

RECOMMENDATION 102/2008¹

Role of Parliaments of the BSEC Member States in Fighting International Terrorism

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation states its deep concern about the worldwide escalation of acts of terrorism.
2. The Assembly expresses its solidarity with the international community in global fight against international terrorism which constitutes an actual and serious threat to the international, regional and national peace, security and stability.
3. The Assembly fully acknowledges that international terrorism cannot be resolved by any one country alone. Every state in every region, large and small, strong and weak, is vulnerable to the consequences of the international terrorism. The countries worldwide need to come together and address this menace in urgent and determined manner at global, regional and national levels.
4. The PABSEC stresses the role of parliamentarians in shaping legislative barriers against terrorism as well as in making use of the advantages of parliamentary diplomacy to mobilise strong political support internally and internationally to the common cause against the evil of terrorism. In this respect, the Assembly recalls its Recommendations 15/1996 on Cooperation among the PABSEC Member Countries in Combating Organised Crime and 17/1996 on Basic Principles of the Black Sea Convention on Combating Organised Crime and Terrorism in which it calls the national parliaments to draft the necessary counter strategies into the national legislations and to ensure proper oversight over the implementation of law-enforcement and anti-terrorism policies and relevant mechanisms.

¹ Assembly debate on 10 June 2008 (see Doc.: GA31/LC31/REP/08, Report of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee “Role of parliaments of the BSEC member states in fighting international terrorism” discussed in Yerevan on 16-17 April 2008; Rapporteur: Mr. Michael Yemelianov – Russia)

Text adopted by the General Assembly in Athens on 10 June 2008

5. The Assembly shares concern that unstable political climate, extremism and separatism, unresolved and protracted conflicts in the Black Sea region, big number of refugees and acute security problems provide potential risk. Such a situation necessitates conflict resolution on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, which is a priority for the region.
6. The Parliamentary Assembly recognises the ultimate role of the United Nations and the institutions in its system in the global fight against international terrorism and extremism and, to this end, supports the UN Conventions and Protocols, as well as the Security Council Resolutions including those that establish a comprehensive legal framework in the field of countering terrorism; and welcomes the Outcome of the 2005 UN World Summit and the adoption in 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.
7. The Assembly underlines the valuable contribution to the global efforts in the fight against international terrorism by the EU, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the CIS and their parliamentary dimensions through deepening international consensus and strengthening the normative framework for the fight against international terrorism.
8. The Assembly notes the progress made by the BSEC member states with a view to putting in place the cooperation in the areas of fighting terrorism and consolidating democratic institutions and the rule of law. To this end, the Assembly welcomes the results of the work of the BSEC Working Group on Combating crime.
9. **Therefore, the Assembly recommends** the Parliaments and the Governments of the BSEC Member States:
 - i. *to revise and strengthen* the national legislation to support the efforts by the governments in the fight against international terrorism;
 - ii. *to ensure* that any measure taken to combat terrorism comply with the obligations of the states under international law;
 - iii. *to ratify, where necessary, and implement* the basic international instruments in the sphere of combating terrorism;
 - iv. *to organise* parliamentary hearings to assess the effectiveness of legislation and other measures related to combat international terrorism;
 - v. *to ensure* that laws and measures in the fight against terrorism and organised crime that have already been adopted are applied in an effective manner;
 - vi. *to identify and duly address* any obstacle in the process of implementation of the national counter-terrorism strategies;
 - vii. *to become actively involved in the process to strengthen* social component of globalisation addressing the issues of poverty eradication, underdevelopment, unemployment, discrimination and marginalization;

- viii. *to make best possible use* of national and international capacities to reach peaceful resolution of protracted unresolved conflicts on the basis of norms and principles of international law;
 - ix. *to take measures* to secure necessary framework for sharing relevant and reliable data among intelligence units and law-enforcement authorities;
 - x. *to secure* implementation of protective measures through securing borders, enhancing support and resources available to law enforcement and intelligence;
 - xi. *to contribute* to mobilisation of national and international public opinion to further strengthen global cooperation in eliminating terrorist menace;
 - xii. *to take measures* against the incitement of the national and religious hatred, propaganda of xenophobia, hatred and intolerance;
 - xiii. *to put an aim* of declaring the Black Sea region a zone free of terrorism;
 - xiv. *to encourage* the member states to make use of their capacities to augment international cooperation in combating terrorism and put every effort to reach the adoption of the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;
 - xv. *to evaluate* the proposal by Turkey, made within the BSEC, to organize a special counter-terrorism training for the respective units from the BSEC member states.
10. **The Assembly invites** the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.