



REGIONAL ISSUES – THE MIDDLE EAST

*Resolution adopted by consensus by the 1st Standing Committee and
by the 2nd Plenary Session of the Assembly, 24 November 2007, St. Julians (Malta)*

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- (1) *Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of its Statutes that enable it to address issues of common concern in order to foster and enhance confidence between Mediterranean States so as to ensure regional security and stability and to promote peace,
- (2) *Seeking* to unite the endeavours of Mediterranean States in a true spirit of partnership with a view to ensuring harmonious and holistic development,
- (3) *Aware* of how important it is for the littoral States to live in peace and cooperation with each other and with neighbouring States,
- (4) *Noting* with mounting concern the continuing dispute in the Middle East and its long-term effect on the region,
- (5) *Aware* of the need to halt the fighting and violence and their disastrous consequences for innocent civilians,
- (6) *Reaffirming* the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,
- (7) *Upholding* the principle that it is inadmissible to acquire and occupy territory by war,

(8) *Convinced* of the need to achieve a just, final and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, which is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, by recognizing the existence of two States: Palestine and Israel,

(9) *Encouraging* the parties concerned to agree to resolve the problem through negotiations and dialogue and on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973),

(10) *Convinced* that comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East can only be secured through the establishment of two adjacent independent States – Palestine and Israel – living in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

(11) *Welcoming* the Mecca Agreement and the establishment of the Palestinian National Unity Government,

(12) *Calling for* full respect for the Oslo Accords, in particular the mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine as sovereign States, and for the immediate lifting of the financial and economic embargo imposed on Palestine,

(13) *Convinced* that comprehensive peace can only be attained by resolving the issues of the occupied Golan Heights and Shebaa Farms and thereby working towards peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks,

(14) *Bearing in mind* that all acts of terrorism – as distinct from the lawful fight of peoples under occupation to liberate themselves by legitimate resistance and not by terrorist acts – , whether perpetrated by individuals, organizations or the State, that cause, in particular, the death of innocent civilians are to be condemned in all circumstances,

(15) *Affirming* that Lebanon should be encouraged to resolve its constitutional crisis in a spirit of national unity and without foreign interference,

1. *Resolves* closely to observe developments in the region and to endeavour to contribute to the attainment of peace;
2. *Agrees* to set up an ad hoc committee that is composed of men and women and includes members of the parliaments of the countries directly

concerned, and whose terms of reference would enable it to monitor the situation and determine the manner in which the Assembly could contribute towards the resolution of the dispute;

3. *Requests* the ad hoc committee to report regularly to the President of the Assembly and to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Political and Security-related Cooperation, and to recommend any further action that may be considered necessary to fulfil this objective; to that end, *authorizes* the committee to invite other representatives of the parties concerned and, as necessary, experts in relevant fields;
4. *Decides* to review the implementation of this resolution at its annual meeting.