

**Declaration of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, held under the theme (Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet)**

The convening of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, coincides with an exceptional period that the world is going through, faced by circumstances that humanity has not witnessed in modern times. The coronavirus pandemic has affected all sectors, by putting a strain on all aspects of life. It has driven many global capabilities and interests to stand up to the test of a complex and interconnected reality that will not be mitigated, except through a unified international vision.

Our meeting this year is aimed at the main goal of finding a solid foundation through which parliaments, under the umbrella of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will work together towards more effective multilateralism, that will deliver peace and sustainable development internationally. This aims to help curb the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on social and economic realities, and will aspire to face all challenges that disrupt efforts to bring about a broad peace between peoples and nations.

Discussion around the topic of a "more effective multilateralism" is what we will be devoted to. The combined decisions that are issued by our international parliaments have a deep impact. Working together, we will develop a draft action plan that respects the consensus of each nation, and results in an international agreement for the benefit of all.

In the Kingdom of Bahrain, through a supportive environment for sustainable development in the government's action plan, we have developed strategies that are in line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (UN). This is based on understandings and agreements between the Council of Representatives and the Government. This has paved the way for a future prepared for exceptional circumstances, placing the Kingdom of Bahrain at the forefront of countries taking measures to ensure the protection and stability of livelihoods.

In the fight against COVID-19, the Kingdom of Bahrain was able to strike a balance between its internal policies and its careful observance of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has created an integrated health and preventive system that guarantees the health and safety of citizens and residents. Amid the pandemic, the Kingdom of Bahrain's legislation has focused on ensuring the stability of living standards. For example, it has supported the wages of workers in the private sector, and also provided creative initiatives and broad facilities to support the commercial and economic sectors. It has ensured the continuation of education, by creating mechanisms that have guaranteed students received all required educational curricula. The Kingdom has additionally provided humanitarian assistance to those with a low income, and many other initiatives, whose legislative and executive mandates are based on the observance of human rights.

The message of the Kingdom of Bahrain has been, and remains based on the necessity of achieving international peace and security and making a real shift in sustainable development in the world. This requires setting visions that are compatible with the current developments and maintaining the durability of the international system. It is based on covenants and obligations between countries, in accordance to the mutual respect of sovereignty. The Kingdom of Bahrain is dedicated to protecting this cause, and strongly opposes the use of extremist methods or fueling terrorist movements and armed militias, as it is happening in the Arab region through expansionist ambitions of Iran and Turkey.

The essential need today is to activate the role of parliamentary diplomacy, through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to put in place more effective visions, mechanisms and action plans, by taking the necessary positions and steps to achieve the ambitions towards promoting peace and sustainable development among nations.