



**Republic of Tunisia  
The People's Representatives Assembly**

**The Tunisian delegation's speech  
at the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
(Doha, 4-10 April 2019)**

- Honorable. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,**  
- **Honorable. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Advisory Council (Majlis Al-Shura) of the State of Qatar,**  
- **Distinguished Heads and members of delegations**  
- **Distinguished guests,**

It is an honor for me to be present with you today on the land of the brotherly country of Qatar, the land of generosity, beauty and radiance to participate in the 140th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Let me extend my thanks and gratitude to the Qatari Advisory Council (Majlis Al-Shura) for the warm hospitality, the good preparation and the efforts made to ensure the success of this session.

**Honorable President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our meeting today on the theme " **Parliaments as platforms for promotion of education, peace, security and the rule of law**", reflects the keenness of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to keep abreast of the major issues on the international scene and contribute to enriching dialogue and finding the appropriate solutions.

Education is a vital and crucial issue for all countries of the world, which requires the interaction and involvement of their parliaments to create ways and means in order to achieve one of the Millennium Development Goals: **"Ensure quality, equitable and inclusive education for all and enhance lifelong learning opportunities for all"** in which parliaments stand as platforms that pave the way for the establishment of good educational



systems and able to contribute to overcome the defeats facing the world and secondly to the consolidation of peace, security and the rule of law.

**Honorable President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Education has been since independence, the locomotive of development in Tunisia. Thanks to education, the state institutions have been built and economic and social renaissance has been achieved. The role of education as a social platform has helped to transform people's lives for the better.

Given Tunisia's lack of natural resources, our country has invested in education as a lever for progress and a mean of comprehensive development in an open society where several cultural and ideological tendencies intersect.

Although the principle of free and compulsory education was not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of 1 June 1959, it remains steadfast even in the Tunisian amended laws or in the laws in force relating to education.

In 1991, Tunisia ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes the right of the child to education; in addition to the enactment of the Child Protection code in 1995 which translates the ambitious national trends aiming at enshrining the concept of child protection as the fundamental right to enjoy the various preventive measures of a social, educational and health nature.

Considering the revolutionary situation experienced by Tunisia since 2011 which touched on important political, economic, social and cultural areas, many Important political reforms that have been achieved, in the forefront, the drafting of the Constitution of the Second Republic on 27 January 2014 which enshrines the equality of rights and duties for both sexes ( men and women)and all citizens without discrimination, such as the right to free and compulsory education until the the age of 16 years old in conformity with the provisions of the Law No 80 of 2002 on education which provides for the punishment of the parent or the guardian who prevents a child from attending the school or withdraws him from education before the age of sixteen.

This law also prohibits the children's expulsion from all educational public institutions if they are less than 16 years old.



The provisions of the Constitution also state that the State guarantees the right to free public education in all its stages and seeks to provide the necessary means to achieve the quality of education and training.

**Honorable President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As the new Tunisian Constitution states that "the State shall ensure the provision of the conditions that enable the development of youth capacities, the optimal use of their potentials, accustoming them to bear the responsibility, in addition to their greater contribution to social, economic, cultural and political development", such orientation embodies the keenness to invest in the mind and in the human being which confirms the very close relationship between peace and education considering that the concepts of peace involve the internal peace for each person and ensure the peaceful coexistence with the other.

Tunisia's belief in the necessity to attribute importance and to invest in education is based on the awareness that improving the quality of education is a part of a comprehensive approach that enable the achievement of the goals of sustainable development and the immunization of the future of the current and coming generations generations; in addition to the protection of these generations from all the threats resulted by ignorance , extremism and violence and preparing them in order to engage in the wider community through adopting positive ideas about the other and by satisfying the individual's intellectual, cultural and social needs, therefore they become good citizens who possess the required abilities to adapt to their environment ,so that they can effectively contribute to the establishment of the social peace and the respect of the rule of law culture.

Education contributes to the cultivation of young people and instilling positive values in them, which will create a spirit of coexistence and moderation and acceptance of the other. The best saying mentioned in this context is the one of the famous writer Victor Hugo «**Who Opens a school door closes a prison** ".

This approach clearly reflects the existing national trends which consider education a cultural mean that promote education on tolerance, openness. Education is also considered both a factor that enhance the resistance against extremism and intolerance and a mental factor that contributes to the rooting of the values of the rule of law.

**Honorable President,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, as we reiterate our happiness at being among you today, we affirm that it is our duty as parliamentarians to be a force of initiative and action. We also hope that our debate will be an additional step and a contribution of parliaments to the establishment of peace and security societies founded on the values of the respect of the rule of law.

I am also certain that this meeting will contribute to urging parliaments to further work in order to overcome the defeats facing our world today, such as poverty, terrorism and extremism, to establish universal values of tolerance and to enshrine the values of democracy and human rights to achieve the goals of sustainable development by 2030.

I renew my greetings to you and I wish success for our session.

Thank you for attention.