

JOINT STATEMENT¹

by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) on the Situation in Gaza and Support for Humanitarian Assistance

As the Parliaments of the PABSEC Member States, recalling the role of parliamentary diplomacy for international peace and security, reaffirming our commitment to the universally recognized norms of international law including the peaceful resolution of international conflicts,

1. We welcome the Sharm Al Sheikh Declaration and the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and underline that the momentum achieved in the ceasefire negotiations should contribute to ending immense suffering and killing of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, ensuring immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid at scale, and ultimately bringing an end to Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.
2. We commend mediation and facilitation efforts by Egypt, Qatar, the United States and Türkiye to end the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip and open up a window of opportunity for a just and lasting peace, aiming the establishment of a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.
3. Expressing our deep concern over the violations of the ceasefire and the continued attacks towards the civilians by Israel, we call upon all parties to fully comply with their obligations towards peace, implement the ceasefire in full, refrain from actions that escalate the conflict, and remain committed to the internationally supported ceasefire, while fully protecting civilians.
4. We emphasize that parliamentary diplomacy mechanisms should be further strengthened to play a constructive, mediatory and unifying role in building mutual trust and restoring peace, and stress the further development of cooperation in the framework of the PABSEC, as the necessary and important contribution to the consolidation of peace and stability in our region and the world.

¹ Adopted at the 66th PABSEC General Assembly in Sofia. In favour: Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Türkiye and Ukraine. Against: The Hellenic Republic. Abstain: Republic of Bulgaria and Romania