



Speech Text
H.E. Mr. Adel Bin AbdulRahman AlAsoomi
President of the Arab Parliament

146th IPU Assembly
General Debate

**« Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive
societies: Fighting intolerance »**

Manama, Bahrain
11-15 March 2023



H.E. Mr. Duarte Pacheco

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

H.E. dear brother Mr. Ahmed bin Salman

Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain and President of the 146th IPU Assembly,

H.E. dear brother Mr. Ali bin Saleh al-Saleh

Chairman of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain,

H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong

Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Dear colleagues Presidents of Parliaments and Heads of Parliamentary Delegations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Firstly, I wish to express my pleasure at participating in the 146th IPU Assembly, personally exceptionally important, not just because it is held on an Arab land, but also it takes place in my precious homeland the Kingdom of Bahrain, which represents a model of peaceful coexistence embodying the royal enlightened vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, who has been eager to make the Kingdom of Bahrain a leading and luminous example of peaceful coexistence and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, further the great role of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister of Bahrain, in translating this enlightened royal vision into policies and programmes.

And I wish to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Parliament of Bahrain for the excellent joint organization of the proceedings of these meetings and the valuable efforts thereon.

Distinguished audience,

Enhancing the language of dialogue and peaceful coexistence between different cultures and religions, is the cornerstone of world peace, and a participatory responsibility that requires true integrity between a religious discourse that combats violence and extremist ideology, and a system of education that



consolidates a culture of tolerance and acceptance of others, and a civilized media message that urges solidarity and cohesion. This is all protected by a coherent legislative system that criminalizes extremism and intolerance.

Regrettably, our contemporary world greatly misses this integrated system, as peaceful coexistence in many regions of the world faces complex challenges, and I refer in particular to the Arab region I belong to.

While the international community calls for the promotion of the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and respect for the rights of peoples to self-determination, the international conduct with the Palestinian question continues to be based on double standards, representing a real challenge in this regard, as a whole population is deprived of its most basic rights namely freedom and the end to the occupation of its territory.

It is about time for the international community with all its States and organizations, to take a serious stand towards the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question, as that will be one of the greatest global victories in the field of peaceful coexistence.

Our Arab region also suffers from the continuation of many unresolved chronic crises due to the persistence of regional and international interventions, which threaten the peaceful coexistence of the region, serve to provoke the unity of society, and to prolong these crises with the aim to control the abilities of the peoples of the region without regard for their daily suffering, in the worst forms of political expediency witnessed by our modern world.

Distinguished audience,

All divine religions call for the peaceful coexistence among all societies, the promotion of the language of dialogue and understanding, and the fight against discrimination, intolerance and racism. Nevertheless, we have all followed the recent crimes of burning and shredding copies of the Holy Quran by some extremists in a number of European countries.

Sadly, these crimes were committed with knowledge and under protection of the official authorities in some of those States, in flagrant violation of respect for religious symbols and sanctities.

Such acts of gross misconduct, which represent a provocation of the feelings of more than 2 billion Muslims around the world and which fuel violence and hate speech, impose on us to cooperate to establish a binding international legal



framework in order to prevent defamation of religions and to hold accountable anyone involved in such obscene practices.

In conclusion, I emphasize that we are all partners in one humanity that all the cultures of the world's peoples have contributed to its construction, and we must maintain this construction and work together to strengthen its fabric for a world where security, peace and stability prevails for the sake of all humanity.

And I hope that this Assembly, which includes representatives of the various peoples of the world, expresses the voice of the right that calls to end the suffering of the Palestinian people, to put a stop to external interference in the internal affairs of other States, and to reiterate that freedom of opinion and expression no way implies accepting the defamation of religions or their sacred symbols.

**Thank you for listening so well,
Peace be upon you.**