

ENLARGED BUREAU OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Call from Amman on the situation of Syrian refugees Dead Sea, Jordan, 9 February 2014

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean devotes its plenary session of 9 February 2014 to the issue of Syrian refugees with the aim of alerting the international community to the critical nature of their situation and the dramatic consequences of their continuous influx into countries bordering Syria, especially Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey;

The enlarged Bureau

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. asks the European Union and the international community to show more solidarity by accepting refugees while safeguarding their rights and dignity;

Support for countries bordering Syria

4. welcomes the promise of USD 2.4 made at the second donors' conference on 15 January 2013 in Kuwait; notes, however, that this will be insufficient to cover the increasing need, which the UN puts at around USD 6.5;
5. welcomes, on the basis of information-gathering missions sent by the Bureau to Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, the significant effort made by countries bordering Syria – in particular Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon – in accepting refugees, and the humanitarian effort of other countries, in particular Morocco; calls on the international community to make good on, and to increase, its financial commitment in order to ease the pressure on the resources of countries bordering Syria caused by the influx of refugees;
6. draws attention to the danger of destabilisation and insecurity and the lasting political impact which the presence of Syrian refugees will have on these countries; notes that humanitarian aid will not be sufficient to mitigate this impact; calls on bilateral donors henceforth to direct their efforts towards the development of infrastructures and basic services which will benefit the most vulnerable sections of the population;

Political solution

7. 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;
8. at the same time, underlines the need to involve all actors in an inclusive procedure in order to create the regional and international conditions which will support a political solution for Syria.