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by

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on

“The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Parliaments”

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**Your Excellency the President,
Their Excellencies Secretaries-General,
Esteemed colleagues,**

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you,

We meet today at a pivotal moment in the history of parliamentary work, where digital transformations are no longer merely an organizational option or a limited-impact development path, but have become a fundamental element reshaping the very nature of parliamentary administration itself. Artificial intelligence is no longer just a supportive technological tool; rather, it has evolved into a knowledge system that influences how legislation is produced, information is analyzed, and institutional knowledge is managed, and even how parliament interacts with its citizens, as well as the mechanisms supporting the secretariat bodies in legislative and oversight functions.

However, the fundamental question for us as Secretaries-General is not merely: how do we use artificial intelligence? Rather, it is: how do we employ it within a solid governance framework that preserves parliamentary values, safeguards institutional independence, and enhances public trust?

Accordingly, the deployment of artificial intelligence in parliaments should be based on three core principles:

- That it supports the decision-maker, not replace them;
- That it is subject to a clear governance framework ensuring transparency and accountability;
- And that it is managed as a strategic tool to enhance quality and efficiency, not as a standalone technological project.

In this context, I would like to briefly present the experience of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which stemmed from an integrated institutional vision for employing artificial intelligence in the parliamentary work environment, within the framework of the Royal Vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and with the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The Council of Representatives, under the support and directives of H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Salman Al Musalam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, obtained the certification for the Artificial Intelligence Management System, making it among the first parliaments globally to adopt this specialized international standard, as a reflection of an institutional approach grounded in the establishment of clear internal policies, the management of risks associated with the use of intelligent systems, ensuring compliance with ethical and legal frameworks, and documenting processes related to the development and operation of these technologies. This demonstrated an advanced level of institutional maturity in managing artificial intelligence as a governed system rather than a transient technological tool.

An integrated governance framework has also been developed, defining the scope of use, supervisory responsibilities, evaluation and review mechanisms, and data protection and privacy standards, ensuring the responsible and effective use of these technologies in line with international best practices.

At the operational level, smart digital solutions have been implemented to enhance the efficiency of legislative and oversight procedures and have accelerated analysis and follow-up processes, particularly in document management, legislative research, data extraction from reports, and the analysis of parliamentary work patterns, thereby enabling more accurate and timely support for committees and members.

An intelligent virtual assistant has also been launched via the Council's website, powered by artificial intelligence technologies, providing visitors with instant access to accurate information on the Council's work, its committees, legislation, and services. This has contributed to enhancing transparency, facilitating access to information, and improving the digital experience, in addition to enabling the administration to analyze patterns of public interest and continuously develop services.

Recognizing the importance of the human element, specialized training programs have been implemented to enhance the capabilities of national cadres in the fields of artificial intelligence and data analysis, ensuring that parliamentary administration possesses the expertise required to understand intelligent systems, manage them, and critically evaluate their outputs.

This has been accompanied by the application of the highest standards of cybersecurity and data protection within the adopted intelligent systems, ensuring the sustainability of digital transformation and safeguarding sensitive parliamentary information, in alignment with international standards in information security and digital risk management.

"Practical experiences are perhaps the most genuine test of the robustness of these systems. In this regard, the recent targeted attacks against the technological infrastructure of the Kingdom of Bahrain, within the context of hostile actions linked to the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by intimidation of civilians and threats to civilian objects, as well as the disruption of several electronic services, cannot be viewed as a mere technological incident. Rather, they constitute a serious violation affecting societal security and state stability, and contradict established principles of international law related to the protection of civilians and the safeguarding of vital facilities. This reflects an escalation of threat patterns that extend beyond the technological sphere to impact both humanitarian and sovereign dimensions, thereby necessitating that the security of intelligent systems, particularly artificial intelligence applications, be treated as a sovereign matter that allows no complacency, requiring strengthened protection systems, enhanced response readiness, and efforts toward establishing more stringent international rules to address these growing threats.

From this standpoint, our responsibility goes beyond merely adopting technologies to include securing them and ensuring their use within robust governance frameworks that enhance trust and preserve the continuity of parliamentary work in the face of advanced risks.

Esteemed colleagues,

Based on the Bahraini experience, I emphasize that artificial intelligence in parliaments should be managed as a comprehensive administrative transformation grounded in a strategic vision, clear governance, a supportive organizational structure, and qualified human competencies. Our responsibility as Secretaries-General is not limited to providing technological tools, but extends to fostering an institutional culture that balances innovation with discipline, speed with accuracy, and efficiency with democratic safeguards. While artificial intelligence can enhance the quality of legislative studies, accelerate procedures, and improve knowledge management, it also raises challenges related to algorithmic bias, data security, and model transparency, issues that require vigilant administrative oversight and a clear regulatory framework.

In conclusion, I believe that the next phase calls for strengthening cooperation among parliamentary secretariats to exchange expertise in the field of artificial intelligence governance, and to work toward developing shared professional standards, and perhaps to consider an international parliamentary guiding framework regulating the use of artificial intelligence in legislative and administrative work, in a manner that preserves the democratic character of parliamentary institutions in the era of digital transformation.

**Thank you for your kind attention,
Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.**