

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND

THE SENATE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



SPEECH
BY H.E MARCEL NIAT NJIFENJI,
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
AT THE FIFTH WORLD
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF
PARLIAMENT

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"Parliaments mobilized for a more effective multilateral approach to peace and sustainable development for the people of the world and the planet"

- **Madam President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;**
- **Mr President of the Austrian National Council;**
- **Honourable Presidents of Parliament ;**
- **Distinguished Participants ;**

I would first of all like to thank the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations and the Austrian Parliament for the special arrangements made so that the Fifth World Conference of Presidents of Parliament can be held, despite the health context in which we are living.

It is a great honour and a pleasure for me to be able to speak in front of so many High Personalities who, through their decisions, help to shape the international arena.

The Cameroon Parliament, bicameral since the establishment of the Senate which I have chaired since 2013, has always shown great interest in multilateralism, this interest being reflected in cooperation with the various Inter-Parliamentary Bodies and the development of bilateral and multilateral parliamentary relations between Cameroon and the

countries of the World within the framework of Parliamentary Friendship Groups.

It is therefore quite natural that this Fifth Conference, which has as its general theme , **" *Parliaments mobilized for a more effective multilateral approach to peace and sustainable development for the people of the world and the planet*"** , be of major importance to us.

Indeed, the world we live in is one. It is an open, complex, moving world which sometimes gives cause for concern. In search of new equilibrium, the current world hesitates between national fall-back option and cooperation, between trust and confrontation, between hope and anguish in the context of the great contemporary challenges such as the search for peace, armed conflicts, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change and sustainable development, the fight against poverty and, closer to us, the global health and economic crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

In this turmoil and uncertainties, our responsibility as Parliamentarians is huge. We must indeed help create the conditions that enable us to bear the common values in which we believe and are attached. To achieve this, we must work together to strengthen multilateralism.

Cameroon is very attached to its sovereignty, but it also attaches great importance to multilateralism which it does not consider as an option but rather as a necessity, even a categorical imperative to tackle the great contemporary challenges.

Multilateralism is essential, in our view, for its political, economic and ethical dimensions.

Political, because it ensures the participation of everyone in the management of the world and also guarantees democracy and legitimacy.

Economical, because it makes it possible to comprehend, in their entirety, the problems caused by the globalization of trade.

Ethical, because it reflects our common ambition to build together a common destiny that transcends all our diversity.

The Parliament of Cameroon spares no effort to uphold these convictions in all instances where consultation and the search for collectively negotiated solutions make it possible to deal effectively with the problems that arise in the world today.

In this regard, at the level of the Central Africa sub-region, Cameroon is represented in the CEMAC Parliament. Similarly, at the Regional level, Cameroon is a member of the Pan-African Parliament headed by our compatriot **Roger NKODO DANG**.

Without listing all the Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, I simply recall that Cameroon is a member, in particular, of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Association of Parliaments of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Within these different institutions, the Cameroon Parliament shares, with its peers, the common concerns of promoting peace and protecting the environment for the well-being of people and of the planet.

To tackle these common challenges, we must work together to renew and strengthen multilateralism, under the auspices of a United Nations that is renovated and is more representative of the new balance of power in the world.

It can also be relieved by our support to the regional integration processes underway, particularly in Africa.

- **Honourable Presidents of Parliaments ;**

The theme that brings us together today concerns all of us.

In the era of globalization, the balance of the world, as well as peace, development and security for all, depend on a harmonious partnership between States, backed by an international order supported by law, justice and equity.

It is this order, complemented by strong multilateralism that the Cameroon Senate yearns for.

Thank you.