

**Address by Mr. BELAKHAL FAITAS, Representative of  
the People's National Assembly Speaker to the Fifth  
World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

**(Vienne – September 2021)**

**Mister President,**

**Mister Secretary General,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before debating the global response to the covid-19 pandemic or rethinking the multilateralism ability to work in favor of peoples, it is worth, in my view, recalling that the WHO constitution affirms that enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being. It is also worth mentioning that right to health is protected by the international covenant of economic, social and cultural rights and by other widely ratified conventions, that achieving universal high coverage has been inscribed by Governments in the agenda for sustainable development goals (target 8/goal 3).

The outbreak of covid-19 pandemic in a turbulent world has worsened an already tough situation. Consequently, the multilateral approach, having played a key role in addressing health issues since 150 years, as well as the WHO core functions have been disrupted. Indeed, the pandemic, far from being a mere health crisis, is an unprecedented situation which seriously impacted all economies around the world . it is, for many reasons, unusual specially because of the new uncertainties it created in people lives.

Moreover, humanity is suffering from lack of global solidarity and a dramatic rise in protectionism which threaten the international cooperation. Therefore, the international community, enduring pandemic ordeal, should act quickly to mobilize the adequate

resources and explore sustainable, coordinated and global response

In response to the current pandemic, many informal organizations and mechanisms have been revived and strengthened exploring new ways of cooperation. In this regard, the success of the ACT-Accelerator financing conference in June 2020 reveals the importance of multilateralism and global solidarity in times of crises.

Today more than ever before, we look for turning this pain into power by improving global health security and revitalizing multilateralism. In this view, history tells us that crises may enhance multilateral cooperation and build a more inclusive world.

In addition, governments should meet financing for development related commitments in the context of ADDIS ABABA Action Agenda.

It is necessary, as well, to establish more effective partnerships and enhance those existing, with private sector, triangular and South-South cooperation stakeholders.

More than 180 countries have now joined COVAX mechanism, including 92 low-income and middle – income economies eligible for financial support. COVAX represents, at the same time, a global, coordinated, inclusive and coherent response to Covid -19 pandemic and a tool bringing new dynamic to the international

cooperation. Despite gaps, such a mechanism, reflecting a good practice, should serve as an example for any other initiative in the future.

Ensuring a more permanent basis for the financing of Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator ( ACT – Accelerator) remains a major challenge.

In conclusion, multilateralism is the one and only way to reducing inequalities, improving socioeconomic growth, dealing with the pandemic devastating consequences at health, socioeconomic and geopolitical levels because as it's said in a famous quote “ never waste a good crisis”.