

Republic of Tunisia
People's Representatives Assembly
Foreign Relations Department

Le Bardo, 21 May 2021

**Speech of the head of the Tunisian delegation at
the 142nd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
24 – 28 May 2021**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
distinguished colleagues,**

I would like at the beginning of my speech on behalf of the Tunisian delegation, to express my happiness to participate in the 142nd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which is held in exceptional circumstances dictated by the global health crisis: the Covid-19 pandemic.

Within the framework of our public debate, "The role of parliaments in overcoming the epidemic today and building a better tomorrow", it is inevitable to admit that this pandemic has cast a shadow over the entire world, as it is no longer merely a global health crisis that causes the death of millions of people and their fall into extreme poverty, considering its effects extended to education, job markets, and the decline of global economies, which made it imperative for the various components of the international community to strive to confront this epidemic and limit its dire consequences.

It is useful to say that the Covid-19 pandemic has created unique challenges for parliaments, as it affected their legislative, oversight and representative functions. The Tunisian People's Assembly was not immune to this. Since March 2020, it initiated a crisis cell and envisaged exceptional measures to ensure the continuity of its work, especially by relying on electronic democracy and working in a virtual environment based on modern technologies.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
distinguished colleagues,**

I would like to take the opportunity, in this exceptional circumstance, to call on the free world to support the cause of the Palestinian people, whose conditions have become more and more deteriorating, not only because of the repercussions of the Covid 19 pandemic, but also because of the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces, its blatant violations of the sanctities , its provocations against hundreds of millions of Muslims in the world and its inhuman practices against the Palestinian people In the Gaza Strip, Al Quds and other Palestinian areas, in a blatant challenge to the international community and international legitimacy, in full view of the world.

We call from this forum to support the Palestinian people to enable them to regain their legitimate rights and establish their independent state.