

Statement of H.E.Mr. Ahmed AlJarwan
President of the Arab Parliament
Fourth world Conference of Speakers of Parliaments

Excellencies Speakers of Parliament

Ladies and gentlemen, dear participants

Peace be upon you all,

As the end of 2015 is approaching and as the world is entering into a new era of sustainable development, the peoples of the world and the international and regional organizations are all getting ready to make the New York summit a successful event.

To turn the United Nations Development Project into a success, unprecedented efforts have been deployed by all countries worldwide and organizations operating in the field of development. It turned out clearly that the world made significant progress in achieving many of the development goals.

Nonetheless, the progress achieved was not across the board, as significant disparities between and within countries still persist and gender equality is still far from being achieved. As a matter of fact, cases of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria have increased, and all developing regions have undergone large environmental deterioration, resulting in the depletion of natural resources that human life hinges on. A strong impetus was needed to boost global efforts to change this downward trend.

The monitoring of the implementation of sustainable development goals are part and parcel of parliamentary roles. Since the inception of the Arab Parliament, it has been endeavoring to promote its role as the voice of all the Arab peoples, geared towards the support of development, democracy and peace nationally regionally and internationally, Article 5 stipulates to that effect that the Arab

Parliament exercises its " prerogatives to enhance joint Arab action and achieve economic integration and social solidarity and sustainable development ..."

For that matter, we have been sorting out the best ways and means conducive to a better understanding of and keeping up with the developments in the Millennium Development Goals. Thanks to the build-up in experience, we have tried to contribute in their implementation in the Arab countries, in view of the key role that could be played by parliaments in the effective implementation of these objectives at the national level. We realized from the beginning:

- That sustainable development is one of the biggest challenges in the twenty first century, and that the implementation of its goals would be possible without good governance.
- That the promotion of the development in our societies requires the setting up of effective and favorable legal framework to take concrete and urgent parliamentary measures conducive to responsible buy-in into the development process; and the monitoring and evaluation of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered at the national level,
- That national parliaments should include sustainable development priorities within their legislation and budgets, and should ratify the relevant international and regional treaties,
- That the national parliaments should promote dialogue and consultation with all the stakeholders involved in development, and mobilize all the players in the civil society,
- That the parliaments are able to operate single handedly away from governments or regional or international government organizations,
- That the determination of Arab parliaments to engage in the implementation of all Post 2015 Development Goals is irreversible.

The need for an international community where the virtues of equality, peace, democracy and sustainable development prevail definitely requires us to be more tolerant with each other. Coming to terms with the fact that some people may say what we do not like is the only way we can live together and not die together. Charity and tolerance are two unavoidable facts for the continuation of human life on this planet. "As a matter of fact, the consolidation of peace in certain parts of the globe where poverty and hunger are still widespread is an almost impossible mission . People living on the verge of starvation hardly find any refuge; many countries were united by religion and language failed to achieve peace because of widespread poverty, unemployment, terrorism, extremism and violence.

The international community admits that the gap between the haves and the have-nots and between the developed and the developing worlds is still widening, which poses a major threat to prosperity, peace, security and stability worldwide. Peace keeping requires countries to direct their policies towards the eradication of war risks. We still look forward to a just and safe future in the Arab world, and we still hope that one day we'll get a wake up call announcing the end of Arab-Israeli conflict, and a comprehensive and lasting peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, so that the Palestinian people can enjoy the blessings of freedom that they have been expecting for 68 years.

The end of this year is certainly an opportunity to build another future on a more equitable, sustainable and peaceful grounds. We are confident that the three landmarks "Addis Ababa / fair international funding, and New York / New Development Plan, and Paris / Climate Summit" will be able to shape a new era of sustainable development, an era that will constitute a solid bridge for the mobilization of resources and technologies conducive to a world with sustainable goals, based on solidarity. MDGS have never been exclusively the responsibility of one part at the expense of another.

Understanding that the calamities that befell us and those that still threaten our existence with no consideration of borders, gender, race or religion were the fallout of our mistakes, then we have no other choice than the mobilization of the energies of the international community to build a solidarity – based future. Our present status reinforces the immediate need to establish a global democracy and consolidate the roots of democracies that are homogeneous regionally, nationally and locally.

That is the future we look forward to,

At the end, I'd like to grab this opportunity to commend, on behalf of the Arab Parliament, the efforts of all the stakeholders on their significant contributions towards sustainable development in order to achieve the hopes and aspirations of all peoples of the globe.

Thank you for your kind attention

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you all.