



Egyptian House Of Representatives

**Speech of H.E. Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal
Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives**

On

***Parliamentary leadership for more effective
multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable
development for the people and planet***

**Virtual Fifth World Conference of Speakers of
Parliament**

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Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, IPU President,

Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian National Council,

Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General,

Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Speakers of Parliaments and Heads of Participating Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset of my speech, let me express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to our dear friends in both the Parliament of the Republic of Austria and the Inter-Parliamentary Union for their keenness to hold our Conference under these exceptional circumstances regarding the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, wishing our meetings every success to achieve our aspired-for goals.

Today, our discussions will focus on an issue that constitutes an urgent priority for us parliamentarians as the voice of free peoples in achieving peace and sustainable development. Undoubtedly, the exceptional circumstances that the world is undergoing at all levels place upon us as parliamentarians the responsibility to courageously confront these challenges encountered by our contemporary world and to provide all the necessary support at the parliamentary level to contain these challenges. We have already followed up the strenuous efforts exerted by the parliaments of the world since the outbreak of this pandemic. In the Egyptian House of Representatives, we have undertaken, since the onset of this crisis, the responsibility of addressing such crisis according to a comprehensive strategy. The House adopted a set of urgent and precautionary measures to ensure the continuity of work as well as to ensure the safety of House members and staff in line with the Egyptian efforts in coping with this crisis. This greatly helped to strike a delicate

balance between measures to prevent the virus on the one hand, and to take the other measures necessary to ensure the proper functioning of all State institutions on the other hand.

Dear Colleagues,

The current challenges faced by our world have demonstrated the importance of the role played by national parliaments to confront any critical and exceptional circumstances such as these, in addition to their national roles in laying down the foundations for peace and stability in our societies. Parliamentarians have already had a significant role to play in strengthening international security and in establishing concepts of peace and stability through parliamentary diplomacy that promotes the value of dialogue and understanding and goes in parallel with the roles of governments in converging viewpoints, especially on controversial issues and in conflicts and disputes.

Honourable Colleagues,

The economic and social challenges encountered by our world, for the time being, are no less dangerous than the political and security challenges. This situation makes it incumbent upon us to intensify our efforts and consolidate and deepen the concept of sustainable development, good governance, youth empowerment and support for women, where priority shall be given to reviving joint cooperation projects, based on the fact that the challenges we face today are difficult for any single country, regardless of its capabilities, to confront.

Therefore, strengthening cooperation among our parliaments at all regional and global levels has become an urgent necessity, clamped by the critical conditions that the global system is going through, a matter that forces us to engage intensely as parliamentarians in a constructive dialogue on global issues of common concern, the foremost of which are peace, security and sustainable development. This should be done through international parliamentary forums, atop of which is the Inter-

Parliamentary Union, in light of what it represents as an important and unique global parliamentary forum that allows for good communication among parliaments of the world, and for the exchange of experiences and opinions.

Thank you for your kind listening.