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**General Debate - “Parliamentary Action for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
(SDG 16)”**

Draft Speech – Hon. Deborah Bergamini, Member of the Italian Delegation to PAM

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*Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Thank you to Angola

I am an Italian MP and I’m honored to speak on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

First of all, allow me to dedicate a thought to the Israeli and Palestinian innocent civilians, who have fallen victims of this new cycle of violence in the Middle East.

Once again, and more than ever, our role as parliamentarians is of enormous importance to promote and keep alive the highest degree of cooperation and dialogue at the regional and international level, beyond conflicts and divisions that are emerging among governments. Since second World War there have never been so many ongoing conflicts in the world. And Second World War must teach a lesson.

On our shoulders we carry the weight of the ideals, and aspirations of the people who voted us to represent their interests within our national parliaments. At the same time, we have the responsibility to oversee governmental powers so that they act in accordance with internationally recognized principles and laws.

Here at IPU we must all do the effort to share our different views, not to contrast them. It would be a fatal mistake.

This is what we have learned to do at PAM.

You know that within PAM Political Bureau, Israel and Palestine seat with equal rights as Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. Only one month before the situation

precipitated, PAM fielded a mission to Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, to discuss with key stakeholders how to support the international efforts to resume negotiations towards the achievement of the Two-State Solution.

What is happening now is heartbreaking. Yet, it is the time for the international community to come together around protecting civilians and finding a lasting solution to this unending series of death and destruction.

At the same time, we must not lower our attention on the war in Ukraine, as well as the persisting instability in the Sahel region. In this regard, PAM will continue to work with the IPU, the Arab Parliament, and the G5 Sahel Interparliamentary Committee, under the framework of the *Call of the Sahel Initiative*.

This renewed global instability also puts emphasis, among others, on two issues that directly affect our work as parliamentarians to develop legal frameworks that enable our governments to prevent and address new and emerging security threats.

First, the lack of adequate regulation of the activities in the cyberspace, such as terrorist financing and disinformation.

In this regard, together with the UN, PAM is working on the drafting of a comprehensive report about the effects on international security and stability of the malicious application and lack of adequate regulation of the cyberspace.

Second, the re-emergence of the terrorist threat in Europe, urges us to advance an inclusive debate on how to review the legal tools we have at our disposal to regulate illegal migration flows and detect possible infiltration by terrorists.

Italy is one of the most affected countries by illegal migration.

A data is very indicative, 36 % of the terrorist who entered Europe in recent years, did so by boat, even NGOs boats, from North Africa via Sicily. In addition, we must consider those criminal organizations, which take advantage of human suffering to fuel mass migration flows.

This process requires a coordinated approach and as PAM we are very much engaged into reaching tangible results.

I wish to thank you for the attention.
