

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

## **Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments**

### **CONTRIBUTION**

from

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on

**Physical Adaptions made by Parliaments**

**Zoom Session  
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Your Excellencies,

Greetings,

It is a great honor to participate in today's meeting, as it is part of our Parliamentary responsibilities, duties, and role in promoting the cooperation and communication between parliamentarian institutions to create a chance to discuss and exchange expertise, at a time where the world has been ravaged by the new Corona strain.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to take this opportunity, to commend the efforts our countries have exerted to turn the challenges ensued by Corona Virus, into promising future opportunities.

Thanks to the wisdom and guidance of His Majesty the King, Hamad bin Salman Al -khalifa, and under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al- Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Bahrain has taken on its own the responsibility of ensuring the health and safety of the society, combat the virus, by launching a pack of well-studied precautionary measures and decisions on all levels, including Economic, Social and Health levels. The stimulus package has contributed greatly to reducing and minimizing the damages caused by the virus. In addition, the National Team to Combat Covid-19 has displayed dedication and



shown a great experience that proves the competence of the National Medical team.

In order to ensure the safety of the Council members and staff of the General Secretariat, we have formed a team to manage the crisis and implement the decisions and direction of the National team to Combat Covid-19 and follow up with the recent developments related to the virus.

Since the early outbreak of the virus, we have developed a precautionary plan to raise the staff awareness by organizing virtual lectures, sending awareness messages regularly and periodically, quick medical examination to ensure they don't have any symptoms of the virus before entering the Council, in addition to regular disinfection of the Council's building, facilities, and main hall.

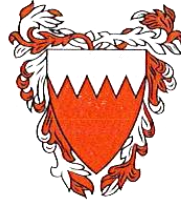
We also have stressed the importance of social distancing between the staff in the same room, and to keep wearing the mask at all times. Furthermore, we have issued several necessary decisions and urged the staff of the importance of following these preventive measures. Alongside our efforts in preventing the spread of the virus, we have moved in the direction of full digital transformation, and stopped printing papers, as we have automated 90% of our procedures, and we are currently reviewing and working on solutions for the remaining 10%.



Part of our preventive measures is the implementation of work from home policy, as the technical support team has provided training to all the staff on using software and devices as per the quality procedure adopted by the Council, and we have achieved 90% of staff working remotely.

The Council's keenness on fulfilling its constitutional role and authority is shown by employing the latest technology to continue holding the sessions. Where the Council has held its first remote session -which is considered a first on the legislative level in the Kingdom of Bahrain- on the 12th of April 2020. Moreover, the Council's Bureau has continued to hold all its meetings remotely, in addition to the Council's Committees, that carried out its usual business remotely, and met with a number of officials and civil societies as per its agenda, the committees have held more than 120 meetings remotely during the pandemic. In addition to the General Secretariate management remote meetings to ensure the smooth flow of work.

The General Secretariate continued to provide support for their excellencies the members in their participation in international conferences that were held remotely, where the total number has exceeded 70 international participation during 2020.



In the end, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union for organizing this meeting and to the attendees and participants. And wish you all to stay safe and secure during these times.

Thank you.