

Republic of Yemen
House of representatives



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Speech of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
H.E Sultan Said Al Burkani
In the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
19-20 August 2020



**Her Excellency Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas Baron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Speakers and delegates
All the attendees.**

Choosing the theme “Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet” as a general theme for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, is a good choice amidst the economic, security, and health challenges that are facing our world today and threatening the international peace and security.

We are meeting today virtually in the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament after the pandemic Covid-19 became a world health crisis that has no limits, which calls on us to stand together as parliamentarians in order to face this unprecedented crisis and its consequences on the global economy and national economies, and to put a united global vision to face the danger of the cross-border pandemics.

As publicly elected parliamentary leaders, and being closer to the people, we have a constitutional responsibility to establish peace and to achieve the sustainable development that aims at ending poverty, building peaceful societies, promoting people’s prosperity and well-being, and protecting the environment for the present and future generations. This, of course, requires exchanging world and regional expertise between countries to identify the solutions in the framework of the national plans, enacting laws related to achieving the sustainable development goals, supervising the preparation of the governmental budget. It also requires implementing and monitoring the progress made towards achieving the sustainable development goals, and achieving the principles of oversight, accountability, and transparency, and evaluating the impact of these initiatives on people’s lives, in particular women and members of marginalized groups.

However, achieving the sustainability of peace and good governance set out in SDG 16 requires more effective representation of public interests by making parliamentary committees open to the public, facilitating people's access to parliamentary information, and promoting the communication of parliamentarians with the general public, to ensure the achievement of local ownership of the process.



Ladies and gentleman,

We must also be aware that some countries, including my own, for various reasons such as the continuation of wars, conflicts and natural disasters, are losing some of the development gains they have already achieved and are going in the opposite direction. As you know, countries in conflict or post-conflict situations suffer from difficult economic, humanitarian and environmental conditions that make them unable to catch up. Therefore, to achieve the overall goal of the Sustainable Development Agenda, we must all stand by it and give it the special care it deserves.

In this regard, allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to highlight the active role played by the House of Representatives in the Republic of Yemen, in promoting democratic approaches and the values of freedom, equality and human rights and supporting development processes, building in Yemen, achieving sustainable development goals and establishing peace. The House of Representatives played an important role in trying to address internal tensions and wars, particularly the so-called Six Wars in Sa'dah between the government and the Houthi rebels between 2004 and 2010. It has also contributed in the implementation of the terms of the Gulf Initiative, which came as a way out to solve the Yemeni crisis in the wake of the 2011 crisis. The House of Representatives continues to play a pivotal role in restoring the state, after the Houthi coup on legitimacy and the attempt to disrupt the legislative institution. The house of representatives has reunified, after four years of disruption, he held his first session in the Yemeni city of Sion in April 2019 and succeeded in electing a new presidency and resumed his duties despite the great circumstances and challenges.

Despite the difficulties that parliament still faces, it is in its oversight role to perform and approach the government and the administrative work of the Yemeni state institutions in general. He has also put on top of his priorities the support of peace establishment efforts in Yemen, which are led by the United Nations, represented by its special envoy. Recently, the leadership of Parliament had an important role in the endeavors to implement the Riyadh agreement which was concluded on July 1 with the agreement of the legitimate government and the Southern Transitional Council, and with the blessing efforts of brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the mechanism to accelerate the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement and the formation of a new partnership government, to serve efforts to achieve peace in Yemen and reach a comprehensive political solution to the Yemeni crisis.

Sultan Saeed Al-Burkani
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Republic of Yemen