



**Bahrain
Parliamentary Group**

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Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

General Debate on the theme “*Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments*”

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- The present circumstances concerning the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic carries severe social and economic repercussions that increase pressure on governments, and it may come at the expense of the capacity and legitimacy of state institutions. The increasing inequality conditions may in turn lead to an escalation of tensions within and between countries. This destabilizes peace and stability, notably with the settings that accompany political instability, conflicts and civil wars in terms of cases of mass displacement, internally and externally displaced persons, whose situations add to the conditions of instability.
- Any recovery strategies for the COVID-19 pandemic must adopt a comprehensive approach that is not limited to addressing the current global health crisis only, but must also address the imbalances that still prevent our world from being sustainable, fair and equal, which, in turn, is a driver of instability and destabilization of global peace and security.
- The essential role of parliaments in legislation, oversight over government work, approving the general budgets, government allocations, and in overseeing public expenditure is considered a major entry point for exercising the role entrusted to them in the post-pandemic world. Therefore, to ensure that all measures, policies and decisions taken in the context of recovering from the

pandemic and remedying its effects are responsive to strengthening international peace and security; Contribute as much as possible to consolidating and strengthening them whenever possible, not only internally but also internationally, whether in the framework of bilateral relations or international multilateral cooperation, especially when it comes to regions that suffer from conflicts, instability, mass displacement, displaced persons and refugees. This shall work in a manner that ensures building resilience, addressing the root causes of grievances and building peace, enabling societies to rebuild better, recover from conflicts and achieve national reconciliation, and to ensure that all measures taken in the context of recovery from the pandemic consider the achievement of the greatest degree of synergy in building peace.

- The world should support the Red Cross and Red Crescent International Movement plan that was launched in late March to address "deep and pervasive" inequalities. In response to reports that showed that the population of the 32 countries currently facing "severe" or "very severe" humanitarian crises received less than 2% of the doses of COVID-19 vaccines distributed worldwide. Therefore, this plan deserves the support of Members of Parliaments, and the mobilization of all the efforts and capabilities behind all the relevant initiatives. One of the lessons learned from

the pandemic may be the need to eliminate all aspects of discrimination and inequality that prevail in today's world and lead to destabilizing global peace, stability and security.

- As hotbeds of conflict persist in more than one region in the world, it becomes necessary in the context of recovery policies from COVID-19, and in order to strengthen international peace and security, to facilitate the complete, safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid, medical personnel to facilitate vaccination operations on a large scale, provide protection, safety and security for these personnel, and protect civilian infrastructure in situations of armed conflict and complex humanitarian emergencies. This can be achieved by strengthening the principles and rules of international humanitarian law and ensuring their respect in conflict areas, especially the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and its Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005.
- Recovery measures from the pandemic must seek to reverse its negative effects on countries devastated by armed conflict, or post-conflict situations, or situations affected by humanitarian crises, bearing in mind that conditions of violence and instability in conflict situations can lead to the exacerbation of the pandemic, and that the pandemic could in turn lead to the exacerbation of the negative humanitarian effects of conflict situations. This threatens to

undermine the gains made in peacebuilding and development in countries in transition and countries emerging from conflict due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Re-emphasizing the Security Council Resolution 2565 issued in February 2021 on the need to develop international partnerships, particularly to scale-up manufacturing and distribution capabilities of vaccines against COVID-19 virus, in a spirit of solidarity, equity and efficacy, inviting donation of vaccine doses from developed economies and all those in a position to do so to low- and middle-income countries and other countries in need. Furthermore, encouraging research and capacity-building initiatives, enhancing cooperation in the areas of science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance, and knowledge, particularly with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner by ensuring a sustainable recovery from the pandemic and greater resilience to similar crises in the future.