

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

Ben Otmane CHOUIH *

Djillali LIABES University, Sidi Bel Abbès, Algeria

hamidou.2003@yahoo.fr

Date of submission: 21/07/2024 - Date of acceptance: 07/12/2024 - Date of publication: 28/12/2024

Abstract: This research paper explores the conceptual, intellectual, and legal framework underpinning parliamentary diplomacy, examining its evolution and role within Algeria's foreign policy. It highlights how parliamentary diplomacy enhances the official functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and influences policy formation.

The paper further investigates the mechanisms this diplomatic entity utilizes at international and regional levels to strengthen its relationships with various committees and international bodies. Additionally, it analyzes the impact of leveraging parliamentary diplomacy to refine the public policy-making process, particularly in light of the diplomatic innovations introduced by the 2020 constitutional amendment.

Keywords: Parliament, Diplomacy, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Mechanisms.

***Corresponding author: Ben Otmane CHOUIH**

Introduction

In recent years, the dynamics of international relations have been characterized by an accelerated pace of international cooperation and increasingly complex networks of interests, leading to the establishment of new global norms. These developments have necessitated a reevaluation of foreign policy formulation and execution.

Parliamentary diplomacy has emerged as a critical mechanism, style, and methodology in the reengineering of international relations, shifting focus to pressing issues such as human rights, environmental concerns, economics, democracy, social challenges, organized crime, terrorism, and technological advancements. In response to these evolving global scenarios, global diplomacy has been compelled to adapt, align, and respond effectively to these demands.

In Algeria, parliamentary diplomacy plays a pivotal role in enhancing the effectiveness of the parliament in foreign policy matters, supplementing traditional diplomatic efforts and overseeing governmental diplomatic activities. It is poised to assume a significant international role in addressing global issues and crisis management within the framework of international relations.

The Algerian parliament, inclusive of both chambers, is entrusted with all diplomatic activities of the state, prominently involving hosting and reciprocating parliamentary delegations. The 2020 constitutional amendment has underscored this role, marking a significant advancement in the modernization of diplomatic mechanisms.

Beyond its legislative and oversight functions, the parliament now actively participates in shaping and promoting participatory democracy both domestically and internationally. This is set against the backdrop of the evolving demands and challenges of parliamentary diplomacy, adhering strictly to its diplomatic principles and customs, notably the political and peaceful resolution of international disputes, support for liberation movements worldwide, and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

Problem Statement:

Arising from the discussions above, this study critically evaluates the efficacy and capabilities of Algerian parliamentary diplomacy, as outlined in the 2020 constitutional amendment, in its various roles including the promotion of participatory democracy and institutional development.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

Sub-Questions:

- _ What are the boundaries of its competencies?
- _ What mechanisms does it employ for conducting parliamentary diplomatic work and coordinating with other global entities possessing strategic future outlooks?

Hypotheses:

Derived from the research problem concerning Algerian parliamentary diplomacy and its management of continental and international issues, the following hypotheses serve as preliminary responses to the aforementioned questions:

- _ There exists robust domestic legislative support that bolsters the efficacy of parliamentary diplomacy in Algeria.
- _ Regional and international transformations significantly influence the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy, contributing to the creation of diverse approaches and perspectives that shape the structure of foreign relations.
- _ Parliamentary diplomacy acts as a dynamic force proposing solutions and as an effective tool in facilitating communication, the exchange of information, and the softening of positions among conflicting parties during international crises, fostering environments conducive to amicable resolutions.

Study Significance:

This study holds significant value as it blends theoretical and practical dimensions to address the theme of parliamentary diplomacy with innovative performance strategies and implications for foreign policy formulation in Algeria. From a theoretical standpoint, many scholars in political and legal fields concentrate on delineating the legislative and supervisory roles of the legislative body and its interactions with other state powers and institutions.

This research seeks to illuminate the external roles of this institution, exploring the patterns and extents of exercising constitutional powers and demonstrating the tangible impacts of its diplomatic endeavors in coordination with parliaments across the European Union, Africa, and the Arab world. Currently, parliamentary diplomacy is a pivotal mechanism employed by states to enhance the role of the parliament in foreign policy, acting as a supplementary avenue to official diplomatic channels.

Study Objectives:

- _ To investigate the influence of Algerian parliamentary diplomacy on foreign policy, aiming to make these scientific insights accessible to researchers and expand their utility to interested entities.
- _ To evaluate the preparedness and effectiveness of the Algerian parliament in fulfilling this crucial role within the nation's foreign policy framework.

- To generate findings that merit recognition and conservation, with continual updates and research into the challenges that impede the functioning of Algerian parliamentary diplomacy.

Study Methodology:

This study employs historical, descriptive, and analytical methodologies to examine and define the temporal and spatial contexts of parliamentary diplomacy and its associated data. It begins by elucidating various intellectual and legal concepts related to this political element, proceeds to analyze its operational mechanisms, and concludes by assessing the improvements in diplomatic performance through diverse approaches and dimensions.

Previous Studies:

Youssef Azroul authored an article titled "Parliamentary Diplomacy: A Study in the Role of the Algerian Parliament," published in the Journal of Legal and Political Studies in 2017. This work primarily focused on the role of parliamentary committees in advancing diplomatic efforts.

Additionally, Ibrahim Malawi's 2018 article "Parliamentary Diplomacy," presented at the Faculty of Law, University of Umm Al Bouaghi, explored the concept, scope, and varied practices of parliamentary diplomacy.

1. The Conceptual and Legal Framework for Parliamentary Diplomacy:

State foreign policy manifests through a variety of tools designed to achieve national objectives and effectively manage international relations, thus safeguarding national interests. Among these, diplomacy is regarded as the most effective tool for implementing state foreign policy, managing external affairs, expanding international relations, ensuring their continuity, and fostering shared visions and interests among nations.

The topic of diplomacy garners significant interest among those engaged with this phenomenon, aiming to elevate it from the level of traditional (official) diplomacy to other forms such as "parliamentary diplomacy." This shift is necessitated by new data and challenges in international relations and has become a focus of interest in various human domains.

Given this expansion in interest and diplomatic roles, it is essential for us to understand the origins and development of parliamentary diplomacy as well as to define it, while highlighting the legislative framework for parliamentary diplomacy in Algeria.

1.1 The Concept of Parliamentary Diplomacy and the Basis of Its Origin:

Parliamentary diplomacy emerges from the evolution of modern diplomacy, intended to establish a cooperative framework within international relations and to leverage support and cooperation with international parliaments. This fosters promotion of social, economic, and political activities.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

Therefore, in addition to its traditional roles such as legislating and monitoring executive power, the parliament embarks on new diplomatic functions, particularly in democratic regimes.

1.1.1 The Concept of Parliamentary Diplomacy

In the late 19th century, specifically during the early 1880s, several changes prompted by globalization led to the emergence of international organizations, which formed the initial stages of parliamentary diplomacy.

Notably, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, founded in 1889, was the first of its kind to facilitate multilateral negotiations, hosting numerous conferences that played significant diplomatic roles.¹ This marked one of the earliest examples of international parliamentary diplomacy, including events like the Versailles Conference and the formation of the League of Nations post World War I.

During this time, there was a shift from traditional bilateral diplomacy to more extensive multilateral or public diplomacy.² This expansion extended beyond the confines of foreign ministries, incorporating parliaments into the creation, implementation, and oversight of foreign policy.³ Initially, diplomatic activities were predominantly managed by foreign ministries concerning tasks, organization, and representation. However, the newer model facilitated an expanded role for parliaments in representing and participating in the creation and execution of their countries' foreign policies.

This period saw a significant evolution in the role of diplomats, who began to represent their countries at international forums such as the League of Nations, transitioning to a more sophisticated, almost parliamentary level of interaction.

These representatives functioned internationally similarly to how parliamentarians represent their constituents, organizing and facilitating meetings with international or regional implications, akin to deputies' interactions at the national level. This development in international parliamentary interactions contributed to reducing the traditional distinctions between official government diplomacy, led by the foreign ministry, and parliamentary diplomacy as a legislative authority.

Additionally, this transition allowed parliaments to undertake further responsibilities as detailed in articles from number 151 onwards of Presidential Decree No. 20-442 dated December 30, 2020, as published in the Official Gazette No. 82 of 2020.

¹ Ali Youssef Chokri, *Diplomacy in a Changing World*, Volume 4, Itrak for Printing, Publishing, and Distribution, Cairo, 2004, p. 7.

² Youssef Antar, *Parliamentary Diplomacy*, retrieved from Maghress Cultural. Date accessed June 18, 2023, <http://political.encyclopedia.prg>, December 21, 2009.

³ Bouraoui Abdel Rahman, *The International Parliamentary Union*, Volume 1, The Arab Encyclopedia, 2012, p. 140.

Consequently, it is pertinent to highlight that the establishment of the League of Nations provided an optimal setting for the genesis of parliamentary diplomacy. However, there was a countervailing force that sought to undermine this diplomatic endeavor, influenced by several factors, including the outbreak of World War II, which significantly delayed this initiative for many years.⁴

In a different context, within a revitalized political landscape in the mid-1980s, the role of "parliaments in ensuring their participation in regional and international projects" was recognized as a political and historical milestone. Scholars like Paul Kennedy advocated for the creation of a global parliament under the auspices of the United Nations.

1.2 Evolution of the Establishment of Parliamentary Diplomacy

From a wider perspective, certain scholars⁵ contend that the genesis of parliamentary diplomacy globally is linked to the existence of diverse political systems and the proliferation of ideologies that advocate for the reinforcement of democracy through political participation, freedom of the press, and the activation of civil society in its various forms, associations, unions, and more.

Furthermore, social, economic, and cultural conditions have played a pivotal role in embracing parliamentary diplomacy to foster convergence among peoples and nations. This adoption is also spurred by shifts and trends in the new international order, the notion of an international civil society, particularly highlighted by the technological revolution and advancements in communication that have simplified interactions among parliamentary diplomacy entities.

These developments have become crucial in aligning different perspectives globally, enhancing cooperation, and facilitating collective responses to common public interests such as environmental issues, human rights, child welfare, women's rights, illegal immigration, and health.⁶

Consequently, the contemporary interpretation of parliamentary diplomacy now embraces the principle of consultative approaches. Within these political parliamentary arenas, parliamentarians deliberate on matters of global concern according to international norms that regulate the operations and activities of parliaments.

Thus, parliamentary diplomacy serves as a vehicle to advance the exchange of ideas, coordinate activities, and cultivate cooperation between nations. It is not, contrary to what

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Rachid Rachid, *Parliamentary Diplomacy: Objectives, Mechanisms, and Roles*, Case Study: Bahrain House of Representatives, Bahrain Institute for Political Development, 2016, p. 9.

⁶ Clovis Maksoud, *National Diplomacy*, in "Arab Diplomacy in a Changing World", Center for Arab Unity Studies, Dar Al-Khaleej for Press, Printing and Publishing, 2003, p. 69.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

some nations might perceive, akin to parallel diplomacy (which pursues the common interests of the state) or diplomacy that operates contrarily.⁷

Rather, it embodies an international political framework wherein parliament members articulate their nations' perspectives and strive for consensus on issues of shared interest, endeavoring to implement them through mechanisms and approaches that manage relations within the context of respecting international norms and the foreign policy of their respective states.

1.3 Definition of Parliamentary Diplomacy

The term "diplomacy" originates from the Greek word *diploma*, which initially denoted a document issued by city authorities and political leaders, granting certain privileges to its holder. Over time, during the Roman era, it evolved to signify a folded document, often representing an official state document.

By the 17th century, it pertained to papers and official documents and their preservation in a specialized book called "diplomats." Consequently, the term diplomacy came to encompass activities related to the management of archives and, later, it was used to describe representatives of a foreign state carrying credentials from their governments.

Numerous definitions have since elaborated on the term diplomacy; one of the most noteworthy being: "Diplomacy is the art of negotiating to enhance international relations among international legal entities through representatives skilled in peaceful settlement methods."⁸

Another distinguished definition states: "Diplomacy is the art of achieving the possible, rather than awaiting the impossible." In this context, diplomacy refers to both the entities (such as the foreign ministry and parliament) managing a state's foreign affairs and is synonymous with the state's foreign policy itself.⁹

In essence, diplomacy is both a science and an art that involves representing states and necessitates negotiations that require a thorough understanding of the legal and political relations existing between countries. These negotiations are grounded in the principles of persuasion and skilled, decisive negotiation tactics.¹⁰

⁷ Bouchkouj Nour El Din, *Parliamentary Diplomacy*, National People's Congress, Algeria, 2007, p. 2.

⁸ Abdel Fattah Al-Rashdan, Mohammed Khalil Al-Mousi, *Fundamentals of Diplomatic and Consular Relations*, 1st Edition, Scientific Center for Political Studies, Jordan, 2005, p. 42.

⁹ Ibid., p. 47.

¹⁰ Ha'il Abd al-Mawla Tachtouch, *Introduction to International Relations*, Ministry of Canadian Publishing and Distribution, Irbid, Jordan, 2010, p. 90.

Parliamentary diplomacy thus emerges as a pivotal arena for realizing genuine democracy, having expanded significantly in prominence and impact on international decision-making, reflecting globalized diplomatic, economic, technological, and cultural dynamics.

It constitutes one of the critical functions performed by parliament members, particularly in international and regional relations, as outlined by the positive approaches in the Algerian constitution, specifically mentioned in articles from number 154 onwards of Presidential Decree No. 20-442 dated December 30, 2020, regarding the issuance of the constitutional amendments published in the Official Gazette No. 82 of 2020.

2. Mechanisms and Boundaries of Parliamentary Diplomacy

The expanding roles of parliamentary diplomacy are rooted in the broadening responsibilities of legislative institutions as essential supports for managing foreign relations through coordination with official foreign affairs entities. This is evidenced by the involvement of members of the Algerian National Parliament in international and regional parliamentary organizations and unions to support the strategies of the Algerian government.

The mechanisms of Algerian parliamentary diplomacy within this international and regional movement, and its limits and areas of intervention, raise pertinent questions.

It is recognized that Arab parliamentary diplomacy, in all its facets, is relatively new in the diplomatic field, particularly when compared to global experiences. Similarly, the parliamentary diplomatic experience in Algeria mirrors that of other Arab nations.

Despite the novelty of the Arab and Algerian experience, it has established diplomatic traditions and customs that contribute to the foundation of state institutions and their external representation. It progresses steadily, looking towards a brighter future.

From this vantage point, modern diplomacy, with its multiple approaches, is no longer confined to the governmental representation of states through their ambassadors worldwide.

Amid the information revolution and significant advancements in communication technology, these practices have become traditional, while an expansion in the space for freedom and democracy has occurred. Consequently, new actors have emerged who practice diplomacy according to specific mechanisms, based on the roles and responsibilities assigned to them.

2.1 Friendship Committees: A New Stream in Parliamentary Diplomacy

The establishment of numerous parliamentary friendship committees, with approximately 65 out of 115¹¹, has cemented relationships of camaraderie with allied nations. These committees are pivotal in exchanging expertise in crucial sectors, particularly those aligning with social and diplomatic initiatives as outlined by Algerian state policy. The Algerian parliament has thus extended its influence beyond traditional legislative duties to actively engage in foreign

¹¹ Ali Azazga, *Parliamentary Friendship Group*, Al-Sha'ab Newspaper, April 19, 2022.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

policy matters, harmonizing and reconciling its positions with those of allied nations on vital issues.

Through these committees, parliamentary diplomacy is invigorated both nationally and internationally by promoting exchange visits across various developmental and political spheres. This engagement fosters perspectives and oversight strategies that bolster the principles and ethics of diplomatic work in international relations.

They embrace a conciliatory approach, endeavoring to find amicable and peaceful resolutions to international conflicts and securing memoranda of understanding with other parliaments and parliamentary unions.¹²

In this context, parliamentary friendship committees are dedicated to enhancing the parliament's performance and its societal role. They take on the responsibility of articulating the ideas and aspirations of the populace, increasing international awareness of these views.¹³

From this perspective, the utilization of the friendship committee mechanism and the activation of its roles across different levels and political dimensions supports the parliamentary function as a key player in shaping international relations, alongside the executive branch, which is responsible for executing international treaties following parliamentary approval and presidential ratification.¹⁴

The effective adoption of information technology and digital management by these committees has streamlined their coordination efforts. This digital approach fosters a spirit of solidarity and promotes values and media engagement, involving citizens and civil society groups in parliamentary activities through information dissemination, representation, consultation, and soliciting their opinions on pertinent political, social, and economic issues.¹⁵

2.2 Parliamentary Governance: A Mechanism to Enhance Parliamentary Diplomacy

The principles of Algerian diplomacy inspire the activities of deputies, with the primary aim of diplomatic efforts being to safeguard the supreme interests of the Algerian nation, ensuring its security, stability, and the autonomy and sovereignty of its decisions. This mandates that parliamentarians align their objectives and endeavors with the foreign policy roles established by the president, as stipulated in Article 84 of the constitutional amendment dated December 30, 2020, published in the Official Gazette No. 82 of 2020.

¹² Sabiha Ba'ouda, *Parliamentary Diplomacy*, Al-Mothaqaf Newspaper (2085), February 2012, p. 13.

¹³ Ibid., p. 15.

¹⁴ Youssef Azroual, *Parliamentary Diplomacy: A Study in the Role of the Algerian Parliament*, Legal and Political Studies, (no date), p. 10.

¹⁵ Hussein Chnini, Boumediene Boudaoud, *The Electronic Parliament and Electronic Democracy as Mechanisms for Modern Political Action*, Al-Naqid Journal for Political Studies, Volume 4, Issue 1, 2020, p. 81.

These goals necessitate prudent and effective parliamentary governance—envisioned as "a wise democratic parliament", and the entrenchment of representative democracy and transparency in its operations, engaging and interacting with all societal segments, and subjecting the parliament itself to the rule of law.¹⁶

Parliamentary diplomatic activities should thus be open and interactive with other parliaments sharing similar ideas, perspectives, demands, and suggestions in legislative and diplomatic work¹⁷, achieving all elements of credibility and representativeness in parliamentary diplomatic performance.

At this juncture, it is crucial to emphasize the necessity for parliamentary members to possess a certain level of readiness and capability for effective diplomatic engagement, understanding its significance. A parliament enriched with scientific and practical experiences, and a broad cultural understanding, is better positioned to add value to parliamentary endeavors and to effectively consolidate and articulate interests.

From this perspective, it is essential to develop the capabilities of parliament members in fulfilling their supervisory and legislative roles. This development can be achieved through training sessions aimed at enhancing their readiness and capacities, fostering openness to universities and specialized institutions, and leveraging research, reports, and expertise.¹⁸

2.3 Contributions of Parliamentary Diplomacy through Participation in Parliamentary Unions

Throughout historical and political milestones, the Algerian parliament has consistently taken several stances on issues related to Algerian foreign policy. These issues, whether political, economic, social, or others, notably include the Palestinian cause and the Western Sahara issue. These have been key international issues that the Algerian parliament has engaged with through its participation in various international and regional forums.

The parliament has diversified its methods of expressing its positions, sometimes issuing statements or presenting memoranda within international organizations, issuing several statements at specific times in contemporary international political life as a reaction to particular situations or to commemorate events of international significance.

In its participation in international forums, the parliament has activated and doubled its role in engaging with the foreign policies of other countries. Its initiatives have underscored the necessity of initiating dialogues between civilizations, cultures, and religions, while ensuring

¹⁶ David Beetham, *The Parliament and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century: A Guide to Good Practice*, International Parliamentary Union, 2006, p. 8.

¹⁷ *External Activities of the Algerian Parliament*, Electronic Link of the Algerian Senate. (no date). Retrieved from <http://rist.cerist.dz/spip.php?auteur>, accessed July 7, 2023.

¹⁸ Rabeh Laroussi, *The Parliamentary Institution in the Democratic Transition Processes in Algeria 1997-2007*, PhD Dissertation, Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, University of Algiers, 2009, pp. 193-194.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

that international institutions, within which dialogues occur, are democratized. This is particularly relevant as economic globalization has dissolved national borders and marginalized the weak, potentially leading to a cultural globalization that could threaten the cultural diversity enriching the world.

This necessitates all countries to respect the cultural and civilizational specificities of peoples and reject the dominance of a culturally unified world—advocating for a more just, stable, and secure world and rejecting injustices against the peoples of the Global South, whose share of the world's resources is disproportionately small.¹⁹

Within this context, the role of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, despite being one of the most important standing committees in each council, has been modest in shaping and implementing foreign policy. This is despite the internal regulations of each council granting this committee the authority to handle all matters related to foreign policy, study international treaties and agreements, organize relations with other parliaments, and prepare political statements issued by the council.

However, many of these tasks have been neglected by the committee, whose role has been limited to holding seasonal, protocol meetings with the foreign minister, typically ending without substantive outcomes. Consequently, this committee remains distant from playing an effective role in shaping or implementing foreign policy.

Despite this, some initiatives that should be credited to this body on the international stage have extended to actively participating in international forums and strongly advocating Arab issues, especially the Palestinian cause and the peace process in the Middle East, as well as Arab solidarity and the imposed sanctions on the peoples of Iraq, Libya, Yemen, and the brotherly state of Tunisia.

Within this framework, it is crucial to highlight that the major axes of the work of Algerian parliamentary diplomacy are governed by a set of principles outlined in the charter of the Arab Parliamentary Union. The Union is guided in adopting its goals and strategies by the following principles:

- **Mutual Respect:** Recognizing that differences in viewpoints are a source of richness and enrichment, which is a natural and integral part of parliamentary work, contributing to its growth and inclusivity.
- **Equality of Opportunity:** Ensuring that everyone is treated equally without discrimination based on religion, belief, gender, political orientation, or age.
- **Sound Governance:** Councils and parliaments are responsible institutions that operate with credibility and impartiality, according to the highest standards of good governance, holding the trust and mandate of the Arab peoples to achieve their goals.

¹⁹ Op. cit., same pages.

Sound governance is a cornerstone of effective management in parliamentary diplomacy, earning councils and parliaments the trust of the populace. From this foundation, Algerian parliamentary diplomacy, with a forward-looking vision, strives to develop and standardize processes with other parliamentary diplomacies to refine and rationalize communication mechanisms.

This includes continuous oversight by the Algerian parliament and streamlining the follow-up mechanisms and efforts. Additionally, the Algerian parliament is poised to transition into the digital realm, which will significantly contribute to monitoring the progress of its activities and aid in measuring the attainment of goals outlined in its strategic work plans.

The art of parliamentary diplomatic dialogue is dedicated to opening channels for communication and the exchange of ideas, aiming to bridge viewpoints on contentious issues and to reinforce and solidify areas of agreement. Dialogues among parliamentarians also lay the groundwork for formal dialogues between governments.

It is widely acknowledged that the principle of dialogue has become a norm in contemporary global politics. Today's political arena witnesses a variety of dialogues on different international and regional issues, including North-South dialogue and Arab parliamentary dialogue, among others. Recently, initiatives like the Dialogue of Civilizations have emerged among recognized European forms, along with interfaith dialogues that hold substantial significance.

Moreover, parliamentary diplomacy plays a pivotal role in influencing a broad spectrum of regional and international public opinions that align and engage with its foreign policy initiatives. This influence is profound, affecting governments, shaping public opinion, and interacting with civil society organizations.

Innovation and Creativity:

We believe that development and prosperity are the destinies of vibrant, creative institutions and peoples. It is imperative to keep pace with the march of progress, utilizing all available material, human, and technical resources in a rational and effective manner for the benefit of the peoples and the sustainable development of their societies—economically, politically, environmentally, institutionally, and socially.

Vision and Strategic Objectives:

The strategic objectives adopted by the strategy of the Arab Parliamentary Union continue to reflect the work and aspirations of Arab parliamentarians, while also responding to Arab priorities on a number of crucial issues that mirror the hopes and ambitions of the Arab and Algerian peoples.

The formulation of these strategic objectives is not only a necessity in parliamentary work but is also founded on a long-term vision for Arab parliamentary efforts. Without a clear and guiding vision, parliamentary activities and objectives can devolve into a series of disjointed

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

efforts that are misaligned with priorities and needs, failing to operate within a comprehensive and integrated framework.

Thus, the strategic objectives to be adopted are based on a vision previously agreed upon for Arab parliamentary work. The strategy of the Arab Parliamentary Union for 2023-2026 was endorsed at the 34th Conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union held in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq, on February 25, 2023.

Conclusion:

From the extensive discussion, it is unequivocally clear that parliamentary diplomacy, through its proactive engagement in activities orchestrated by regional and international parliamentary organizations, effectively establishes a robust platform for the manifestation of democracy. This role is firmly anchored in the reality that the parliament embodies the voice of the populace and coordinates multifaceted interactions across various levels, thereby playing a pivotal role in addressing a wide array of crises, be they political, economic, social, environmental, or cultural.

Furthermore, it is crucial to acknowledge that despite the parliament possessing legal supervisory instruments to oversee the government's foreign policy, the application of these tools is predominantly observed in domestic policies rather than in foreign policy realms.

The primary constraints arise from the legal framework that delineates foreign policy operations. Moreover, the underutilization of these mechanisms is often compounded by parliamentarians themselves, who may not effectively employ the available resources, with electoral concerns frequently overshadowing broader diplomatic engagements.

Internal politics frequently dominate parliamentary activities and agendas, overshadowing significant international issues that intersect with domestic concerns and are highly pertinent to the electorate. These issues are often influenced by global changes and shifts, underscoring the interconnectedness of domestic and foreign affairs.

Consequently, it is manifest that parliamentary diplomacy provides substantial support and a foundational base for official diplomacy. Through the channels of parliamentary diplomacy, practical solutions can be devised and conducive conditions established for the effective execution of official diplomatic functions, serving as a protective mechanism for foreign diplomatic engagements. The outcomes of such diplomacy not only enhance global security and peace but also significantly contribute to the fostering of international relations among nations.

Testing the Hypotheses:

Based on the research problem focusing on the role of Algerian diplomacy and its engagement with continental and international issues, as well as the sub-questions raised, a set of hypotheses has been formulated as preliminary responses to these questions:

- The presence of internal legislative support has been shown to enhance parliamentary diplomacy in Algeria. This is evidenced by the Algerian constitutional amendment of 2020 and subsequent initiatives to align legal frameworks with international policy requirements. Such legal scaffolding not only frames diplomatic endeavors but also establishes the strategic axes for future work, starting from a clear vision that embodies the aspirations of the Algerian and Arab peoples for development, peace, and human rights.
- Regional and international transformations have a significant impact on the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy. These transformations are instrumental in shaping the contours of foreign policy approaches and diversifying perspectives. The dynamic global landscape continually influences the strategic direction and operational efficacy of parliamentary diplomacy, prompting adaptations that cater to evolving international norms and practices.
- Parliamentary diplomacy serves as an effective propositional force and a vital tool in facilitating communication, transferring information, and moderating positions between conflicting parties during international crises. It fosters environments conducive to friendly settlements among disputing states. This role aligns with the operations of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which not only strengthens Arab parliamentary relations but also facilitates the exchange of experiences and networking with regional and international parliamentary and non-parliamentary organizations. The Arab Parliamentary Union coordinates the activities of member Arab councils and parliaments and represents them in the International Parliamentary Union.
- The Arab Parliamentary Union has adopted this approach as a standard language of dialogue and mutual listening, aimed at bridging differences and enhancing the potential for resolving them. Arab parliamentary councils play a pivotal and active role in bolstering the influence of parliamentary diplomacy, fostering convergence, and unifying viewpoints on critical issues such as development, human rights, peace, combating terrorism, and defending the rights of Arab peoples.

2.3 Study Results:

- The formation and activities of parliamentary friendship and brotherhood committees and their engagement in external activities of regional, international, and continental parliamentary organizations underscore the Algerian parliament's commitment to embodying democracy. Parliamentarians, acting as representatives of the people, engage in extensive coordination and exchange experiences on a multitude of issues spanning national, regional, and international levels. Their involvement is crucial in addressing various crises, whether political, economic, environmental, social, or cultural.
- These elements represent crucial goals reflecting the peoples' desire for solidarity. In contrast, traditional diplomacy increasingly operates on the pragmatic principle of defending national interests, emphasizing the evolving role of parliamentary diplomacy in striving for broader, more altruistic objectives.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: A New Approach in Performance and a Stake in Foreign Policy-Making in Light of the Algerian Constitutional Amendment of 2020

- The study finds that parliamentary diplomacy serves as a potent propositional force and a robust tool for facilitating communication, transferring information, and easing tensions among disputing parties during international crises. It adeptly fulfills roles of intimate mediation or providing wise counsel to one or more parties, acting with sincerity and dedication. Such efforts often lead to de-escalation of tensions and the avoidance of adverse effects on the shared interests of the disputants.
- Algerian parliamentary diplomacy encounters several challenges, particularly in activating the role of these parliamentary organizations and the impact of their decisions on national legislations and policies. Challenges also include dealing with the activities of terrorist movements in some African countries, the persistent lack of development, and poverty in certain regions. Additionally, there are considerations regarding the acceptability of parliamentary contributions to foreign activities within various countries.
- The nature of parliamentary diplomacy often parallels the secrecy required in traditional diplomatic work, which typically involves confidential handling of sensitive and high-risk files pertinent to national security. This necessity often precludes involving parliament in discussions on such matters, owing to the public nature of parliamentary deliberations. The resultant secrecy can deprive the parliament of essential information needed to effectively and positively contribute to managing the country's foreign affairs. Engaging parliament in these issues could risk disclosing negotiation secrets, particularly those involving sensitive concessions or discussions of security-related files.

3.3 Recommendations:

- In light of the comparative perspective of the Algerian parliament with other global parliaments, particularly given Algeria's dual Arab and African affiliations, the international community's known challenges and transformations necessitate decisive action towards progress. It is crucial that both houses of parliament are equipped with frameworks that possess the necessary qualifications to enhance diplomatic work effectively.
- The Algerian parliament is urged to develop its diplomatic engagements to address political, economic, social, and cultural issues in its relations with other nations. As a political and legislative body, it is imperative to bolster its contributions to the country's foreign policy. This enhancement could be facilitated by fostering collaboration with Algerian universities, involving parliamentarians and various parliamentary committees in national and international scientific events, and leveraging scientific and academic research.
- Algerian parliamentary diplomacy should actively utilize initiative mechanisms within the parliamentary group to propose visions and suggestions aimed at aligning strategic perspectives among parliaments of various levels and political formations.

Continuous communication with neighboring and relevant countries is essential to find flexible political and diplomatic solutions for resolving ongoing issues.

- _ It is essential to establish cooperation, harmony, and coordination between official and parliamentary diplomacy to yield positive outcomes and prevent conflicts in diplomatic stances, thus reflecting the unity of Algeria's foreign policy.
- _ For parliamentary diplomacy in Algeria to implement its strategies and achieve future goals, it requires the enhancement of administrative, organizational, financial, and technological capacities. Sound management is crucial for meeting these challenges and succeeding in coordination efforts with other regional and international Arab parliaments. This effort may include revisiting and modernizing the internal regulations of both chambers of the Algerian parliament, improving procedural rules, and embracing the concept of an electronic parliament reliant on technological and digital advancements. Additionally, it is vital for Algerian parliamentary diplomacy to support the provision of databases and strategic information, as well as to develop realistic, flexible, and adaptable plans responsive to changes and innovations in the diplomatic work environment.