

Republic of Tunisia
People's Representatives Assembly

Bardo, 22 July 2020

**Speech by Hon. Rached Kheriji Ghannouchi, Speaker of the People's
Representatives Assembly**
At the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments
Via virtual communication: 19 and 20 August 2020

Madam President,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This conference is taking place at an accurate stage full of hot events and changes at the level of the geopolitical map in the world, in addition to health challenges due to the Covid 19 pandemic that threatens all peoples, which makes our vision of many issues requires not only depth in the observation and visualization of solutions more up to date, but also approaching more to these situations, especially when it comes to the topic of “ **Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet**” which is a vital and crucial issue for all countries of the world.

Pluralism and divergence of opinions contribute to building a strong and tolerant international community in this time which witnesses a great violence and intolerance, which requires to work with more diligence and earnestness to define pluralism, spread the ideas of moderation, coexistence and respond to violence with love. There is no doubt that Parliament is the space that guarantees the expression of both agreement and difference, besides, it represents the natural space for pluralism in opinions, attitudes and political tendencies.

**Madam President,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Peace and security are prerequisites for democracy and development.

The Covid -19 crisis has revealed the urgent need to think of new approaches and working methods to form a global community with a common future for humanity based on international cooperation and multilateral action, because global challenges require solutions based on synergy, solidarity, coordination and exchanging of experiences and expertise.

Tunisia has adopted this method and succeeded in overcoming this virus on both the health and security levels, but this crisis revealed the fragility of our societies and stressed the need to focus on a fundamental and central objective, which is the eradication of poverty as a top priority above all others. Therefore, we call for efforts to strengthen emerging economies and developing countries in the global decision-making process and to find durable solutions for heavily indebted countries, especially supporting countries in a democratic transition by working to convert their debts into investments, and by sending hope to developing peoples and societies, especially vulnerable groups like women and youth.

This pandemic proved that our country abounds in competencies capable of creativity, innovation and competition in the digital and technological field, and these competencies need support and encouragement to protect them from unemployment, marginalization and delinquency, extremism and illegal immigration.

This effort requires the support of brotherly and friendly countries and donor organizations in order to develop scientific research and encourage the promising youth projects and push investment and development in all sectors to overcome the legacy of this pandemic.

**Madam President,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Peace and stability are both considered as sine qua no conditions for securing the International cooperation and curbing the negative effects.

Thus, the draft resolution submitted by Tunisia and France and approved by the U.N Security Council, unanimously on July 1, is in the framework of a collective and joint response to this epidemic.

Therefore, we call on all the conflicting parties to cease the armed conflicts and hostilities and settlement activities as well as to comply with the International Law, Humanitarian Law and peaceful living principles. We reiterate our rejection to all forms of foreign interference in the brotherly country of Libya. Thus, we stress the importance of the political solution (between Libyans), based on dialogue, consensus and prioritizing the national interest on the foreign agenda.

We also call for continuing efforts at the national and international levels to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including terrorism practiced by the Zionist entity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which increased after the spread of the pandemic Covid- 19 at the time when the world's attention focused on dealing with this crisis at the expense of political and security challenges

Madame President

Dear Colleagues

Ladies & Gentlemen

Democracies are facing challenges wherever and whenever, especially those in the process of building.

Tunisia is not immune to these challenges, which were exacerbated after this pandemic on the political and socio-economic levels.

Irrespective of these difficulties, the Tunisian Parliament- stemmed from free, transparent, and integral elections- is making a considerable progress in the democratic process which is based on transparency, scrutiny, and interpellation. Despite the escalating and the intensive disputes, arguing, and conflicts among political parties and blocks, this, is considered as a healthy phenomenon that paves the way to promote parliamentary steady traditions and customs, and represents a difficult throe that requires patience and firmness to for the success of our democratic experience in our country that which is in need of support view of the relapses witnessed by many other states.

The Tunisian People's Representatives Assembly has participated in promoting its governance and modernizing its work by depending on using modern technologies which has improved the institution's performance and upgraded the members' efficiencies. Indeed, the Assembly's work didn't stop even during the quarantine period and had pursued its work distantly by using virtual communication means so as to carry out its legislative, oversight and diplomatic functions. Furthermore, the Assembly had mandated some of its powers to the

prime minister in order to face this virus without giving up Without giving up his oversight mission and ensuring that preventive measures to limit the spread of the epidemic are legal, proportionate, and temporary and so that they are not an excuse to harm human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I wish success to our work

Best Regards.