

**Speech of H. E. the Speaker of the National Assembly of  
Kuwait, Mr. Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim, at the Fifth World  
Conference of Speakers of Parliament.**

**Mr. António Guterres,  
Secretary General of the United Nations**

**Heads of participating parliaments,**

**Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron,  
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**Mr. Martin Chun Gong,  
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**Excellencies,**

On the outset of the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Heads of states and leaders of the world came out and spoke to their people about what happened and will happen in light of the pandemic outbreak and its health, economic and social implication.

In this context, H. H. the Emir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, addressed to his people at the beginning of the spread of the epidemic and I will focus on the most important sentence that H.H. said and stressed on which is, *(the world after the Coronavirus, will not be the same again.)*

*From this sentence, I will start my speech.*

What we thought was important but can be postponed, in now urgent and cannot be postponed. The futile disputes and senseless conflicts should be critically examined.



Issues that we thought to be an intellectual and cultural luxury like climate change, the environment, food and water reserves, and global coordination, cooperation and interdependence in the field of health have become urgent, necessary and existential files.

The pandemic took the world by surprise. It showed that international agendas were lost, and that global priorities were in chaos. It revealed that no country or people could live on an isolated island under the pretext of cultural privacy, state sovereignty or phobia of the other persons, especially if this person is different, religiously, ethnically and culturally.

### After COVID-19

The terms, such as international cooperation, sustainable development and protecting earth from pollution etc., which we may have been broad and general slogans, will become terms with a very urgent and necessary practical significance.

Our first responsibility as parliamentarians under these circumstances is to create a real global human solidarity aimed at **promoting all the protection measures for humans, especially for the most vulnerable such as the elderly, children, people with special needs, victims of wars and refugees, and those under the poverty line.**

Our responsibility as parliamentarians around the world is to strive to create a human culture that focuses on the common human goals and on those issues that impose themselves on our societies in one way or another.

**No country is immune from economic recession**

**No country is safe from the unemployment**

No country is content with its health system or its durability and readiness to deal with any epidemics such as COVID-19.



**The IPU must move as one organization**, surpassing its geopolitical classifications and realizing that the challenges we face are very similar and very global.

**The IPU must work closely with the United Nations** and promote the culture of globalization that is based on the UN principles, especially those relating to the values of cooperation, solidarity, justice, equality, equal opportunities, human rights, democratic governance and other principles.

We in the National Assembly of Kuwait look forward for more cooperation and joint interaction with the parliaments of the world, In order to bridge the gaps that hamper the creation of high-level coordination to deal with pressing issues with global consensus.

**Peace, mercy and blessings of God**