

**Speech of**  
**H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musalam**  
**Speaker of the Council of Representatives**

**At the Inaugural Ceremony of the 146<sup>th</sup> Assembly  
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**Kingdom of Bahrain**  
**Saturday, 11 March 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

In the name of God, the most Merciful, the most Compassionate  
Peace and blessings be upon our prophet Mohammed and on all  
his family and companions

- Your Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa,  
Deputy Prime Minister
- Your Excellency Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-  
Parliamentary Union
- Your Excellency Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General  
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Your Excellencies, Speakers of Parliaments and Delegations
- ladies and gentlemen,

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you,,,

At the outset, we are honored to extend to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the great King of the country our deep thanks and gratitude for sponsoring the inaugural ceremony of the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, where His Majesty's support and blessing of the efforts of Bahraini parliamentary diplomacy played the key role in hosting this international parliamentary gathering, consolidating Bahrain position and confidence in the international community, increasing its influential role within the global partnership to face various challenges, and reaching radical treatments for issues that concern the world.

I also welcome all of you to the Kingdom of Bahrain, a country that believed in the principles of democracy more than 100 years ago when it witnessed the first popular municipality elections in 1912, and a country whose memory contains ancient civilizations spanning thousands of years, since the civilization of Dilmun, then Tylos and Awal, and the Islamic civilization, the identity of Bahrain was formed with its distinguished human heritage, and its ideal diversity, which was based on faith in high principles and values of love, peace, tolerance and coexistence.

In fact, we are in front of a precious humanitarian and civilized heritage that characterized Bahrain, and its features emerged more clearly when the prosperous era of His Majesty the King, may God protect him, shone upon us with his reform project, where the lofty values were linked to the national reform process, and rose and shined in the light of initiatives that began and did not end, and were established as firm pillars of the National Action Charter and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and then came the legal and legislative structures to protect values of tolerance, coexistence, religious and cultural pluralism, and pride in ethnic and sectarian diversity. The establishment of the King Hamad Center for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence, the declaration of the "Kingdom of Bahrain's global document" to encourage peace efforts, and the inauguration of the King Hamad Chair for Interfaith Dialogue at Sapienza University, Italy, are examples of a number of manifestations of high human values that shed light on the advancement and superiority of Bahraini society and formed a deep mental image of its association with the concepts of tolerance, love, and coexistence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We aim to talk about the experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the framework of tolerance and coexistence, to register our responsibility as a state that sponsor peace, and to emphasize our humanitarian duty to direct parliamentary work within the framework of the international community to spread the language of dialogue and reject intolerance, and to provide the opportunity to benefit from successful and fruitful experiences, which constitute a meeting point to reach the aspirations of all of us. Our meeting today is based on coming up with a horizon and real visions that contribute to achieving the aspirations of the title of this session hosted by Bahrain on "promoting peaceful coexistence and fighting intolerance", and this can only be achieved through the meeting of parliamentary wills, investing in sincere desire and common orientations, to achieve rapprochement between the efforts exerted in our countries and societies, and to spread the best practices and mechanisms that make the victory of human and human peace always the first choice.

There is no doubt that the Kingdom of Bahrain's hosting of more than 1700 representatives from more than 135 parliaments confirms the readiness of the parliamentary community in the countries of the world to show unity and integration, and compliance with humanitarian responsibilities, in making societies enjoy peace, at a time when the world is paying a heavy price due to the expansion of the phenomenon of terrorism, intolerance and violent extremism (and wars), undermining peace, security, human rights, and sustainable development, and

casting its shadow on all regions and countries, and yet all of our responsibility as parliaments increases in creating Qualitative and practical steps that have a great impact in developing solutions to these important issues, that are of concern to everyone.

This Assembly is an opportunity for international parliamentary work to open up broad horizons of dialogue aimed at strengthening parliamentary efforts, within the framework of its general theme, working to deliver an influential voice to the international community, and pushing for broad global effects to promote the principles of peace, tolerance, and rapprochement, in a way that serves the peoples of the world, and achieves security and stability. Through our meetings, we look forward to advanced and fruitful discussions and deliberations, which will be positively reflected in reaching outputs and perceptions that serve the path of solidarity and joint international parliamentary cooperation.

In conclusion, I welcome you again to the Kingdom of Bahrain and wish you a pleasant stay and every success in your work.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.