

IPU Assembly Madrid
November 2021

Gracias senora presidenta
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to address this debate on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, and share with you our strategies. We have three challenges.

The first challenge is about political division and the resulting lack of security, despite The pandemic.

At PAM, we attempt to provide a platform for political dialogue. The aim is to support peace and reconciliation processes in our region, bolstering counterterrorism efforts, strengthening democratic institutions, and finding ways for practical cooperation.

As an example, PAM is currently mobilizing medical supplies to assist hospitals in Lebanon.

The second challenge is economic uncertainty and long-term sustainability of our economies. to fight against growing inequality and restoring trust in our governance.

At PAM, we share best legislative practices across regions and we work closely with the most important stakeholder. We have organised many events on the economic recovery, and next year, together with the World Trade Organisation we will launch a PAM-WTO Forum for Trade and Investments in Montenegro.

I have launched an initiative to work towards the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf community for renewable energy, catalyst for cooperation and development among our countries.

The third challenge is a cultural one. We are witnessing societal polarisation, rise in hate speech and radicalisation, and a dramatic increase in domestic violence and violence against women.

I always say, that for every Euro invested in security, we must also invest one Euro in culture.

We work to promote inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, education and human rights in our legislative efforts.

Education and Environment go hand in hand. For this reason, the 14th edition of the **Day of the Mediterranean, established in 2008**, will see as main actors the children of all the schools of our regions working on a special theme: “**The work of our parliamentarians to protect our Planet and our homes**” I invite you all to join PAM in this campaign.

Just two weeks ago, PAM held its 2021 Prize Ceremony in Rome, at which at the centre stage were several Interior Ministers of our countries for their exceptional leadership in the fight against domestic violence.

Moreover, PAM is launching its Women Parliamentary Forum.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we can face many challenges to democracy, only with dialogue and cooperation. The Parliamentarians have this duty

Thank you