



**Speech of His Excellency Saqr Gubash, Speaker of Federal  
National Council (FNC) of  
United Arab Emirates (U.A.E)**

**“The leading role that could be played by parliaments in  
rebuilding world order, post the global pandemic (COVID-  
19)”**

**(Global Multilateral Leadership)**

**Your Excellency *Gabriela Cuevas Barron*,  
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,**

**Your Excellencies Speakers and Members of Parliaments,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First, I would like to extend my appreciation to the organizers of this meeting, along with my gratefulness for their deliberate efforts to hold this Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. This event is considered one of the most important international parliamentary meetings, as it represents a good opportunity for consultation and exchange of opinions, among the speakers of world parliaments, about the interests and aspirations of their peoples.

Holding this conference coincides with the exceptionally disastrous circumstances created by COVID-19 pandemic, which should push us to think about developing our parliamentary tasks and actions. I see that the **first learned lesson** from this pandemic is the necessity to have a more effective multilateral leadership of the world that should be able to provide **peace and sustainable development** for peoples. Noteworthy, this Corona pandemic has proved that the world must work as “*one human family*”; simply because epidemics do not recognize any geographic, ethnic, religious, political, economic or cultural borders. Moreover, the value of solidarity and cooperation among nations became an inevitable irreplaceable option. Accordingly, there should be a new strategic approach to establish new operational connections among the international and regional parliamentary organizations, along with the relevant international and regional governmental agencies. This new strategic approach would allow parliaments to have a vigorous effective voice in devising and evaluating global policies.

In this context, it is necessary to enhance the ***strategic partnership*** between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations, with the aim to boost the effectiveness and credibility of the work of both organizations. This strategic partnership is considered the only route to solve the increasing problems facing peoples in the realms of sustainable development, fighting extremism and terrorism, and tackling geopolitical tensions and other various human crises. Needless

to say, there is a common prevailing impression among many peoples in the world that the role played by the international organizations towards solving the global or regional dilemmas is weak and marginal.

In post-Corona era, we emphasize the importance of the new approach deeming that international and regional parliamentary organizations along with national parliaments, must work together with governments and international organizations to allocate *larger budgets for Education, Health and Social Protection Systems*, besides encouraging investments in the healthcare infrastructure based on smart technologies, remembering that this pandemic proved that world security and safety of peoples cannot be achieved by stockpiling weapons and depleting the resources of nations on military expenditure.

Moreover, in post-Corona era, and through the global leading role that should be played by parliaments, it is very crucial to focus on fundamental issues such as: building international and national systems to achieve “**food security**”. These organizations would enable peoples to face any challenges or surprising exceptional crises; taking into consideration that the assessments of the Food Program affiliated with the United Nations indicates that more than 265 million human beings might face starvation by the end of this year due to the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The global leading role of parliaments requires giving more attention to rebuild the national economies – in compliance with the mechanisms of legislation, supervision, and control – with the aim of achieving social justice on one hand, and economic sustainability on the other hand. Noteworthy, International Labor Organization estimated that 400 million full time jobs will be lost during the second half of 2020 as a result of Corona pandemic. Furthermore, more than half a billion human beings will suffer real poverty; and 8% of world population have actually entered the circle of extreme poverty, according to the assessments of World Institute for Development Economics Research at the United Nations University (**UNU-WIDER**).

In this context, I would like to refer to the **Example of the United Arab Emirates**, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (President of UAE) in terms of dealing with this pandemic. The UAE has adopted several strategies concentrating on devising proactive work-plans and

utilizing smart and innovative solutions in the sectors of healthcare, education, economy, labor and all other vital sectors in the country, while giving priority of the human aspect of in all plans.

On the health sector, the UAE, having tested more than 50 percent of the population, continued to led the world countries in COVID-19 testing. The country has established unique drive thru testing centers across the country, and have extended health insurance to cover COVID-19 treatment to all population wither they are insured or not. People have welcomed such initiatives, and more than 15 thousands from 107 nationalities have already volunteered for COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials.

On the education sector, the government immediately launched an online learning system for approximately 1.2 millions students in public and private schools. All private schools that needed help with IT infrastructure and virtual learning tools were able to get it for free from the government. Families that needed Internet access for online learning were also able to get for free from telecommunication companies.

Businesses were also central to government's COVID-19 efforts. Federal Government announced 70 billion USD stimulus and aid packages for UAE businesses. Local governments announced their packages too. The government cancelled all penalties on foreign over-stayers and extended their visas for free.

Moreover, the UAE has devised the State strategy for post-COVID-19 period, based on frameworks that ensure early preemptive foresight of opportunities and challenges in all State sectors in order to confront the existing or anticipated consequences. These efforts also aim for enhancing the readiness of government and private sectors and devising new concepts designed to raise the level of economic efficiency, through adopting around 33 economic work initiatives. This pioneering experience performed by the prudent leadership and government of the UAE, probably made many international organizations admit that it is an exceptional inspiring example in terms of dealing with global pandemics or compulsive necessities.

The UAE also remained committed to its humanitarian mission, as it provided medical and relief assistances to nearly 65 countries, in order to alleviate the impacts of COVID-19. The UAE also continues playing its civilizational and

moral role, which is inherent in UAE leadership, government and population. Accordingly, it established the **Emirates Humanitarian City (in Abu Dhabi)** to treat citizens of other brotherly and friendly countries. Furthermore, the *International Humanitarian City (in Dubai)* is considered the biggest hub for humanitarian relief around the world. This city enabled World Health Organization to transfer more than 80% of its medical assistances to more than 53 countries around the world.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I believe that there is an essential responsibility on world parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to work with governments and international organizations with the aim to ensure fair access to the expected future vaccines to fight the plague of COVID-19 or any other future global epidemics. These vaccines must be provided to all peoples of the world, without practicing any selective policies or exceptions; based on the principle that building a better world would never be achieved unless we make the human being its objective and axis. We also call to localize smart intelligence technology and to digitalize huge data in order to ensure besieging the negative effects of global epidemics on the health sector and individual and institutional income.

Likewise, enhancing the leading role of parliaments requires respecting the principles and rules of international law, besides respecting the UN charter and the legality of UN resolutions. However, this does not prevent us from demanding the reform of the International Joint Security System, particularly in terms of eliminating the duality of international standards; or the selectivity in discussing and deciding the legality/applicability of UN resolution. Therefore, it is necessary to think of new work techniques and mechanisms to support the work of UN Security Council, through reconsidering its structure and the method of voting on its resolutions in a way that copes with realities and the current developments in international relations. It is worth-mentioning that the countries that incite conflicts precisely in the Middle East region, whether those countries that occupy regions in other countries or those that feed internal conflicts among the members of one people, they do not respect any international resolutions. Rather, they challenge the legality of international charters and accords.

Finally, the leading role of parliaments became an urgent need amid the new realities of the world order; taking into consideration that parliaments are the constitutional



organizations that provide the fastest response to solve the problems and fulfil the aspirations of peoples, besides expressing the will of their citizens.

Best Regards,