

## Translation

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5th WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS.

Excellency President of the Interparliamentary Union,

Presidents of Parliaments, members of the Interparliamentary Union,

Dear parliamentarians,

Excellencies,

I begin my speech by welcoming, first of all, the illustrious Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of UIP, and all those present, wishing them a participation in terms of the purposes of this important congress, which will be subordinated to the search for more effective parliamentarism, bringing peace. and sustainable development for people and the planet.

I would begin by saluting and congratulating the Interparliamentary Union, with a strong emotion, in commemoration of its 130th Year of work in the training of Parliamentarians, as well as in the developed action as mediator, of the multilateral contacts of parliamentarians, for the peaceful resolution conflict, through the effective international arbitration.

I also greet and congratulate the United Nations, on the occasion of the celebration of its 75th anniversary, for the prestigious role that, since 24 October 1945, the date on which it succeeded its predecessor, the League of Nations, has been imposing itself on the flavor bitter and corrosive of war, to maintain, in the troubled world in which we live, the living flame “of security and peace, to promote human rights, to assist in economic development and social progress, to protect the environment and to provide humanitarian aid in cases of hunger, natural disasters and armed conflicts ”

In this regard, I consider it a favorable occasion to highlight the noble attitude assumed by the UN, through the unique openness and support granted to the least developed countries, in this case, São Tomé and Príncipe, with a view to helping them to overcome the entangled problems with which its development is debated. In view of this, I am grateful, in my own name and of the my country, for the relevance of such assistance.

Dear Parliamentarians,

Excellencies,

Although, until today, the advent of a conflict with the configuration and the greatness of those who shook the world for twice in the first half of the last century has been overcome, the virus of war still continues, devoid of course, the breadth and loss ratio of the aforementioned world conflicts, but causing, at the regional level, harm and constraint to the populations, victims of the multiple atrocities that such conflicts usually cause.

That is why it is absolutely fair to recognize and commend the important action taken by these two organizations, UIP and UN, always operating there where their presence is configured in the interests of the populations of the different corners of the world.

Mrs President,

Today, in addition to such contingencies, the world is forced to confront an invisible enemy, Covid-19, which is typically sneaky and cruel in its way of acting. As much or more deadly than conventional warfare, the pandemic broke through barriers and became entrenched, almost absolutely, in the most disparate spaces on the planet, raising a ruthless rhythm of dismay at the atrocities and deaths.

Guided and supported by the respective authorities and concomitantly by the WHO, which unfolds in the councils and recommendations it issues, as well as by the IPU, whose reflections on this are based on the sharing of experiences and good practices, the communities in the different countries give themselves courageously combating the fearsome disease, hoping that, worldwide, the antidote will be found to put an end to its disastrous spread.

Speaking properly of S. Tomé and Príncipe, it must be said that the Government's action, in partnership with WHO and other international partners, in curbing the spread of the virus, has been largely decisive and given reasonable results until now obtained.

From the parliamentary point of view, it should be noted that both the IPU and the national parliaments cannot remain oblivious and indifferent to the processes that the communities are going through, at the local and international level, only in this way can they contribute to the eradication of poverty that plagues the fight for inclusive economic growth and practice truly social justice.

Excellencies,

In our view, it is urgent that we be able to reinforce the representation of young people in politics and in parliaments, as well as that of the female class within the scope of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as a reality of good practices and parliamentary commitments.

At the end of my speech, I could not fail to thank the invitation and congratulate the organizers of this Conference, which although transfigured from its normal format, resulted in full success, reflecting the commitment and dedication placed in its realization.

This is what I am pleased to bring to your wise consideration, at the moment for me always sumptuous to find valid and capable interlocutors, to enter to the heart of the issues now discussed.

Thank you all very much for your attention.