



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE  
برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

**Speech of Hon. Gennaro Migliore**

**PAM President**

*145th IPU Assembly, General debate*

*Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change  
for a more resilient and peaceful world*

**Kigali, Rwanda, 11 - 15 October 2022**

Dear Ms Chairman

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Let me thank first of all the Rwanda institutions for the warm and friendly welcome and the IPU President and the Secretary General for the perfect organization.

It is a great pleasure for me to address you today as President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

Our world is facing the resurgence of conflicts, a new confrontation resulting from the brutal Russian aggression against Ukraine, that, on the other hand, is already failing thanks to the extraordinary resistance of that people.

we know that this war jeopardizes firstly women rights, women's integrity and women's equality. Women are more vulnerable

because, as seen in temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine, they are regularly targeted by war tactics such as rape and sexual assault. They are also more victims of forced migration or displacement.

And although they are the first systemic victims of the resurgence of conflicts, they are much less integrated than men in spheres of power, decision-making and conflict resolution.

The peace and security we aspire to will only be possible when women voices play an equal and central role. Women are vectors of peace and stability and are major actors in the achievement of sustainable development goals.

With regard to these crucial and systemic challenges, an increase in women's parliamentary representation may be viewed as the linchpin of a broader strategy for the advancement of gender equality. But more fairly, the increasing presence of women in political institutions should be seen as a mirror of the cultural and socio-economic realities of today.

According to the 2022 UN Women and UN DESA Report published a month ago, at the current rate of progress it will take up to 200 years to close the gender gap in terms of legal protection and remove discriminatory laws, and at least 40 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments.

Since its inception, PAM has put gender equality at the top of its priorities and values. Last year, our Assembly amended its statutes to ensure fairer representation among its delegations.

Recently, our organization launched its Women Parliamentary Forum, which was inaugurated in Lisbon this July. In July, focus was given to women displaced and made refugees in our region. Focus was also given to gender equality in a post pandemic era.

The PAM Women Parliamentary Forum is a new regional tool to enable the sharing of the best policies and legislations implemented by our member states, in close cooperation with IPU, for a more resilient and peaceful Mediterranean.

Thank you for your attention.

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