



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

3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among civilizations and Human Rights

Special Task Force on Gender and Equality Issues

Women in Political life in the Mediterranean

Co-Rapporteurs: Hon. Askin Asan, (Turkey) & Hon. Houda Bizid-Blaiech, (Tunisia)

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

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- Having regards to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - Having regards to the 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Kinds of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),
 - Having regards to the Resolution 1990/15 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, dated 24 May 1990,
 - Having regards to the 1995 Barcelona Declaration,
 - Having regards to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted in the Fourth World Congress on Women in 1995 as well as the outcomes of the three world conferences organized in 1975, 1980 and 1985,
 - Having regards to the 1999 Optional Protocol to CEDAW,
 - Having regards to the Political Declaration and outcome document entitled "further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", adopted in the twenty-third special session of the UN General Assembly "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",
 - Having regards to the 2000 United Nations Millennium Development Goals,
 - Having regards to the Conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society", held in 2006, in Istanbul,
 - Having regards to the Conclusions of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of Organization of Islamic Conference Member States, held in 2006, in Istanbul,
1. *Bearing in mind* that strengthening women's participation in decision-making processes constitutes one of the core elements of gender equality,
 2. Requests that all PAM Member States ensure full respect of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Kinds of Discrimination Against Women,
 3. Invite PAM Member States who have not yet done so to sign and or ratify the Optional Protocol of the above mentioned Convention,
 4. *Cognizant of the fact* that equal participation of women and men at all levels requires strong mobilization, representation and legislation, as well as political will,
 5. *Aware* that often financial, social and cultural constraints limit or impede female participation,

6. *Recognizing* that various measures, such as quota systems, applied to increase the level of women's participation in decision-making, yielded positive results especially at the local level,
7. *Aware*, however, that women continue to be underrepresented in national and international decision-making bodies,
8. *Noting with concern* that none of the Mediterranean countries met the benchmark of 30% for women parliamentarians, set by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1990,
9. *Regrets* that member states of Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean rank below the world average with respect to the ratio of female parliamentarians,

Agrees to

1. Call upon Member States make efforts to:
 - a. introduce positive action programs such as quotas which are defined as a mandatory percentage of women candidates for public elections, and have become the most widely used mechanism for facilitating the entry of women into representative politics,
 - b. promote more balanced participation by women and men at all levels in government,
 - c. implement a coherent set of measures encouraging equal opportunities in the public sector,
 - d. encourage the private sector to increase the presence of women at all levels of decision-making,
 - e. identify and work with critical actors and allies,
 - f. eliminate gender discrimination and gender stereotypes in educational curricula and materials,
 - g. launch awareness-raising campaigns and support other actors in doing so,
 - h. encourage girls and women to take part and express themselves in education and training activities as actively and fully as boys and men,
 - i. improve the system of statistics for sound elaboration and future strategies,
 - j. support and develop quantitative and qualitative studies on cultural and social obstacles to female participation in politics,
 - k. take immediate action to provide funding of new initiatives for family friendly measures through flexible working arrangements,
 - l. Provide care facilities for children, disabled and elderly people to allow women caretakers of these vulnerable groups to pursue political activities,
2. Invite the Parliaments to reform of family law as a starting point for their greater accession to public life and gaining civil rights,
3. Call upon political parties to facilitate and encourage women's participation in politics by introducing certain assistance mechanisms, i.e. safe seats, financial support, leadership training and gender-sensitive election materials,
4. Call upon the civil society to promote networking between civil society, academic institutions and governments, as well as between parliamentarians of different political parties, to launch training programs and campaigns addressed at increasing female participation and to monitor media coverage with a special focus on gender related issues in the political agenda.

5. Call upon the international community to struggle all stereotyped religious and cultural patterns against women's participating in politics and their appointment to higher ranks.