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

### **COMMUNICATION**

by

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on

**“The Resilience of Parliaments in the face of humanitarian and health crises”**

**Kigali Session**  
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**His Excellency, José Pedro Montero, Vice-President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments**

**Dear Colleagues,**

At the outset, let me express my deep pride and appreciation for being among you in our great forum, which represents an important channel and platform for exchanging views and experiences in order to support the work of our national parliaments to perform their constitutional and political roles with a view to achieving the great interests and hopes of our peoples. Allow me to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the brothers in the Rwandan Parliament for their good reception, organization and hospitality, which clearly contributed to the success of our meetings.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Undoubtedly, our meeting which is held periodically takes place in an exceptional timing that our contemporary world is witnessing, in terms of the multiplicity of atypical and exceptional challenges facing us. Global stability is now at stake as a result of these severe shocks and crises that strike the global system. In such exceptional times, peoples seek parliaments as being their free platforms to protect them and defend their issues against these challenges. This places the task of designing preventive responses to these specific crises on the shoulders of the general secretariats of parliaments, in light of their crucial role in supporting the work of parliaments. That is why our meeting is highly important to exchange visions and experiences in the presence of such wonderful elite of secretaries general of parliaments.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the midst of these unprecedented challenges that strike our world, the General Secretariat of the Egyptian House of Representatives has demonstrated the paramount and vital importance of having a professional administrative body that assists parliaments in performing their work, especially in times of crises and exceptional challenges. In this context, the General Secretariat of the Egyptian House of Representatives dealt with the outbreak of Corona pandemic on two parallel tracks, the first of which was taking a set of urgent and precautionary measures to ensure continuity of work in addition to ensuring the safety of members and employees of the House of Representatives. All the parliament buildings and premises were sterilized, and a medical examination was conducted i.e., measuring body temperature upon entering the parliament, and providing preventive medical tools such as masks and disinfectants. That coincided with the reduction of the workforce by rotation among the employees of the General Secretariat, and the expansion of remote work in addition to providing vaccines and authorized treatment protocols. Meanwhile, the second track was the provision of technical support to the members of the Egyptian House of Representatives in order to help issue a package of important legislations to support the efforts of the Egyptian state in combating this pandemic.

As a result of these disciplined measures on the part of the General Secretariat of the Egyptian House of Representatives, the House maintained its sessions, which created a legislative backing that helped the Egyptian state confront this crisis. Further, the Egyptian state could hold successful elections for the House of Representatives and the Senate, amid these exceptional circumstances, which has preserved the Egyptian democratic path and proved its strength, in the face of this atypical challenge.

On the level of environmental crises, you may agree with me that climate change is the biggest existential threat facing the planet. In this context, and in line with the tireless and pioneering efforts of the Egyptian state to confront climate change at the national and international levels, which resulted in hosting the most prominent and largest event in the world COP27 from 7 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The Egyptian House of Representatives and its General Secretariat were not off from facing this existential challenge, that the General Secretariat of the House of Representatives provided technical support in order to issue a package of legislations aiming to transforming into a green economy, preserving the environment and confronting this phenomenon. The House of Representatives, based on its sincere belief in the importance of the close participation of parliamentarians in the upcoming climate summit in Egypt, the Egyptian House of Representatives will host the work of the parliamentary meeting on the sidelines of the COP27 climate summit, as this parliamentary meeting will provide a unique opportunity for parliamentarians to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and approaches of COP27 and to interact with the governmental negotiators directly involved in the decision-making process. The General Secretariat of the Egyptian House of Representatives is currently responsible for organizing this global parliamentary meeting.

**In conclusion**, we have to strengthen our cooperation to confront such global issues, a matter that is necessitated by the crucial circumstances that the global system is going through. We are obliged to engage into intensive cooperative approaches, constructive sustainable dialogue, and build strong partnerships among us in order to exchange visions and experiences to contribute to building a system of knowledge for our general secretariats, and the development of their institutional capacities, so that the general secretariats of parliaments are transformed into parliamentary houses of expertise, contributing to the development of the performance of parliamentarians in the face of these successive challenges.

**Thank you for your good attention**