

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

- Mr. President,
- Honourable delegates,
- My dear colleagues,

1. As we all realize, the spread of COVID-19 crosses borders naturally, people all over the world are somehow exposed to, and affected by, the disease.

2. Given the limited availability of vaccines at this stage, we as the legislative branch, which represents the people, must not only legislate or deliberate but also have to contribute to solving the problems at this crucial moment.

For example, the members of Thai Parliament have been distributing face masks as well as necessary consumer goods to the vulnerable sectors all over the country, who suffer from financial limitations.

3. We are also well aware that the COVID-19 pandemic will most likely continue for some time into the future. Therefore, we must not let this

unprecedented crisis hold us back from fulfilling our duties.

4. Given the emerging variants and mutations of COVID-19, we deem it essential to cooperate with the ASEAN members and internationally, as well as through the IPU, with a view to achieving better results by sharing knowledge, experiences, and success stories.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. In this regard, we must work together in the spirit of multilateralism and partnership to rebuild our economies, societies, and health safety nets for a more equitable and sustainable post-COVID world.

➤ Thank you, Mr. President.