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ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES
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COMMUNICATION

by

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on

**“Parliamentary Leadership in Environmental Sustainability: The Experience of the
Council of Representatives of Bahrain in Obtaining ISO 14001:2015”**

**Geneva Session
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In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

**His Excellency Dr. José Pedro Montero, President of the
Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments,**

Your Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Honorable audience,

Peace and blessings be upon you all,

It is an honor to stand before you today representing the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain to present a pioneering experience in the field of environmental sustainability, an experience that would not have been possible without the wise vision and noble directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, who has made environmental protection and sustainability an integral part of Bahrain's comprehensive national development approach. This national direction has also received the direct support and follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, who has instilled a culture of institutional innovation and placed sustainability at the heart of government priorities.

The Council of Representatives has adopted a proactive approach in integrating environmental sustainability within its institutional work system, recognizing the importance of the parliament serving as a national model in upholding global environmental standards. Within this framework, the Secretariat of the Council of Representatives obtained the international ISO certification (ISO 14001:2015) in environmental management systems, becoming the first parliamentary secretariat in the region to achieve this milestone. This reflects its keenness to achieve efficiency in resource management, reduce emissions, and foster a culture of environmental responsibility within the parliamentary work environment.

In this context, this achievement aligns with the Inter-Parliamentary Union's efforts to promote environmental responsibility among legislative institutions and corresponds with the "Parliaments for the Planet" campaign launched by the IPU, which aims to encourage parliaments to integrate sustainability principles into both their internal operations and external activities. Through this initiative, the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain has been keen to be an active part of this global trend and to contribute to promoting a culture of environmental sustainability among individuals and institutions through tangible practices within the parliamentary work environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The “Green Parliament” initiative came from our belief that parliamentary work goes beyond legislation and oversight, to become an institutional model reflecting national and international trends toward sustainability. Within this initiative, the teams of the Secretariat applied the principles of environmental management across all council facilities, including rationalizing energy and water consumption, managing waste, reducing paper usage through modern electronic systems, and raising environmental awareness among employees through specialized training and awareness programs.

This qualitative step came with the support and guidance of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musalam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, who was keen to make the Council a role model in environmental and administrative governance, in line with Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The experience of the Secretariat has become a practical model that can be drawn upon at the regional and international parliamentary levels, having proven that adopting global environmental standards is not an administrative luxury but a long-term investment in enhancing institutional efficiency, boosting confidence in legislative institutions, and affirming the commitment of parliaments to their responsibilities toward the environment and society.

Honorable attendees,

From this platform, I am pleased to invite all member parliaments of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to enhance cooperation and exchange expertise in this field, and to work on developing joint strategies that support the shift toward environmentally friendly parliaments that keep pace with global trends in combating climate change and preserving natural resources.

In conclusion, we do not view this achievement as the end of a development journey, but as a starting point for further pioneering initiatives. We are currently working on expanding the scope of applying sustainability standards to include all aspects of legislative and administrative work, thereby enhancing the position of the Bahraini Parliament as a model of institutional leadership.

Thank you.

Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.