

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN**

**Declaration of the Bureau of the PA-UfM on the situation in Syria, submitted jointly by
the Chairs of the PA-UfM committees
Amman- Jordan, 11/1/2014**

The Bureau of the PA-UfM

1. Recalls that the conflict in Syria has so far killed approximately 120 000 people, internally displaced 4.25 million, forced 2.15 million to find refuge outside Syria and left 6.8 million in need of humanitarian assistance;

Humanitarian Crisis

2. Considers that the humanitarian and the refugee crisis must be tackled with the same degree of political determination as characterised the international action against chemical weapons in Syria; calls in this regard, for the adoption of a binding Security Council resolution in order to ensure that humanitarian aid and medical assistance can reach those in need;
3. Welcomes the significant efforts of the countries bordering Syria - particularly Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey - in receiving refugees from Syria; requests also increased international assistance to ease the pressure of the influx of refugees on the resources of neighbouring countries;
4. Asks the European Union and the international community to show solidarity by accepting refugees while safeguarding their rights and dignity;
5. Considers that targeted actions are needed to improve security in the refugee camps so as to protect vulnerable population groups, in particular children - and especially girls - and women who are the victims of multiple forms of violence;

A political solution

6. Recalls that humanitarian issues cannot be separated from political issues and believes that, alongside a humanitarian commitment, the search for a political solution must be an absolute priority; supports therefore the convening of a Geneva II conference at the earliest opportunity;
7. Believes that this conference can succeed only if representatives of all the players involved come together in an inclusive approach without any preconditions;

The PA-UfM's commitment

8. Proposes despatching a PA-UfM (at least an enlarged Bureau) fact-finding mission on Syrian refugees to Lebanon and Turkey to witness the humanitarian situation and relay to their respective governments the needs of the Syrian refugees;
9. Calls upon the PA-UfM member parliaments to organise solidarity events to raise public awareness of the plight of Syrian refugees and displaced persons;
10. Wishes the plenary session of the PA-UfM in 2014 to devote a significant portion of its work to the issue of Syrian refugees and the prospects for a political solution to the Syrian crisis.