

**PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA**

**PEOPLE'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Speech by H.E. Mr. SLIMANE CHENINE, Speaker of the  
People's National Assembly, on the occasion of the Fifth World  
Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

**Virtual meeting, 19-20 august 2020**

**Madam President of the IPU,**  
**Honorable Speakers of National parliaments,**  
**Mr. Secretary General of the IPU,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Humanity is confronted with an unprecedented global health crisis, with devastating effects on national economies, human life and public health. This crisis has revealed that the majority of health systems in the world are vulnerable, even those of states with great military, economic and technological power bases. Moreover, it has revealed that there is a huge gap between global humanitarian discourses and facts on the ground. Indeed, reality is characterized by the predominance of national interests over common human needs. Humanity is facing serious endemic threats, profound lack of solidarity between peoples leading to the deepening of the global digital divide, increasing poverty and widening health disparities within and between countries.

Our world is also undergoing fast geopolitical changes that could aggravate strategic competition between the big players over spheres of influence, resources, foreign markets and global decision making positions. Meanwhile, the number of crises is increasing in many

countries and geopolitical zones such as Libya, Syria and the Sahel. These crises could further complicate internal/regional security dilemmas, trigger more economic plights, exacerbate threats to the structural stability of states and undermine regional and international endeavors that aim for the consolidation of international security. These crisisogenous factors contribute to the complexification of terrorism and related crimes, especially in a context marked by the potential redeployment of thousands of foreign terrorists fighters from conflict areas in the Middle East into Africa.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations System, which was founded in 1945 in order to prevent the recurrence of the World War II horrors and tragedies, by establishing norms and rules and providing a basis for multilateralism through different frameworks embedded in the UN Charter or newly adopted legal and diplomatic instruments. Maintaining peace, promoting human dignity and building a prosperous world, under the principle of common destiny, was and still is the utmost objective of the United Nations.

In addition to the adoption of a participatory approach in the international policy decision-making process, the United Nations has always strived towards the implementation of international law, the development of new methods for achieving peace and security, international development, promotion of human rights, environment

preservation at the international and human levels. Meanwhile, this organization has played an important role in settling international conflicts and succeeded to empower populations to gain their independence through the implementation of their right to self-determination. However, the United Nations has failed to secure the fundamental right of some other populations to self-determination and sovereignty, like the Palestinians and the Sahrawi people who remain hostages of global geopolitics. In the light of this situation, and given the increased membership in the United Nations and the changing map of the global distribution of power, many States and governmental organizations call for a consistent reform of the United Nations System for better representation of geopolitical zones, like Africa, in the Security Council by ensuring more legitimacy in the Council's decision-making process. This organ must be an effective tool for maintaining peace and promoting stability beyond any strategic exploitation favoring some countries over others.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Covid19 pandemic has shown that national States play a central role while fulfilling their regulatory functions in order to improve national health security, protect economic and social rights, ensuring the stability of institutions and promoting solidarity within and between countries. This pandemic, despite its systemic global and devastating nature, has revealed the necessity of strengthening standard rules and procedures in order to reinforce national

sovereignty and territorial integrity by avoiding aggressions and foreign military interventions or covert interference. Thus, it is necessary to settle conflicts by peaceful means and provide sustainable assistance to vulnerable countries in order to improve their development potentials and offer real hope to their populations, because we cannot build global peace without effective humanitarian solidarity and without realistic planning which ensures a fair treatment to both powerful and fragile countries.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

These values and principles represent the core normative belief system of Algeria, which has always strived towards the peaceful settlement of conflicts, good neighborhood policy, promotion of international solidarity and full respect for national sovereignties in accordance with the UN principles, rules and resolutions.

This normative platform reflects our peaceful political culture inspired by the Algerian people's fight for independence and sovereignty. It does also orient our current democratic transformation which took shape after our presidential elections, held on 12 December 2019. This process has paved the way for the democratic legitimacy of our institutions and is facilitating the process of the edification of the New Republic by our President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid TEBOUNE. In fact, many political parties, intellectual elites and civil

society actors are involved in the significant restructuring process of our political system in order to instill it with values of patriotism, to ensure the functional effectiveness and rationality of our institutions, to guarantee equal opportunities and fair distribution of wealth, to build an enduring prosperous, stable and secure state committed to achieving sustainable prosperity.

I convey my best wishes for the success of the conference, which is a significant step in our parliamentary activity in the service of humanity.

Thank you for your kind attention.