

DECLARATION OF GRANADA ON THE FUTURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Forum on the Mediterranean was held on April 2-4, 2025, in Granada, within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM). This Conference brought together Speakers, Deputy Speakers and representatives of the Parliaments of this Assembly's Member States and the European Parliament, as well as representatives of other Parliamentary Assemblies such as NATO, the OSCE, the IPU or the Council of Europe. It was inaugurated by H.M. the King of Spain and chaired by the Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, Ms Francina Armengol, and the Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Pedro Rollán. It was likewise attended by the European Commissioner for the Mediterranean, Ms. Dubravka Suica, who presented the new Pact for the Mediterranean, as well as by the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Ambassador Nasser Kamel, to strengthen cooperation links between the executive and the parliamentary branches of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean responds to the commitment undertaken in the last Summit of Speakers of Parliaments members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, held in Rabat on February 15 and 16, 2024, which was attended by the Speaker of the Congress of Deputies and the First Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Maroto, in the sense of hosting the said Forum in Spain on occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

The topic chosen by the Spanish Presidency for the 2024-2025 period was **the migratory situation in the Mediterranean from a comprehensive perspective**. Thus, the Spanish Presidency started by conducting a special verification mission to Cyprus to get to know first-hand the migratory situation in the said country, followed by a meeting of Parliaments of the South of the European Union and the Southern Shore of the Mediterranean in Lanzarote, to address the specific challenges posed by migratory flows with the most affected origin, transit and destination countries. Building on this work, the Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean aimed to address in a cross-cutting manner the causes of migratory flows. To that end, the Speakers and representatives of Parliaments and other guest international organizations, analysed in four working tables the issues of open conflicts in the Mediterranean region, particularly the situation in the Middle East, the challenges posed by migration, climate change and youth employment and gender equality in the Mediterranean region.

The following conclusions were adopted as a result of the debates held:

CONCLUSIONS

I. GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS: PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The Speakers, Deputy Speakers and representatives of Parliaments:

1. Stress that the Mediterranean is a shared space that faces a series of challenges that require it to be placed at the heart of the European and regional agenda. Underline the absolute need to continue pursuing peace, security, stability, dialogue and respect for international law, as well as political, economic and social development and forging alliances with the countries in the region, leading to an **effective strengthening of the regional partnership**, of the institutions embodying it and of the policies and resources devoted to the Mediterranean region.
2. Acknowledge that peace, security and stability in the Mediterranean region are conditioned by the **conflict in the Middle East and** its repercussions on the whole region.
3. Welcome the January 2025 ceasefire-hostage release agreement in Gaza, condemn the resumption of hostilities and the deaths of civilians, including children, in airstrikes, and call for the permanent cessation of hostilities to end suffering of the civilians and the hostages, the immediate return to the dialogue and the full implementation of the agreement. Express the hope that the resumption of negotiations shall lead to the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, the immediate restoration of access to water and electricity and the release of all hostages. We express our full support to the two-State solution, envisioning palestinian people and israelis coexisting peacefully side by side. Support the Egyptian Initiative for the early Recovery and Reconstruction of Gaza presented at the Cairo Summit on 4 March and adopted by the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). And welcome the efforts, on the humanitarian front, to continue with the preparations ahead of the international Conference in June in New York at the seat of the United Nations.
4. Welcome the ceasefire of November 2024 between Lebanon and Israel, but they note that the priority continues to be to consolidate the ceasefire to achieve a

- permanent cessation of hostilities and make progress towards the full implementation of Resolution 1701 of the United Nations Security Council.
5. Note that they remain attentive to the development of the political and constitutional transition in Syria, after the fall in December of the Assad regime. Firmly condemn the recent violence against civilians in Syria's coastal region and urge the transitional authorities to ensure the protection of all civilians. And hope that the transition will be peaceful and inclusive, in the spirit of Resolution 2254, and Syrian-led, meeting the aspirations of the Syrian population and contributing to regional stability, while respecting Syria's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.
 6. Stress the value of the capacity of Mediterranean governments and institutions to **promote dialogue in the Mediterranean region** and encourage cooperation in key sectors, including fostering projects with impact on citizens.
 7. Note that the **strengthening of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean** offers a unique opportunity to complement these endeavours on the basis of the democratic legitimacy and the capacity for mobilization and dialogue of Euro Mediterranean Parliaments. In this sense, they appreciate the contribution of the Assembly's Political Committee in the form of presentation of its conclusions on the situation in the Middle East. And encourage future Presidencies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean to establish a regular agenda of meetings and encounters and to be actively involved in the meetings of senior officials and Regional Fora of the Union for the Mediterranean to maintain an active cooperation between the executive and parliamentary branches. They particularly encourage the incoming Egyptian Presidency to hold a meeting on occasion of the Day of the Mediterranean, on November 28, on the occasion of the 10th Regional Forum, to take stock of the successes and failures of the past decades.
 8. Welcome the change of cycle in the EU's Mediterranean policy starting in 2025, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, with the appointment of a new European Commissioner for the Mediterranean, and the setting-up of a new General Directorate for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA). This will materialize in the adoption of a new **Pact for the Mediterranean**.
 9. Appreciate the contribution of the **Anna Lindh Foundation, ALF**, with the launching of a new 2025-2028 multiannual programme and its involvement in this Conference, through the holding of a side-event entitled "*Mediterranean Youth in Action ALF4ThePact Dialogues – Re-centering the human and cultural dimension in the Euro Mediterranean Partnership: the New Pact for the Mediterranean, a not-to-be-missed opportunity*", which has gathered participants from the civil society, young people, the media and representatives

of institutions with a view to exchanging ideas and proposing solutions within an exercise of intercultural dialogue.

10. Congratulate the city of **Tirana** for being designated **Mediterranean Capital of Culture 2025**, and **Alexandria** for being designated **Mediterranean Capital of Dialogue 2025**, in the first edition of this joint initiative of the ALF and the UfM to celebrate the Euro-Mediterranean identity and cooperation, to be followed by **Tetouan** and **Matera in 2026**.

II. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES POSED BY MIGRATORY FLOWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The Speakers, Deputy Speakers and representatives of Parliaments:

11. Acknowledge that the ongoing armed conflicts on the Eastern and Southern flanks of the European Union, in the Sahel and in the Middle East have a decisive impact on the **evolution of migratory flows** through the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. However, they note that structural factors (demographics, environment and poverty) continue to be important drivers as well. Consider that addressing the structural factors that determine migratory flows is essential to understanding the migratory phenomenon as an opportunity for development for all (the origin, transit and destination countries) and for the migrants themselves, placing human rights at the heart of migratory policies and of international cooperation agreements. And confirm their intention to deploy a preventive, comprehensive, right based constructive and balanced approach to the socio-economic and security aspects of human mobility, including fight against smuggling that can put the lives of migrants at risk.
12. Underline that migration is a phenomenon inherent to human beings which is part of the shared history of the Mediterranean. Are committed to a collaborative management, with a “whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach” in the line of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, which calls on all countries to work for a safe, orderly and regular migration.
13. Acknowledge the progress made with the adoption of the **Pact on Migration and Asylum** as a set of new rules managing migration and establishing a common asylum system at EU level, designed to manage and normalise migration for the long term; as well as the progresses made in national immigration and asylum laws of Mediterranean partner countries. Invite the new Commissioner for the Mediterranean to accompany such legislative work by supporting strong EU cooperation with third country partners of origin and transit, some of them

hosting large communities of migrants and refugees, and to work within the framework of the New Pact for the Mediterranean with a view to setting up broad partnerships focused on peace-building, conflict resolution, investment, economic stability, job creation, particularly among young people, gender equality and combatting discrimination against women, energy, transport, security, environment and climate change, migration, culture and education and other fields of common interest leading to a more integrated Mediterranean market.

14. Are committed to a **safe, orderly and regular migration**, favouring including integration in host countries while also supporting creation of necessary conditions for voluntary returns. They note that *irregular migration* and the *improvement of security* must be addressed, setting up to that end all necessary measures to eradicate human smuggling networks and put an end to human trafficking. Denounce and combat racist and xenophobic speeches and call for the implementation of awareness-raising measures and programmes on the migratory reality. Acknowledge the benefits of *regular migration* and mobility, since a safe and orderly migration is a benefit for all that can contribute to addressing certain needs of the labour market faced with the demographic challenges in the Northern shore of the Mediterranean and foster economic growth in countries of origin. Thus, it is necessary to promote the establishment of *safe and legal channels* for persons in need of international protection and set up training and labour mobility programmes, as well as conduct awareness campaigns at institutional level on the benefits of legal migration and the risks of irregular migration.
15. Welcome the **inter-regional dialogue processes (EU-Africa)**, as well as the Team Europe Initiatives but they note that the figures on **migratory flows within the African continent** (which are in the majority on the continent) call for deepening international cooperation as regards the management of this internal migration to preserve the continent's stability.
16. Are committed to strengthen **migratory multilateralism** and to the stable financial support to international organizations specialized in migration in collaboration with other donors and relevant stakeholders to ensure a safe and efficient management of human mobility, as well as international stability.

III. THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Speakers, Deputy Speakers and representatives of Parliaments:

17. Recall the 2nd Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action, adopted in October 2021 and the Ministerial

declarations on Energy of 2021 and the UfM ministerial declaration on water of 2017. And note that the Mediterranean region must make **regional cooperation** a priority in order to address the accelerated impact of climate change. Joint efforts for mitigation and adaptation of strategies, endorsed by shared knowledge and resources, are essential to build greater resilience and reduce cross-border vulnerabilities.

18. Are committed to promoting the alignment of national climate change plans with international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, to ensure a coherent and effective response. The **integration of climate policies in all sectors**, including energy, water, agriculture, manufacture and transport is essential to achieve long-term resilience and environmental sustainability. In this sense, local communities need to be engaged, with particular attention to youth and women by means of investments in education, financing and transfer of technology to ensure that climate policies are inclusive, effective and tailored to each country's needs and priorities.
19. Note that the Mediterranean is home to 60% of the world's **water-scarce** population, being one of the regions in the world most vulnerable to climate change. Warn that the rate of warming in the Mediterranean is 20% above the global average and note that water stress is a common problem in the Mediterranean region.
20. Warn of the link between water-scarcity and the impoverishment of the population, whose impact on migration is recognised, which may result in an increase in the number of displaced persons and asylum seekers.
21. Consider it essential to adopt a comprehensive and sustainable approach to the issue of the increasing water-scarcity in the Mediterranean. This includes the modernisation of infrastructures, promotion of water reuse and the implementation of efficient practices to ensure water security for future generations.
22. Consider that investing in climatically resilient water systems, such as renewable-energy-driven desalinisation and nature-based solutions, such as wetland restoration, can contribute to mitigate the impact of climate change on water availability and quality. Therefore, biodiversity conservation should be integrated in national and regional policies, as well as in economic planning.
23. Note that the deployment of renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind and hydro) should be accelerated, with a view to reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and prioritize **energy efficiency measures** in all fields (ranging from industrial processes to residential buildings), as well as invest in research and development of clean energy technologies (such as green hydrogen or energy storage systems) for the transition to sustainable energy.

IV. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The Speakers, Deputy Speakers and representatives of Parliaments:

24. Recall the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Employment and Labour (Marrakech, 2022) and the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the role of Women in Societies (Madrid, 2022). And note that young people and women are two groups that deserve priority and permanent attention for the design of public policies that promote access to and maintenance of employment and the development of their employability, recognising the specific difficulties in entering and remaining in employment.
25. Note the reality of demographic explosion on the African continent and the Mediterranean basin, as compared to the gradual ageing of the European continent, whereas Youth represent more than half of the population in the Mediterranean region, constituting a key asset, with a need to ensure efficient job creation in order to harness this demographic dividend, thus making it advisable to design circular migration agreements enabling recruitment at origin of the **growing young population on the African continent**.
26. Note the existence of specific gender-related difficulties which need to be addressed, particularly access to secondary education for girls, low participation of women in politics and in the labour force and, specifically, as regards conflict resolution and building the future through scientific and technological progress, gender-based violence as one of the main obstacles for equality, the risks of exploitation and violence in their transit along migratory routes, increased violence against women in politics, trafficking of women with sexual exploitation purposes or the higher rate of female employment in domestic and unpaid care work.
27. Urge to comply with all the UN Security Council resolutions forming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda of 2000, which advocates for a greater participation and representation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution and to ensure the protection and respect for the human rights of women and girls, particularly against rape and other forms of sexual assault in situations of armed conflict.
28. Note that the **involvement of women** in all decision-making levels contributes to building more egalitarian societies. And note the need to facilitate access to financing and business networks for young entrepreneurs, particularly in high demand sectors, such as technology or engineering, as well as to implement wage transparency policies and sanction gender discrimination at work.



Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean
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الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



CORTES GENERALES

29. Welcome the establishment within the Union for the Mediterranean of a monitoring mechanism to assess the gender gap and offer recommendations to public policy-makers and stress the advisability to collect sex-disaggregated data to design more effective policies.

Granada, April 4, 2025