

**Talking points for Ambassador Gerhard Putman Cramer  
PAM Permanent Observer to the UN and other organizations in Geneva**

On the occasion of the

**Human Rights Council 38th session – Side event:**

**“Increasing parliaments’ engagement with human rights”**

Palais des Nations – Room XXVI Geneva, Switzerland

Thursday, 28 June 2018

Last week, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized a special hearing, on the margins of the Council, to prepare a joint plan of action dedicated to stepping up parliamentary support for the respect of Human Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

PAM Member Parliaments and parliamentarians, in their individual, national and regional capacity, have committed to support the work of the High Commissioner in promoting and advocating for the full and unimpeded implementation of the fundamental instruments and mechanisms relevant to Human Rights in the region under the mandate of PAM.

Our region is witnessing a deterioration in the understanding and application of the fundamental Human Rights faced with regional conflicts and mass displacement of people from war zones and sub-Saharan Africa.

Regardless of the reasons forcing people to move, it is critical for our parliaments to engage in a proactive role to ensure and safeguard the rights of each individual, at a time when national political agendas seem to prevail on the universal principles of human rights and human dignity.

On its side, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, has already committed, on the occasion of the meeting at Palais Wilson last week, to endorse and advocate for the “Principles on Parliaments and human rights”, as recommended in the annex to the report A/HRC/38/25<sup>1</sup>, presented by OHCHR to the 38<sup>th</sup> HRC Session, which specifically requests national and regional parliaments to fully assume their responsibility in this regard. This decision has been taken regardless from the position that other entities will assume on this document.

Thank you

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/25](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/38/25)