Opening address of MENA / Arab
By Senator – Adnan Badran

Mr. Speaker
Honorable
distinguished representatives

1. Rights to water, is a principle of insuring water for all. Parliamentarians as the legislative body should make it explicit in the law of all countries as a basic human right.

2. To insure this, countries of Mena / Arab Region should look at water as a basic denominator and a common for economical common market, where network of waters across borders in the region is charged by water-rich countries to water-poor countries in a similar fashion of nowadays high power grid system of electricity across borders of the Mena / Arab region.

The Mena / Arab region could establish unity of commons & shared market economy around water and energy as the European unity has done it before around steel and coal.

3. Parliamentarians need to legislate in promoting complimentarity of water resources and distribution across borders in creating trans-Mena regional water carries from area of abundance to areas of poor water resources.

4. Mena / Arab countries are in the semi-arid zone and critically at the threshold of water life-line. Droughts, rising temperature, seasonal fluctuation of rainfall, rise of the sea level are the outcome of predicted climate change. Any reduction of rainfall and rise in temperature will threaten the fragile ecological system of the Mena / Arab countries and
will destroy the biological diversity and will increase desertification of arab land. The biological life support system will be destroyed. This may lead to spread of disease and malnutrition, wide spread epidemics, poverty and people migration to North. Parliamentarians need to move, diligently and swiftly and take preventive measures against climate change disasters.

5. Legislation for good governance and better water - management and efficient use of 70% water for agriculture, 20% for industrials through reducing loss, better technology in irrigation, recycling water etc. should be done swiftly.

6. Transboundary water basins as Euphrates, Tigris basin between Turkey, Syria and Iraq, should be put into legal framework and international treaty should be put in place to avoid future conflicts over water basin rights between neighbors. To avoid conflicts and future wars in the region. Also, the Nile basin should be put in legal framework as international treaty among the 12 African nations for regulatory-life binding legal system. Transboundary waters may be instrumental in creating stability and economical share and care among neighboring countries of the shared basins, including rivers, lakes, underground large aquifers. Otherwise, sharing countries may go to wars over water rights.

7. Jordan which is considered the 4th-poorest water country in the world is taking measures of building Dams which have to wait for rainfall to fill, Also, is building South-North national carrier to tap underground waters, and moving to desalination through Red- Dead Sea project to overcome
shortage of water, and to prevent environmental disaster (similar to Ural) of shrinking Dead Sea, and to generate power and finally, change the harsh environment of the Wadi Arab Valley to environmental friendly.

Lastly, as parliamentarians of the Mena / Arab region, we should tackle the main water issues through appropriate legislation on national and across border solutions, to overcome Global Change and its implication (act locally and look globally). It’s essential to implement overall management of water resources, harnessing science and Technology for effective use of water, desalination, recycling, effective ways of irrigation system, breeding new crops which will grow under physiological stress of minimal water supplies and brackish waters.

It’s in portative to act now for building peace around energy and water for us and for future generations.

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