



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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and  
on Human Rights**

**Special Task Force on Dialogue of Cultures and Religions**

**Building on Dialogue**

**Rapporteur: Sónia Sanfona (Portugal)**

***Resolution endorsed by consensus by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee  
at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on 26 June 2009 in Lisbon***

- Given that the Mediterranean is a region of continuously evolving and intense cultural, economic, political, social interaction and exchange between peoples of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds based on a common history and shared democratic values;
- considering the Mediterranean region is part of a global society that reflects an ever-growing degree of diversity in our societies, the traditional approaches to multiculturalism based around the co-existence of differentiated majorities and minorities with differentiated rights and responsibilities are no longer adequate to manage cultural diversity;
- considering that Mediterranean society could benefit from a new approach to managing cultural diversity based on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, which means shared fundamental values, respect for common heritage and cultural diversity, and equal dignity for every individual;
- considering that the lack of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue can lead to cultural stereotyping, a climate of mutual suspicion, tension and intolerance that facilitates the victimisation and exclusion of religious and ethnic minorities;
- considering that poor knowledge, awareness and understanding of each others' cultures and religions is a major obstacles to integration;
- considering that intercultural and inter-religious dialogue plays a fundamental role in strengthening participative democracy for all Mediterranean peoples;
- considering that PAM promotes and pluralistic and open vision of Mediterranean society;
- considering that PAM supports the inclusion of all residents in Mediterranean society and respect for their human rights;
- considering that PAM is committed to developing an open society among peoples of the Mediterranean without discrimination, intolerance or xenophobia,

***The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,***

agrees to:

- a) Complete the Special Task Force questionnaire about the national experiences and policies of PAM Countries in promoting dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions and draw up a comparative report on the same subject;
- b) Continue to implement the terms of the Fez Program;
- c) Sign a *Commitment Letter* whereby each delegation undertakes to bring the issue of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue before its respective youth parliaments and/or call for a full debate on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue before its national parliaments;
- d) Advocate a new approach to intercultural and inter-religious diversity through *Intercultural Dialogue*, by targeting in particular policy-makers and administrators, to educators and the media, and to civil-society organisations, including migrant and religious communities, youth organisations and the social partners to raise their awareness about intercultural and inter-religious dialogue;
- e) To call on national governments to step up their actions to combat discrimination and exclusion by adopting legislation to counter racial and religious hatred and intolerance;
- f) To call on national governments to adopt policies to ensure that equal opportunities policies are not only adopted but also implemented;
- g) Stresses that followers of any religion shall be free to access their holy sites and underlines the importance of the conservation of such sites for the collective patrimony;
- h) To support activities at international level for the setting up of a World Observatory on academic curricular;
- i) To work in collaboration with the Euromed university network;
- j) To study in more depth the role of religions in the Balkans.