

KINGDOM OF MOROCO

PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

المملكة المغربية



البرلمان
مجلس النواب

**The House of Representatives takes part in
the fourth world conference
of speakers of parliament**

Represented by

Mr. Chafik Rachadi, Ph.D.

Vice-president of the House of Representatives

United Nations Headquarters, New York

31 August



Honorable President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Honorable Secretary General of The United Nations,
Honorable Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Dear Colleagues,
Your excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a great feeling of joy and elation, along with a sense of political, historical and moral responsibility that we attend today the proceedings of this world Summit, the symbolic importance of which needs no longer to be demonstrated.

Once again, we meet in the UN headquarters, in order to listen to each other and exchange our respective views - as parliamentarians - on issues relating to peace, democracy and development. This we do on the basis of our deep convictions as representatives of our nations and countries' will, just as we do on the basis of our firm belief in the dialectics of democratic life, development and peace contexts.

Doubtless, the present global Parliamentary Summit is based on an arsenal of documents, programs, resolutions and reflections that have already been debated during the previous summits, whether in New York (September 2000 and September 2005), or in the Headquarters of the United Nations Office in at Geneva (July 2010).

This constitutes an end result whose qualitative value cannot be disregarded, nor can its contribution to the development of our parliamentary action be underestimated. Besides, the deepening of democratic culture in our contemporary world, the renovation of mentalities, ideas, perspectives and attitudes are also part of this end result which must all be positively considered when it comes to democratic practice, parliamentary action, international cooperation issues, development, environment and common human life. By this we mean mainly our responsibility, as political actors, in the building of a society which highly considers the causes of life on earth, safeguards human dignity and gives meaning to our coexistence, interaction, rapprochement and cooperation.

Today, I do not think that we are meeting for something new. Nevertheless, we came here with a new feeling, a new awareness, and a renewed will, which are grounded on an intellectual accrual and on commitments, we have openly expressed during the three former summits, and which we have been endeavoring to concretize ever since.

Today, we can see how parliaments have been established in countries where no parliamentary institutions used to exist. In other countries, transitional periods have ceded the way to a full involvement in the normalization process of democratic life. On the other hand, some political regimes are ruling without the simplest requirements for democracy and legitimacy.

Actually, peace, democracy, and development were at the heart of our former dialogues, debates and meetings. Present shall these issues constantly be in our pursuits and interests, whether in the near or distant future, for these are preoccupations which have for ever constituted the gist of our parliamentary responsibility.

Honorable Chair,

Honorable Secretary General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the first meeting held in the turn of the century, quite a lot of water has run under the bridge. We went through many events, disasters and wars. Many a change occurred worldwide, changing thus the geography and fates of countries and nations. In parallel with this, theoretical, intellectual, technical and academic constructs have undergone more than a mutation.

In fact, all this has further consolidated our convictions that democracy, human rights, sustainable development, and good governance all represent the enlightening human culture which has more capacities to secure the prerequisites of human existence. These same prerequisites also constitute the ground rock on which shall stand justice, equity, dignity and equality. In the absence of peace, however, none of these conditions (we firmly believe) can be achieved. Similarly, as long as Man does not aspire to sowing the seeds of peace in the spirits of individuals and in the communities' cultures as well as in the political decisions and international strategies, none of the aforementioned objectives can be reached.

All religions, being of a celestial origin, emphasize the sanctity of peace as a *sine qua non* condition for a comprehensive and eternal existence, and as a source of mercifulness for the worlds (*Rahmatun Lil Aalameen*).

Through most intellectual, philosophical, moral, political, constitutional and legal productions, the Human mind has always highlighted the necessity for peace in its cultural, civilizational and spiritual sense.

Alas! arrogance, composite ignorance, aggression, authoritarianism, extremism, terrorism, organized crime, illegal armament in addition to individual or collective self impairments still prove to be by-products of human behavior at times of crisis and primitively debased inclinations.

This is what makes us renew our demands to the international community for a sincere, deep and responsible consideration of the UN's very roles, relations, contractual agreements, and commitments. We also demand the reform of the UN's internal structures on the basis of a new conception of the universally evolving political map. We exhort the same Organization to endeavor to put an end to a number of conflicts where double standard policies are resorted to, and where the recourse to international force and justice is observed, while – in other and similar cases – the least effort is being spared, which deepens the sense of injustice among individuals, generates pretexts for extremism, and fuels the culture of violence. Victor Hugo once said, « *War is the war of men. Peace is the war of ideas.* »

Peace is made through ideas, then.

Peace is a virtue, a moral and human value, and a continuous act generated through the courage of mutual understanding, dialogue and tolerance, just as it is made through the capacity to bear with the other and the overtness to the opposite side. It is also the capacity to fortify the world by means of justice and equity, equality and freedom; and the edification of democratic systems.

There is no doubt that democracy supports peace and consolidates development; still, this democracy shall be conditional upon the dynamics of development and peace contexts.

Such are our convictions and options; and such is our prospect which we share with peace makers, peace allies, and the future builders.

Dr. Chafik Rachadi,

Vice- president of the House of Representatives