



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

Draft Speech for PAM delegate Hon. Katya de Giovanni (Malta)

General Debate at the 113th Session of the IOM Council

"The intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement"

*1.5 minutes video message
Geneva, 30 November – 2 December 2022*

Esteemed Colleagues,

Since the beginning of the year, UN reports that some 130,000 people migrated across the Mediterranean.

As different drivers of migration intersect, these numbers are likely to increase.

The Mediterranean region is home to more than 510 million people.

It is our home. And it is burning and drowning before our very eyes; warming 20% faster than the global average.

Increasing temperatures, extreme meteorological phenomena, drought, water scarcity, desertification and rising sea levels affect people's livelihood options.

Loss of coastal and agricultural land endangers the rights to food, water and sanitation, health, and adequate housing, for entire populations.

Which are fundamental human rights.

Climate change also triggers tensions over scarce natural resources, exacerbating conflicts and instability.

North Africa is projected to have the largest proportion of climate migrants relative to total population... namely up to 19 million people by 2050.

At PAM, we have been advocating for the recognition of "environmental refugee" status, as a legal concept in international law for many years.

Dear colleagues,

Surviving climate breakdown will require a huge human response.

It will require more than the deal reached at COP 27 which is a financial mechanism to compensate for damages from natural disasters

The world requires a planned and deliberate migration approach. We, as PAM, strongly support the implementation of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact.

We are especially committed to monitoring objective 8 “saving lives”.

I would like to conclude by sharing these horrendous statistics. Since the beginning of the year, 1,928 human beings have died or went missing in the Mediterranean sea.

Behind these numbers are shattered lives and shattered communities.

The parliamentarians of the Mediterranean urge to join forces with all relevant actors – on climate action - on migration policy – to save more lives, to prevent these tragedies. Migration must be managed by the government, not by criminal organisations.

Thank you for your attention.