

**High-level Parliamentary Side-Event organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), with the support of the PAM Centre for Global Studies (CGS)**

**In partnership with the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN in New York and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN in New York**

**“Parliamentary Support in Re-Establishing Trust and Reputation in Multilateral Governance”**

*21 September 2024, UNHQ, New York*

**Executive Report**

**Introduction**

Since its inception in 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), together with its Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf Member Countries, has been deeply engaged with and committed to ensuring the implementation and follow-up of the deliberations and resolutions of the United Nations, identifying innovative mechanisms to ensure effective and coordinated action, within the framework of the UN Charter, to promote global governance, regional peace and security, as well as sustainable development.

The Summit of the Future offered a timely opportunity for the international community to take stock of the limitations of the present system, and demonstrate its political will and responsibility to support the necessary reform of multilateral institutions, with the objective to make them more transparent, inclusive, efficient and accountable, also through the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit itself. These outcomes are of fundamental importance for reinforcing, inter alia, peace and security in the PAM regions.

The PAM Side-Event, warmly encouraged by the UN Secretary General and the President of the 78<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, on the occasion of bilateral meetings in April 2024, was an essential part of that effort.

The purpose of the PAM Side-Event, organized jointly with the PAM Centre for Global Studies (CGS), in partnership with the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN in New York and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN in New York, and the IPU, was to reflect on and enhance the parliamentary and governmental cooperation on critical global challenges, and reinvigorating the multilateral system of governance, providing decision-makers with key information needed to exercise their national oversight on the results of the Summit, as well as foster the implementation of the Pact for the Future, at both the national and regional level.

The Side-Event, attended by some 100 participants, composed of, among others, representatives of PAM parliamentary delegations, UN officials, diplomats, members of civil society organizations, and youth delegates, focused on two themes: a) the parliamentary role in restoring trust in international governance by rebuilding its reputation and b) developing the nexus between parliamentary principles and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emerging Technologies.

## Summary of the Discussions

### Opening Remarks

**H.E. Hon. Enaam Mayara**, PAM President and President of the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco, opened the event, emphasizing the critical role of parliaments in supporting UN efforts and identifying common strategies and approach to face complex global challenges.

In this regard, he mentioned, among others, the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, both in defiance of the UN Charter, with their trail of death and violence; increased risks linked to the activities of terrorist and criminal groups - including the misuse of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies; unregulated flows of migration; climate change, desertification and scarcity of natural resources; food insecurity; an unsustainable economic model, in which wealth is accessible only to a small proportion of the population; and inequality between men and women.

President Mayara made reference to PAM existing coordination instruments, by which, in collaboration with strategic partners, in-depth discussions and reflections take place on how to rethink the multilateral system and global governance. These instruments include: ad-hoc groups on terrorism, migrations, climate change, and energy transition; the Marrakech

Economic Forum; the PAM Women Parliamentary Forum; the PAM Academic and Economic Platforms; as well as the PAM Centre for Global Studies (CGS). He also noted the importance

of upholding two key elements to reinvigorate multilateralism, notably the credibility of global governance mechanisms, and the necessity for States to respect the provisions of the UN Charter, International Law, and International Humanitarian Law.

Furthermore, President Mayara announced two key initiatives to implement the goals of the Summit of the Future: the establishment of a *Permanent Parliamentary Observatory of the Global South for Sustainable Development Goals*, hosted by the Parliament of Morocco in Rabat, and the creation of a *Permanent Global Parliamentary Observatory on the Malicious Use of AI*, served by PAM-CGS, in San Marino.

A key supporter of PAM's mandate, **H.E. Amb. Dennis Francis**, President of the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN in New York, commended the Assembly for its significant contribution to multilateral diplomacy. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of the parliamentary dimension to address emerging threats, such as the misuse of AI and the challenges related to ensure economic sustainability and resilience, through a global and inclusive approach.

Amb. Francis stressed that the PAM Side-Event comes at a pivotal time, highlighting the importance of leveraging technological advancements to the benefit of all, while vigilantly monitoring the malicious use of these tools by terrorist and criminal groups. He also expressed Trinidad and Tobago's readiness to cooperate with PAM in advancing shared goals.

The two opening interventions were followed by the welcome addresses by **H.E. Amb. Omar Hilale**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN in New York, and by **H.E. Amb. Gianluca Greco**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN in New York.

H.E. Amb. Hilale highlighted the pivotal role of PAM in promoting dialogue between the North and the South, stressing the importance of inclusive collaboration in achieving shared objectives. He affirmed Morocco's dedication to ensuring that the concerns of the Global South remain at the top of the international agenda, particularly in the areas of peace, security, and sustainable development. H.E. Amb. Greco underlined the importance of collaborative efforts in tackling common threats and reaffirmed Italy's dedication to supporting PAM's initiatives.

## Keynote Speaker

The event also featured a keynote speech by **Ms. Natalia Gherman**, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of CTED, who highlighted the rising threat posed by the malicious use of AI by terrorist groups and criminal networks, and emphasized the need for a coordinated international response to address these evolving challenges. She stated that counter-terrorism strategies should focus on prevention and be both gender-sensitive and impactful, ensuring a comprehensive approach.

Ms. Gherman highlighted the strong and longstanding partnership between CTED and PAM. She welcomed the valuable research produced by the PAM-CGS on the malicious use of new technologies by terrorist groups, recognizing its crucial role in identifying effective counter-terrorism strategies. Ms. Gherman reaffirmed CTED's commitment to supporting these efforts and strengthening collaboration to address emerging global security concerns.

## Discussion

Focusing on the state of global governance, **Hon. Deborah Bergamini** (Italy), PAM Rapporteur on Political Affairs, emphasized the responsibility of parliamentarians in upholding International Law and fostering a “culture of peace.” She underscored the necessity of a coordinated and unified approach to governance in light of today's challenges, including human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development. Moreover, Hon. Bergamini highlighted PAM's strategic role as a unique platform for facilitating dialogue and building consensus among its Member States to confront pressing global issues.

Hon. Bergamini also addressed the urgent need for collective action in response to the ongoing crises in the Middle East and Ukraine. She reaffirmed PAM full commitment to supporting the implementation of the Two-State Solution, as the only sustainable path to reach a long-lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, advocating for dialogue, mutual respect, and the protection of human rights for both parties.

Recalling the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, she emphasized the Assembly's unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and democratically elected Government, calling for a united international response to restore stability in the region.

Similarly, **H.E. Hon. Mohamed Abou El Enein**, Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament and PAM President Emeritus, called for immediate international action on Gaza, emphasizing the necessity for a permanent ceasefire and the implementation of the Two-State Solution. Hon.

Abou El Enein reported Egypt's role in facilitating the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, and urged the full commitment to the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, without any discrimination or double standards.

The PAM Women Parliamentary Forum (WPF) was also represented during the event. **Hon. Joana Lima** (Portugal), President of the WPF, highlighted the central role of women in societal advancement. In this regard, she explained the role played by PAM WPF to encourage the active participation of women in decision making positions and the enforcement of unbiased policies that respect the rights, the needs, and aspirations of all members of our communities.

To this purpose, she shared some of the priorities of the incoming Team of the WPF Presidency: enhancing women's representation within national and international institutions; promoting women's integration in the development of counter-terrorism strategies and policies; prioritizing women's health; improving women's conditions in rural areas and encouraging compulsory schooling; and combating all forms of violence against women, especially in the digital domain.

**Hon. Tuba Durgut** (Türkiye), Vice-President *in pectore* of the PAM WPF, urged the international community to prioritize the protection of women and children in conflict, focusing on the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza. She referred to the data published by the UN, according to which more than fourteen thousand children died in the conflict, and called upon the international community not to remain silent about this tragedy and to take immediate measures to protect women and children in the Strip. Hon. Durgut stated that women and children are paying the greatest toll in all conflicts, and that people collectively owe them a better future to compensate for these suffering.

**Prof. Rym Ayadi**, Founder and President of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), further enriched the discussions emphasizing the critical role of Parliamentary Assemblies in bridging the trust gap between citizens and multilateral institutions. To this end, Prof. Ayadi placed particular weight on the empowerment of women and youth, and additionally stressed the significance of establishing robust monitoring and reporting systems to track the implementation of international agreements and to ensure public accountability.

**H.E. Amb. Dr. Abdulsalam AlMadani**, Chairman of the PAM-CGS and PAM Roving Ambassador for the GCC, delivered the concluding remarks of the Side-Event. He focused on the theme of trust in international relations and global governance. He emphasized that building trust is foundational to effective collaboration among nations, institutions, governments, parliaments, IGOs, NGOs, the private sector, academia, and civil society, especially in a time when global challenges demand effective and coordinated responses.

Amb. Dr. AlMadani commended the strategic research conducted by PAM-CGS, which is carried out in strong partnership with key stakeholders, namely CTED, the Council of Europe, and FAO. He introduced the concept of the “Trust Path & Reputation Summit”, a strategic initiative aimed at fostering dialogue on transparency and accountability in global governance, and which constitutes a concrete step to promote and follow-up with the results of the Pact for the Future.

This new initiative has the ambition to create a platform for policymakers, academics, and civil society leaders, to engage in meaningful discussions about restoring faith in institutions and enhancing the credibility of governance structures. The first edition of the event will be focused on media, politics, and economy, and how these elements have an influence in trust and reputation of international governance.

### **The Way Ahead**

To implement the objectives of the Summit of the Future, PAM remains steadfast in its commitment to international cooperation, working closely with the UN and its global partners, through, inter alia, the following actions:

1. Supporting the creation of a *Permanent Parliamentary Observatory of the Global South for the Sustainable Development Goals*, based and managed by Morocco. This Observatory aims at fostering exchanges between national Parliaments and stakeholders to develop legislative frameworks that support the effective implementation of sustainable development in the Global South, through public-private partnerships, the mobilization of technical and financial resources, and the sharing of knowledge to accelerate action towards a green, resilient, just and equitable economic and energy transition.
2. Establishing a *Global Permanent Parliamentary Observatory on the misuse of AI and Emerging Technologies*, to be served by the PAM Center for Global Studies, in San Marino, and to serve as a platform for monitoring, analyzing and promoting effective legislation, principles and criteria, so that these tools are not used by terrorist and criminal groups for their own malicious purposes, but for the benefit of all humanity.
3. Holding, in close collaboration with the PAM-CGS, the “Trust Path & Reputation Summit”, tentatively in 2025, which represents a substantive contribution to monitor the implementation of the UN Pact for the Future and propose tailored courses of action.

## FINAL PROGRAM OF THE SIDE-EVENT

### Opening Session

**H.E. Hon. Enaam Mayara**, PAM President and President of the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco

**H.E. Amb. Dennis Francis**, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, and President of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**H.E. Amb. Omar Hilale** Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations in New York

**H.E. Amb. Gianluca Greco**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in New York

### Keynote Speaker

**Ms. Natalia Gherman**, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

### Discussion

**Hon. Deborah Bergamini (Italy)**, PAM Rapporteur on Political Affairs

**H.E. Hon. Mohamed Abou El Enein**, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Egypt and PAM President Emeritus

**Hon. Joana Lima (Portugal)**, President of the PAM Women Parliamentary Forum

**Hon. Tuba Durgut (Türkiye)**, Vice-President in-pectore of the PAM Women Parliamentary Forum

**Prof. Rym Ayadi**, Founder and President of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA)

**H.E. Amb. Dr. Abdulsalam AlMadani**, Chairman of the PAM-CGS and PAM Roving Ambassador for the GCC