



Speech Text

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President of the Arab Parliament

142nd IPU Assembly (Virtual Session)

General Debate

**"Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role
of parliaments"**



**H.E. Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Dear colleagues Presidents of Parliaments, Heads of Parliamentary Delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Peace be upon you all,**

Let me first express my pleasure at participating in the 142nd IPU General Assembly, and I would like to thank the organizers of these meetings for their appreciated efforts.

I should like to commend the selection of the theme of the general debate for this Assembly "Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments". Considering the catastrophic consequences of the pandemic at all economic, social, health and environmental levels, the recovery efforts are no longer limited to governments, rather parliamentarians have a central role to play by developing legislation supportive of sustainable development policies and supporting the most affected sectors to ensure the return of the global economy to its previous state before this pandemic that revealed the interrelated nature of risks and challenges facing our societies and countries.

Distinguished audience,

Proceeding from the Arab Parliament's role in dealing with the various repercussions of Covid-19 pandemic on the Arab states and in alleviating its impacts on Arab peoples, a number of important steps have been taken by the Arab Parliament in that regard included:

I- At the legislative level: the Standing Committees have worked on a number of "consolidated Arab laws" to support parliamentary and governmental efforts to recover from the pandemic among which a unified law on "the promotion and development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Arab States" particularly since these projects were and remain in the forefront of sectors that have been directly affected by the Coronavirus pandemic due to liquidity shortages, financing crises and shutdown procedures; and a unified law on "Regulating irregular employment conditions and protecting their rights in the Arab world" notably since they are among the most affected by the economic consequences of the pandemic.

The Arab Parliament has also worked on a unified law on "Combating violence against women" given the connection between the spread of epidemics and the aggravation of gender inequalities more than in normal times, besides the rising forms of violence against women.



- II- The Arab Parliament contributed to strengthening and coordinating inter-parliamentary efforts on the recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic through its participation by parliamentary delegations at all related events organized by the IPU.
- III- The Arab Parliament launched a number of important initiatives in dealing with the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic, which mainly targeted the optimization of youth's energies and enhancing their capacity to recover from the pandemic; one such was the call for an Arab Youth Platform to provide technical and logistical support for youth empowerment mostly in the area of small and micro-enterprises; further the call for an Arab observatory for monitoring youth policies and registration of successful youth initiatives in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic, as to work on transmitting this proposal to youth in the Arab world and across the globe.

Distinguished audience,

Out of the Arab Parliament's concern to benefit from the harsh lessons of the Coronavirus pandemic and their employment to face any similar future crises, the Arab Parliament is currently preparing an integrated report on the "efforts of the Arab States in addressing the Coronavirus pandemic" aside with a "Parliamentary vision on the economic and social implications of the Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on Arab societies"; these documents will be translated and circulated to the IPU and Regional Parliaments.

Distinguished audience,

I would certainly like to conclude my statement by emphasizing that International solidarity is a key requirement for a safe exit from the exceptional circumstances of our world today under the Coronavirus pandemic outbreak, which requires fair and equitable distribution of anti-COVID-19 vaccines.

And given that the IPU is the parent parliamentary organization encompassing the representatives of the peoples of the world, we therefore invite the IPU to develop a threefold working strategy with the United Nations and the World Health Organization in order to achieve a universal consolidated plan to ensure fair distribution of anti-COVID-19 vaccines to all peoples of the world primarily developing countries and least able to afford the costs.

Thank you for listening so well.