



Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO)

and

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

The Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy referred to as (IAO) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean referred to as (PAM), hereinafter the “Parties” to this Memorandum of Understanding,

Acknowledging the objectives entrusted to them under their statutes and mandates, and their efforts for promotion of dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures, in order to contribute to the preservation of regional and global stability and security;

Strongly convinced of the need for establishing institutional mechanisms to coordinate cooperation between them in order to address modern challenges which undermine international peace and security, and to strengthen inter-cultural dialogue, and to foster a true culture of peace;

Taking into consideration their respective areas of expertise and their mandate, in order to structure their cooperation in fields of mutual interest in a way that contributes to achieving their common objectives based on the principle of respect for human rights, freedoms, social justice, the promotion of democracy and the rule of law for the interests of the peoples;

Convinced that the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between them will serve to facilitate coordination and cooperation in these areas;

Have agreed on the following:

Article I

The Parties agree to cooperate in achieving their common objectives in the best way possible through granting each other the status of Observer, which will in turn pave the way for joint projects, programs, and activities.

Article II

The Parties agree to support each other's efforts and wherever possible, to strengthen their relations in the areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to the following:

- *Preserving cultural diversity and promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue and cooperation;*
- *Promoting peaceful coexistence and improving relations between peoples of different cultures, religions and traditions so as to counter tendencies of extremism and radicalization, to favor mutual understanding and respect;*
- *Increasing confidence and, more broadly helping to resolve, through parliamentary diplomacy, conflicts and issues that may divide people, as well as enhancing peace;*
- *Proposing laws and legislations related to migration, citizenship, promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;*
- *Promoting the role of women and youth to build inclusive, pluralist, tolerant and democratic societies;*
- *Strengthening the role of education, and promoting dialogue between parliamentarians, academia and civil society;*
- *Supporting civil society institutions in the areas of social solidarity, and charitable and humanitarian work.*

Article III

The Parties agree to achieve the aims above:

- *Considering the design, development and implementation of joint initiatives;*
- *Organizing joint seminars, meetings, workshops;*
- *Providing assistance for projects carried out by either organization that deal with the promotion of intercultural issues by sharing know-how and expertise and other efforts deemed relevant in this context;*
- *drafting, translating and publishing researches and studies in the areas of mutual interest, as mutually agreed upon;*
- *Building synergies and undertaking joint efforts.*



INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY (IAO)



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

Article IV

The Parties agree to periodically share, among their respective member parliaments, their publications, studies, periodicals, and other media publications in fields of mutual interest.

Article V

The Parties agree to exchange invitations to attend programs and activities that are of mutual interest, and conduct joint field visits at high official's level.

Article VI

The Parties agree to cooperate, share experiences and best practices in the field of capacity-building to gain expertise and become acquainted with the different parliamentary, regulatory and institutional systems.

Article VII

With a view to maintaining an excellent partnership, exchanging information and furthering cooperation, the Secretaries General of IAO and PAM will serve as the Permanent Observers of their respective Assemblies to the other, and each Party will designate a focal point that will be responsible for regular liaising and facilitating information flows, as mutually agreed upon.

Article VIII

This MoU shall not give rise to any legal or financial obligations on the part of PAM in respect of any action undertaken by IAO and vice versa.

The Parties shall treat the provisions of this MoU in accordance with their Rules and Procedures. All disputes and disagreements arising from the interpretation and/or application of this MoU shall be settled by the Parties through negotiations and consultations between the Parties.

Article IX

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of the signature by both Parties and continues in force unless and until terminated by either side, effected by means of written notice of at least six months prior to the expiration date of the agreement. When it is terminated, the implementation of the joint activities and programs agreed upon continue until they are completed.

*This Memorandum was released in two original copies in English and it was signed in
Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, on 21 February 2019.*

**For the Interparliamentary Assembly
on Orthodoxy (IAO)**

**For the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Mediterranean (PAM)**

Andreas Michailidis
IAO Secretary General
Member of the Hellenic Parliament

Sergio Piazza
PAM Secretary General
Ambassador

Sergei Gavrilov
President of the IAO General Assembly
**Member of the State Duma of the Russian
Federation**

Pedro Roque
President of the PAM
Member of the Parliament of Portugal