



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE  
الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط



المملكة المغربية/البرلمان  
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO/PARLIAMENT  
ROYAUME DU MAROC/PARLEMENT

## FINAL DECLARATION ON PROTECTION OF WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco- 15 May 2015

We, the representatives of the National Parliaments of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) have met, in the solemn setting of the Moroccan Parliament here in Rabat, under the High Patronage of H.M. King Mohamed VI.

We, together with our partner organizations:

With the participation of Arab, African and Islamic Parliamentary Organizations and Unions, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization 'UNESCO' and the Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture 'ISESCO';

**Strongly Condemn** terrorism in all of its manifestations, including the deliberate destruction and the systematic looting of the ancient, historical and precious cultural heritage in many parts of the world, most of which are listed as 'UNESCO World Heritage Sites';

**Are deeply concerned with**

- The recent sharp increase of attacks by terrorist groups on tangible and intangible cultural heritage, notably on museums and world heritage sites in Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Libya Tunisia, Mali, Afghanistan and other places around the world, aimed at the destruction of the values, culture and history of the targeted communities;
- The excavations, demolitions, digging of tunnels and disruption of restoration works, in and around the city of Jerusalem, and Al-Aqsa Mosque compound;
- The rapid spread of radical ideologies that inspire such barbaric behaviour;
- The smuggling and illicit trafficking of historical monuments and artefacts and other movable Cultural Heritage;

**Are profoundly convinced** that cooperation, on both the regional and global levels, amongst states, parliaments, international organizations as well as parliamentary unions and assemblies, and all the relevant actors, is key to the protection of world Cultural Heritage

*We call upon all parliamentarians to:*

- a. Urge their Governments to demonstrate the utmost political will, and take joint action to counter acts of destruction and looting of World Heritage in many regions of the world.
- b. Swiftly put a stop to terrorist activity, and to counter the illicit traffic of cultural and archaeological artefacts, as demanded by Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2199 (2015).
- c. Exercise their responsibility in national oversight over the implementation of the United Nations Security resolution 2199, and the resolution of the 132<sup>nd</sup> assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
- d. Herby undertake to promote in their respective regions and national for a, the provisions of the relevant United Nations Security Council, UNESCO, IPU and PAM Resolutions on this matter.

Given the current situation, we undertake to create a ‘Special Reflection Group on the Protection of the World Cultural Heritage’ aimed at raising awareness among all governments, parliaments, civil society organizations and relevant institutions, on the importance of World Cultural Heritage, and to coordinate and harmonize regional and international efforts, as well as strengthening the joint action mechanisms in order to develop policies and legislation to protect this global Human legacy.

Rabat, Morocco, 15 May 2015

**On behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean**

Dr. Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah

The President

**On behalf of the Parliament of Morocco**

**Mr. Rachid Talbi Alami**                      President of the House of Representatives

**Dr. Mohamed Sheikh Biadillah**      President of the House of Councillors