INTERNATIONAL MEETING
ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

Strengthening international support for a just and lasting solution
of the question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PLENARY III

The role of the international community
in promoting a just solution

Paper presented by

Mr. Mohammad Halaiqah
Vice-President
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Malta
Amman

CPR/IMQJ/2014/13
International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem
Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

Speech by:
Sen. Mohammad Halaiqah (Jordan)
PAM Vice-President and President 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security related Cooperation
Hon. President,
Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and its Chairman, Amb. Diallo of Senegal, for the active role in promoting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

It is a great honour for me to be here, in Ankara, as in my capacity the Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and to join your debates and deliberations on the question of Jerusalem. This is a fundamental issue in reaching a lasting and just peace in the region, together with the other four permanent issues, namely borders, refugees, water, and settlements.

For decades, the international community has been engaged in various attempts to find ways to make the holy City of Jerusalem, a city of peace for all.

We gather here today while the region is passing through very difficult times. To add to the political dilemmas of the region, failure of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis is yet another challenge. Jerusalem has been always, and will continue to be, at the centre of the Palestine Question. By failing to resolve this issue, future negotiations between the two parties will inevitably fail. We should here have the courage to put the responsibility on the party who continuous its occupation, building more settlements and changing rules of negotiation each time a hope of peace glows. Still we hope that peace will prevail in Palestine with the help of the international community.

I would like to use this forum to highlight the role of parliamentary diplomacy and that of our Assembly, in particular. I will highlight some aspects of the inter-parliamentary cooperation, which is already in place, in a bid to advance further the difficult process leading to the solution of the future of Jerusalem and the Palestinian -Israeli conflict in general. The role of non-traditional state actors, particularly that of parliamentarians, can indeed, pave the way for dialogue and finding innovative solutions.

PAM has always been committed to contribute to the Palestinian cause. There is a special Ad Hoc group in PAM, within the mandate of the 1st Standing Committee on Politics and Security matters, that I have the pleasure to preside, dealing with this issue.
This Group operates to support the Palestinian cause and to facilitate, as much as possible, dialogue between the parties with the aim to achieve a just and permanent peace in the Middle East. We have attended and sincerely contributed to the outcome of your meetings in Geneva, Rome and Vienna.

With this aim in mind, several times and often at the request of the UN, PAM MPs have visited the region, including Gaza.

Last November, a PAM high-level delegation visited Amman, Ramallah and Jerusalem. Our delegation, led by President H.E. Senator Francesco Amoruso of Italy, participated in constructive discussions with senior members of the Executive Body of the Palestinian Legislative Council and with the Chief of Staff of the Presidential Bureau of H.E. Mahmoud Abbas. Furthermore, in Jerusalem, delegates met with Amb. Robert Serry, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Speaker of the Knesset, and Minister Tzipi Livni. A preliminary meeting, with the Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, also took place in Amman. Moreover, two PAM High-level missions visited both Cairo and Moscow in March and April of 2014. At both locations, and in coordination with the UN, the Middle East peace process, the two States solutions and the Syrian crisis were discussed with senior officials and with H.E. Nabil El Araby, the Secretary General of the Arab League.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

At PAM we are convinced that resolving the question of Jerusalem is instrumental to the entire peace process and, therefore, to achieve a much needed comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The main question is strongly relative to Sovereignty. UN Resolutions are very clear about the division of the city. The religious dimension could add to the radicalization of positions and to an inability to reach an agreement, and we see that the continuous Israeli assaults on alaqsa mosque are not acceptable and complicate further the prospects of peace.

The US Ambassador, who attended our joint meeting in Malta, had the audacity to say: “can Jerusalem be an open city, belonging to the entire humanity?” It was indeed an interesting challenge to participants. Much has been said on Jerusalem, however, actions on the ground speak louder than words. No doubt the core of peace is a sovereign Palestinian state with east Jerusalem its capital.

PAM 1st Standing Committee dedicates particular attention to the plight of Palestinians and to the question of Jerusalem itself. PAM strives to play a constructive role, by supporting and recognizing the idea that the two-state solution is the best viable solution. This is in the interest of both parties, the region and the entire world. There will be no real security for any of our states until the Arab-Israeli peace process is successful. In this context
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Israeli and Palestinian leaders had, in the past months, shown their willingness to work, together with the US Administration, at addressing the key issues relevant to the peace process. Unfortunately, the direct negotiations have been recently interrupted. Last week, in Moscow, both the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the two branches of the Parliament, have requested PAM to mobilize all its tools to ensure that a door is kept open dialogue between the parties, while the Quartet develops an alternative tool of negotiations, should the direct talks fail. We are ready to play this role to pursue the ideal of peace in the region.

As indicated by the UN Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki-moon, it is crucial for PAM to promote dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence in the Mediterranean. Parliamentarians of the region have to shoulder their responsibility and encourage the idea that achieving peace is possible. The pivotal role of our Assembly, and all the international community, is to build mutual trust and confidence between the two sides.

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I would like to conclude by emphasizing on that our Assembly is fully aware of the importance of Jerusalem, and that any violent event in the city has the potential to spill beyond the boundaries of Israel and Palestine. For this reason, its future should not be unilaterally decided by any party or organization. This would result only in violence and further distancing of peace.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING
ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

Strengthening international support for a just and lasting solution
of the question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PLENARY III

The role of the international community
in promoting a just solution

Paper presented by

Mr. Mohammad Halaiqah
Vice-President
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Malta
Amman

CPR/IMQJ/2014/13
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Speech by:

Sen. Mohammad Halaiqah (Jordan)

PAM Vice-President and President 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security related Cooperation
Hon. President,
Dear Colleagues,
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For decades, the international community has been engaged in various attempts to find ways to make the holy City of Jerusalem, a city of peace for all.

We gather here today while the region is passing through very difficult times. To add to the political dilemmas of the region, failure of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis is yet another challenge. Jerusalem has been always, and will continue to be, at the centre of the Palestine Question. By failing to resolve this issue, future negotiations between the two parties will inevitably fail. We should here have the courage to put the responsibility on the party who continuous its occupation, building more settlements and changing rules of negotiation each time a hope of peace glows. Still we hope that peace will prevail in Palestine with the help of the international community.

I would like to use this forum to highlight the role of parliamentary diplomacy and that of our Assembly, in particular. I will highlight some aspects of the inter-parliamentary cooperation, which is already in place, in a bid to advance further the difficult process leading to the solution of the future of Jerusalem and the Palestinian -Israeli conflict in general. The role of non-traditional state actors, particularly that of parliamentarians, can indeed, pave the way for dialogue and finding innovative solutions.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING
ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

Strengthening international support for a just and lasting solution
of the question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PLENARY III

The role of the international community
in promoting a just solution

Paper presented by

Mr. Mohammad Halaiqah
Vice-President
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Malta
Amman
International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem
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Speech by:
Sen. Mohammad Halaiqah (Jordan)
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Strengthening international support for a just and lasting solution of the question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

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Paper presented by

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Ladies and gentlemen,

    I would like to conclude by emphasizing on that our Assembly is fully aware of the importance of Jerusalem, and that any violent event in the city has the potential to spill beyond the boundaries of Israel and Palestine. For this reason, its future should not be unilaterally decided by any party or organization. This would result only in violence and further distancing of peace.

    PAM remains committed to the Middle East and will continue to direct our energies, and Parliamentary network, towards assisting the efforts of the international community, of your Committee, and of all those politicians of good will aiming at achieving real peace in the region.

    Thank you for your kind attention.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING
ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

Strengthening international support for a just and lasting solution
of the question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PLENARY III

The role of the international community
in promoting a just solution

Paper presented by

Mr. Mohammad Halaiqah
Vice-President
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Malta
Amman
International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem

*Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014*

Speech by:

Sen. Mohammad Halaiqah (Jordan)

PAM Vice-President and President 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security related Cooperation
Hon. President,
Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and its Chairman, Amb. Diallo of Senegal, for the active role in promoting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

It is a great honour for me to be here, in Ankara, as in my capacity the Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and to join your debates and deliberations on the question of Jerusalem. This is a fundamental issue in reaching a lasting and just peace in the region, together with the other four permanent issues, namely borders, refugees, water, and settlements.

For decades, the international community has been engaged in various attempts to find ways to make the holy City of Jerusalem, a city of peace for all.

We gather here today while the region is passing through very difficult times. To add to the political dilemmas of the region, failure of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis is yet another challenge. Jerusalem has been always, and will continue to be, at the centre of the Palestine Question. By failing to resolve this issue, future negotiations between the two parties will inevitably fail. We should here have the courage to put the responsibility on the party who continuous its occupation, building more settlements and changing rules of negotiation each time a hope of peace glows. Still we hope that peace will prevail in Palestine with the help of the international community.

I would like to use this forum to highlight the role of parliamentary diplomacy and that of our Assembly, in particular. I will highlight some aspects of the inter-parliamentary cooperation, which is already in place, in a bid to advance further the difficult process leading to the solution of the future of Jerusalem and the Palestinian -Israeli conflict in general. The role of non-traditional state actors, particularly that of parliamentarians, can indeed, pave the way for dialogue and finding innovative solutions.

PAM has always been committed to contribute to the Palestinian cause. There is a special Ad Hoc group in PAM, within the mandate of the 1st Standing Committee on Politics and Security matters, that I have the pleasure to preside, dealing with this issue.
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The US Ambassador, who attended our joint meeting in Malta, had the audacity to say: “can Jerusalem be an open city, belonging to the entire humanity?” It was indeed an interesting challenge to participants. Much has been said on Jerusalem, however, actions on the ground speak louder than words. No doubt the core of peace is a sovereign Palestinian state with east Jerusalem its capital.

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in promoting a just solution

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Strengthening international support for a just and lasting solution of the question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

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Paper presented by

Mr. Mohammad Halaiqah
Vice-President
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CPR/IMQJ/2014/13
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_Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014_

Speech by:

**Sen. Mohammad Halaiqah (Jordan)**

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With this aim in mind, several times and often at the request of the UN, PAM MPs have visited the region, including Gaza.

Last November, a PAM high-level delegation visited Amman, Ramallah and Jerusalem. Our delegation, led by President H.E. Senator Francesco Amoruso of Italy, participated in constructive discussions with senior members of the Executive Body of the Palestinian Legislative Council and with the Chief of Staff of the Presidential Bureau of H.E. Mahmoud Abbas. Furthermore, in Jerusalem, delegates met with Amb. Robert Serry, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Speaker of the Knesset, and Minister Tzipi Livni. A preliminary meeting, with the Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, also took place in Amman. Moreover, two PAM High-level missions visited both Cairo and Moscow in March and April of 2014. At both locations, and in coordination with the UN, the Middle East peace process, the two States solutions and the Syrian crisis were discussed with senior officials and with H.E. Nabil El Araby, the Secretary General of the Arab League.

Last December, the UN Secretary General received, from our President, a detailed briefing on the outcome of this mission during PAM’s annual visit for to New York for consultations with UN Senior Officials. During this mission, our delegation had also the privilege to meet and discuss with Amb. Diallo, Chairman of your Committee. His valuable insights and contributions were instrumental to extend the already excellent existing cooperation, and, in that meeting, PAM and Malta were asked to assist in organizing, for the second time, a meeting in support of peace process, based on the positive experience of that hosted in Malta in 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At PAM we are convinced that resolving the question of Jerusalem is instrumental to the entire peace process and, therefore, to achieve a much needed comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The main question is strongly relative to Sovereignty. UN Resolutions are very clear about the division of the city. The religious dimension could add to the radicalization of positions and to an inability to reach an agreement, and we see that the continuous Israeli assaults on alaqsa mosque are not acceptable and complicate further the prospects of peace.

The US Ambassador, who attended our joint meeting in Malta, had the audacity to say: “can Jerusalem be an open city, belonging to the entire humanity?” It was indeed an interesting challenge to participants. Much has been said on Jerusalem, however, actions on the ground speak louder than words. No doubt the core of peace is a sovereign Palestinian state with east Jerusalem its capital.

PAM 1st Standing Committee dedicates particular attention to the plight of Palestinians and to the question of Jerusalem itself. PAM strives to play a constructive role, by supporting and recognizing the idea that the two-state solution is the best viable solution. This is in the interest of both parties, the region and the entire world. There will be no real security for any of our states until the Arab-Israeli peace process is successful. In this context
we have to admit that the Syrian crisis pose a great challenge to our security around the Mediterranean.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders had, in the past months, shown their willingness to work, together with the US Administration, at addressing the key issues relevant to the peace process. Unfortunately, the direct negotiations have been recently interrupted. Last week, in Moscow, both the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the two branches of the Parliament, have requested PAM to mobilize all its tools to ensure that a door is kept open dialogue between the parties, while the Quartet develops an alternative tool of negotiations, should the direct talks fail. We are ready to play this role to pursue the ideal of peace in the region.

As indicated by the UN Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki-moon, it is crucial for PAM to promote dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence in the Mediterranean. Parliamentarians of the region have to shoulder their responsibility and encourage the idea that achieving peace is possible. The pivotal role of our Assembly, and all the international community, is to build mutual trust and confidence between the two sides.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to conclude by emphasizing on that our Assembly is fully aware of the importance of Jerusalem, and that any violent event in the city has the potential to spill beyond the boundaries of Israel and Palestine. For this reason, its future should not be unilaterally decided by any party or organization. This would result only in violence and further distancing of peace.

PAM remains committed to the Middle East and will continue to direct our energies, and Parliamentary network, towards assisting the efforts of the international community, of your Committee, and of all those politicians of good will aiming at achieving real peace in the region.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING
ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM

Strengthening international support for a just and lasting solution
of the question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

PLENARY III

The role of the international community
in promoting a just solution

Paper presented by

Mr. Mohammad Halaiqah
Vice-President
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Malta
Amman

CPR/IMQJ/2014/13
International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem

Ankara, 12 and 13 May 2014

Speech by:

Sen. Mohammad Halaiqah (Jordan)

PAM Vice-President and President 1st Standing Committee on Political and Security related Cooperation
Hon. President,
Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and its Chairman, Amb. Diallo of Senegal, for the active role in promoting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

It is a great honour for me to be here, in Ankara, as in my capacity the Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and to join your debates and deliberations on the question of Jerusalem. This is a fundamental issue in reaching a lasting and just peace in the region, together with the other four permanent issues, namely borders, refugees, water, and settlements.

For decades, the international community has been engaged in various attempts to find ways to make the holy City of Jerusalem, a city of peace for all.

We gather here today while the region is passing through very difficult times. To add to the political dilemmas of the region, failure of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis is yet another challenge. Jerusalem has been always, and will continue to be, at the centre of the Palestine Question. By failing to resolve this issue, future negotiations between the two parties will inevitably fail. We should here have the courage to put the responsibility on the party who continuous its occupation, building more settlements and changing rules of negotiation each time a hope of peace glows. Still we hope that peace will prevail in Palestine with the help of the international community.

I would like to use this forum to highlight the role of parliamentary diplomacy and that of our Assembly, in particular. I will highlight some aspects of the inter-parliamentary cooperation, which is already in place, in a bid to advance further the difficult process leading to the solution of the future of Jerusalem and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in general. The role of non-traditional state actors, particularly that of parliamentarians, can indeed, pave the way for dialogue and finding innovative solutions.

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