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PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY– UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE – UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من اجل المتوسط

Committee of Women's Rights

Minutes of the meeting on 13 July 2022

On 13 July, the Italian Chamber of Deputies hosted the third meeting of the Women's Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) for the quadrennium 2020-2024, chaired by Ms Yana Ehm.

It was attended by delegations from the Parliaments of Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia (the Ambassador was present) and Turkey.

After referring to the previous meetings of the committee on 8 November 2021, held online, and on 3 December 2021, in hybrid format, Committee Chair Yana Ehm introduced the agenda which she put to the Committee for adoption. Chair then passed on to agenda item 2 and moved the adoption of the minutes of the 3 December 2021 meeting.

Chair Ehm He then introduced the theme of the meeting, *"The Role of Women in Conflicts"*, and the work programme, which included an introductory part, with a welcome address and a general overview of the state of the Union for the Mediterranean and of parliamentary cooperation in this field, and three specific sessions devoted to *"The role of women in social conflicts"*; *"The role of women in armed conflicts"* and *"The role of women in peace negotiations"*.

Chair Ehm then introduced the Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Maria Edera Spadoni, the Italian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Marina Sereni, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean, John Paul Grech, and the President of the Women's Forum of the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, Joana Lima, who each took part in the introductory session.

This was followed by reports by Ouided Bouchamaoui, Representative of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, 2015, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Sanam Naraghi

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Anderlini, Founder and Executive Director of ICAN and Director of the Centre for Women Peace and Security; Irene Fellin, Special Representative of the NATO Secretary General for the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda; Rossella Miccio, President of Emergency; Stefania Battistini, RAI journalist and war correspondent; Loredana Teodorescu, President of WIIS (Women In International Security) Italy and head of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network's Secretariat; Edith Schlaffer, Founder and Executive Director of Women without Borders; Beatrice Vecchioni, career diplomat currently working on development cooperation in Africa and gender focal point for the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Each session was followed by a debate: the speakers in the first session were Lucia Da Silva (Portugal), Fathima Rebati (Algeria), Asmà Alrawahnen (Jordan), Hala Kamal (Egypt); in the second session, Belén Hoyo Julia (Spain), Hind Ghazali (Morocco), Amal Rizuk Allah (Egypt), Erkan Aydın (Turkey); in the third session, Dina Albashir (Jordan), Hala Kamal (Egypt), Romilda Baldacchino Zarb (Malta), Shpresa Marnoj (Albania).

Finally, the Chair announced the possibility of convening a meeting in the autumn, before adjourning the meeting.