



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

**21st Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the
International Criminal Court**
General Debate

Draft video-message - Hon. Pedro Roque, PAM President

The Hague, Netherlands – 5 - 10 December 2022

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*Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to start my intervention by thanking the International Criminal Court for the invitation addressed to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) to contribute to the 21st Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute.

Since 2015, PAM regularly attends the events organized by the International Criminal Court as an observer, and I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all of you, for what PAM considers as an important recognition for our engagement at your side on the issues to be discussed today.

On 24 February, PAM condemned in the strongest possible terms the brutal aggression launched by the Kremlin against Ukraine and expressed its full support to the international community to restore peace and justice.

The war has now entered the tenth month and brings with it, millions of displaced and refugees, and hundreds of thousands of innocent victims, many of them children.

Almost 300 days have passed since, in which we have witnessed the atrocities and the breaches of international law and international humanitarian law, perpetrated by the Russian regime, their army and their mercenaries.

Based on the evidence gathered so far, and according to the UN, investigations have found that thousands of war crimes have been committed in Ukraine.

There can be no impunity for Russia's war crimes in Ukraine.

There can be no impunity for torture, rape, and systematic murder committed by the Russian forces against the Ukrainian population.

The impact of the invasion of Ukraine has put in serious danger the global security and stability, including that of the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf areas, which are the PAM regions.

In this regard, the Assembly is following very closely, among many other issues, the consequences of the Russian aggression on arm trafficking, human smuggling, energy and food shortage, and the systematic destruction of civil infrastructures and of cultural heritage occurring in Ukraine.

Not to mention, the involvement of Iran, which not only violates international sanctions, but also poses a serious security threat. Many PAM countries are concerned that Iran may supply the same drones used in Ukraine to armed groups in Lebanon, Gaza, Yemen and the West Sahara, among others.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

I wish to reiterate that PAM is fully committed to assist the efforts of the international community to:

First, establish a special independent international tribunal to hold to account perpetrators of the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

Second, set up an international mechanism for reparation for damage, loss or injury.

Third, create a Trust Fund for Victims of this tragic war.

In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, together with its member parliaments, is fully committed to support, through its mandate, the work of the International Criminal Court, and reinforce further the cooperation between our organizations.

The PAM Secretariat shall therefore duly refer to all PAM delegations the outcome of this conference and will seek the cooperation of the national parliaments in the implementation of the necessary actions at the legislative level.

Thank you for the attention.
