

RECOMMENDATION

on the role of parliaments in protecting and promoting human rights - securing the safety of migrants in the Mediterranean - fighting against terrorism

The Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights

1. Reminds that ensuring an effective implementation of human rights is a vital corollary of a prosperous, democratic and peaceful area; reiterates that all governance levels from local to supranational should be involved in achieving this aim;
2. Recalls that according to the Universal Declaration of Human rights of 1948 that binds all UfM member countries, human rights includes both fundamental individual rights and freedoms and socioeconomic ones; insists on the need to agree on a common definition based on the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights;
3. Strongly encourages parliaments to make sure that implementing legislation of constitutional human rights provisions is in line with international law; where it is relevant, invites parliaments to swiftly ratify all relevant international human rights instruments;
4. Asks all parliaments to systematically address human rights violations publicly; to this end, invites parliaments to establish and improve specific tools including hearings, enquiry commissions, written and oral questions and reports; invites members of parliaments, in their own capacity, to act as human rights advocates and use their prerogatives to this effect;
5. Recalls that human rights is a cross-cutting issue requiring a strong co-operation between all parliamentary bodies and with extra-parliamentarian actors; considers that civil society is a natural partner for parliaments to carry out a comprehensive oversight of the respect and enforcement of human rights; to this end, encourages all parliaments to ensure a legal framework enabling civil society to operate freely, to set up mechanisms of cooperation, notably with national human rights institutions, and to aim at a more balanced representation of citizens in all their diversity and aspirations;
6. Reminds that in exerting their budgetary powers, parliaments should allocate more funds to human rights-oriented policies, notably through education and culture; urges the Union for the Mediterranean to implement already labelled projects on education and citizenship;
7. Recognizes the need and importance of political stability in the Mediterranean region for its socio-economic development; expresses its deep concerns that the armed conflicts in Syria, Libya and Iraq, the unresolved Palestinian issue and the related humanitarian crises present a major threat to peace, security and prosperity for the whole region; therefore, strongly encourages UfM Member States to actively back the current and prospective

diplomatic efforts to solve these crises, such as support missions and political dialogue processes facilitated and coordinated by the UN;

8. Calls on all UfM members to take responsibility and act in order to stop the unacceptable number of deaths occurring in migration tragedies in the Mediterranean due to the recent upsurge of migratory flows; insists on the need to put an end to the violation of migrants' human rights, relating in particular to the failure to comply with the principle of non-refoulement, to ensure the fair treatment of irregular migrants and the equitable processing of asylum applications; recommends that the geographical scope of Operation Triton, managed by the EU Agency Frontex in the Mediterranean, be extended so as to make it possible to rescue migrants in international waters and avoid further tragedies;
9. Invites all PA-UfM parliaments to collectively reflect on formulating border management policies, establishing further avenues of regular migration - such as removing the obstacles that hinder an effective implementation of family reunification policies - and renewed return policies in full compliance with human rights principles; stresses the need for origin, transit and hosting countries to further collaborate at technical and political level in the field of border control, humanitarian aid and law enforcement, while remaining committed to dismantle the illegal networks used to traffic migrants and fight illegal mafias profiting from human trafficking and human smuggling;
10. Urges UfM members and UNHCR to join forces to better manage the increasingly difficult situation of asylum seekers by exploring ways to facilitate access to international protection for people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their own country, particularly through the use of humanitarian visas;
11. Acknowledges the significant effort deployed by some UfM Member States in hosting refugees from Syria, Iraq and Libya ; urges for more solidarity among UfM member states in sharing the burden shouldered by these countries, for instance through the establishment of functioning resettlement programmes; considers that enhanced coordination among EU Member States with regard to their policies of support to refugees from countries with armed conflicts is needed to achieve better results while reducing expenditure through a comprehensive integration of immigration and asylum policies within the dialogue among UfM members and the programming of development cooperation actions;
12. Strongly condemns the heinous terrorist attacks in Paris in early January and in Tunis in March; warns that while States and citizens security is a fundamental right, the fight against terrorism must however strictly comply with the principle of proportionality and be fully in line with the international human rights conventions and the rule of law;
13. Stresses the need for a multilateral and regional approach to prevent, counter and prosecute terrorism; to this end, asks for increased political dialogues between both shores of the Mediterranean and regional organisations aimed at developing capacity-building projects and closer police and judicial co-operation; invites all the UfM member states to take the necessary measures to ensure an effective implementation of Resolution 2170 of the UN Security Council;
14. Decides to put human rights as a standing item on its agenda to enable member parliaments to raise issues of common concern as well as specific cases of human rights violations.