



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

**DECLARATION “THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTS IN ENSURING
PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION”
(Istanbul, 5 July 2017)**

We, the members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), have met in Istanbul on the occasion of the 49th General Assembly of PABSEC,

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), as well as to the previous PABSEC Declarations,

Acknowledging that, during the past years PABSEC became an important regional organization which aimed to contribute to developing peaceful relations among the Member States through strengthening economic cooperation,

Considering PABSEC as an important platform in promoting constructive dialogue among the parliamentarians of the BSEC Member States through discussing most topical issues in the region,

Noting that, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, including the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will contribute to strengthening peace, stability and effective governance based on the rule of law,

Underlining that, exchange of ideas and experiences among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures will have positive effect on confidence-building in the BSEC Region,

Taking into account that parliaments play a leading role in developing friendly relations among peoples,

Emphasizing that inter-parliamentary dialogue is key to deepening mutual understanding among the BSEC Member States,

Do hereby declare as follows:

We reaffirm our commitment to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the generally recognized principles and rules of international law.

We believe that strengthening of regional dialogue is important for promoting democracy and rule of law as well as for developing peace and stability in the Black Sea Region.

We underscore that regular meetings of PABSEC as well as the mutual visits of its national delegations provide a common ground which for strengthening peace, stability and security in the region.

We note the positive effects of enhancing relations between national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies on the political climate of our region.

We attach importance to display a shared sense of solidarity and cooperation in addressing the needs and problems of migrants and refugees in the BSEC region and beyond, which will have positive effects on strengthening peace and stability.

Being aware of the fact that terrorism is one of the major threats to the peace and security in our region, we condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whatever source, motivation or purpose. We reaffirm our determination to take concrete and effective measures in our national legislative bodies to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism.

We underline the potential role of PABSEC in coordinating the efforts of national parliaments for the solution of economic, social, humanitarian and environmental problems to the benefit of the whole region.

We acknowledge that peaceful solution to the persisting controversies will have positive effects on the economic climate in the region. In this regard, we are ready to make every effort to enhance parliamentary contribution to the efforts in strengthening security and stability in our geography.

We stress that cooperation among the parliaments representing the peoples of the BSEC Member States, facilitates intensification of national efforts and international cooperation for reaching the common objective of ensuring peace and security in our region.