



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

TALKING POINTS FOR HON. Mr. OSAMA MALKAWI
Member of the Jordanian Delegation to PAM

on the occasion of the

107th Session of the IOM Council,

5-8 December 2016, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Your Excellency Amb. Lacy Swing

Honourable Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today, to represent the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) at this important meeting. I wish to thank Amb. Lacy Swing for the kind invitation addressed to our Assembly. PAM and IOM count on a long-standing cooperation, which has been reinforced by the exchange of Permanent Observer Status between our Assemblies in November 2015.

The Mediterranean is among the world region where migration has grown exponentially in recent years as a result of humanitarian, economic, security and political reasons, and where the challenges are increasing daily.

The unprecedented refugee's crisis caused by the political instability in the Middle East have putted a huge burden on the shoulders of the neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as Greece and Italy,

causing major challenges, in terms of water and food availability, shelter, employability and education.

However, supporting refugees and migrants is not optional. It is a shared, global responsibility, and Europe should play fully its part.

The humanitarian crisis that all the Mediterranean countries are going through should be tackled using mechanisms which highlight our unity, not our divisions.

Moreover, violent extremism and terroristic activities in the region, continue to spread beyond national borders, causing destruction and loss of innocent lives, and aggravating an already unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

But wars and violence are not the only causes for massive population movements and displacement. We must not forget the effects of climate change, too. Indeed, Lake Chad of the Sahel region has lost 80% of its surface and the current population of 150 million will double in the next 20 years. Therefore, we must address the issue of sustainable development, in order to manage a climate migration, which may assume unimaginable prospects.

Our Assembly stands ready to work with IOM and all those who pursue this objective, and is fully committed to the implementation of all relevant international standards and instruments. PAM also shares the ambition to ensure that work done by all international, regional and local actors is more effective for a better system of international refugee protection and a reduction in the vulnerability of all migrants. The present system is not viable, and the dignity of human life is the only priority.

As a member of the Senate in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, I find it is my duty to convey to the participants of this council the Jordan's efforts to help the migrants who fled to Jordan from conflict zones in the Middle East. to ease their lives and to provide health care, education and to provide job opportunities for them.

Despite the pledges of the donor countries, including the London Conference, who undertake to support Jordan in order to minimize the burden of hosting the migrants in Jordan. And to limit the negative impact on the local communities, the aid is still less than the urgent needs.

Thank you.