



**Parliamentary Group of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Speech by His Excellency Jamal Fakhro  
First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council**

**Head of the Parliamentary Group Delegation of the  
Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Participant of the 148<sup>th</sup> Assembly and the 213<sup>th</sup>  
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**Geneva-Switzerland  
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**“General Debate: "Parliamentary Diplomacy:  
building bridges for peace and understanding"”**

**H. E. Ms. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**  
**H. E. Dr. Hanan bint Abdul Rahim Al Ahmadi, President of the Assembly**  
**H. E. Mr. Martin Chungong-Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**  
**Your Excellencies Speakers and Members of the Participating Councils and Parliaments**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

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

It gives me great pleasure to begin by extending my sincere congratulations to Her Excellency Mrs. Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly of the friendly Republic of Tanzania, on her recent election as the new president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I wish her continued success and pray to the Almighty that the results of this meeting will be crowned with success and that the outcomes and resolutions will contribute to strengthening peace and international security in the whole world.

I also have the honor to convey the greetings of Their Excellencies the Speakers of both the Shura and Representatives Councils of the Kingdom of Bahrain and their wishes for our meeting to be successful, and to convey their condolences and the condolences of the legislative authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain to the people and the friendly Russian parliament for the perish of innocent people due to the terrorist attack on unarmed citizens.

**Your Excellency the President,**  
**Esteemed attendees,**

Our general debate today revolves around the role of parliamentary diplomacy in building bridges for peace and understanding amongst peoples, meeting global challenges, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In my opinion, there is no wording that expresses the significance of the prominent role played by parliamentary diplomacy in light of the current dangers and developments, more than this wording: if the burden becomes heavy on the official diplomacy of states and coercion becomes widespread, parliamentary diplomacy emerges as an effective companion to official efforts, a faithful expression of the unity of common human values stipulated by the Charter of the United Nations, and a platform for peoples aspiring to strengthen peace and build bridges of cooperation and harmony.

The need to further strengthening parliamentary diplomacy is reiterated in light of the conflicts that the world is witnessing today, all of which represent a direct threat to international peace and security and a serious challenge to the common human values embraced by the member states of our long-standing Union.

We, at the Inter-Parliamentary Union, are called upon today to upgrade our working methods to the status that ensures the Union's organs intervene more effectively and efficiently to identify ways to make a decisive and resolute contribution within the framework of concerted and integrated efforts to put an end to all existing wars and conflicts, especially the aggressive war waged by Israel against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip that is associated with catastrophic civilian losses, especially among women, children and the elderly in a brutal aggression that contains all the elements constituting the crime of genocide; but unfortunately, our union fails to reach a fair decision on an important international issue such as the issue of the Palestinian people for the second time due to the strong party's insistence not to accept the position of the weak party.

In this regard, I would like to recall the position of the Kingdom of Bahrain calling for the necessity of finding a solution to the Palestinian issue to ensure that the Palestinian people achieve their right to self-determination and establish their independent, fully sovereign state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the foundations of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.

**Your Excellency,  
Esteemed attendees,**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has made great efforts over the decades, through its membership in the United Nations, regional and international bodies and organizations, and all parliamentary unions, and in cooperation with major religious institutions in the world, to spread the culture of peace and establish the foundations of peaceful coexistence, tolerance and respect among peoples by adopting and supporting all international initiatives that it devotes itself to; interfaith dialogues and hosts many such dialogues and forums.

**Your Excellency,  
Esteemed attendees,**

It is worth appreciating the prominent role played by parliamentary diplomacy in establishing peace and maintaining international peace and security. In light of the inability of the UN Security Council to reach an effective and binding ceasefire resolution in the Gaza Strip due to the use of the veto power, and in light of the silence of many organizations and countries about the massacres committed against the Palestinian people in this bereaved Strip. Parliamentary diplomacy was intensely active, as many parliamentary delegations called on the international community to demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

We highly value the lawsuit filed by the Republic of South Africa in the International Court of Justice against Israel regarding the crimes of genocide it is committing against the Palestinian people, and the court's issuance of a preliminary ruling and emergency measures against Israel. We express our hope that this preliminary ruling will signal a redoubling of efforts to activate international legitimacy and make it a basis for resolving all existing conflicts.

**Your Excellency,  
Excellencies... Speakers and Members of Councils and Parliaments and  
Participating Delegations,**

At the end,

I assure you in clear terms and sincere words that the legislative authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain is determined to move forward in supporting international partnerships and paths of constructive and fruitful cooperation among us.

We will sincerely continue to convey to the world the civilizational message of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is based on a history of civilization and peace spanning over more than four thousand years, as a beacon of religious, spiritual, and cultural coexistence and tolerance, and a pivotal partner in consolidating the international partnership in order to reject fanaticism, religious and racist hatred, and to promote human brotherhood. A more just, equitable and more supportive world promotes the spirit of friendliness, mutual respect and harmony between nations and peoples, and provides opportunities for prosperity and sustainable development for all.

**Thank you for listening, and I wish you success.**

**Peace, mercy, and blessings of God!**