



**Statement of His Excellency Dr. Omar Abdulrahman Al Nuaimi**

**Secretary-General of the Federal National Council**

**of UAE**

**Before**

**The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments meeting**

**On**

**"The Role of Parliaments in Combating Climate Change"**

**The 146th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

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**His Excellency Mr. Najib El Khadi, President of the  
Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments,**

**Our Colleagues Secretaries General of Parliaments,**

At the outset, I would like to extend my respect and appreciation for the role played by the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments, which constitutes an influential working area and a forum for the Secretaries General of Parliaments to exchange views and expertise on the most significant issues of parliamentary works.

The Association chose the topic of "**The Role of Parliaments in Combating Climate Change**" being one of the most critical problems that need deeper consideration, as climate change has become the main issue that will control the destiny of humanity over the upcoming decades, especially in light of the negative and increasing effects of global warming and ensuing massive floods, drought or semi-drought of many rivers worldwide, prolonged and renewed wildfires, and losses in agricultural and fish sectors, as well as the impact on international food security. Accordingly, considering the role of parliaments in combating climate change is an urgent and essential matter for the works of parliaments, whether in terms of legislative or control works or parliamentary diplomacy works.

In this regard, I would like to stress on some critical points, which will determine the success of the role of parliaments in combating climate change.

**First:** The parliaments will not be able to combat this phenomenon without effective cooperation with the executive authorities, as confronting this problem is not only related to the adoption of regulated legislation to reduce the negative

effects of global warming, governments must have a strong political will to implement legislative obligations. What supports this is the fact that Paris Agreement and other international conventions that recognize the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have not been adhered to as expected. This was due to the differences between countries regarding their implementation paths or adapting to the local environment to cope with these international obligations.

**Second:** The reduction of greenhouse gases requires global funding, which may exceed a trillion dollars, and this figure may double if this phenomenon is not confronted in the next few years. In addition to the need to compensate developing countries that are not responsible for more than 1% of the world's planet-warming gases. Despite the agreement in "Cop 27" that was held in Cairo to establish a fund to provide the necessary financing to combat climate change, the global political administrations were not effective enough to meet the financial commitments estimated to confront the phenomenon.

Hence, parliaments have a primary responsibility to urge their governments, through their oversight roles, to fulfill the commitments of the "Cop 27" held in Cairo, in addition to taking measures to compensate developing countries for the losses and damages of global warming. Parliaments, within the framework of their oversight roles, must review government environmental parliamentary reports regarding the evaluation of their public policies, and the extent of their success in limiting the effects of this phenomenon. So that there can be an effective and transparent evaluation in the "COP 28" that will be held in the United Arab Emirates next November.

**Third:** It is also important that the oversight role in parliaments has a major influence on the general government policies and that the environmental dimension is considered in these policies. Environmental policies are no longer a luxury that can be postponed for reasons of citizens' basic needs policies. Rather, they have become the engine that drives other policies in the areas of housing, infrastructure, transportation, health, industry, agriculture, and other public policies.

Parliaments can emphasize the importance and need for environmental policies to be a major component in all other areas of public policies through their oversight tools, in order to maintain a safe future for the coming generations.

**Fourth:** In the process of discussing and approving public budgets and final accounts during their presentation to parliaments, it is necessary to emphasize the provision of the necessary financial resources to combat global warming and limit harmful environmental activities, and to adopt a kind of qualitative budget allocated to confront such phenomenon.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Perhaps these points that I have raised have been implemented by the policy of the United Arab Emirates voluntarily and deliberately, in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development and confront the negative effects of climate change. The success of the UAE in its specific policies to confront this phenomenon has gained the country the confidence of the countries to host the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is to be held in November this year,



This conference is an exceptional opportunity to build partnerships and ensure inclusiveness, in order to achieve harmonization between sustainable development and climate action. It will also be a unique event as the conference will witness the completion of the first global outcome to assess the progress in implementing the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The UAE is also working on building a future vision to combat this phenomenon under its current effective leadership, such as the strategic initiative to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 AD, which is the first initiative in the Middle East and North Africa region. It reflects the keenness of the country's leadership to develop an approach that balances the present and the future, to achieve sustainable economic growth, in addition to providing a role model to ensure a better future for the coming generations.

Although the UAE is a major provider of energy in the world, oil and gas in the UAE are among the least carbon-intensive types, and this achievement was reached through the State's implementation of pioneering technologies supporting the energy sector.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates works closely with the government of the country in its support to address the phenomenon of climate change, as the Council approved many legislations regulating environmental affairs, which has enforced integrated legislative system all over the environmental



sectors, whether in agriculture, industry, clean energy or encouraging scientific research.

The Federal National Council also monitors general environmental policies and made constructive recommendations in this regard that the government worked to implement, which had a positive and effective impact on reducing the consequences of the climate change phenomenon. Also, the Council stresses the success of the cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in the UAE in protecting the citizens from environmental damage and complying with international commitments.

The country's hosting the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) has led to intensified national initiatives, in cooperation with many countries of the world, in order to ensure a sustainable, low-carbon future. The Conference has contributed to the exchange of information and technology, increasing the expenditure on scientific research, taking guaranteed measures, and proposing effective solutions in this regard.

**Thank you all for listening**