



Speech by  
**Her Excellency Mrs. Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal,**  
**Speaker of the Kingdom of Bahrain's Council of  
Representatives**

**Fifth World Conference of Speakers of  
Parliament**

***“Forging inclusive and sustainable  
economies that deliver well-being and  
justice for all”***

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*Your Excellency Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*

*Honorable Speakers, Honorable Secretary General of the IPU, Honorable Members of Parliaments, Distinguished guests and participants,*

Economic sustainability means working towards the adoption of policies and approval of legislations that guarantee the continuity of economic activities, whilst taking into account social and environmental aspects. More than ever, during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has overshadowed global economies, cooperation between world governments and parliaments is imperative to achieving our common goal of sustainability in economic development.

With this in mind, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Council of Representatives has spared no effort in terms of adopting the necessary strategies aimed at achieving sustainable development, to have justice and well-being for all.

*Excellencies,*

The Kingdom of Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has realized numerous achievements in the field of sustainable development. Having set up plans and programs to work towards achieving these goals, the Kingdom has and fulfilled great strides in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030. This has been further enhanced by effective cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities, in line with Bahrain's 2030 Economic Vision, of which "sustainability" is a primary pillar.

As one of the achievements yielded by such efforts, the Kingdom of Bahrain was able to establish a steady positive growth in parallel to the implementation of Fiscal

Balance Program initiative, which enhanced state revenues, and contributed to sustainable economic growth.

### *Excellencies,*

The sustainability of economies is associated with the optimal use of energy. This requires concerted national and international efforts to rely on renewable energy, in a way that translates into sustainable development goals and contributes to the promotion of economic growth that is less harmful to the environment.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has exerted great efforts in this regard, since its accession as a permanent member to the International Renewable Energy Agency in 2009, whereas it established the Sustainable Energy Authority in 2019 as a culmination of its accumulated efforts, and in anticipation of further advanced steps that strengthen its position on the global map and affirm its commitment to implement the comprehensive sustainable development goals. The Kingdom of Bahrain has established effective initiatives in this regard, such as seeking to provide about 10% of its electricity requirements by means of adequate utilization of solar energy projects.

### *Excellencies,*

The Kingdom has been able to reach such achievements through the consistent and cohesive national efforts between the legislative and executive authorities; and working in a spirit of consensus to achieve the steps that bring us closer to the development goals. The Council of Representatives has for two decades exercised legislative and oversight roles, that contribute to strengthening the principles of sustainability and reinforcing the system of national legislation.

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Council of Representatives and the government in the Kingdom of Bahrain have continued to implement policies that achieve sustainable development. The Kingdom of Bahrain launched, under royal directives, a financial stimulus package worth 4.3 billion Bahraini dinars (11.4 billion US dollars) which is equivalent to 32.2% of GDP, and consisted of measures that supported citizens and the private sector, while continuing with the existing development programs to achieve sustainable goals.

The Bahrain Council of Representatives has had an active response to accommodate the pandemic's repercussions, whereas it approved a number of legislations and proposals that constituted a platform of societal stability, and a pillar to strengthen the economy in the country to ensure sustainability. The Council of Representatives approved a bill to pay the salaries of Bahraini employees in the private sector for a period of 3 months in April 2020, along with more than 30 other proposals that were approved, all of which contributed to having a positive economic impact, in support of the efforts exerted to stimulate the economic sectors of the country.

Societal partnership has a special particularity in the Kingdom of Bahrain; therefore the Council of Representatives was keen, in support of the national efforts to address the Coronavirus pandemic, to integrate the societal role by virtue of contributing to the national campaign, (Fina Khair) that was organized by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, to provide humanitarian assistance to groups in need. This campaign reflected an honorable image of Bahraini societal solidarity in facing such exceptional circumstances.

Perhaps the most important necessity from the Coronavirus pandemic, is the need to create digital solutions and integrate them successfully. This requires strong electronic infrastructures and enactment of appropriate legislations to overcome all the challenges that hinder the efforts of countries in this regard; in addition to investing in the human capital, which is a primary incentive of a digital economy.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is considered one of the world leaders in this field and spearheaded such endeavors in the region, by launching the e-government in 2007. The Kingdom has achieved remarkable successes in effectively addressing the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, and information and communication technologies have constituted a major factor in the continuation of the economy and the sustainable development process in the country.

***Thank you.***