



مجلس الشورى
Shura Council

**Speech of H.E. Ali Saleh Al Saleh
Chairman of the Shura Council
Kingdom of Bahrain
2020 August 20-19**

**The Fifth World Conference of Speakers of
Parliament**

**“Parliamentary leadership for a more effective
multilateralism that brings peace and sustainable
development to the people and the planet”**

Your Excellency Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas Baron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Excellencies, Speakers of the Parliaments of the countries of the world, Members of Parliaments,

His Excellency Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary -General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Excellencies, Representatives of International and Regional Organizations,

Good Morning /Afternoon,

It is an honor to be part of this conference and would like to express my gratitude to the organizers for their efforts which made it possible to convene.

The convening of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament on its predetermined date, even though remotely, delivers a clear message to the world highlighting the full involvement of parliaments in response to the pandemic COVID-19 amidst the critical circumstance humanity is going through. As it also strengthens the role of parliamentary cooperation mechanisms in addressing urgent challenges facing humanity, and affirms the parliamentary dimension of global governance, which helps to bridge the democratic deficit in managing global affairs; A goal all parliaments, organizations and parliamentary unions have been striving to achieve over the past decades. Especially since the declaration of the First World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments in 2000, which committed the Speakers

of parliaments themselves and their institutions to join force with the United Nations to help tackle tremendous challenges facing global community.

Parliamentary leadership in addressing the challenges facing humanity guarantees the participation of members of parliaments, women, youth, and people with special needs, which deeply instill people's involvement in issues raised internationally and amidst the role assigned to parliaments in addressing these challenges as it is its duty to: introduce required legislative amendments, approve government policies, monitor and monitoring government performance, as well as approve the financial allocations required to address these challenges. The representation of the peoples of the world via members of parliaments, ensures that important issues that concern the people are forefront specially issues concerning: The environment, women, human rights, sustainable development, population, health, and education. Thus, the peoples' voices will be heard when addressing these issues and adopting collective solutions.

Excellencies

The Covid-19 pandemic emphasized the urgent need for a new international multilateral cooperation perspective that can work to strengthen the United Nations which this year marks its seventy-fifth year since its establishment. The outbreak of the pandemic intensified the need and importance to support the United Nations and its Agencies in order for it to have: financial resources, authority, technical, technological and administrative capabilities that enables it to carry out the tasks entrusted to it efficiently and effectively; To serve all issues of humanity,

strive to achieve peace and security, promote the implementation of the sustainable development goals that target the prosperity of humankind, and improve the quality of life on the planet.

The strengthening of international multilateral cooperation cannot be achieved, nor will it produce the desired results, except by activating and deepening international governance, a goal that is agreed upon by both the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations, and has become of crucial importance after the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, and even before that while facing numerous global challenges over the past decades, especially those related to combating climate change, environmental issues and combating terrorism.

Brothers and sisters ...

The performance of parliaments in such a role ensures greater representation of peoples in the management of global affairs, which is important to distance from sources of tension and conflict in order for it to be able to promote international peace and security, and ensure the compliance of all parties with the international system, treaties and agreements that secure the rights of different countries, and work to solve problems and settle tensions peacefully. And neutralize the tendency of some parties within the international community to dominate or interfere in the affairs of other countries or to destabilize them. The regularity of parliamentary events per se, despite the circumstances associated with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, is an indication of the increasing role parliamentary

diplomacy plays in deliberating international issues, and in managing global affairs and resolving international issues.

There is an urgent need to further activate aspects of cooperation and partnership, not only between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations, but also between all Parliamentary Assemblies and Unions and the entire United Nations system; So that these societies and unions become more involved and collaborative with the activities of the international system, its decisions and resolutions; To enhance the aspects of cooperation and interaction between two sides. All this aims to address challenges of security and peace, sustainable development, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, which are also goals shared by the Parliamentary Union and the United Nations to pool the efforts of parliaments and support them.

Thank you