of Palestinian civilians and rendered further thousands homeless through the excessive use of military power and use of internationally forbidden weapons such as white phosphorus,
- Firmly condemning the blockade of the Gaza strip,
- Strongly condemning the launching of rockets by Hamas militants into Southern Israel and Israeli raids in Gaza,
- Deeply saddened at the loss of lives and suffering of civilian population on both sides during these events,
- Strongly condemning the related damages caused by the Israeli military to UN facilities in Gaza,
- Expressing gratitude to the UN, in particular to UNRWA and to OCHA, for the assistance given to the Palestinian people during the conflict,
- Deeply concerned with the current humanitarian situation and the destruction of the basic socio-economic fabric in Gaza; made worse by the severe border restrictions banning the importation of any material for reconstruction and blocking monetary aid, donated at the Donor's conference, to arrive at its intended beneficiaries, thus blocking any economic activity,
- Deploing the economic and social impact of the erection of the Wall of Separation, thus restricting the freedom of movement for the people living in

¹ With abstention from the Palestinian delegation

- Occupied Palestinian Territories and the subsequent establishment of a Palestinian State, and recalls in that respect UNGA Resolution ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003 and in the advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004,
- Condemning acts of violence committed against the Israeli and Palestinian people at all times,
 - Concerned with the pace at which new settlements are being built in particular in East Jerusalem and with the current policy of the Jerusalem City Council regarding Muslim and Christian holy sites and holders of Jerusalem ID cards of Palestinian origin,
 - Convinced that Peace and Security for the region are achievable goals,
 - Recalling the need to reach a long-lasting peaceful settlement in the Middle East based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973),
 - Convinced that a final and peaceful settlement in the Middle East would be secured through the establishment of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side within secure and internationally recognised borders,
 - Concerned with the restrictive character of the conditions the Israeli government is subordinating a “two state solution” and by its reluctance to stopping its settlement policy in the Palestinian Occupied Territories,
 - Equally concerned with the reluctance of Hamas to recognise the right of the State of Israel to exist,
 - Supporting the objectives of the RoadMap for Peace and the Arab Peace Initiative,
 - Appreciating the efforts undertaken by all members of the Quartet and by the Arab League towards that aim,
 - Aware that the lack of an overall peaceful settlement in the Middle East area continues to deprive the peoples of the Mediterranean region of security, stability prosperity and development,
 - Convinced that all countries in the region have an important role to play, through cooperative security and skilful diplomacy, away from any considerations of further development of military might, divisions, or approaches based on fomenting extremism or fundamentalism,
 - Expressing fervent hope in the leading role the US Administration, under the leadership of President Barak Obama, can play in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and improving relations between the US and the Muslim Arab world,
 - Welcoming the recent visit of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the Holy land as an important gesture towards inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue,
 - Looking forward to a greater initiative and involvement of the European Union,
 - Highlighting the key role played by Egypt in search of inter-Palestinian dialogue and reconciliation,
 - Recognising the unique role that parliamentary diplomacy plays in the Mediterranean and, in that respect, expressing its appreciation to the PAM Bureau for completing a fact-finding mission in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in the region as a whole in May 2009,
 - Expressing its deep gratitude to all individuals, countries and international bodies that have made possible the PAM mission to the Middle East, in particular from a logistical point of view,

Agrees to:

- (a) Continue with its commitment to strive towards an early equitable solution to the Israeli Palestinian issue based on the principle of the Two State Solution, with Israel and Palestine as two sovereign states living at peace with each other and with neighbouring countries in secure and agreed borders,
- (b) Reach out to all actors engaged in the search for peace in the region (legislative and executive bodies, civil society, regional and international organisations) to bring added value to, and complement other international initiatives, at civil, parliamentary, and political level,
- (c) Strive to find ways and means of supporting inter-Palestinian dialogue, which would be conducive to the formation of a Palestinian government of National Unity,
- (d) Work towards ensuring that besides food and medicines, basic construction materials and funds can enter Gaza in order to rebuild critical social and economic infrastructure,
- (e) Campaign incessantly in international fora for the opening up of Gaza borders, and the dismantling of the Wall of Separation in Palestinian Occupied Territories,
- (f) Encourage Israeli and Palestinian civil society organisations and NGOs committed to peace in the region, to coordinate their efforts, and exert democratic pressure on decision makers in their respective countries,
- (g) Encourage the members of the Quartet to use all democratic means at their disposal to ensure that political commitments entered into by the parties concerned, are respected and built upon, and not discarded,
- (h) Support the convening of an international colloquy on the present and future status of Jerusalem,
- (i) Appreciate the work carried out by the PAM *ad Hoc* Committee on the Middle East and encourage the continued endeavours in search of peace with the participation of all the parties concerned,

- (j) Remain seized of the matter and requests the PAM *ad Hoc* Committee on the Middle East to keep the Bureau and the Assembly abreast of all relevant developments on the issue,
- (k) Send a copy of the report of the fact finding mission, and of this resolution to key political players, and international organisations engaged in the quest for peace in the Middle East.