



***Egyptian House Of Representatives***

**Speech of H.E. Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal**  
**Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives**  
**in the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**  
**(19-20 August 2020)**  
**On one of the conference topics**  
***(Countering terrorism and violent extremism:***  
***The perspective of victims)***

**H.E. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,**

**Excellencies, Speakers of Parliaments, IPU Members,**

**H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,**

**Excellencies, representatives of international and regional organizations,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to address my speech to you at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, and allow me to extend my thanks to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the National Council of the Republic of Austria, and the United Nations, for the efforts exerted to ensure our communication under such grave health conditions that affected all mankind. I wish we had actually met in person, but I am certain that we will overcome this pandemic, and we will meet next year.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At a meeting like this comprising the majority of the speakers of the national parliaments of the IPU member states, we have to discuss the issue of terrorism and extremism, since this issue represents an urgent priority for many peoples and governments of different countries of the world, where terrorism and the suffering therefrom had greatly intensified. The spread of this phenomenon represents a global problem that highly concerns those seeking security and stability. Our Conference also coincides with the celebration of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on August 21<sup>st</sup>, and what can be done, especially by parliamentarians, in order to help them appropriately.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have already assumed heavy responsibilities from the moment we became parliamentarians, and we pledged to serve our peoples, upgrade their status and achieve stability and prosperity for them and our homelands. Therefore, it became incumbent upon us to confront and uproot terrorism, and our humanitarian and parliamentary duty extended to compensate the victims of terrorism and provide them with all necessary support and aid, through enacting guaranteeing national legislations.

Let me briefly review what the Egyptian Parliament has done in this regard. The Parliament has adopted a two-dimension strategy, the first of which is to combat terrorism and extremism and the causes leading thereto, and the other dimension is to support and assist the victims of terrorism. Hence, we promptly prepared the legislative framework, where the Egyptian legislator could counter, define and deal with the terrorist crime through a legislative system, at the forefront of which is the Egyptian Constitution that provides for the State's commitment to confront terrorism in all its forms and to track down its sources of financing. We issued a law regulating the listing of terrorist entities and terrorists, in addition to the anti-money laundering law and its amendments to deal with the financing of organized crime and terrorism.

Egypt was the first to sign relevant international treaties and conventions, which have amounted to about 16 conventions, and we were among the first countries to call for holding an international conference to combat the phenomenon of terrorism.

With regard to the second dimension, we were keen to provide all forms of support and assistance to the victims of terrorism, in

order to help them continue their lives and overcome the human or material losses inflicted upon them. The Egyptian Parliament approved the law establishing a fund to honor the martyrs and the victims, missing persons and those injured in war, terrorist and security operations, and their families, whether they are from officers and personnel of the armed forces, police or civilians. The purpose of this fund is to provide support and care to victims in all social, health, educational and other aspects, such as disbursing due compensations, providing scholarships in schools, institutes and universities, job opportunities, appropriate health services, providing opportunities to obtain housing units in State projects, naming the streets, squares and schools after the names of martyrs to commemorate their sacrifices, as well as other forms of support and solidarity. All of this stemmed from the strong belief of the political leadership, the Egyptian State and the Parliament to support the victims, and contribute to healing the wounds of the injured part of the Egyptian people's fabric.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I cannot fail to refer here to the second wing of the counter-terrorism strategy, which is the international cooperation and solidarity. We all have suffered from the scourge of terrorism and its effects, and it has become clear that the challenge is global, affecting everyone, and not confined to a specific religion, sect or race, a matter that required global unity and solidarity. The establishment of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism came to serve as a global coordination center for parliamentary activities related to counter-terrorism efforts. I have been honored to be a member of this great team since its establishment in 2017, and we worked together to develop an action plan for the

participation of parliaments in combating terrorism and preventing extremism.

In order to achieve this, a number of regional parliamentary conferences were organized, where Egypt hosted two of them, the first in Aswan in 2017, and the second in 2019 in Luxor. The main purpose of these conferences was to promote discussions and exchange views on the opportunities and potentialities available to parliaments to face the challenges of terrorism and preventing extremism, whether violent or non-violent, and dealing with this phenomenon with unified and coherent steps and strategies, internally, regionally and internationally.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am fully aware of the heavy responsibility entrusted to us as parliamentarians. The challenge is great, and the road ahead is still long and full of difficulties, but I am fully confident that strengthening our cooperation, exchanging experiences and promoting solidarity will bring us to safety. I invite you all to do more to combat this phenomenon and prevent extremism - in a proactive way - to spare our countries and peoples the scourge of this pernicious phenomenon.

Once again ... I am pleased to communicate with you for the sake of our peoples and countries, and I hope to meet you next year after we have managed to overcome the Coronavirus pandemic, and I wish you and your friendly peoples all health and wellness.

**Thank you for your kind listening.**