



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
**PABSEC**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA48/LC48/REC153/16

**RECOMMENDATION 153/2016<sup>1</sup>**

**“Role of Religion in Fight against Terrorism and Extremism”**

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) stresses increased worldwide alarm with regard to the threat of terrorism and extremism, which represents a great danger for each particular country. The Assembly expresses its deep concern at the fact that more and more terrorist groups hide behind religious slogans and violate the universal human rights and freedoms and endanger interfaith harmony.
2. The PABSEC notes that terrorism covers a variety of aspects of living throughout the world and manifests itself in various forms and patterns. Increasing appearance of suicide bombers, who are leading the war with completely new methods, cannot be accepted by any religion.
3. The PABSEC emphasizes that due to the globalization process it is increasingly important today to encourage a dialogue between peoples, between cultures, between religions. Religion plays an important role in a modern democratic society. Spiritual and moral values and principles common to various religions form a solid basis for the development of mutual understanding which promotes respect for religious diversity, enhancing tolerance among people of various cultural and religious background, thus contributing to the prevention of and the fight against violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism.

---

<sup>1</sup> Assembly debate on 30 November 2016 (see Doc.: GA48/LC48/REP/16, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Role of Religion in Fight against Terrorism and Extremism” discussed in Antalya on 5-6 October 2016; Rapporteur: Mr. Konstantinos Morfidis - Greece)

*Text adopted by the Assembly in Belgrade on 30 November 2016*

4. The PABSEC notes that terrorism and extremism are closely related to each other. Terrorism and religious-political extremism pose a serious threat to the entire world community. The fight against terrorism and extremism acquired transnational character and became a global international problem that requires coordination among the states.
5. Parliamentary diplomacy offers a good opportunity to achieve mutual respect and dialogue, tolerance and understanding among different cultures, peoples and religions. The credibility of the elected representatives and their presence in the international arena can mobilize national and global public opinion in order to achieve the ultimate goal of the global community - the elimination of the threat of terrorism and extremism.
6. The PABSEC emphasizes the role of parliamentarians in shaping legislative barriers for terrorism and extremism, as well as to take advantage of parliamentary diplomacy to mobilize strong political support both within their countries and at the international level, with a view to the common struggle against terrorism and extremism. To this end the Assembly recalls its Recommendation 17/1996 on the basic principles of the Black Sea Convention on the fight against organized crime and terrorism and Recommendation 102/2008 On the role of the BSEC Member States' parliaments in the fight against international terrorism, calling on the countries to unite efforts against this evil.
7. The Assembly is aware that the universality of the religion values has to bring people together to do good deeds and actions for the benefit of all humanity. The peoples and countries in the world should unite and resolutely counter this threat at the global, regional and national levels. In this regard, the PABSEC calls on Member States to take an active part in the measures taken by states to combat terrorism and extremism in the framework of the strengthening of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, social justice, destruction of ideologies and practices of intolerance and discrimination, and promote mutual respect and friendship among peoples.
8. **Therefore, the Assembly** recommends that the Parliaments and Governments of the BSEC Member States:
  - i. *upgrade* and strengthen national legislation in order to support government efforts in the fight against international terrorism and extremism;
  - ii. *ensure* that any measures taken to combat terrorism and extremism are compatible with the generally accepted principles of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
  - iii. *create* favourable conditions within the educational system in order to promote and strengthen the principles of mutual respect, tolerance, protection and preservation of cultural values;
  - iv. *implement* policies aimed at strengthening the role of religion in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and to promote respect for pluralism and to accept diversity of religion and belief;
  - v. *ratify*, where appropriate, and implement the main international instruments in the fight against terrorism and extremism;
  - vi. *ensure* the effective implementation of adopted laws and measures to combat terrorism and extremism;

- vii. *identify* and promptly remove any obstacles in the implementation of national anti-terrorism strategies;
  - viii. *participate* actively in the process of strengthening the social dimension of globalization, aimed at solving the problems of eradicating poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment, discrimination and marginalization;
  - ix. *contribute* to the mobilization of national and international public opinion to further strengthen the role of religion in global cooperation in the field of terrorist threats;
  - x. *take measures* against incitement of ethnic and religious hatred, propaganda of xenophobia, hatred and intolerance;
  - xi. *encourage* the Member States to use their ability to increase international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism;
  - xii. *organize* an international conference on the role of religion in the fight against terrorism and extremism with the participation of religious leaders.
9. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.