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Inter-Parliamentary Union

Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

INTRODUCTION

by

Mr Rashid BUNAJMA
Secretary General of the Bahraini Council of Representatives

on

“The parliamentary system in Bahrain”

Manama Session
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In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

Praise be to Allah, and may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Prophet Mohammad, his kin, and companions.

Your Excellency Mr. Najib El Khadi, President of the Association of Secretaries General,

Your Excellencies the Secretaries General,

Esteemed audience,

May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you all,

In the beginning, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellencies, the Secretaries-General of the Parliaments of the Member States participating in the work of the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its accompanying meetings, which are held on the land of love, coexistence, and tolerance, and we wish you all a good stay in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We are grateful to His Excellency Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for his efforts exerted in building bridges of parliamentary cooperation, and exchanging views on all that would consolidate relations and enhance means of joint cooperation between the parliaments of member states, which the Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen on, and with unremitting efforts by both the legislative and executive authorities, to provide the means of success for our meetings, while wishing this association success in achieving its desired goals.

It is our pleasure that the Kingdom of Bahrain is hosting the largest international parliamentary gathering, to discuss important and sensitive issues, foremost of which is the general theme, "Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: fighting intolerance", as this reflects what the Kingdom of Bahrain is known for as a country of coexistence and tolerance since ancient times, this is highlighted by the values of pluralism, diversity, the spirit of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and the fight against extremism, hatred, and racism in the Kingdom, and what it affirms and calls for in various regional and international forums.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The joint international action on its various stages can only be achieved through international partnership, concerted efforts, unification, and work to promote and support integration between countries and their peoples. The meetings of parliament speakers in international forums only highlights the important role of legislative institutions in the world, to address issues and support the international community in reaching visions, perceptions, and effective solutions, and within that context, the importance of the meetings of the secretaries general comes to exchange visions, coordinate and organize efforts, and push them forward to develop the performance of the secretariats of the councils to reach the level that everyone desires, which is reflected in the support of the multilateral cooperation path. Since the Kingdom of Bahrain joined the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments, there has been a constant keenness to participate in meetings and events, because of their pivotal role and the opportunity

it provides, especially with regard to the exchange of information, training, and learning about the experiences and practices of international parliaments, and we saw this in its repercussions on the efficiency of employees, developing their capabilities and skills, proposing measures to improve work procedures, and providing legal and technical assistance.

Whereas here we must pay tribute to the positive and effective role played by the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and its efforts since its inception within the international system of the Union, and the environment it provides to enhance dialogue and cooperation between member parliaments, consultation on various issues of common concern, dealing with data, and highlighting positions on the crucial issues and challenges on the international scene.

We hope that the Assembly in Bahrain will be an added step to the path of joint international parliamentary cooperation, and that we will achieve the aspirations and hopes that everyone aspires to regarding the issues under discussion.

May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.