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by

Mr Ahmed MANNA
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on

“Travel of Members of Parliament: Costs and Allowance Rules in the Arab Republic of Egypt”

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At the outset of my speech, let me express my great pleasure to be with you in our esteemed international parliamentary platform. I also extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to our friends in the Indonesian Parliament for their generous hosting of this meeting, on the sidelines of the 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which truly represents an ideal opportunity to exchange visions and experiences for enhancing the remarkable role of our national parliaments and supporting them to carry out their legislative and oversight tasks.

Today, in our meeting, we are addressing a significant topic that is essential to support the work of parliamentarians in performing their legislative functions, namely, the rules regulating the travel of parliament members. I think you would agree with me that in order to ensure the equitable representation of the population and different provinces, members of parliaments must represent their relevant constituencies. The geographical location of some of these constituencies may be relatively far from the capital, which is the seat of Parliament. Hence, the rules regulating the travel costs of members of parliament are set to facilitate their mission and to ensure that they are totally devoted to fulfill their legislative function, and shoulder their responsibilities towards the citizens of their constituencies.

Within the framework of the rules organizing the work of the legislative power, the Egyptian Constitution is keen to guarantee the independence of members of parliament and lay down the foundations that ensure the facilitation of their work. This is manifested in the division of electoral constituencies and the Law on the issuance of the Rules of Procedure of the Egyptian House of Representatives. Certain criteria were adopted to organize the disbursement of travel allowance appropriate to their role as House members and the distance between the House and their electoral constituencies. Therefore, travel and transportation allowances were determined to cover the costs of their travel and accommodation. The Egyptian House of Representatives Rules of Procedure gave the House Bureau the power to decide upon the funds to be disbursed as allowances represented in subsistence allowance for House members who reside outside the Greater Cairo area. Moreover, a transportation allowance shall be disbursed to cover the costs of travelling by trains, planes, or any other means of transportation from the place of his choice in his constituency to Cairo.

At the external level, the House of Representatives has set rules regulating the travel of the Egyptian parliamentary delegations abroad to participate in any inter-parliamentary conferences or events. These rules included the disbursement of travel allowances that cover all costs of every member of parliament taking part in any parliamentary mission abroad in a manner befitting the parliament members and ensuring that all favourable conditions are guaranteed to enable them to perform their parliamentary duties abroad and realize the desired national goals.

At the end of my brief review of the rules of travel costs and allowances for members of parliament, I look forward to exchanging visions and experiences on this important topic, so that all of us can promote the performance of our parliaments in the fulfilment of their significant legislative and oversight role, so as to ensure that parliaments will remain the true voice expressing the hopes and aspirations of our peoples to lead a decent life.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your kind attention, and I wish you and your peoples good health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity for your countries.