

*Speaker's Office*

State of Kuwait



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In the name of Allah the Most Gracious, the most Merciful

Mr. Duarte Pacheco

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Mr. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Heads of parliaments and Heads of participating parliamentary delegations

Greetings

As we enter the 18<sup>th</sup> month since the beginning of the spread of the Corona pandemic, which has spread to every corner of the world, and with the increasing number of victims of this deadly pandemic, the world must write the history of the modern era, starting from the day on which this pandemic has spread, and in a way that sets apart the world before Corona and the world after it.

The matter is no longer limited to the direct victims of this pandemic, in other words, the issue is no longer confined to the medical and health contexts, but rather to all areas of life, politically, economically, socially, psychologically and environmentally.

The role of parliaments in this unprecedented crisis is crucial, as in addition to their main role in supporting health authorities and their precautionary and preventive measures by providing the necessary political, legislative and oversight support, they are responsible for dealing with the devastating effects of the pandemic on other levels.

Perhaps the most important impact of the effects of Corona, which parliaments must address and deal with, is the process of Sustainable Development and how it is stumbling in many countries of the world, especially developing and least developed countries, by the lack of financial support for the most vulnerable segments of society, such as children, women, people with special needs and those groups which are below the poverty line, or by the impact on Small and Medium sized Enterprises as a result of closure policies and precautionary measures, or by those matters related to the financial impact of countries as a result of the decline in trade exchanges, industrialization and lack of production.

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I do not want here to overlook one of the most important disastrous effects related to the Corona pandemic, which was manifested in the exposure of imbalances related to inequality between many social groups with regard to receiving health care, or vaccination at a later stage, and the impact of many people's resources as a result of the halt of work and lack of income, which have led to many security, social and psychological effects of a high degree of danger.

Parliaments have an important role to play in supporting social and health care policies, supporting the human right to receive treatment and making that human immune to a pandemic such as Corona and any similar pandemics in the future, in addition to supporting policies for creating environmentally friendly green economies that are in the interest of the human being as an individual.

In the end

I extend my sincere thanks to you for choosing this topic as a subject for public discussion, stressing the readiness of the National Assembly of Kuwait to cooperate with the international parliamentary community in any collective measures that would make a difference in dealing with the effects of the Corona pandemic.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God