

Speech of His Excellency

Mr. Ahmed bin Ibrahim bin Rashid Al Mulla

Speaker of the Council of Representatives - Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Group delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain

On

{Imperatives of strengthening the global system of migrants and refugees and the need for concrete political and practical solutions}

In the name of Allah the Most Merciful,

Her Excellency Mrs. "Gabriela Cuevas Baron", the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

His Excellency Mr. () the President of the General Assembly,

His Excellency Mr. (Martin Chung Wong) the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings,

We meet again in the fold of the (138th) General Assembly meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, determined to play our part in promoting and supporting comprehensive sustainable development, for the bright future and stability of the world, where rights, duties and justice are equal in legislation and implementation. We face challenges with honesty and responsibility, and with transparency and clarity. Let us put our hands on the problems and causes, seek treatment and solutions, and lift the suffering of the peoples affected, because of the unprecedented challenges and tensions, reflected in a negative manner on human life and civilization. The time has come, to put concrete political and realistic solutions, so that our meetings, gatherings do not become mere rhetoric platforms, and structural statements that do not reap humanity from behind them, only talks and denunciation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Confronting human challenges and suffering, with all credibility and objectivity, is the only way to deal with the solution. The role of states and governments should be devoid of any political, religious or ethnic orientation. Man is the value of this universe in which we all live. The humanitarian and civilized approach must be upheld in dealing with the issue that afflicts all of us (migrants and refugees). We must establish for our future generations a secure future based on humanity and equality for all citizens and residents... Immigrants and refugees in accordance with legislation and procedures, legal and humanitarian.

What is the guilt of whose circumstances, wars or regional conflicts made them an immigrant or refugee in another country, losing dignity or suffering from inhumane treatment? It is very painful to see the bodies of innocent children, men and women, on the beaches and shores and all their guilt that they wanted to live a decent life, and sought security in another country, when ways are narrow, and the doors are closed, and their future dreams has been robbed, they fled to seek hope that is unknown, and death is almost certain, passing seas of hope and fear. I call on everyone to ask themselves, with complete detachment, away from alliances and political circumstances, does any of us accept that his family is displaced, and embark on a path towards the unknown, to die in search of hope or opportunity to live, in conditions of life that is not dignified?

This matter is not sanctioned by divine laws and religions and is contrary to international conventions and principles. The silence and duality of the international community and human rights organizations in dealing with migrants and refugees, according to non-objective criteria, puts everyone at the test of credibility and humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, is striving to protect migrants and refugees through various legislations and procedures, in accordance with realistic and concrete solutions in this regard and our humanitarian and civilizational duty. It has made my country an oasis of decent living and a safe haven for all, believing that supporting human rights and peaceful co-existence are the greatest common denominator for the whole world. In furtherance of the role of my country, the Kingdom of Bahrain has appointed a regional representative from the United Nations a High Commissioner for Refugees in the region (UNHCR) for supporting the right of refugees.

Allow me to present to you the speech of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in this regard. His Majesty said: "The work of good is a duty of every human being according to their potential and capabilities. This is what our true Islamic religion, our traditional Arab customs and ethics calls us for. It does not matter how much help and assistance your brothers provide, but what is important is that you feel their needs and your duty towards them by helping and assisting friendly countries and peoples in ways that are in line with international standards. In which United Nations organizations and international treaties work and contribute to in alleviating their suffering, in responding to emergency appeals and supporting the efforts of host countries".

As part of the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the refugees, it initiated and through the Royal Charity organization established several development projects for Syrian refugees in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where the Kingdom of Bahrain residential complex was established in Al Zaatari Camp and Al Azraq Camp. The inauguration of the Bahraini Basic School for Girls in Irbid, the opening

of the Bahrain Social Center for Creativity in Al Zaatari Camp and the establishment of the Bahrain Science complex in Al Zaatari Camp is the first educational project and one of the most important projects for the Syrian brothers in Jordan, where the complex serves about 5,000 students.

In this regard, I call on the General Assembly to approve the emergency item proposed by the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine and Turkey, as this would lead to stability of the situation in general and help to find appropriate solutions to the Palestinian cause and promote peaceful coexistence that is Common to both parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Kingdom of Bahrain affirms its pride in its distinguished human rights record in the field of migrant rights. An international survey revealed that the Kingdom of Bahrain was ranked highest in 2017 as a preferred place for foreigners to work and live with their family. The final preparatory meeting for the International Migrants Convention held in Mexico recommended the adoption of Bahrain's experience in reforming the labor market, the adoption of a flexible work permit as a best international practice, the Bahraini project in the Human Rights Council and its adoption as an international model in the "Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia" (ESCWA) at the United Nations.

We are also required - more than ever before - to give due attention to the problem of migrants and refugees, which commensurate with the problem scale and requires us to create new mechanisms to demand that Governments provide safe havens for migrants and refugees, facilitate their barriers crossings and

geographical boundaries and provide them with all means of support; financially and morally.

In conclusion,

I call for the full direction of the need to adopt conscious policies aimed at pushing forward all obstacles to migration and refugees through the eradication of terrorism, the promotion of cultural pluralism and peace, the peaceful coexistence and other challenges facing our societies in this age.

Thank you,

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you all.