

Contribution of Her Excellency Ms. Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal Speaker of the Council of Representatives & Head of the Parliamentary Group Executive Committee with respect to

"Renewing multilateral cooperation and dialogue to address global challenges, including potential future epidemics, and Promoting access to vaccine as a public interest"

IPU 142nd Assembly 24-28 May 2021 Renewing multilateral cooperation and dialogue to address global challenges, including potential future epidemics, and promote access to vaccine as a public interest.

- The Corona pandemic (Covid-19) has extended its implications, and its spread has expanded to include all countries, and thus imposed its challenges on all peoples and societies in the world, to give us a clear message that a challenge of this kind requires international solidarity and cooperation on the part of all humanity, to reach safe targets for every spot on earth where a person lives.
- The most important lesson that we should learn from the current reality is that humanity will not be able to reach sustainable future goals, unless it achieves equality as much as possible, and moves faster to unify efforts and energies, to ensure that treatment reaches everyone equally, based on a common human destiny.
- Therefore, we, as parliaments and representatives of peoples, by virtue of searching for practical measures and coming up with effective recommendations, which entail mechanisms that can be put in place to ensure that countries of low-income people have access to treatment and vaccines, whereas achieving a balance in this is required, to reach societal immunity, and to prevent the emergence of more variants and mutations of the Covid-19 virus.
- I find it favorable in the current trend of some countries which stipulates urging the World Trade Organization to grant a temporary exemption from the intellectual property agreement to help boost the production of Covid-19 vaccines at a time of shortage of supplies, which in my opinion is a valid proposition, and expresses an urgent need at such times.
- There is no doubt that overcoming the crisis and recovering from it is achieved through the development and support of the global multilateral system, through a unified and concerted effort, led by the United Nations being the umbrella of the international multilateral organization, with its specialized agencies and its

relentless pursuit, which has accomplished over the course of seventy-five years numerous achievements aimed at to achieve human dignity, security, and stability.

I reiterate that parliaments must play an active, influential and participatory role in emphasizing the United Nations role, and seek to develop cooperative relations between them and the organization and its various agencies and resident representatives whenever possible; particularly with regard to addressing sustainable development issues that assume an advanced level today, which are a priority in the organization's work that has gained an increasing importance with the outbreak of the pandemic.