



Speaker of Turkish Grand National Assembly Cemil Çiçek to “PUIC”: Diversity Enriches Islamic Solidarity

PUIC Troika Demands Prosecuting Israeli Criminals

The First Meeting of the PUIC Troika demanded prosecuting the Israeli perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide before international justice. The Troika held its meeting in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 22 July 2014 in response to a kind invitation extended by H.E. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.

The meeting also demanded to compel the Zionist entity to pay material damages to the victims and those who suffered losses due to the Israeli aggression on Gaza. [See page 10](#)



Ankara: “PUIC” H.E. Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey advocated enhancing the bases of Islamic solidarity aimed at addressing common issues and finding solutions to them. In the Interview conducted by the “PUIC” His Excellency stressed that diversity of views of the components of the Islamic world should not be an impediment to Islamic solidarity, but rather a source of enrichment to Muslim togetherness and power to Muslims.

Mr. Çiçek explained that the presence of 1.6 billion Muslims in 57 Muslim – majority countries spanning five continents world-wide engenders cultural and economic particularities as well as priorities for each one of those countries.

On the other hand his Excellency expressed his perception of the foundations on which Islamic solidarity should be built. He said that this solidarity should stand on increased interaction among Islamic States, leaving the door of dialogue open, eliminating prejudices, enhancing understanding among Muslims around unity and solidarity, underlining the concept of justice and equality when discussing problems and finding solutions, and maintaining an open-minded attitude.

His Excellency also emphasized that institutionalization of bilateral and multilateral relations, and consideration of establishing more effective mechanisms will contribute towards overcoming obstacles in this regard. In the same interview His Excellency addressed the role of parliamentary diplomacy in shaping a new world order, saying that this diplomacy constitutes one of the means to realize acquaintance and rapprochement among world peoples. He added that it also furnishes opportunities to know each other and share experiences, achievements and objectives. [See page 2](#)

Editorial

Dear Reader,

Join Islamic Parliamentary action is progressing forward in steady steps in order to realize the sublime objectives enshrined in the PUIC Statute.



Such steps have led our Union to occupy second place after the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as regards size of membership (54 members), as well as from the perspective of geographical spread (Continents of Asia, Africa, Europe and South America) and also pursuant to Observers (23 Unions, organizations and bodies).

Following the accession of the Maldives, Comoros and Nigeria, efforts are underway and hopes are on the rise to bring into the PUIC fold the parliaments of other Muslim States such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Kosovo and Uzbekistan.

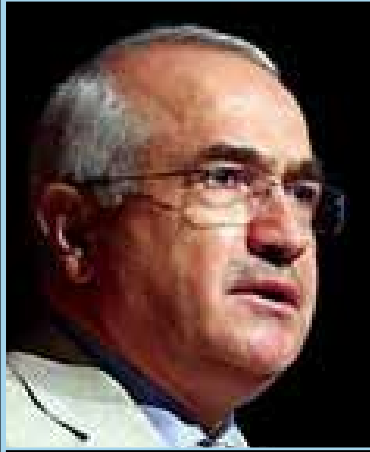
For the sake of ensuring a wider scope of action, the PUIC has applied for the membership of the UN General Assembly in an observer capacity. There is a need for doubling the efforts of the states of the Member Parliaments in this regard. PUIC meetings are not only confined to the regular conventions of the various PUIC organs. We have also introduced qualitative meetings such as the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians. We aspire in the future to involve the youth of the Islamic Ummah.

Last but not least, comes the meeting of Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments. It is hoped that this meeting will result in the establishment of the Association of Secretaries General of the PUIC. This new body shall meet regularly and shall carry out two important tasks: cooperation and coordination among PUIC members.

Certainly our members possess substantial experiences in the fields of legislation, control and action to consolidate democratic practice, good governance, enhancing contacts with similar institutions in the world and engaging in dialogue with civilizations, religions and cultures in order to create a better human community of nations. ♦

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Speaker of Turkish Parliament Common Solutions to

His Excellency Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and President of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference, addresses several crucial issues which are of concern to Muslims at all levels. Chief among such issues are outstanding challenges that face the Islamic World and how to face them; solidarity among Muslims, obstacles on the way and how to overcome them; parliamentary diplomacy and its role in shaping a new world order; and dialogue among cultures and religions: bases and conditions. His Excellency's ideas and perceptions of these issues have been expounded in the interview which he has kindly granted to the PUIC. Following are the excerpts:

PUIC: How do you evaluate the PUIC experience in joint Islamic Parliamentary Action?

Mr. Çiçek: It is of vital importance that members of parliaments representing their people from various parts of the World gather and exchange views. In this context, I attach importance to the PUIC as a platform through which members of parliaments of the Muslim states gather and share the joy of achievements as well as sorrows.

If the West dominates the global system in this age, this is a result of their diligence and ability of common action. We also should improve the ability of common action and effort as well as the art of joint decision making so as to increase the prosperity of Muslim states, establish peace and stability in our region, make our voice more effectively heard in international fora and eliminate Islamophobia and the prejudiced and hostile attitudes towards Islam and Muslims. To this end, the PUIC has additional importance.

PUIC has an important potential to establish more effective cooperation and coordination among our parliaments to find common solutions to our common problems. However, this requires the PUIC to have a more effective functioning.

PUIC: In what way may PUIC work be developed in order to realize the objectives for which it has been established?

Mr. Çiçek: First of all, we should consider the PUIC as an institutional umbrella. We should support it systematically. Institutionalization should be the primary issue, in this respect. The

function of the PUIC should not be degraded only to the speeches delivered in the Conference. Good practices should be examined for the institutionalization and, if necessary, joint studies with other parliamentary assemblies and international organizations should be conducted.

Taking a look at the resolutions adopted by the PUIC, we see that some resolutions are adopted again and again each year. However, globalized political, economic and social structures do not tolerate the notion of "repetition". We are in such an age that you should keep running to remain where you are. In that sense, it is necessary to follow a more dynamic agenda. Adopting a resolution alone does not mean much; therefore, it is essential to implement the resolutions and follow up the implementation of the resolutions. To this end, the PUIC should be strengthened with respect to institutionalization and, if need be, supported by effective mechanisms. I believe that meetings with dynamic agendas including fewer items will be more fruitful. As for the implementation of the resolutions adopted, follow-up mechanisms and presentation of follow up reports can be prescribed. To implement this, new mechanisms can be established in coordination with the OIC. Moreover, as the member states, we should share knowledge and good practices. We can take a step by establishing a "Joint Information Center" to this end.

PUIC: In your view, what are the most outstanding challenges that face the Islamic World today? How is it possible to address such challenges?

Mr. Çiçek: We all witness that radical problems rooted in the history as well as new threats dominate the Islamic World. However, I think that we should adopt a more self-critical and in-depth approach to understand the emergence of the problems or the deadlock in their resolutions.

It is for certain that one of the biggest challenges that Islamic World faces is the political disputes. In this context, danger of sectarian violence increasing by every inactive day is of great importance. These disputes inhibit the solidarity as well as it results in association of Islam with terror and violence. In face of the presentation of Islam with a negative image, crucial responsibilities fall to each individual and statesmen. Fully understanding and



Parliament to the “PUIC”: Our Common Problems

adopting Islamic values and their transformation to deeds rather than words is also an important element of this responsibility. Additionally, it is necessary to engage in a joint effort with concord and consultation and to insist on this effort.

Another challenge is the underdevelopment and underperformance disproportionate with the Muslim population which makes up the one third of the world population. This underdevelopment constitutes a contrast with the achievements which Islamic World inherited from its past. I would like to underline the importance of following the economic developments in a broadminded manner and establishing just and effective economic systems under the light of these developments to overcome this problem. It is also essential to design economic policies by taking country based conditions and global economic developments into account, to exchange experience within the Islamic World and to establish stronger economic ties and links in order counter underdevelopment.

Social inequalities are also challenges before the justice and prosperity, which should be surmounted. I would like to recall that elements like race, sects and gender are sources of richness not inequality. Likewise, unjust income distribution and social status inequalities originated from unequal income distribution brings about social discontent in the medium term, which will affect the performance in every field adversely. We observe that social inequalities exist not just in certain countries but also among the members of the Islamic World. In this context, I would like to express that neither unjust income distribution nor domestic violence has a place in Islam. In order the dissolve these inequalities, it is necessary to increase awareness through education and revise social and economic policies by taking the importance attached to justice in Islam into account.

PUIC: Islamic solidarity is still facing some obstacles, what, in your view, are the most significant obstacles and how can they be overcome? What are the necessary steps to build Islamic solidarity on proper and firm foundations?

Mr. Çiçek: There exist 1.6 billion Muslim population and 57 countries with Muslim-majority population on five continents.

Each of these countries has specific cultural and economic features as well as priorities. Consequently, it is normal to have divergent opinions on some issues. However, this diversity and divergence should not hinder the solidarity in the counteraction against our common problems. Herein, increasing the interaction among countries, keeping the door of dialogue, leaving the prejudices aside, reinvigoration of the understanding of unity and solidarity, maintaining the vision of justice and equality in the discussion and solution of the problems and remaining open-minded should constitute the essence of the approach to be adopted against the challenges before the solidarity. On the other hand, institutionalization of bilateral and multilateral relations among states and discussion on more effective mechanisms will also contribute to overcome the challenges.

PUIC: How do you perceive the role which parliamentary diplomacy may play in shaping a new world order which is more fair and beneficial to all peoples of the World?

Mr. Çiçek: Acquaintance and convergence among peoples may be actualized through many ways. Parliamentary diplomacy, one of these ways, offer opportunities to know each other and share our joys, sorrows and goals. In this respect, importance and influence of parliamentary diplomacy increase day by day. Improvement of the works conducted at the levels of parliamentary assemblies, inter-parliamentary friendship groups among parliaments and standing specialized committees is of vital importance. Interaction should not be confined to just acquaintance but it should contribute to discussion and solution of the matters. In that sense, parliaments can play role in the increase in mutual understanding through parliamentary diplomacy and later they can be affected positively by this mutual understanding.

The process of designing international relations has been carried out by multiple actors including businessmen, prominent figures, NGO's and members of parliament. Just like in many other fields, multi actor structures replaced the former centralized, single actor and rigid structures. At that juncture, parliamentary diplomacy, which enables members of parliament to discuss the matters that are not addressed by the conventional diplomacy, offers



Speaker of The Grand
National Assembly of Turkey

Cemil Çiçek

- H.E. Mr. Cemil Çiçek was born in Yozgat in 1946.
- He graduated from Istanbul University, Faculty of Law in 1971.
- After practicing law for 10 years, he was elected as the Mayor of Yozgat; then was elected as a Deputy for Yozgat (18th Legislative Term) and Deputy for Ankara (20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Legislative Terms of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey).
- In addition to his duties in various other commissions of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, he was a Member of the Reconciliation Committee, the Constitution Committee, and the Turkish Group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCEPA).
- He served as the Minister of State and - for a short time - as the Minister of Health in the governments formed by Mr. Turgut Özal (1983-1989). He also served as the Minister of State in

the governments formed by Mr. Yıldırım Akbulut (1989-1991) and Mr. Mesut Yılmaz (1996).

- After joining the Justice and Development Party, Mr. Cemil Çiçek appointed as the Minister of Justice in the governments led by Mr. Abdullah Gül (2002-2003) and Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (2003-2007).
- In the general elections held on 22 June 2007 he was once again elected as a Deputy for Ankara and became a member of the 23rd term of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.
- He served as the Minister of State, Deputy Prime Minister and Government Spokesman in the 60th Government of Turkey chaired by Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (2007-2011).
- On 4 July 2011, Mr. Cemil Çiçek was elected as the 25th Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. Mr. Çiçek was re-elected as the Speaker on 2 July 2013.
- He is married and has three children and grandfather of three as well.❖

opportunities.

Moreover, parliaments are crucial mechanisms in order to conciliate the will of people and the policies, including the foreign policy. Parliaments can serve as the most effective mechanism to monitor the foreign policy which has been treated as a field not to be interfered in. International organizations acting based on the decisions taken on the side of parliamentary institutions can contribute to formation of a more democratic international system. At a time when the legitimacy of international organizations is questioned, contribution of the parliamentary organizations will help to bridge the deficit of legitimacy.

PUIC: Dialogue among cultures and religions is deemed very relevant to contemporary human society. How do you envisage the bases and conditions of such a dialogue to be effective and fruitful?

Mr. Çiçek: All the communities have been becoming dependent on each other in the globalized World. It is necessary to form a joint will to transform this interdependency into worldwide togetherness. To this end, it is essential to cope with biases, misperceptions and polarizations.

People belonging to different religious groups are unfortunately in a clash. However, this is not a clash that everyone agrees on. Clashes, continuation of which is desired by the radical currents, minor in numbers, unfortunately affect the majority who is in favor of peace and dialogue. Especially Islam became a religion which has been misperceived because of the negative image associated with it despite the fact that it is a religion which articulates moral values highly. Muslims have their own responsibility in this misperception, however, our efforts can contribute to eradicate it. Endeavors of the Islamic World to invalidate the self-fulfilling prophecy of the clash of civilizations should have certain terms. Firstly, we should leave aside our prejudices in our attitudes towards interlocutors and in certain events and we should give prominence to our commons and regard our diversity as richness. In this context, the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative developed and initiated by Turkey and Spain is quite important. As a universal religion, Islam sets forth a human oriented sense of the World and this sense requires acceptance of other cultures.

In this framework, an environment free from violence and conflict will enable to express core values of Islam and display an exemplary behavior by maintaining a life in compliance with Islam. Consequently, I believe that such an environment will contribute to improve of dialogue among cultures and take a common stance against common problems.

PUIC: In your view, what role can parliaments play in guiding their respective governments to adopt right economic policies according to latest scientific achievements and local conditions? Especially those parliaments have deep relations with the people and more information about the local conditions.

Mr. Çiçek: As we all aware, national economies are recently affected by a more dynamic global economic structure and rapidly changing technological developments, yet, local conditions maintain its importance on economic policies.

Parliamentarians, thanks to their personal contacts with the people, can identify the economic structure, needs and problems of their constituency and generate effective and feasible solutions.

In this context, parliamentarians as representatives vested with a deep knowledge on local conditions are actors who can inform and influence their governments about the matters that should be taken into account while forming economic policies.

As parliamentarians, it is our responsibility towards citizens to follow global developments, to inform our governments for formation of economic policies by taking these developments into account and blending it with national conditions and needs and to contribute to formation of these policies. Additionally, important duties fall to parliamentarians regarding the scrutiny of economic policies within the framework of giving account of policies financed by taxes.

In addition to these, I would like to express that political trust is one the prerequisites of the economic growth. Regardless of the market type adopted, establishment of political trust, disallowance to corruption and transformation of economic growth to development through proper policies are the responsibilities of politicians and parliamentarians who are the representatives of people to monitor the fulfilment of these responsibilities.❖

**In the Tenth Session of
the PUIC Conference:**

Debating Important Islamic Issues

In its Thirty Second Meeting, held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10th June, 2014, the PUIC Executive Committee updated the draft agenda of the Third Meeting of the following Committees: Political Affairs and Foreign Relations; Economic Affairs and Development; Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs; Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions. The Executive Committee meeting also updated the agendas of the 17th Session of the PUIC General Committee and the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference. It also drew up the draft agendas of the 4th Session of the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians. All of them as follows:

DRAFT AGENDA OF COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

- Review of the follow-up and implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee:
- Al-Quds, Palestinian Cause and the

occupied Territories in Syria and Lebanon.

- Combating terrorism under the umbrella of the UN and reconfirming the legitimate right to resist occupation and foreign aggression.
- Rejection of all types of sanctions imposed on any Islamic country.
- The inalienable equal and balanced rights of all peoples to have free access and free use of modern technology for peaceful purposes.
- Making the whole Middle East region a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons with no exception.
- Following up the positive developments in the Sudan and supporting the efforts of building peace, national dialogue and democracy.
- Situation in Somalia.
- Consideration of the situation in Mali and neighbouring states.
- Situation in Cyprus.
- Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim population of the Dodecanese.

- Solidarity with Muslim Minorities around the world. (Jammu & Kashmir Myanmar, Southern Philippines etc.)
- Consideration of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijan's of Karabachos Mountainous region.
- Visa facilitation between Islamic countries.

DRAFT AGENDA OF COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT

Review of the follow-up and implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee:

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

- Increasing Trade Exchange and Lowering Trade Barriers among OIC Member States.
- Confronting Unilateral and Multilateral Sanctions affecting the people of targeted States.
- International Parliamentary Cooperation in overcoming natural disasters in the framework of extending relief
- Energizing and supporting economic Institutions active in the field of development in the Islamic World

ENVIRONMENT

- Environmental issues and sustainable development
- Combating desertification particularly in African Sahel States
- Cooperation in the field of preserving of water resources in Member States.
- Protection of the environment and fight against climate change
- Dryness of Lake Chad.
- Dealing with foreign debts of Islamic States
- Cooperation among PUIC Member Parliaments in Science and Technology.

DRAFT AGENDA OF COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

Review of the follow-up and implementation of the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Committee:

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Coordination in international and regional fora on Human Rights issues among the States of the PUIC Member Parliaments.

WOMEN AFFAIRS

- Enhancing the role of women in all development aspects in PUIC Member States, including their participation in decision making positions.
- Preventing Exploiting women in commodity promotions.
- Participation of women in the delegations of the PUIC Conferences.

FAMILY

- Enhancing the position of youth in the Islamic World.

- Child care and protection in the Islamic world
- The Role of the Islamic Parliaments in Promoting Basic Health among PUIC Member States
- Custody problem of Muslim Migrant Families in Europe.

DRAFT AGENDA OF COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AND DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS AND RELIGIONS

CULTURAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

- Following up the protection of the Islamic cultural heritage, religious and endowment institutions in non-Muslim countries
- Encouraging the teaching of Arabic language to students from non-Arabic-speaking Islamic States.
- Protecting the Al Aqsa Mosque and Islamic and Christian antiquities and land marks in Palestine against Israeli threats.
- Protecting sanctities in Muslim States.
- Reviewing the efforts exerted by the General Secretariat to secure PUIC UN Membership as an observer.
- Establishing a legal framework for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families as well as taking care of their rights, especially of women.
- Extending humanitarian aid to member states hosting refugees from neighbouring countries.

DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS AND RELIGIONS

- Promoting dialogue among civilizations with special emphasis on facing western campaigns against Islamic values.
- Promotion of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative.
- Pursuing efforts exerted by Islamic parliaments and governments to ensure swift implementation of the OIC - sponsored United Nations resolution on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and



stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief.

- Supporting the efforts to establish sustainable dialogue between Islamic and Western Parliaments.

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 17TH SESSION OF THE PUIC GENERAL COMMITTEE

- Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work of the 17th Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Election of two Vice-chairmen from African and Arab Groups as well as the Rapporteur.
- Examination and adoption of the Reports of the 32nd and 33rd Meetings of the PUIC Executive Committee and their Annexes.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

- Adoption of the following financial documents of the Union:
 - Summary of the Financial Statements and the Statement on received contributions during the period from 1st January, 2014 to 23 December, 2014.
 - Adoption of the following Financial Documents:-
 - o Report of the Financial Control Committee on the Accounts of the Fiscal

year 2014.

o Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2015.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- Formation of an Open-ended Committee chaired by the Conference Rapporteur with the participation of the Rapporteurs of the Four Standing Specialized Committees (S.S.C.s) in order to draft the Final Communiqué of the Conference.
- Request of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA to become full member of the PUIC. (Nigeria is a member of the OIC since 1986, which has been recommended by the Executive Committee.)
- Drawing up the Draft Agenda for the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Report of the 17th Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Any other business.

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE PUIC CONFERENCE

- Election of Members of the Bureau as follows:-
 - Vice-President from the African Group.
 - Vice-President from the Arab Group
 - Rapporteur.
- Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Ratification of the Request of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA to become full member of the PUIC. (Nigeria is a member of the OIC since 1986).
- Addresses by the Heads of Delegations.
- Ratification of the OIC-PUIC Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation.
- Adoption of the Report of the 17th Session of the PUIC General Committee.

STANDING SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES (S.S.C.S)

- Examination and adoption of the Reports and the Draft Resolutions presented by the Rapporteurs of the following Standing Specialized Committees (S.S.C.s):-
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
 - Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
 - Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs;
 - Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.

Subsidiary organs:

- Examination and adoption of the Reports and Draft Resolutions of:-
 - Fourth and Fifth Meeting of the Committee on Palestine.





- Fourth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- Nomination of the Members of the PUIC General Committee for the year 2015
- Nomination of Members of the PUIC Executive Committee for the year 2015
- Nomination of the Members for the following PUIC Specialized Standing Committees for the year 2015
- Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
- Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
- Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs;
- Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- Defining the date and venue of the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Defining the date and venue of the 34th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.

CLOSING SESSION

- Adoption of the Final Report of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Istanbul Declaration and Final Communiqué of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference
- Any other business.

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 4TH CONFERENCE OF THE MUSLIM WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

- Election of the Members of the Bureau as follows:
 - President of the Conference.
 - Vice-President from the African Group.
 - Vice-President from the Arab Group.

- Rapporteur.

- Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work of the Conference.
- Speech of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Report of the Bureau of the Third Conference on progress made in implementing the Tehran Declaration adopted by the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Date and Venue of the forthcoming Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Women abilities for solving problems and conflicts.
- Protecting Muslim Women and Children in areas under occupation and conflicts, especially in Palestine, and other conflict ridden countries.
- Preventing violence against women and children and refraining from exploiting women in cheap commercial ads.
- Any other business

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE PUIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Adoption of the Agenda and the Program of work.
- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Following up implementation of the resolutions adopted by the PUIC in general.
- Request of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of NIGERIA to become full member of the PUIC. (Nigeria is a member of the OIC since 1986).
- Recommending the ratification of the OIC-PUIC Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation.

STANDING

COMMITTEES:-

- Updating the Draft Agendas of the 3rd Meetings of the:-
 - o Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
 - o Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
 - o Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs;
 - o Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- ##### **SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:**
- Updating the Draft Agendas of the following Meetings of the:-:
 - o 5th Committee on Palestine
 - o 4th Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians
 - Updating the Draft Agenda of the 17th Session of the PUIC General Committee
 - Updating the Draft Agenda of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference.
 - Adoption of the Report of the 33rd Meeting of the Executive Committee
 - Any other business.

SPECIALIZED

DRAFT AGENDA OF THE COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

- Adoption of the Agenda and the Program of Work.
- Speech of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Review of the recent developments in Palestinian arena.
- Zionist Aggressions on Al Aqsa Mosque and the efforts exerted to protect it.
- Date and Venue of the 6th Meeting of the Committee on Palestine
- Adoption of the Report of the Committee. ❖



Highlights of The Council of Representatives

The Republic of Iraq

The Council of Representatives of Iraq is the supreme Legislative and control authority in the country. It is composed of 328 seats that are distributed among the provinces according to the number of their respective populations. Eight seats are reserved for the minorities.

Democratic Life after 2003 until now:

Election of the Council of Representatives which gave rise to the Iraqi transitional government was considered the first electoral process practiced by the Iraqi people, and after the voting which took place over the Iraqi Permanent Constitution on 15/10/2005. The purpose of the election was to choose 275 members of the Iraqi parliament who, in turn, would constitute a government for four years. The second legislative elections took place in 2010. It was followed by another election in 2014.

List of Speakers of the Council of Representatives:

- Mohamoud Mashadani, 2006-2008
- Iyad Samarrei, 2009-2010
- Mohammad F.Maasoum, 14/6/2010-10/11/2010

- Osama Nujaifi, 2010-2014
- Salim Jabouri, 2014 until now

Bureau:

Speaker: Dr. Salim Jabouri
 First Deputy Speaker: Sheikh Dr. Hammam Bagir
 Deputy Speaker: Aram Sheikh Mohammad
 Rapporteurs: Niazi Mimaroglu- Imad Youhanna Yagho Youhanna
 Secretary General: Iyad Namik Majid



Committees:

- 1- Committee on Foreign Relations
- 2- Committee on Security and Defence
- 3- Legal Committee
- 4- Committee on Oil and Energy
- 5- Committee on Probity
- 6- Financial Committee
- 7- Economic and Investment Committee
- 8- Education Committee

- 9- Committee on Health and Environment
- 10- Committee on Regions and Provinces
- 11- Committee on Service and Construction
- 12- Human Rights Committee
- 13- Committee on Culture and Information
- 14- Committee on Endowments and Religious Affairs
- 15- Committee on Evacuees and Displaced People
- 16- Committee on Agriculture and Water
- 17- Committee on National Conciliation
- 18- Committee on Martyrs, Victims and Political Prisoners
- 19- Committee on Youth and Sports
- 20- Committee on Women, Family and Childhood
- 21- Committee on Civil Society Institutions
- 22- Committee on Members Affairs and Parliamentary Development
- 23- Committee on Tribal Clans
- 24- Committee on Higher Education
- 25- Committee on Tourism and Antiquities
- 26- Committee on Labour and Social Affairs

Council Advisers

Advisers to the Council of Representatives occupy the special high grade (A), the rank of Under Secretary. They constitute the highest advisory body in the Council. Advisers are directly connected with the Speaker and perform their tasks according to the directives of the Presidency of the Council, and offer their services to the Presidency, the Council Committees and Deputies. They prepare reports, studies and research pertaining to the proceedings and competencies of the Council, as well as any other tasks entrusted to them by the presidencies in the following fields:

- 1- Political field through the Political Adviser
- 2- Legal field through the Legal Adviser
- 3- Research and Development field through Research and Development Adviser
- 4- Legislative field through Legislative Affairs Adviser
- 5- Information Technology Field through Science and Technology adviser
- 6- Financial field through Financial Adviser
- 7- Foreign Relations field through Foreign Relations Adviser
- 8- Parliamentary field through Legal Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs
- 9- Economic field through Economic Adviser
- 10- Information field through Information Adviser

Legislative Elections of 2014

The Parliamentary elections of 2014 were the first elections to be carried out since USA withdrawal from Iraq in 2011 and the third elections since the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. More than 277 parties and blocs competed over 328 seats in the parliament.

The elections were conducted on 30/4/2014 and covered 18 provinces, including Anbar. Fallujah and Karmah City were excluded from these elections. The rate of polling exceeded 60% which means more than 12 million eligible voters took part.

The Final results of the elections more announced on 19/5/2014.

Results of elections:

- State of Law coalition, 95
- Sadrist Movement, 34
- Citizens coalition (Muwatin), 31
- Muttahidoon block, 28
- Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), 25
- al-Wataniya, 21
- Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), 21
- Others, 19
- Al-Arabiya Coalition, 10
- Gorran, 9
- minority groups, 8
- National Reform Trend, 6
- Fadhila, 6
- Diyala is Our Identity, 5
- Islamic Union of Kurdistan, 4
- Civil Democratic Alliance, 3
- Islamic Group in Kurdistan, 3. ❖



Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq

Salim Abdullah
Ahmed Al-Jubouri



Place and Date of Birth: Maghdadia Region, Diali Province. 12/8/1971

Academic Qualifications:

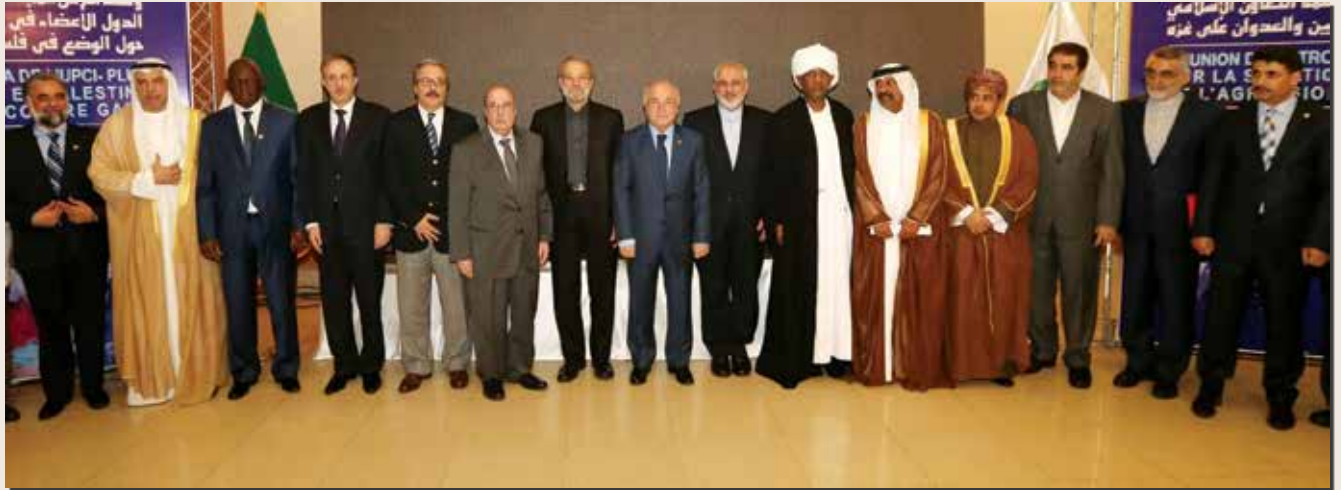
- M.A. in Law and Ph.D in Law
- Lecturer in Law College, Bain Al-Nahrain University and Diali University
- Editor in Chief of Homurabi Journal for Legal studies produced by Iraqi Judiciary Society.

Political and Parliamentary Activity:

- Director of the Independent Elections Commissions in Diali Province
- Member of the commission for formulation of the Iraqi Constitution and the Commission to Review Constitution in 2005.
- Member of the Council of Representatives since 2005 from the Conciliation Bloc. Also the spokesman of the Bloc. In that Council he was also vice chairman of the parliamentary Legal Committee.
- Deputy in Council of Representatives since 2010. He chaired the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee.
- Member and Deputy Secretary General of the Iraqi Islamic Party since 2011.
- Won a seat in 2014 elections on Diali Our Identity list. Occupied position of Speaker of Parliament on 14/7/2014.

Current Position:

Speaker of the Council of Representatives for the third session. ❖



In the First Meeting of the Presidential Troika: Demand for Prosecution of Israeli War Criminals

In response to a kind invitation extended by His Excellency Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, President of the Ninth Session of the PUIC Conference, the First Meeting of the Presidential Troika was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 22 July 2014 aimed at deliberating on the “Situation in Palestine and the Aggression Against Gaza” following the savage aggression launched by the Israeli authorities, occupation army and settlers resulting in killing, genocide, collective punishment, destruction of houses and the infrastructure, as well as detentions and torture, all of which led to the martyrdom of hundreds of the steadfast Palestinian people, including children, women and the elderly.

The Meeting was attended by the Speakers of the Parliaments of: Iran, Mali, Palestine, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, in addition to delegations representing: Algeria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman and Pakistan.

The Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Ali Larijani. He was followed by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ. Thereafter, His Excellency Dr. Al Fatih Izzeddin Al-Mansour, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Sudan, member of the Presidential Troika, took the floor. Then the floor was taken by His Excellency Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali, member of the Presidential Troika.

Then their Excellencies the Speakers of Parliaments and Head of Delegations delivered speeches and made interventions on the subject.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Foreign Minister of Iran also addressed the Meeting.

The Meeting was concluded by adoption of the following important communique:

1-The critical circumstances suffered by the Palestinian people under the yoke of the Zionist entity, makes it necessary for all Muslims, their parliaments and governments- irrespective of

doctrine or race– to put their differences aside and unite to support the Palestinian cause which is the focal cause of all Muslims with all possible means and capabilities.

2-The aggression launched by the Zionist entity against the Gaza Strip is a poignant proof of genocide as it has resulted in the martyrdom of hundreds of unarmed citizens, including children, women and the elderly, as well as wounding and dispersing thousands others, in addition to the destruction of a large number of houses, places of worship, centers of public services and loss of necessary requirements of inhabitants such as food, medicine, electricity and water supplies; the aggression also caused the devastation of the infrastructure which necessitates strong condemnation of this action, and the demand to punish the perpetrators of these war crimes which are committed, regrettably, under the shadow of a silent international community, and a flagrante USA support.

3- Condemn state terrorism, in all its forms, which is perpetrated by Israel, including murder, collective punishment, genocide and brutalities and detentions, and request the international organizations, specially the IPU, to take serious action, for releasing all Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including deputies of the Palestinian Legislative Council, foremost among them is Dr. Aziz Al-Duwaik, Speaker of the Council.

4-Stress that the war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as genocide and brutalities perpetrated by the Israeli politicians and the military in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the land and sea military onslaught, and air attacks; judaization; settlement; and administrative detentions constitute blatant violations of International Humanitarian Law and a premeditated breach of the relevant UN resolutions. Call upon the international community and family to fully shoulder its responsibilities and immediately put an end to these violations.

5-Declare our total support to all forms of resistance carried

out by the Palestinian people against the occupier Zionist entity". Resisting occupation is a legitimate right of all peoples under occupation.

6- Consider that the blockade imposed on the Palestinian People, especially in Gaza Strip a stigma of shame and is deemed a flagrante violation of human rights. Call for immediately lifting this blockade, open all land crossings, specially Rafah Crossing, and Gaza airport, and enable Gaza inhabitants to reoperate Gaz sea port and airport

7- In view of the deterioration of the humanitarian conditions in Gaza Strip and the enormity of the Zionist crime therein, request the

Egyptian government to expedite facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza through Rafah Crossing.

8- Request the international community, particularly the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Commission, and civil rights organizations to engage in serious and fruitful action in order to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian citizens to exercise their natural lives, just like the other free peoples in the world, in terms of agriculture, farming, industry and sea fishing within the territorial waters of Palestine.

9- Welcome Palestinian national reconciliation and the formation of a government of national unity. The unity of the Palestinian people is the real guaranty for restoring their legitimate right to liberate the entire territory and the establishment of their independent state with Al-Quds as its Capital.

10- Urge and exhort all peoples and governments in the OIC sphere to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian People, materially, morally, media-wise and diplomatically.

11- Demand prosecuting the Israeli perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide before international justice, as well as obligating Zionist entity to pay material damages to the victims and those who suffered losses due to Israel aggression which destroyed the infrastructure, houses bulldozed farms and uprooted trees. Mandate the PUIC Secretary General to follow up the matter with international organizations and bodies.



12- Mandate His Excellency Mr. Salim Al Zaanoun, Speaker of the Palestine National Council to contact PUIC Member Parliaments in order to ensure delivery of assistance in kind and medical aid to the Egyptian territories and ports, and to coordinate with the Arab Republic of Egypt aimed at facilitating and expediting the delivery of these assistance to Gaza Strip through Rafah Crossing.

13- Call upon all governments of the world to assume their obligations, in fairness and transparency, when judging the disproportionate war which is launched by Israel on the unarmed citizens in occupied Palestine, and not to view the killings, destruction and dispersion with an equal measure between the executioner, which is the Israeli occupation, and the victim, which is the unarmed Palestinian people.

14- Stress the importance of political, cultural and media moves as well as organizing marches and processions in the Last Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadan "World Day of Al-Quds" in order to support the Palestinian cause aimed at rallying world and Islamic public opinion to back the unarmed Palestinian People for the restoration of their usurped rights. Hail in this juncture the spirit of His Eminence the late Imam Khomeini, for his unlimited support to the Palestinian cause and Al-Qods Al-Sharif.

15- In loyalty to the blood of the martyrs and the wounded, and in support of the detainees and lost individuals, and to rekindle the spirit of resistance against the criminal Israeli aggression, declare Friday 27 Ramadan 1435, corresponding to 25th July, 2014, a day of general mourning in all States of PUIC Member Parliaments.

16- Express our commendation and appreciation of the continuous efforts deployed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in support and backing of the Palestinian Cause and express also our utmost thanks and gratitude to the Islamic Parliament of Iran, and to His Excellency Dr. Ali Larijani, President of the Ninth Session of the PUIC Conference for hosting this important meeting, wishing the steadfast Palestinian People victory and glory. ❖



Highlights of the Parliament of Bangladesh



The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh gives the legislature the name (Jatiyo Shangsad) in Bengali and (House of the Nation) in English. It is commonly known as (Parliament).

Parliament of Bangladesh is a unicameral legislature consisting of 350 members of which 300 Members from 300 territorial constituencies that is one from each constituency, on the basis of adult Franchise. The remaining 50 seats are reserved for women who are elected by the aforesaid elected Members in accordance with law on the basis of procedure of proportional representation in the Parliament through Single Transferable Vote. This provision for 50 reserved women seats will continue for ten years from the beginning of the 9th Parliament.

As per provision of clause (3) of article 72 of the Constitution, the term of a Parliament is five years.

It is ordinarily dissolved on completion of five years from the date of its first meeting after the general elections. The President has the authority to dissolve the Parliament earlier, if at any time he is satisfied that there is no Members of Parliament. The term of Parliament can be extended beyond 5 years by an Act of Parliament by not more than one year at a time when the Republic is engaged in war.

The 10th National Parliamentary Election was held on January 5, 2014 and under normal conditions, elections are called every five years.

The leader of the party (or alliance of parties) holding the majority of seats becomes the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and the head of the government. The President of Bangladesh, the ceremonial head of state, is chosen by Parliament.

Since the December 2008 national election, the current majority party is the Bangladesh Awami League. It is led by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Functions and Procedures of Parliament

1. Enactment of Legislation
2. Consent to taxation and control of public expenditure
3. Ensuring accountability of the Government

The elective functions of Parliament, which include the election of the President, and the exercise of its constituent power for amendment of the Constitution, along with several other functions, have not been discussed.

Enactment of Legislation

Legislation is the basic function of Bangladesh Jatiyo Shangshad. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has vested the legislative powers of the Republic to Parliament, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Reference was made earlier to the fact that

the President shares this power in two ways; first, he can make laws called Ordinances which have a life limited by the Constitution; and secondly, a Bill passed in Jatiyo Shangshad becomes a statute only after the President has assented, or is deemed to have assented, to it.

Every proposal in Parliament for making a law has to be made in the form of a Bill. If notice for introduction of the Bill has been given by a Minister, the Bill is known as Government Bill.

If a Member who is not a Minister introduces it, the Bill is known as Private Member's Bill. A Bill passes through three distinct stages in Parliament i.e. the introduction, consideration and passing, which conform to the three readings usually known in parliamentary parlance as first reading, second reading and third reading respectively.

Ensuring Accountability of the Government

The Constitution states that the Cabinet shall be collectively responsible to Parliament. The Rules of



Procedure of Parliament have prescribed a number of devices to make the Government answerable and accountable to Parliament.

These include:

Questions- Half-an-hour Discussion- Call Attention- Resolution- Discussion for short duration- Motion (General)- Adjournment Motion- No-confidence Motion

Membership:

Article 66 of the Constitution makes membership open to any citizen of Bangladesh and only Bangladesh above the age of 25.

(Dual citizenship is possible for civilians in Bangladesh, but not for MPs.)

Past parliamentary election results:

1st Parliament, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
2nd Parliament, Shah Azizur Rahman
3rd Parliament, Mizanur Rahman Chy
4th Parliament, Zafar Ahmed
5th Parliament, Khaleda Zia
6th Parliament, Khaleda Zia
7th Parliament, Sheikh Hasina
8th Parliament, Khaleda Zia
9th Parliament, Sheikh Hasina

10th Parliament, Sheikh Hasina

Speakers and Deputy Speakers:

For the 10th Parliament Legislature Speaker is Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Deputy Speaker is Mr. Md. Fazle Rabbi Miah, its Affiliation is Bangladesh Awami League from January 24, 2014.

Committees:

- Business Advisory Committee
- Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions
- Select Committee
- Committee on Petitions
- Committee on Public Accounts
- Committee on Estimates
- Committee on Public Undertakings
- Committee on Privileges
- Committee on Government Assurances
- House Committee
- Library Committee
- Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure
- Special Committee
- Committee on each ministry

In the 9th Parliament the number of the committees was 51. In the 8th Parliament it was 48 and in the 7th Parliament it was 46. ❖



Speaker of (Jatiyo Sangshad) Parliament of Bangladesh



Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

Date of Birth: October 6, 1966

Marital Status: Married

Party: Bangladesh Awami League.

Professional Qualification:

- 1992: Enrolled as an Advocate, Bangladesh Bar Council
- 1994: Enrolled in the Hon'ble High Court Division, Bangladesh Supreme Court
- 2008: Enrolled in the Hon'ble Appellate Division, Bangladesh Supreme Court
- Member, Dhaka Bar Association
- Member, Supreme Court Bar Association

Academic Qualification:

- 2000: Doctor of Philosophy in Law (PhD.) University of Essex, United Kingdom. These is on "The Right to Life". Area of Specialization: Constitutional Law and Human Rights Commonwealth Scholar
- 1990: LL.M. University of Dhaka. First Class First
- 1989: LL.B (Honours) University of Dhaka. First Class First
- 1985: Higher Secondary Certificate (H. S. C.) Dhaka Board. Humanities. Second Position in Combined Merit List
- 1983: Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C.) Dhaka Board. Humanities. First Position in Combined Merit List

Award

Dr. Shirin was awarded Asia Society's Humanitarian service Award on 09 June 2010 in recognition of her role as a leader in advocating the elimination of violence against women and mainstreaming women's empowerment and employment in Bangladesh. Dr. Chaudhury received this award from Ambassador Melanne Verveer, US Ambassador-at-Large, Global Women Issues in a gala award ceremony at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington DC

Publications

- Former Editor: Bangladesh Legal Decisions (BLD), Law Report Series published every month by Bangladesh Bar Council. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 Edition)

Now Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury is the chairperson of CPA (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) Executive Committee. ❖



In the 32 Meeting of the Executive Committee:

Welcoming Nigeria to the PUIC Fold

The PUIC Executive Committee held its 32nd Meeting in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10th June 2014, in response to a kind invitation extended by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Sheikh Biadallah, Speaker of the House of Counselors of Morocco who chaired the meeting. H.E. Mr. Rachid Talibi Alami, Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives was in attendance. The meeting was attended by members of the Executive Committee who represented the following parliaments: Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and UAE. The representatives of the Republic of Cameroon was absent. The Opening Session was addressed by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Sheikh Biadallah, Speaker of the House of Counsellors of Morocco. In his statement he hoped that the amendments included in the PUIC Statute will push forward PUIC activities and work which will help to realize its objectives of serving the causes and aspirations of the glorious Islamic Ummah. Then His Excellency Rachid Talibi Alami, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco took the floor. He called for greater cooperation through the Union and support the efforts and reforms for realizing good governance.

FIRST WORKING SESSION:

- Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work: The 10-item Agenda and Programme of Work were adopted.
- Report of the PUIC Secretary General: His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General presented his report which covered the period between the convening of the 9th PUIC Conference, held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the date of the PUIC Thirty-second Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10 June 2014.

Report of the Secretary General included participation in international fora; Statements issued by the General Secretariat; important messages sent by H.E. the Secretary General; Organizational affairs including request by the Nigerian Parliament to join PUIC membership; and follow-up of implementation of the resolutions adopted by the 9th PUIC Conference and related meetings, held in Tehran, on 14-19 February 2014.

Report of Secretary General was adopted.

- Following up implementation of the resolutions adopted by the PUIC in general:

The Committee praised the level of the follow-up, and stated that there are some resolutions that do not need governments for their implementation, and that the General Secretariat may do that, such as proclaiming the City of Al-Quds as the spiritual capital for Arabs and Muslims, as well as the eternal capital of the State of Palestine.

This item was adopted.

- Request for PUIC membership made by the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Nigeria is a full OIC member since 1986).

His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General mentioned that there are three Parliaments who's States are full OIC Members, yet they are not PUIC Members until now. They are the Parliaments of Uzbekistan, Surinam and Sultanate of Brunei. His Excellency requested to continue contacts with the aforementioned Parliaments to urge them to join the PUIC.

It was mentioned that the idea of establishing the OIC was introduced by the Federal Republic of Nigeria during the era of its President Ahmado Bello, and that the Kingdom of Morocco hosted the first Islamic Summit in the wake of Al-Aqsa Mosque Fire. It was also mentioned that the States of West Africa have

recognized the importance of the OIC, especially following events in Central African Republic and the excesses of Boko Haram group in Nigeria, due to the solidarity of Islamic States with them in order to contain these events.

Request was welcomed, directions were given and it was agreed to submit it to the next Conference for final approval.

STANDING SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES:

- Updating the Draft Agendas of the Third meeting of:
 - Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
 - Draft Agenda of the Committee was approved, after including some remarks.
 - Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
 - Draft Agenda of the Committee was approved, after including two new items.
 - Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs;
 - Draft Agenda of the Committee was approved, after including some additions.
 - Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
 - Draft Agenda of the Committee was approved, after including some additions.

SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

- Updating Agenda of:
 - Fifth Meeting of the Committee on Palestine:
 - Agenda was approved without amendment.
 - Fourth Session of the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians:
 - Agenda was approved without amendment.
- Updating Draft Agenda of the Seventeenth Session of the PUIC General Committee:
 - Agenda was approved without amendment.
- Updating Draft Agenda of the Tenth PUIC Conference:
 - Agenda was approved without amendment.



- Adoption of the Report of the Thirty-Second Meeting of the Executive Committee:
 - The Report was adopted.

Rabat Declaration:

The Declaration was adopted and then read in the presence of the media. Following is the text of the Declaration:

We, Members of the PUIC Executive Committee, meeting held in Rabat, capital city of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco, on 10th June 2014, in the context of the Thirty-Second Meeting of the Executive Committee, in response to the kind invitation extended by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco,

Declare as follows:

- 1- Emphasizing that the cause of Palestine is the focal cause of Muslims which makes it necessary for all our states and Parliaments to coordinate their stances in international and regional fora in support and defence of this cause.
- 2- Praising and welcoming achievement of the Palestinian national reconciliation, and calling for supporting the new Palestinian government, materially, morally, politically and diplomatically in such a way as to enable it to perform its duties.
- 3- Condemning the Israeli futile attempts and provocative attitudes to undermine the Palestinian national reconciliation, and strongly condemning establishment of establishing new settlements in occupied Eastern Al-Quds and the West Bank.
- 4- Declaring our condemnation of all forms of terrorism, and rejecting exploitation of true Islamic religion to carry out wrongful practices which imperil the lives of peaceful people and lead to their demise.
- 5- Emphasizing the importance of realizing the spirit of brotherhood, cooperation and love among our sisterly States and inviting Muslim peoples to exert real efforts to advance dialogue and understanding, as well as commending the resolutions which have been adopted by the Ninth PUIC Conference, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 18 – 19 February 2014, in this regard.
- 6- Stressing our commitment and responsibility for preserving and enhancing the PUIC achievements which have been realized during more than a decade of ceaseless work deployed by Member Parliaments, and calling for further cooperation and joint action along this road on the light of the PUIC Statute which has been amended by the Extraordinary PUIC Conference, held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 19th January 2011.
- 7- Calling for reforming the United Nations institutions in order to achieve security and just peace among all peoples.
- 8- Expressing our thanks and appreciation of the sublime patronage accorded by His Majesty King Mohammad VI, may Allah preserve him, to the proceedings of our meeting, and for his continuous support to the progress of our Union, as well as his Majesty's support to the Palestinian cause and the steadfastness of Maghdesi citizens. ❖



Highlights of The National Assembly of



The Parliament of Gabon consists of two chambers:

The Senate (Upper Chamber)

The National Assembly (Lower Chamber)

The National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale) is the lower house of the Parliament of Gabon. It has 120 members, 111 members elected for a five-year term in single-seat constituencies and 9 members appointed by the President.

SPEAKERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SINCE ITS CREATION

Paul IDJENDJET GONDJOUT, 1960-1961

Louis BIGMAN, February 1961- 1964

Georges DAMAS ALEKA, 1964-1967, 1967-1970 and 1970-1975

Paul IDJENDJET GONDJOUT, 1975-1980

Augustin BOUMAH, 1980-1985, 1985-1990

Jules Aristides BOURDES OGOULINGUENDE, 1990- 1993

Marcel Eloi RAHANDI CHAMBRIER, 1993-1996

Guy Nzouba-Ndama, 1997-2001 , 2001- Now

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Office of the National Assembly includes:

- A Speaker;
- Three to six Vice-Presidents;

- Two Questors;
- Three to six Secretaries.

The Speaker of the National Assembly is elected by secret ballot by the absolute majority of votes in the first round and a relative majority at second round, either by secret ballot or by electronic vote. In case of equality of votes in the second round, the oldest candidate is elected.

The other officers are elected in secret ballot by the absolute majority of votes



in the first round and a relative majority the second round, either by secret ballot or by electronic vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

The National Assembly has administrative and financial autonomy according to Article 46 of the Constitution.

PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

Deputies may be grouped to form a Parliamentary Group.

Each Parliamentary Group comprises at least 5% of the total Deputies.

Groups are formed by delivering to the Speaker of the Assembly National, a political statement signed by their members, indicating name of the Group as well as the composition of the Bureau of that group

Deputies related to a group are taken into account in the distribution of seats in parliamentary committees.

Under the direction of the Chairman of their Group, Deputies organize their activities within the National Assembly, including the training of Commissions and appointment of institutional members.

GENERAL PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Deputies are divided into seven (7) General permanent Committees, according to their jurisdiction to consider cases submitted to the National Assembly.

The deliberations of each committee are recorded in a report.

Permanent General Committees are:

- 1- The Committee on Laws, Administrative Affairs and Human Rights
- 2- The Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and National Defence

3. The Board of Planning and Regional Development
4. The Board of Finance, Budget and Public Accounting
5. The Committee on Economic Affairs, Production and Development
6. The Commission for Social Affairs, Cultural Affairs and Communication
7. The Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

The Assembly may decide to set up Ad Hoc Committees for a project and for a specific time. For the examination of issues under various Commissions, the Office of the National Assembly, after consultation with the Chairmen of Committees concerned, temporarily designate some of their members to create a Coordinating Commission. The Committees are composed of at least fifteen members.

PLENARY

The National Assembly meets in plenary session on the days and hours determined by the Conference of Presidents.

The presence of Deputies sittings of the National Assembly is mandatory. It is noted at the beginning of the session by roll call.

The Assembly may validly deliberate only by an absolute majority of its members.

The deputies wishing to speak

must register with the Speaker who determines the order of intervention.

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

The plenary sessions of the National Assembly are public. They are covered and transmitted by the press, radio and television. The public admitted to the galleries.

The National Assembly may sit in camera at the request of either the President of the Republic or the Prime Minister or one-fifth of its members.

VOTING PATTERNS

The National Assembly vote on matters submitted to it, either by show of hands or by sitting and standing, either secret ballot or by electronic voting.

The right to vote of Deputies is personal. However, the delegation of vote is permitted when a Member is absent for any justified cause.

Decisions are taken by an absolute majority of votes cast.

SESSIONS

- Extraordinary sessions are opened and closed by decree of President of the Republic. They can not exceed a period of fifteen (15) days.

In this case, the operating rules and legislative procedures the same as ordinary session. ❖

Speaker of National Assembly of Gabon

Guy Nzouba-Ndama



● Guy Nzouba-Ndama (born 17 July 1946) is a Gabonese politician who has been President of the National Assembly of Gabon since January 1997. He previously served in the government of Gabon as Minister of National Education from 1987 to 1990 and was President of the Parliamentary Group of the Gabonese Democratic Party (Parti démocratique gabonais, PDG) from 1990 to 1996.

● Nzouba-Ndama was born at Koulamoutou, located in Lolo-Bouenguidi Department; he is an ethnic Nzebi. After studying in France, he began teaching philosophy in September 1975, and he was appointed as Director of Orientation at the Directorate-General of Scholarships and Internships in November 1975, while continuing to teach. In 1980, he became Director-General of Scholarships and Internships, remaining in that post until 1983. He held several ministerial posts.

● In the 1990 parliamentary election, he was elected to the National Assembly as a candidate in Koulamoutou, and he was the President of the PDG Parliamentary Group from 1990 to 1996. He was re-elected to the National Assembly in the December 1996 parliamentary election. Following the latter election, Nzouba-Ndama was elected as President of the National Assembly on 27 January 1997.

● Nzouba-Ndama retained his parliamentary seat in the December 2001 parliamentary election and was re-elected as President of the National Assembly on 25 January 2002;

● He was again re-elected as a Deputy in the December 2006 parliamentary election, and he was re-elected for a third term as President of the National Assembly on 24 January 2007.

● Nzouba-Ndama was a member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from 1999 to 2003. Subsequently he was President of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie.

● Nzouba-Ndama was re-elected as President of the National Assembly on 27 February 2012. ❖



Fourth Meeting of the PUIC Committee on Palestine

A Call For Supporting Government of Conciliation

In response to the kind invitation extended by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, the PUIC Committee on Palestine held its Fourth Meeting in Rabat, on 11th June, 2014. The meeting was attended by delegations representing the Parliaments of:

Palestine, Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, Sudan and UAE.

The meeting was also attended in an observer capacity by the Secretary General of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

The Meeting was opened by H.E. Mr. Rachid Talibi Alami, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco. He was followed by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Sheikh Biadillah, Speaker of the House of Counselors of Morocco. Then H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ took the floor.

His Excellency Dr. Faisal Abu Shahla made a detailed presentation covering the most recent developments in the Palestinian arena.

Representatives of participating delegations delivered statements and exchanged views on the situation in Palestine in an atmosphere pervaded by a spirit of solidarity.

The Committee Finally adopted the following communique:-

- Emphasizing that the Palestinian cause shall remain the main focal cause which makes it incumbent on our states, parliaments and civil organizations in the OIC space, to cooperate among themselves, and coordinate in international and regional fora aimed at extending support to this cause, defending it and standing by its side.

- Also emphasizing that the city of Al Quds is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories, as enshrined in the international and UN resolutions, strongly condemning the persistent and repeated violations perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at obliterating the landmarks of the City through erection of the racist separation wall, excavation works underneath the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque, building Jewish settlements, and carrying out illegal practices to Judaize the city and alter its Islamic and Arab features.

- Welcoming and praising the achievement of Palestinian national unity, considering it the corner stone for rejuvenating the Palestinian drive aimed at realizing its sublime objectives of total liberation of the Palestinian soil, and the establishment of the Palestinian independent state with Al Quds as its capital.

- Calling on PUIC member parliaments and their respective governments to support the new Palestinian government of National Conciliation, materially, politically, morally and diplomatically, so as to enable it to perform its mandated duties towards its people and their legitimate national aspirations.

- Emphasizing the importance of following up and implementing the adopted resolutions on the Palestinian cause, particularly those relating to ensuring the political and civil rights of the Palestinian People to enable them to establish their state with Al-Quds as its capital.

- Calling for lifting the siege imposed on the Palestinian People, especially in Gaza Strip, and for supporting the steadfastness of the Maghdesi citizens and for carrying out serious action to release immediately administrative detainees and prisoners and condemning the criminal Israeli practices of torturing, isolating and humiliating them as well as forcing them to take food so as to break their steadfastness as well as demanding to put an end to all Judaization operations of the Palestinian soil and Al-Quds as perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities.

- Commending the contributions of OIC Member States in Al Quds Fund, and the other similar Palestinian funds; calling on these States to increase and diversify their support and hoping that all the Member States would feel duty-bound to extend contributions and expected assistance.

- Welcoming the visit of Pope Francis to the State of Palestine considering it as support and encouragement for the Christians in the region and the world to champion the just Palestinian cause and also welcoming the call of the Pope to achieve just peace in the Middle East region and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

- Commending the material, moral and political support which is made available by peace-loving friendly States as well as civil society organizations in all parts of the globe for the triumph of the just Palestinian cause, and to assist its steadfast heroic people to realize their just national objectives.

- Holding Israel fully responsible for the failure of the negotiations due to its non-recognition of the borders of the State of Palestine and its persistence in its settlement policy, and non-compliance with the relevant international and legal references.

- Calling upon the PUIC President to address messages to regional parliaments specially European, African, and South American parliaments, urging them to maintain effective solidarity for defending



the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people,

- Stressing that resistance to occupation in all its forms is an inherent right of the Palestinian people.

- Calling upon PUIC Member Parliaments to make the Palestinian cause a national cause in all the Member Parliaments, and place it in the scale of priorities, and be committed by a unified Islamic stance thereon in international fora.

- Emphasizing rejection of Jewishness of the Israeli State and strongly supporting the stance of the Palestinian leadership and people which rejects recognition the Jewishness of the Hebrew State.

- Strongly condemning the Israeli barbaric attack on Al Aqsa Mosque and the attempt to impose time and place division, and stressing that this violation constitutes a red line which must not be overstepped, and that our States must resist and stop it with available means and mechanisms. Praising in this respect, the valiant and responsible stances of all competent organizations and their staff who are dedicated to the protection and defence of blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

- Requesting the governments of member parliaments to protest vis-a-vis the States which consider occupied Al Quds as among disputed regions. ❖



In an Extraordinary Meeting in Khartoum Demanding International Protection for Palestinians

In response to a kind invitation extended by H.E. Dr. Al-Fatih Izzeddin Al-Mansur, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Sudan, the PUIC Committee on Palestine held its First Extraordinary Meeting in Khartoum on 31 August, 2014, to deliberate on “Challenges of the Current Situation in Palestine and the Aggression on Gaza” with the participation of the Committee’s members.

In their Final Communiqué the members issued a declaration of which are the main themes:

- Stressing also that the core of the problem is the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and the resultant bitter and bloody conflict spanning more than seven decades. Stressing also the right of the Palestinian people to resist occupation and put an end to the blockade. Calling on Muslim peoples and governments to provide the necessities that enable the Palestinian people to continue steadfastness and resistance.
- Stressing all the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the organs of the PUIC and the OIC on Palestine, particularly the Fourth Meeting of the Committee on Palestine, held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 11th June 2014, and the Meeting of the Troika on the Situation in Palestine and the Aggression on Gaza, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 22nd July 2014.
- Requesting and urging all the OIC Member States to follow up and implement the resolutions adopted by the aforementioned conferences and meetings in such a way as to enhance and strengthen the support and steadfastness of the Palestinian people, materially, politically, diplomatically and media-wise, and to preserve their legitimate rights to establish their independent State, with Al-Quds as its capital.
- Demanding that the Israelis who have committed or sponsored terrorist actions, or those responsible for the wide-ranging deliberate attacks on the civilian inhabitants of Gaza Strip and the other Palestinian territories, be subjected to international accountability, because such actions constitute a war crime and crimes against humanity, according to the 4th Geneva Convention.
- Urging all States, according to their obligations under UN resolution No. 1373 (2001) to cooperate in the efforts aimed at getting to the Israelis who have committed, organized or sponsored the terrorist actions against Gaza and bringing them to justice.
- Demanding immediately to implement the recent understanding on lifting the blockade imposed on Gaza Strip, open all crossings to deliver basic needs and solve the electricity problem, rebuild Gaza under the supervision of the Palestinian government, and ensure sea fishing for the Palestinians in their territorial water.
- Requesting the UN Secretary General to take the necessary actions to implement the Palestinian demand for immediate international protection for the Palestinian people and their sanctities in the occupied territories, including Eastern Jerusalem, by way of putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Calling for wide Islamic action, at all levels, in order to ensure success of this demand.
- Requesting OIC Member States to urgently coordinate with the states of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the groups which support the Palestinian cause - in the group of Latin-American, Caribbean and African States, in order to make an urgent request to the UN General Assembly for the reoperation of Gaza Sea Port and opening an international shipping line to connect Gaza with the outside world, in order to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance and necessary commodities for the civilians in Gaza.
- Requesting all the OIC Member States to revive and energize the boycott resolutions and not to be involved in direct or indirect trade with the Israeli Zionist entity or with the individuals, groups or corporations associated with it. On the other hand, requesting extending support to the manufactured and agricultural products in order to protect them against Israeli boycott.
- Also requesting all the Islamic Ummah, States, institutions, groups and individuals to quickly extend material and in kind support and assistance to the steadfast inhabitants of Gaza. Reiterating the call of the Palestine National Council for expediting coordination to deliver assistance to Gaza, together with the donor Member states and the competent Egyptian authorities. Also calling on the UN Secretary General to implement his decision on considering Gaza Strip a “disaster zone” by imposing the extension of urgent humanitarian assistance and services to the citizens of the Strip.
- Requesting the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to continue its efforts through its specialized committees in order to expedite the release of the Palestinian detainees including the members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and its Speaker His Excellency Dr. Aziz Al Duwaik. ❖

Islamic Parliamentary Group in Geneva:

Supporting the candidacy for the Presidency of IPU



The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nabih Berri, Speaker of the ParPUIC delegations participating in the 131th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held their annual meeting at 12:30, on Sunday, 12th October 2014 on the Third Floor of the CIGC in Rooms Nos.5 & 6, Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Marzouq Ali M. Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, and in the presence of H.E. Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, President of the House of Councilors of Morocco, and the participation of more than 150 delegates representing PUIC Member Parliaments.

After a brief speech delivered by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, He informed the participants that the venue of the 10th Conference, that was supposed to be held in Mali, has been changed to Turkey. Then he discussed the Agenda Items, including "Adopting a unified position regarding issues of common concern for the Islamic Group on the Emergency Agenda Items of the 131st Assembly Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union." And "Supporting the candidacy for the Presidency of IPU of :- Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury from Bangladesh; (Proposed by Bangladesh), Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf from Indonesia; (Proposed by Indonesia) and Mr. Abdulla Shahid from Maldives (Proposed by Maldives)."

At the 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) the participants elected Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury from Bangladesh, as the new president of the IPU. Mr. Chowdhury will replace H.E. Mr. Abdulwahid Radi from Morocco. ❖

PARLIAMENT NEWS



PUIC Parliament Speakers Update: The past few months saw the election of new Speakers of Member Parliaments, while others were reelected. Following is an update of Parliamentary leadership situation:

- 15 December 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Amadou Salifou as Speaker of National Assembly of Niger
- 14 December 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Ebrahim Almulla as Speaker of Council of Representatives of Bahrain
- 4 December 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ennaceur as Speaker of House of Representatives of Tunisia
- 2 November 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Atef Tarawneh as Speaker of House of Representatives of Jordan
- 2 October 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Setya Novanto as Speaker of House of Representatives of Indonesia
- 4 August 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Aguila Salah Issa as Speaker of House of Representatives of Libya
- 15 July 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Saleem Al-Jubouri as Speaker of Council of Representatives of Iraq
- 17 June 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Cipriano Cassamá as Speaker of People's National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau
- 11 June 2014 re-election of H.E. Mr. Mohammad Jihad al-Laham as Speaker of People's Assembly of Syria
- 28 May 2014 election of H.E. Mr. Abdulla Maseeh Mohamed as Speaker of People's Majlis of Maldives
- 25 May 2014 re-election of H.E. Mr. Ali Larijani as Speaker of Islamic Parliament of Iran



Algeria: The Head of the Parliamentary Group for Friendship Algeria-France, Belkacem Bel Abbes received an Algerian - French parliamentary delegation led by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Group Patrick Minucci. And the same source said that the talks between the two sides focused on several issues, particularly the security challenges in the region and the resulting problems such as refugees, drug trafficking and illegal immigration. On the other hand, the Algerian side defended some of the rights of the Algerian community living in France, stating that "the problem of unfair dismissal is among the problems raised." For their part, the French parliamentarians, "said the issuance of a legislation will regulate these measures and correct abuses in the future." As for the economic level, the Algerians praised the efforts exerted to push the bilateral cooperation in the economic field and called on the French partners to further cooperation in construction and education.



Bangladesh: H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC congratulated H.E. Mrs. Sharmin Chaudhury Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh on the occasion of election of H.E. Mr. Saber Chowdhury as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and wished for his success in this sublime world position. In his message he stressed to Her Excellency, that we in the PUIC hall spare no efforts to continue our cooperation through the effective membership of PUIC Member Parliaments in the IPU, as well as the membership of our Union as an IPU Observer to achieve the sublime objectives of our two organizations in consolidating democracy and good governance.




Iran: Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani voiced Tehran's unwavering support for the Iraqi nation and government in their fight against terrorist groups in Iraq.


“Surely, Iran helps Iraq in the fight against terrorism,” Larijani said in a meeting with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri in Baghdad.

Pointing to the current situation of Iraq and terrorist activities in the war-hit country, he said, “These problems make nations stronger and are regarded as an exercise for recognizing real friends in the region.” “We have been on your (Iraqi) side for a long time and supported the democratic ideology in Iraq,” the Iranian parliamentarian said. “However, since then there were some enemies who were seeking to create unrest in Iraq,” he added.

Larijani said Iran-Iraq relations have been close in different regional conditions and the two sides had close political consultations.


 **Jordan:** H.E. Eng. Atef Tarawneh, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, informed that twenty seven members of the House of Representatives protested against the decision of the Australian government to use the expression “East Jerusalem” instead of “Occupied East Jerusalem” in its official and international communications.

Mr. Tarawneh stated that those Representatives submitted a memorandum in this regard stressing that this Australian action gives legitimacy to Israel’s occupation of East Jerusalem which is in violation of the UN Charter and relevant international and UN Security Council resolutions.

 **Malaysia:** The House of Representatives of Malaysia demanded carrying out a comprehensive investigation into the crash of Flight MH17 of Malaysian Airlines, which resulted in the loss of 298 innocent lives in Eastern Ukraine. The House, in a unanimous vote adopted on 23 July 2014, condemned in the strongest terms what it described as “the inhumane, uncivilized and irresponsible action.”

The House stated that the parties which shot down the Malaysian aircraft should be immediately brought to justice “for this crime against humanity.”

 **Morocco:** Mr. Mohamed Sheikh Baidallah Speaker of the House of Councillors held talks with the Chairman of the Turkish Moroccan Parliamentary Friendship Group, Mr. İlhan Airlekaya who is currently on a visit to Morocco. According to a communiqué of the House of Councillors, the two sides highlighted during the meeting, quality and depth of historical relations and cooperation that bind the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Turkey, pointing out that he has been dealt with several issues of common concern. The two sides also discussed during the meeting, which was attended by, members of the delegation accompanying Mr. Airlekaya, ways to develop the joint parliamentary work, and the role of parliamentarians in the two countries to strengthen bilateral relations between Morocco and Turkey.

 **Pakistan:** Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq suggested establishment of Pakistan-Belarus Parliamentary Friendship Group in National Assemblies of Pakistan and Belarus.


Talking to Ambassador of Belarus, he said Parliamentary interaction would bring both countries more closer.

Pakistan values its relations with Belarus and wants to further strengthen those ties through parliamentary and economic cooperation.


The Speaker said that Pakistan was looking for new trade partners as the government has also offered attractive incentives to foreign investors, said a press release.

He said that it was the best time for the companies of Belarus to explore Pakistan for investment and joint ventures in areas of mutual interest.

He was hopeful that the establishment of Embassy of Belarus in Islamabad will greatly facilitate parliamentary interaction and promotion of trade between both the countries.

 **Palestine:** The PUIC Secretary General, H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC expresses, in the strongest terms, his condemnation and denunciation of the crime and terrorist action committed by the Israeli forces of occupation by their barbaric aggression which led to the martyrdom of Mr. Ziad Abu Ain, Minister of the Government of the Palestinian Authority and Head of the organization of Resisting the Erection of the Wall and Settlement.

His Excellency confirms that this criminal act perpetrated by the Israeli government of occupation constitutes systematic state terrorism, and calls on the international community to support the Palestinian people in their usurped rights and the establishment of their independent state with Al-Quds as its capital.

 **Togo:** The Bundestag (German Parliament) officially launched in Berlin a parliamentary Germany – Togo friendship group. The event was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Robert Dussey, and the State Secretary for Relations with Parliament.

The group brings together elected from all sides, CDU, SPD, Greens, radical left that belong to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Political and democratic developments in Togo convinced the elected Germans to boost parliamentary cooperation with Lomé.

 **Tunisia:** Tunisia’s first full elected parliament held its opening session with a challenge to implement the democracy its people sought when they marched in the 2011 revolt. The country that saw the first of the Arab Spring revolts chose a temporary national assembly in 2011 to draw up the new constitution approved early this year. The full parliament will sit for the next five years.

That constitution has been hailed as one of the most progressive in the Arab world and an example of Tunisia being a model for transition in a regional in turmoil.

“We have achieved the theoretical side by approving a progressive constitution but today we face the toughest stage, which is how we apply this constitution,” Mustapha Ben Jaafar, president of the former transitional assembly, told lawmakers. ❖

PUIC Discusses in Mali New Developments on Conference

A delegation of the PUIC General Secretariat headed by Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kiliç visited Bamako, the capital of the Republic of Mali, June 13, 2014. The delegation was received by H.E. Mr. Amadou Thiam, Second Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali. During the visit the Secretary General of the PUIC met the Speaker at the seat of Parliament and they signed the Memorandum of Understanding for holding the 10th PUIC Conference and related meetings scheduled to be held in Mali January 2015. However in response to new developments a delegation from the PUIC General Secretariat headed by the Assistant Secretary General has paid a visit to the Republic of Mali on 8th October 2014, and was received by His Excellency the Speaker of the Malian National Assembly Mr. Issaka Sidibe. The talks between the two sides focused on the emergency developments resulting from the outbreak of the Ebola Virus disease in West Africa which precludes the convening of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference in Bamako capital of Mali in January 2015.

The delegation also met with the Organizing Committee and with civil and Muslim Organizations and presented an explanation of the emergency reasons behind the impossibility of holding the Conference in the Malian Capital.



The Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali expressed their understanding of those reasons, and stated the keenness of the Malian President of the Republic, government, people and National Assembly on convening the 2016 Conference in Bamako. He also expressed their approval of hosting the 10th Session of

the PUIC Conference by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

Meanwhile the PUIC General Secretariat informed the august Member Parliaments about initiating contacts with the Turkish Parliament concerning the hosting of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference. ❖

Secretary General Chairs PAM Academic Meeting



H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC chaired the Academic Platform which PAM held in collaboration with the University of Catania, on 11-12 December 2014, in city of Catania, Italy.

More than 60 participants took part in the platform. They represented national and international parliaments, government officials, academicians, UN personnel and businessmen from the Mediterranean and Arab regions.

PAM explained that the platform opens a new way for dialogue and cooperation between politics and knowledge. His Excellency made a contribution to the Platform debate underscoring the importance of the themes under discussion in terms of cooperation between the various regions. ❖

PUIC Participates in APA Meetings

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Prof Mahmud Erol KILIC, accompanied by H.E. Ambassador Ali Asghar Mohammadi Sigani, participated in the proceedings of the 7th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), in Lahore, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 1-3 December 2014, under the slogan "Quest for Asian Parliament in Asian Century".

The second Executive Council Meeting was held during the same period and in the same venue.

H. E. the PUIC Secretary General delivered a speech before the attendants in which he stated that the slogan of the APA Session reflected a strategic vision of a parliamentary endeavor

which is capable of gearing up its parliament activities and actions for the sake of positive and constructive interaction with the challenges and horizons of the "Asian Century". He also said that we live in an age in which extremism and intolerance constitute a major element, and that we must take precautionary and preventive steps to steer clear from the devastating consequences of immoderation.

The items of the agenda of the APA Session included discussion of the issue of an Asian Parliament. They also include a meeting of the APA Women Parliamentarians. At the end of the Session the Lahore Declaration was adopted. ❖

Signing MOU on PUIC-OIC Cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation between the PUIC and the organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was signed in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday 17 June 2014.

His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC signed for the Union, and His Excellency Mr. Iyad Amin Medani, the OIC Secretary General, signed for the OIC.

The 5-item MOU included agreement of the two sides on: Coordination and consultation between the PUIC and OIC; Exchange of information and documents; holding joint conferences and seminars; mutual obligations concerning the implementation of joint activities; and that the MOU shall take effect for two years renewable automatically.❖



Malian Speaker visits PUIC General Secretariat

A delegation, headed by H.E. the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali Mr. Issaka Sidibe, visited the PUIC Headquarters on Tuesday 3rd June 2014.

His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC welcomed the Malian Speaker of Parliament and his accompanying delegation.

Talks between the two sides focused on PUIC activities and its role in enhancing joint Islamic parliamentary action, as well as the preparations made by the National Assembly of Mali to host the 10th PUIC Conference in the capital of Mali Bamako early next year 2015.

The Malian delegation includes the 2nd vice-Speaker, the Secretary General of the National

Assembly, a number of Deputies, and the Chargé d'affaires of Mali accredited to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General hosted a lunch party in honour of the Malian Speaker of Parliament and his accompanying delegation.❖



PUIC Secretary General Congratulates New IPU President



H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC congratulated H.E. Mr. Saber Chowdhury on the occasion of his election as President of the IPU, and expressed the best wishes for his success. In his message he stated that he is completely confident that Mr. Chowdhury's rich experience in public work, and his interest in issues of thought and human rights as well as his legislative and executive work in his country shall be the best help to him as he occupies this important world position.

He added, that pursuant to our membership of the IPU as Observers we shall continue our fruitful cooperation with his well-founded institution. Also work through the PUIC which includes fifty-three Member Parliaments, being the biggest parliamentary grouping after the IPU shall work to advance and strengthen our relationships in such a way as to realize the objectives of our supreme organizations in consolidating democracy, good governance and establish world peace and security. ❖

PUIC Brochure:

The PUIC Brochure is a regular feature of the publications of the Union's Media Department.

In this issue reference is made to the meeting of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments in Istanbul on the sidelines of the Tenth Session of the PUIC Conference.

It is hoped that the aforementioned meeting will result in the establishment of a permanent body i.e Association of Secretaries General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States. This body is expected to perform two substantially important tasks: cooperation and coordination between the parliaments of the PUIC.

No doubt our parliaments have



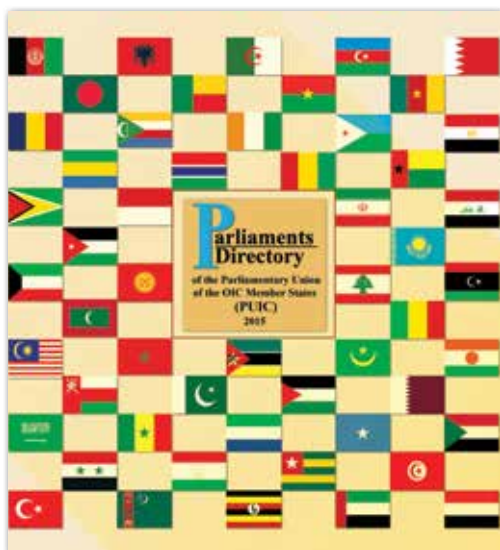
a huge wealth of experience in the various parliamentary work which they may share among themselves in order to realize the objectives of our Union.

This goes hand in hand with the enhancement of joint Islamic Parliamentary action under the umbrella of our Union. The number

of the PUIC Member Parliaments has increased with the accession of such countries as the Maldives, Comoros and Nigeria. The PUIC is also hoping to join the United Nations in an observer capacity. This step, if materialized, is apt to broaden the scope with which the PUIC may function at the world level.

There is also reference to the most recent publication and the sixth Parliaments Directory. It also contains information about the PUIC website and postal address and the email. By its very nature, the Brochure must be brief, informative, clear and colorful. Some readers may like to keep all editions for easily accessible reference about the PUIC. ❖

Parliaments Directory



The positive response and enthusiasm with which the first, second, third, fourth and fifth issues of the Directory were received has been further encouragement for the PUIC Media Department to introduce an updated Sixth issue. Like its predecessor the new issue includes valuable and necessary information about our Member Parliaments: structures, legal set-ups, memberships, leaderships as well as addresses, fax numbers, e-mail and websites. The issue also covers PUIC Observers, as well as Parliaments of Muslim states which are not members of the PUIC yet. We solicit comments and observations from our readers in order to produce better directories in the future. ❖

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