



Tenth PUIC Conference Strongly Urges: Projection of Sublime Islamic Values



The Tenth Session of the PUIC Conference called for continued cooperation and coordination between Muslim countries, minorities and communities in order to project the sublime values of Islam through education, media and cultural activities to put an end to the spreading acts of violence and extremism, and to address the root causes of these phenomena. Istanbul, Republic of Turkey hosted the proceedings of this Session on 28-29 Rabi Thani 1436H, corresponding to

21–22 January, 2015.

The Session also urged all states, political parties and institutions to take a firm position against intolerance, Islamophobia and xenophobia, prevent negative stereotyping of Islam, implement comprehensive programmes to promote mutual understanding and respect.

The Conference declared collective will to confront all forms and manifestations of terrorism through strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

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In Preparation for the 11th PUC Conference in Baghdad: Islamabad Meeting Examines Weighty Issues

Delegations from 12 PUIC Member Parliaments, representing the PUIC Executive Committee will meet in Islam Abad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 7- 8 September, 2015, in order to pave the way for convening the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference in Baghdad,

Republic of Iraq, early next year 2016. The meeting will also consider the Draft PUIC Charter on Combating Terrorism and Extremism drafted by the Meeting of the Working Group held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates on 3 – 4 May, 2015.

The delegates will deploy their utmost efforts to examine substantial issues which are to be included in the Draft Agendas of the four Standing Specialized Committees and will also draw up the Draft Agendas of both the 5th Session of the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians and the 6th Meeting of the Committee on Palestine, as well as the Draft Agendas of the 18th session of the PUIC General Committee and the Draft Agenda of the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference.

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Editorial



Dear Reader,

Dialogue in contemporary human society is an immensely significant concept in view of the tensions, acts of terror and violent extremism which pervade several regions of the world. Dialogue signifies recognition of the “other”, readiness to listen to his views, respect for his political, cultural and belief systems, as well as accepting him in the community of human beings on an equal footing with everybody else. Undoubtedly the root causes of tensions and terrorism may be ascribed, to a large extent, to the denial of all the afore-mentioned fruits of dialogue.

For this very reason our PUIC has established a specialized standing committee which is mandated to address, inter alia, dialogue between civilizations and religions.

In its last Tenth Conference, held in Istanbul, Turkey, the PUIC called on all the states of Member Parliaments to enhance dialogue and understanding with non-Muslim States at the level of religions, cultures and civilizations.

It also called for strengthening the values and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Through dialogue we will be able to clarify the natures and contents of several concepts which are still imprisoned in the grey region of human understanding and which lead to conflict and strife whenever people meet to address a certain issue. The concepts, I mean, are, for example, like “just war” “Sovereignty” “good governance” “international community” “justice” “cultural model” “cultural invasion”.. etc.

Useful dialogue necessitates equality, parity between interlocutors, as well as transparency, rationalism, tolerance and knowledge.

Following a prolonged history of conflict, warfare and mutual distrust, dialogue will be a time-consuming endeavour, requiring Patience and broad-mindedness.

The important thing is to take the first step in this one-thousand miles journey.❖

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Interview Finalized on 18 August 2015

Honorable Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to “PUIC”:

Islamic Strategies to Face Challenges



The Honorable Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has addressed, in his interview with the “PUIC”, significant contemporary issues that impact the states and communities of the Islamic World for example, economic, development, cooperation, dialogue, Sectarianism, extremism, Parliamentary diplomacy, Islamophobia, ... etc. Following is the text of this illuminating and thought-provoking interview:

Common Objectives

“PUIC”: How do you evaluate the PUIC experience in Joint Islamic Parliamentary Action?

● Parliamentary Union of the OIC member states holds great importance as it is a significant platform for uniting Muslims and consolidating Islamic brotherhood across the world. PUIC has been crucial in providing a framework to the Parliaments of Islamic countries for meaningful and effective cooperation and coordination. Over the years, the PUIC has convened significant meetings to promote dialogue among parliaments of OIC members where parliamentary experiences have been exchanged and socio-economic and cultural issues of the OIC states have been discussed and deliberated upon.

Today, some of the most grievous challenges faced by Muslim countries are Islamophobia, terrorism and violent extremism and the increasing polarization among Muslim societies. Religious extremism and terrorism have become a global phenomenon and unfortunately linked to Muslims and Islam. In this regard, the Parliamentary representatives from Muslim States have come together in the past to discuss the common challenges prevailing in the respective countries and devise joint parliamentary action to combat them. However, a lot still needs to be done by working more actively for advancing the

common objectives of the OIC countries, and demanding efforts are required of PUIC for strengthening inter-parliamentary and thereafter inter-governmental contacts and cooperation.

Implementation of Resolutions

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

● There is a lot of misinterpretation and misrepresentation of Islam and a stereotypical mindset exists against Muslims in the global world. PUIC, in this regard, needs to portray the true picture of Islam by disseminating the sublime teachings of Islam. It needs to convene frequent meetings of the member states and its deputies and ensure following up with the recommendations and resolutions brought forward in those meetings. The objectives of PUIC can only be realized if proper implementation of recommendations and resolutions is ensured, otherwise all the time and resources will be futile. For an effective working of the PUIC, the member Parliaments need to be strengthened and empowered because only sustainable democracy can ensure that the rights and mandate of the people is upheld.

One of the key focus areas of the PUIC should be on strengthening parliamentary ties which can eventually lead to inter-state trade and economic cooperation since cooperation on the economic front is not as challenging to achieve as other sensitive political and strategic issues. It is also important to have a specialized mission rather than a very broad one given the resource constraints; the organization can then be able to

chalk out practical and doable plans, which can be achieved in a timely manner.

Existing Challenges

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

● The imminent challenges facing the Islamic world are the growing trends of sectarianism, religious extremism and the growing divide between the different segments of society. However, these challenges did not develop overnight. The lack of inquiry-based education, shunning the culture of debate and inability to accept technological development have all contributed to increasing sectarian and religious extremism amongst the Muslim countries whereas the lack of sustainable development policies have contributed in deepening the gulf between the rich and the poor. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that research-based think-tanks are developed across the Muslim world that work on creation of new knowledge using guidance from the Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Furthermore, multilateral dialogue among the Muslim countries should be increased to help understand the challenges faced and the strategies used to counter these. Similarly, the cooperation among the Muslim countries and the exchange of parliamentary experiences would enable the members to follow the success stories in the economic realm.

Terrorism.. Root Causes

“PUIC”: Terrorism and Extremism are current phenomena that are causing concern in many parts of the world. What in your view are the root causes of such phenomena? How may joint Islamic Parliamentary action eliminate them completely?

● Terrorism and extremism have affected all the nations of the world but its impact on the Muslim world is far greater. The



western media has on numerous counts blamed the Muslim countries for fostering terrorism and extremism. However, they ignore the fact that the Muslim Ummah is also a victim to these terror-led acts. Therefore, joint Islamic Parliamentary action is the need of the hour. Together, the Islamic community should address the issue of growing intolerance and develop a counter narrative. The purpose of this should be to address the root causes of terrorism and extremism including the lack of inquiry-based education, shunning the culture of debate, the inability to accept technological development, lack of education and awareness, poverty, unemployment and a lack of meritocracy, and foreign occupation of Muslim lands.

Confronting Islamophobia

“PUIC”: Islamophobia is spreading, especially in the Western Countries. What are the causes and ways to confront it?

● Islamophobia is instigated to spread hatred against the Muslims and is nothing more than a conspiracy since one of the largest religious groups cannot be represented by an insignificant minority of miscreants who are maligning the image of Islam. There is no denying the fact that Islamophobia is not a new phenomenon despite the fact that Islam preaches peace and harmony. Over



the years, the impact of Islamophobia on Muslims has increased manifolds, especially those living and/or working in the Western Countries. As a result of Islamophobia, Muslims constantly face marginalization in all spheres of public and social life. Therefore, it is vital that Muslim countries collectively work to address this issue. In order to confront Islamophobia, the Parliamentarians and experts from the academia, media and civil society organizations all have an important role to play. It is imperative that a well-researched counter narrative is developed, disseminated effectively in the media and translated into laws and policies.

Islamic Solidarity

“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?

● Islamic solidarity is lacking on a global level. If we look at the OIC member states, it can be observed that most of the countries are undergoing political and economic instability. The prevalence of ethnic, sectarian, regional and economic divide among the Muslims has further aggravated the conditions and is one of the most serious obstacles facing Islamic solidarity. In addition to these challenges, one of the critical concerns is the longstanding unresolved issue of Palestine and Kashmir. The effective role of the institution in this regard is needed and there is a dire need for implementing the resolutions in true letter and spirit that have been passed in different OIC summits. Advocacy for peaceful settlement of conflicts prevailing in other Muslim countries is also needed.

PUIC needs to reaffirm its commitment by playing its role for the revival of unity of the Muslim Ummah by creating alliances among the Muslim countries as well as with the international community. PUIC also needs to strategize to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the member countries which can best be done by establishing joint action force of OIC states.

Parliamentary Diplomacy

“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 the peoples of the world?

● Parliamentary diplomacy has played an important role in improving relationship between countries. Through parliamentary diplomacy, countries forming the Muslim Ummah can address the prevalence of extremism and intolerance in their home countries and also work towards addressing the concerns of Western Muslims regarding Islamophobia. As both the government and the opposition

- Need to Implement Recommendations and Resolutions
- Joint Islamic Parliamentary Action Need of the Hour
- Collective Muslim Work to Confront Islamophobia
- PUIC Role to Revive Muslim Unity
- Active Action to Promote Positive Image



are represented in delegations participating in parliamentary diplomacy therefore it would provide a more robust view of each country. By combining expertise and sharing resources through parliamentary diplomacy, the safety, security and economic well-being of citizens can be ensured.

Cultural Dialogue

“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?

● It is highly unfortunate that Islam has become synonymous with intolerance in today’s era, particularly following the propaganda campaigns by the mainstream western media. We must play an active role in promoting the positive image of Islam, a religion, which respects other peoples’ beliefs and culture. Therefore, it is vital that the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member countries takes the lead in identifying universal values and then conducting an engaging and enlightening dialogue, as often our preconceived notions mar these dialogues. Therefore, special attempts must be made to increase communications and knowledge so that we are able to understand diversity and celebrate plurality.

Government and the Economy

“PUIC”: In your view, what role, can parliament play in guiding their respective government to adopt the 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.

● One of the core functions of the parliament is oversight. By effectively exercising this right, it can play an active role in guiding the government on various issues including economy and foreign policy. In the National Assembly of Pakistan, a considerable number of Standing Committees for the respective ministries, Special Committees and Parliamentary Committees have been formed to ensure oversight of the government. These committees meet regularly to discuss government policies while also inviting members from the academia and industry to provide expert opinion on complex matters. Through the working of committees, it is ensured that the Parliament is able to enact laws that reflect the will of the people and are also abreast with the latest development in that particular field. Likewise, oversight tools of the Parliament such as questions and calling attentions etc. are very useful in keeping the government in line with the needs and demands of the masses. ❖

Important Meeting of the Executive Committee: Committee Considers Charter on Combating Terrorism and Extremism



The current Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Union gains significance from the fact that it is charged with drawing up the agendas of the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference, which is scheduled to be held in early 2016 in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq.

The Meeting of the Executive Committee discusses the following agenda items:

Report of the PUIC Secretary General; Following up implementation of the resolutions adopted by the PUIC in general; Consideration of the Draft PUIC Charter on Combatting Terrorism and Extremism drafted by the Meeting of the Working Group held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates on 3 – 4 May, 2015.

STANDING SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES:-

The meeting also considers Drawing up the Draft Agendas of the 4th Meetings of the:-

- Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
- Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
- Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family;
- Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.

SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

The meeting seeks to draw up the Draft Agendas of the following Meetings:

- Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine
- Fifth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians

And also Drawing up the Draft Agenda of the 18th Session of the PUIC General Committee; Drawing up the Draft Agenda of the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference; and Adoption of the Report of the 34th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Report of the Secretary General:

The Secretary General submits a report to the Committee which covers the period between the convening the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference, which was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 21 – 22 January, 2015, and the date of holding the 34th Meeting of the Executive Committee in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 7 – 8 September, 2015 It includes:

- Participation in international and regional fora.
- STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE PUIC

GENERAL SECRETARIAT:

22 February, 2015, Condemnation of the terrorist action which took place in Mogadishu and victimized a number of members of the Somali Parliament, Government Officials and others.

16 February, 2015, Condemnation of the heinous crime committed by DAESH terrorist organizations by slaughtering Egyptians captives in Libya.

16 February, 2015, Condemnation of the abominable Crime committed against three Muslim Students in Chapel Hills in North Carolina States, USA.

19 March, 2015, Condemnation of the terrorist attack which targeted the building and a museum in Bardo area in Tunis, which resulted in the death and injury of scores of innocent people.

7 June, 2015, Condemnation of the bill of Israeli laws, automatically passed by the Israeli Keenest, to be applied on settlers and settlements in the West Bank. H.E. the Secretary General called on parliamentary unions to commit the Israeli Keenest to stop such illegal measures.

22 June, 2015, Condemnation of the attack launched by Talbans movement against the parliament building in Kabul.

- Important messages sent by H.E. The Secretary General
- Congratulatory messages sent by H.E. Secretary General
- Media Activities.

The report also gives a briefing on the Following-up of the implementation of the resolutions of the 10th Session of the PUIC Conference and Related Meetings, held in Istanbul – Republic of Turkey on 17 - 22 January, 2015. ❖



Highlights of Parliament

Islamic Republic of Mauritania

The Parliamentary of Mauritania is composed of two houses: National Assembly (Al Jamiya Al-Wataniya) and the Senate (Majlis Al-Chouyoukh).

The Senate:

Members of the Senate are elected for a period of six years through indirect voting. Every Mauritanian National who enjoys civil and political rights may be elected as member of the Senate if he is not less than 35 years old. The law defines the conditions for election of Senate members, their number and remuneration.

The law also sets the ineligibility and the incompatibilities of candidacy, as well as the conditions for the election of people who fill vacant seats with the general or partial renewal of the Senate. The Constitutional Council decides in case of dispute over the validity of elections or eligibility of the candidates.

Members of the Senate cannot be arrested, searched or presented because of their views or voting while exercising their tasks.

Constitution of the Senate:

The Senate is composed of 56 Members: 53 members are elected



by General and indirect suffrage to represent the regions of the country; 3 members are appointed to represent Mauritians living abroad.

Legislative Sessions:

The Senate holds two ordinary

sessions annually. The first Session begins on second November and the Second session begins on Second May. The duration of each regular session does not exceed two months. The Senate may hold extraordinary Sessions.

Bureau of the Senate:

The Bureau has all the powers to manage the debates of the Senate according to regulations. It is composed of the Speaker, three Deputy Speakers, a questeur, and three Secretaries. The duration of the Bureau is two years.

The Committees:

The Senate has five (5) Committees as follows:

- Committee on Cultural and Social



Speaker of National Assembly of Mauritania

Mohamed Ould Boilil



Mohamed Ould Boilil, born on 31 December 1951 in Rosso, is the Speaker of National Assembly since January 29, 2014.

He is married and has children. He graduated from the Training College of Directors promotion on 1976.

Career

Before his appointment as Speaker of National Assembly of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Boilila has occupied the following positions:

- From 1976 to 1979, Head of Division and Head of Department at the Ministry of Interior and mayor of several cities.
- From 1986 to 2005, the Wali (governor) Mouçaid



Affairs.

- Committee on Constitutional Laws, Public Suffrage, Order and General Administration.
- Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence.
- Committee on Financial Affairs, Budget Control and National Accounts.
- Committee on Economic Affairs and Planning.

National Assembly

The deputies to the National Assembly are elected for five (5) years by direct suffrage.

The sessions of the National Assembly and Senate are public. The report of the debates is published in the Official Journal. Each of the Assemblies may sit in camera upon the request of the Government or one quarter (1/4) of its members present.

The Assembly meets ex officio, in two

(2) ordinary sessions each year. The first regular session opens in the first half of November. The second in the first fortnight of May. The duration of each regular session shall not exceed two (2) months.

The Parliament may be convened in extraordinary session upon the request of the President of the Republic or the majority of members of the National Assembly with a specific agenda. The duration of an extraordinary session may not exceed one month. Special sessions are opened and closed by decree of the President of the Republic. The Speaker of the National Assembly is elected for the term of the legislature.

Organs of the National Assembly:

- The Bureau;
- Conference of the speakers
- Parliamentary groups;
- The Committees.

The Bureau consists of the Speaker,

five Vice-Presidents, a Quaestor and 5 secretaries.

Powers:

The Bureau has the powers to chair the deliberations of the Assembly, organizing and directing all the services under the conditions laid down in this Regulation.

The Bureau is the Governing Body of the National Assembly.

Parliamentary Groups:

- Policy Group and compositions
- Rally of Democratic Forces Group
- Union of Progress Forces Group
- Change and Reform Group

Committees:

- The Committee on Islamic Guidance
- The Finance Committee
- The Committee of Economic Affairs
- The Committee of Interior Justice and Defence
- The Foreign Relations Committee
- The Accounts Committee
- The Ad-hoc Committee

International Relations:

Mauritanian parliamentary diplomacy is expressed especially through the participation of the National Assembly in the activities of the different inter-parliamentary unions as follows:

- The Inter-Parliamentary Union
- The Arab Parliamentary Union
- The Maghreb Consultative Council
- The Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States
- The African Parliamentary Union
- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie
- The NATO Parliamentary Assembly.❖

Dakhlet Nouadhibou Wali Brakna, Assaba Wali, Wali of Adrar.

- Since 2006 Deputy of the moughataa Keur Macène.
- Minister of the Interior and Decentralization of Mauritania since March 22, 2011.

Education

Mohamed Ould Boilil received all his primary education at the Liberation School and Pape Gueye Fall in Dakar. At the end of primary school, he started his secondary education at Blaise Diagne of Dakar High School. In 1974 he became attaché of general management in Management Training college in Nouakchott (ENA).❖

Speaker of Senate of Mauritania

Mohamed El Hacem Ould El Hadj





The Tenth PUIC Conference in Istanbul: Resolve to Combat Terrorism and Extremism

The Tenth Session of the PUIC Conference was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 28-29 Rabi Awal 1436H, corresponding to 21-22 January 2015, under the motto “Responding to Challenges of the 21st Century: Establishment of Global Peace, Justice, Stability and Security.” It was attended by (48) member Parliaments out of a total of (54) members, and the participation of (21) Speakers of Parliament and (13) Deputy Speakers. The opening Session was presided by H.E. Cemil Cicek, Speaker of the Turkish Parliament. H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, attended the inaugural session and addressed the Conference.

The Session was also addressed by:

- H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran and President of the 9th PUIC Conference.

- H.E. Mr. Cemil Cicek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

- H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC, PUIC Secretary General

The conferees then elected members of the Conference Bureau as follows:

- Cameroon was elected Vice-President for the African Group.
- The United Arab Emirates was elected Vice-President for the Arab Group.

- The Rapporteur was elected from Turkey.

The conferees also adopted the Agenda and Work Programme. H.E. the PUIC Secretary General gave a brief presentation on the activities of the various organs of the PUIC during the period from 17 February 2014 (date of the 9th PUIC Conference) and the date of the Conference, held in Istanbul, on 21-22 January 2015. In the first session the request of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to accede to the PUIC full membership was accepted.

Speeches of the Speakers of Parliaments and Heads of Delegation:

A number of their Excellencies the Speakers and Heads of Delegations took the floor during the sessions of the conference. Following is a summary of their contents:

- Need for joint Islamic action to counter the offensive against Islam.

- Establish a mechanism for parliamentary dialogue on terrorism and extremism among the PUIC, the European Parliament, the US Congress and other parliamentary unions.

- Insist on the rejection of all forms of terrorism, including State terrorism.

- Underscore that the freedom of opinion and expression does not justify offense to the sanctities of

others.

- Invite national parliaments to enact laws incriminating the defamation of divine religions, Messengers, Prophets and sanctities.

- Need to set up an effective mechanism for the follow-up of the implementation of resolutions adopted by PUIC conferences.

- Call for exerting further efforts to achieve the unity of the Muslim world and work jointly to address the major issues facing our peoples.

- Urge the States of Member Parliaments and their political and social circles to renounce violence and resort to dialogue.

- Introduce reforms to the work processes of PUIC organs and increase the number of the sessions of the specialized committees.

- Emphasize the need to consider the cause of Palestine as the central and priority cause of the Muslim Ummah.

The Conference ratified the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the PUIC and the OIC on cooperation between the two organizations.

PUIC Charter on Combating Terrorism and Extremism (Proposed by the United Arab Emirates):

- The report of the 33rd Executive Committee was approved. The Secretary General was mandated to follow the matter in the manner

specified in the said report of the Executive Committee.

According to its Agenda the Conference adopted the Report of the 17th Session of the PUIC General Committee.

STANDING SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES

The participants considered and adopted reports and draft resolutions submitted by the four standing specialized committees, namely:

- Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations
- Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment
- Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family
- Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and the Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions

SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

The participants also considered and adopted the reports and draft resolutions submitted by the Committee on Palestine and the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.

The Conference accepted the invitation of the Iraqi delegation

to host the 6th Meeting of the Committee on Palestine in Baghdad. The delegation of Iraq also offered to host the 5th Session of the Muslim Women Parliamentarians Conference in Baghdad.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

In the issue of organizational matters the conference adopted the nominations for:

- General Committee for 2015.
- Executive Committee for 2015.
- Standing Specialized Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.
- Standing Specialized Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment.
- Standing Specialized Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family.
- Standing Specialized Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.

Date and Venue of the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference:

The Conference accepted the offer of the Council of Representatives of Iraq to host the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference in Baghdad on a date to

be defined later. The Conference also agreed to hold the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference in the Republic of Mali.

Date and Venue of the 34th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee:

The Conference accepted the offer of Pakistan National Assembly to host the 34th Session of the PUIC Executive Committee.

Final Communiqué:

In the conclusion of its proceedings the Conference adopted its Final Communiqué which contained (18) Paragraphs and (120) items. The paragraphs covered the following Subjects:

Palestinian Cause – Occupied Arab Territories in Syria and Lebanon- Rejection of Defamation of Divine Religions and Combating Intolerance, Islamophobia and Xenophobia – Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism – Rejecting the Unjust Sanctions Imposed on Muslim Countries- Access to Modern Technologies for Peaceful Purposes, and Making the Middle East a Zone Free of All Weapons of Mass Destruction,





Particularity Nuclear Weapons – Sudan- Somalia- Situation in Mali and Neighboring States- Situation in Cyprus- Protection of Muslim Communities and Minorities – Jammu and Kashmir- Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan- Economic Affairs and Environment - Cultural and Legal Affairs, and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions- Human Rights, Women and Family- Situation in Yemen- Thanks and Appreciation of the Republic of Turkey.

The Istanbul Declaration:

The Conference also adopted the Istanbul Declaration. Following are some of the themes of this

Declaration:

- Achieving good governance and the democratization of international relations based on the principles of equality and mutual respect among states;
- Expressing strong support for the undeniable rights of the people under foreign occupation.
- Reiterating unwavering support and solidarity with the Palestinian cause,
- Deploring Israel’s grave violations in the occupied Palestinian territory,
- Rejecting any attempt to affiliate terrorism with any religion or ethnic group,
- Deploring and condemning in the

strongest terms the terrorist acts of extremist groups such as DEASH and its violent extremist ideology, and its continued gross, systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law;

- Calling for the implementation of holistic and comprehensive measures in the region in confronting policies based on sectarianism and ethnic divisions;
- Stressing the teaching of Islam which includes moderation and tolerance based on peace, justice, dialogue, renunciation of violence,
- Urging all states, political parties and institutions to take a firm position against intolerance, Islamophobia and xenophobia,
- Supporting and encouraging women’s full participation in all aspects of society including participation in the political life and decision-making processes,
- Recognizing that climate change is one of the greatest threats our society faces and it threatens human settlements and natural habitats, economic stability, the availability of resources for development and, ultimately, human lives.❖



Abu Dhabi Meeting Agrees on Charter to Combat Terrorism and Extremism: Charter Envisages Working Strategy of Cooperation Between Muslims



The Working Group on the Draft PUIIC Charter on Combating Terrorism and Extremism met in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, on 3-4 May 2015. Members of the Group, who attended the meeting represented the parliaments of the following geographical groups:

The African Group

- Republic of Chad
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Uganda

The Arab Group:-

- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- State of the United Arab Emirates

The Asian Group:

- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Absent)
- Republic of Turkey

The Opening Session was addressed by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Ahmad Al Murr, Speaker of the Federal National Council of UAE who delivered an exhaustive speech in which he stated that the peril of terrorism is on the rise and is threatening the world and the entire

humanity. His Excellency stressed the commitment of the State of the United Arab Emirates to combat Terrorism and Extremism, and called for adherence to proper Islamic values as well as protecting the tolerant image of Islam.

His Excellency Dr. Rashad Boukhash, member of the Federal National Council of the UAE was elected as Chairman.

His Excellency Mahmud Erol KILIÇ referred to the resolution on the formation of the Working Group concerned with formulating a Draft PUIIC Charter on Combating Terrorism and Extremism adopted by the 10th Session of the PUIIC Conference, as well as the Member Parliaments which have been selected by the geographical groups for its membership. His Excellency stated that the UAE Federal National Council has presented a Draft Charter that has been circulated to all the august Member Parliaments, and that a number of these parliaments have kindly forwarded their proposals and views which have been also circulated to the Member Parliaments of the Working Group.

In an atmosphere pervaded by genuine Islamic brotherhood the Articles of the Draft PUIIC Charter on

Combating Terrorism and Extremism composed of a preamble and 13 Articles were discussed. The meeting took into consideration the proposals, views and amendments which have been submitted by the following parliaments:-

- National Assembly of the State of Qatar
- National People's Assembly of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- The Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey.
- The National Assembly of the Republic of Chad.
- Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Consultative Council of the Sultanate of Oman.

Following exhaustive discussions and deliberations the Working Group agreed on a Draft which shall be submitted to the next meeting of the PUIIC Executive Committee in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Draft is composed of a Preamble and (13) paragraphs. Some of these paragraphs address cooperation in the field of exchanging information relevant to terrorist activities; cooperation in eradicating sources of financing terrorism; cooperation with the international community for adopting as international agreement on the internet in order to prevent terrorists from utilizing such technologies; and formation of an Islamic focal point for cooperation with the international community to combat extremism.❖





Highlights of Supreme Assembly of Republic of Tajikistan

Majlisi Oli (the Supreme Assembly) - Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan is the supreme representative and legislative body of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Majlisi Oli consists of two Majlises (Assemblies) - the Majlisi Milli (the National Assembly) and the Majlisi Namoyandagon (the Assembly of Representatives).

The Constitutional Law regulates the creation and activity of Majlisi Oli.

Majlisi Milli was established in 1999 by the new national constitution, the Majlisi Milli of Majlisi Oli is the upper chamber of the bicameral national parliament. It has 33 seats. 25 members are elected by secret ballot. Eight members are appointed by the President. The term of the mandate is five years. Eligibility qualification is 35 years and a university diploma. Every

former President is a life-long member of the Majlisi Milli.

Majlisi Namoyandagon was established in 1999 by the new national constitution, It is the lower chamber of the bicameral national parliament.

It has 63 seats. Members are elected through general, equal, free, direct elections with personal and secret ballot. 22 of them are elected under the proportionality principle, 41 in one – mandate constituencies. Eligibility threshold is 25 years.

Every citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan no younger than 25 years old and having the higher education diploma may be elected deputy of Majlisi Namoyandagon. The Government members, judges, law and order bodies' officers, military officers and other persons defined by the Constitutional law shall not be Majlisi

Milli members.

Majlisi Namoyandagon deputy shall not be a deputy of other representative bodies, to occupy other post and engage in business activities, except for scientific, creative and pedagogical activities.

The Majlisi Milli member and Majlisi Namoyandagon deputy shall have the status of immunity, shall not be arrested, kept in custody, detained, and searched, except for cases when caught red-handed.

Powers of the Majlisi Milli and Majlisi Namoyandagon in the time of holding joint sessions:

1. Confirmation of decrees of the President to appoint and discharge the Prime Minister and other Government members;
2. Confirmation of decree of the President on announcing war and emergency

Speaker of the Majlisi Milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan

Makhmadsaid Ubaidulloev

Date and place of birth: 1 Feb. 1952, Farkhor district, Kulob region Republic of Tajikistan

Education: Tajik Polytechnic Institute, Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Kharkov Polytechnic Institute, Kharkov, Ukraine; Tashkent



Higher Party School under the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Career History:

Political and Executive:

- 1992-94, Deputy Chairman of the

Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe city;

- 1994-96, First Deputy of Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe city;

- 1996 -, Chairman (Mayor) of Dushanbe city, Dushanbe city;

- 2000 -, Chairman of Majlisi Milli Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan (National Assembly), Dushanbe city;

- 2007 - 2009, Chairman of Interparliamentary Assembly of EuroAsEC-Euroasian Economic Cooperation.

Awards, Honors and Prizes

Following are some of the awards:

- Prize for acknowledgement of leader ability for the inestimable

situations;

3. To agree on the use of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan to carry out international commitments of Tajikistan outside the country;
4. Appointing the Presidential election;
5. Adopting the resignation of the President;
6. Awarding the President with the state decoration and conferring on him the highest military ranks.
7. Contemplate the issue on the Presidential immunity. The Majlisi Milli and Majlisi Namoyandagon shall adopt the resolution based on the specified powers in their joint sessions.

Powers of the Majlisi Milli:

1. Establishing, eliminating and changing the territorial and the administrative units;
2. Electing and initiating the functioning of the Chairman, deputies and judges of the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and Supreme Economic Court based on the proposal of the President;



3. Deciding on eliminating the immunity of the Chairmen, deputies and judges of the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and Supreme Economic Court;
4. Approving appointment and dismissal of the Prosecutor-General and his deputies;
5. Implementing other powers defined by the Constitution and laws.

Powers of the Majlisi Namoyandagon:

1. Establishing the Central Elections and Referendum Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan, electing and recalling the Chairman, his deputy and members based on the proposal of the President;
2. Presenting to public's discussion draft laws and other important national and public issues;
3. Confirming social and economic programs;
4. Deciding commitments for State debt;
5. Ratifying and canceling of international agreements;
6. Deciding on conducting the referendum;
7. Establishing courts;
8. Confirming State awards;
9. Confirming the Presidential decrees concerning appointment and dismissal of the Chairman of the National Bank and deputies thereof;
10. Setting the military and diplomatic ranks, other ranks and special titles;
11. Setting the remuneration of the President;
12. Implementing other powers specified by the Constitution and laws.



Committees and Commissions Structure of the Majlisi namoyandagon

The Majlisi namoyandagon shall set up committees and commissions comprised of deputies. It can set up temporary

commissions to resolve separate issues.

The Majlisi namoyandagon has the following standing committees and commissions:

- The Committee on Economy and Finance;
- The Committee on Legislation and Human Rights;
- The Committee on Law, Order, Defense and Security;
- The Committee on Agrarian Issues and Ecology;
- The Committee on International Affairs, Public Associations and Information;
- The Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Youth Policy;
- The Committee on Social Issues, Family and Healthcare;
- The Committee on State Structures and Local Self-Governance;
- The Committee on Power Engineering, Industry, Construction and Communication;
- The Commission of Control of Guidelines and Organization of Work;
- The Commission on Deputy Ethics of the Majlisi namoyandagon.

The concrete competence of the committees and commissions is determined by the Regulations of the Majlisi namoyandagon. ❖

contributions in governing

Medal of Leading Engineers of the World 2006, awarded by International Biographic Center. Manchester, United Kingdom – 2006;

Diploma of UN-HABITAT and World organization of United Cities and Local Governments for the rise in living standards in Dushanbe-city, World HABITAT Day, Kazan – 2006.

Hobby

Politics, Logic, Dialectics and Philosophy ❖

Speaker of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of Tajikistan

Shukurjon Zukhurov

● Zuhurov Shukurjon was born on 16 April 1954 in Pianj district of Khatlon region of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajik by nationality. Graduated from Academy of management of Russian Federation and Moscow University of Engineering.

● Mr Zuhurov's works have been awarded with order "Dusti", "Sharaf" and medal and diplomas of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Soviet Socialist Republic of Tajikistan.

● Married, has five children.

● On 28 February 2010 Zuhurov Shukurjon was elected to the Majlisi Namoyandagon and on 16 March 2010 he was elected Chairman of the Majlisi.

● On 1 March 2015 Zuhurov Shukurjon was re-elected to the Majlisi Namoyandagon and on 17 March 2015 he was re-elected Chairman of the Majlisi Namoyandagon. ❖



Islamic Parliamentary Group in Hanoi (Viet Nam):

Adopting a unified position regarding the Emergency Agenda Items of IPU



PUIC delegations participating in the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held their annual meeting at Rooms 305/307, third Floor of the International Convention Centre, Hanoi (Viet Nam), on Saturday 28th March, 2015 at 09:30.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, Speaker of the House of Councilors of Morocco and the participation of speakers and members of parliament representing PUIC Member Parliaments.

After a brief speech delivered by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, the meeting 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 132nd Assembly Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.”

Meanwhile, the inaugural Session of the IPU Assembly took place in the evening of Saturday 28 March 2015.

It was addressed by H.E. the President of Vietnam Mr. Truong Tan Sang. The Session was also addressed by Ms. A.J. Mahammad, UN Secretary General’s Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning; Mr. Ngyen Sinh Hun, Speaker of the National Assembly of Vietnam.

Delegations from 128 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the IPU Assembly.

Observers included: PUIC, IOM, APA, PABSEC, PAM, OSCE PA, AIPU, APU, League of Arab States, Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, ICRC.

Eight requests were submitted for inclusion of an emergency item on the agenda.

On 29 March, the President informed the Assembly that eight requests had been received to include an emergency item on the agenda

The Assembly held a roll-call vote on the final list of four items. The proposal put forward jointly by Australia and Belgium, which had received the required two-thirds majority and the highest number of votes in favour, was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 9. ❖





Al-Khorafi as I Know Him

 **Ali Asghar Mohammadi**

■ **Assistant Secretary General of PUIC**

Since I have been honoured by assuming the post of PUIC Assistant Secretary General as a result of the trust invested in me by the august Member Parliaments and H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, I was blessed with a valuable and priceless opportunity to know the Speakers and members of Parliaments who attended the PUIC Conferences and meetings as well as the chance to meet them on the sidelines of the other parliamentary gatherings in which we also participate.

The most outstanding characters with which I have worked was the late Mr. Jassem Mohammad AL-Khorafi for whom we felt indebted for the success of PUIC action, and for bringing people together and unifying the views of the esteemed members.

Actually I know Al-Khorafi and met him in person before I joined the PUIC General Secretariat. However, the first time to work with him as PUIC Assistant Secretary General was during the ad hoc committee on amending the PUIC Statute in Cairo. In that meeting the late Al-Khorafi played a remarkable and constructive part in that task, beside rendering substantial contributions to the PUIC work.

We ought to commend the distinguished imprints which the late Al-Khorafi made in the field of enhancing joint Islamic Parliamentary action; and reiterate his well-known stances and sagacious ideas concerning the unification of parliamentary visions vis-à-vis the challenges and difficulties which face the Islamic nation.

The late Al-Khorafi was not only a Kuwaiti character but also a man of the Islamic Ummah. His

positions and mettle showed during the most difficult and divergent circumstances which sometimes pervaded parliamentary fora. He was always ready to offer prudent ideas.

Mr. Al-Khorafi was one of the most renowned Islamic personalities whether in parliamentary action or in the public domain. He was a parliamentary symbol having participated in parliamentary action for more than 28 years at both Islamic and international levels.

He assumed the presidency of more than one parliamentary Union and gained further experience at the level of practical and humanitarian work.

He used to carry many good sentiments to his people and the Islamic nation, as well as to all those who come into contact with him.

Mr. Al-Khorafi is considered one of the most distinguished characters of the PUIC and the IPU due to his being a rallying element of every Islamic parliamentary endeavour, in addition to his ever ready efforts to settle and overcome differences. He always played commendable roles in addressing issues of the region.

We recollect in this juncture the role played by the late Al-Khorafi in helping a Muslim and Arab personality to hold the position of IPU President. I am referring to His Excellency Mr. Abdul Wahid Al-Radhi of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The late Al-Khorafi represented moderation and rationality, in addition to acting as a reference in several spheres where people seek wisdom and far-sightedness. He was known for his love of national work, Islamic unity and support of humanitarian causes.

The passing away of Al-Khorafi, who was a pillar of parliamentary and political action, was a loss to Kuwait in particular and the Islamic Ummah in general as well as a substantial loss to world parliamentary action.

I reiterate that the PUIC has lost a personality dear to all members. Indeed Kuwait and the Arabs have lost one of their loyal sons. His memory shall live forever in the hearts and souls of his contemporaries and those who witnessed his national and Islamic stances. ❖

The late Jassem Mohammed Al-Khorafi was born in Qibla neighborhood in Kuwait in 1940. He received his elementary education in Bombay in India and then at Rawda School in Kuwait City. He then joined Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt. Coming back to Kuwait, he enrolled in Shuwaikh Secondary School. He finished his higher education in Manchester, Britain, where he obtained a diploma in Business Administration.

The late Al-Khorafi served as Speaker of the National Assembly during the period 1999-2011. He was a member of the Assembly during the sessions of 1975, 1981, 1985 and 1996.

From 1985 to 1990 he served as Minister of Finance and Economy. He also held several administrative and executive posts in the public sector.

Among the achievements made during his presidency of the National Assembly was the adoption of a number of crucial laws and decisions, including granting Kuwaiti women political rights allowing their candidacy and election to the membership of the National Assembly; also amendment of a number of electoral constituencies. ❖





Highlights of the Parliament of Republic of Albania

The Parliament of Albania (Kuvendi or Parlamenti), formerly the People's Parliament (Kuvendi Popullor) is the unicameral parliament of the Republic of Albania. It has 140 members, elected for four-year terms. The electoral system is closed list proportional representation. There are 12 multi-member constituencies, corresponding to the country's 12 administrative regions. Within any constituency, parties must meet a threshold of three percent of votes; pre-election coalitions must meet a threshold of five percent. All laws passed by the parliament are published by the Albanian Official Journal.

The legislative system in Albania has evolved under different regimes. Currently the President is elected by the parliament. The current members were chosen in 2013.

Working of Parliament:

The Parliament conducts its annual work in two sessions. The first session begins on the third Monday of January and the second session on the first Monday of September. It meets in extraordinary session when it is requested by the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister or by one-fifth of all the deputies.

Extraordinary sessions are called by the Speaker of the Parliament on the basis of a defined agenda.

The Parliament elects and dismisses its chairman. It is organized and functions according to regulations approved by the majority of all the members.

Parliament elects standing committees from its ranks and may also establish



special committees. It has the right and, upon the request of one-fourth of its members is obliged, to designate investigatory committees to review a particular issue. Its conclusions are not binding on the courts, but they may be made known to the office of the prosecutor, which evaluates them according to legal procedures. Investigatory committees operate according to the procedures set by law. Parliament decides with a majority of votes, in the presence of more than half of its members, except for the cases

where the Constitution provides for a qualified majority.

The Meetings of Parliament are open.

At the request of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister or one-fifth of the deputies, meetings of the Parliament may be closed, when a majority of all its members have voted in favor of it.

Passage of Laws:

The following Proposed Laws are approved by three-fifths of all members of Parliament:

- a) the laws for the organization and operation of the institutions provided for in the Constitution;
- b) the law on citizenship;
- c) the law on general and local elections;
- d) the law on referenda;
- e) the codes;
- f) the law for the state of emergency;
- g) the law on the status of public functionaries;
- h) the law on amnesty;
- i) the law on administrative divisions of the Republic.

A draft law is voted on three times: in principle, article by article, and in its entirety.

President of the Republic promulgates the approved law within 20 days from its presentation.

A law enters into force with the passage of not less than 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal.

The Parliamentary Bureau

The Parliamentary Bureau attends to and decides on the administrative and inner functions of Parliament.

The Parliamentary Bureau is chaired by the Speaker of Parliament and includes the two Deputy Speakers of Parliament, two secretaries for the Parliamentary budget and four other secretaries. The composition of the Bureau is decided through open voting by Parliament in plenary session and represents, as far as is possible, the political composition of Parliament.

The Bureau decides on the Parliamentary budget, according to the proposal of the secretaries for the budget; the organization of the services of Parliament according to the proposal of the Secretary-General, legal and economic status of the personnel of Parliament,

as well as on the complaints regarding the establishment of parliamentary groups or complaints on the composition of Parliamentary standing committees.

The Parliamentary Bureau, according to the proposal of the Speaker of Parliament, appoints the Secretary-General out of three candidates, according to civil service legislation. The Parliamentary Bureau approves the annual report of the activities of Parliament and decides on its publication.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIATS

Parliamentary secretariats, functioning closely with the Parliamentary Bureau, are composed of three deputies each, whereas the Secretariat for the Parliamentary Budget is composed of five deputies. Their composition is approved by Parliament through open election proposed by the Speaker of Parliament, after consultation with the chairmen of parliamentary groups.

The Parliamentary Secretariats are led by the Secretaries of the Bureau of Parliament, in agreement with the duties established by the Bureau. They regularly inform the Speaker and the Bureau of Parliament on the activities of the respective secretariat.

Parliamentary Groups

- DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Parliamentary Group

- SOCIALIST PARTY Parliamentary Group

Parliamentary Councils

- Council on Rule of Procedure, mandates and Immunity
- Council on Legislation

Parties represented in the Parliament of Albania

- Socialist Party of Albania, 65
- Democratic Party of Albania, 50
- Socialist Movement for Integration, 16
- Party for Justice, Integration and Unity, 4
- Republican Party of Albania, 3
- Unity for Human Rights Party, 1
- Christian Democratic Party, 1

Committees:

The Albanian parliament has the following 10 committees:

- Ad-Hoc Committees
- Committee on Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights
- Committee for European Integration
- Committee on Foreign Policy
- Committee on Economic and Finance
- Committee on National Security
- Committee on Productive Activities, Trade and Environment
- Committee on Labour, Social Affairs and Health
- Committee on Education and Public Information Media
- Special Committee. ❖



Speaker of Parliament of Albania

Illir Rexhep Meta



Illir Rexhep Meta (born on March 24, 1969 in Skrapar) is an Albanian politician who was Prime Minister of Albania from 1999 to 2002. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2002 to 2003 and again from 2009 to 2010, and he has been Speaker of the Albanian Parliament since 2013. He also held positions as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, in both left-wing and right-wing governments.

Education

He graduated from the Faculty of Economy, Political Economy branch, of Tirana University, where he also pursued his post-graduate studies.

Illir Meta has been lecturer at the Economic Faculty of Tirana University. He has also lectured at several renowned universities and academies overseas, including Harvard University, London School of Economics and the European Academy in Berlin.

Illir Meta speaks Albanian, English and Italian. He is married and has two daughters and a son.

Awards

In March 2012, Meta received the "Most Positive Personality for 2010 in Foreign Policy" AWARD by International Institute IFIMES in Ljubljana. ❖



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:

- 12 January 2015 re-election of H.E. Mrs. Verónica Nataniel Macamo Dlovo as Speaker of Assembleia da Republica (Assembly of the Republic) of Mozambique
- 27 February 2015 election of H.E. Mrs. Lucie Milebou-Aubusson as Speaker of Senate of Gabon
- 1 March 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Houmed as Speaker of National Assembly of Djibouti
- 12 March 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Mian Raza Rabbani as Speaker of Senate of Pakistan
- 17 March 2015 re-election of H.E. Mr. Djibril Cavayé Yeguie as Speaker of National Assembly of Cameroon
- 17 March 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Shukurjon Zuhurovas Speaker of the Majlisi namoyandogon (House of Representatives) of Tajikistan
- 4 April 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Abdou Ousseni as Speaker of Assembly of the Union of Comoros
- 17 April 2015 re-election of H.E. Mr. Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloev as Speaker of the Majlisi milli (National Assembly) of Tajikistan
- 25 May 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Adrien Houngbédji as Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin
- 26 May 2015 re-election of H.E. Mr. Ali Larijani as Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
- 1 June 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer as Speaker of Majlis Watani (National Assembly) of Sudan
- 1 June 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Omer Suleiman Adam as Speaker of Majlis Welayat (Council of States) of Sudan
- 7 June 2015 re-election of H.E. Mr. Mohammad Jihad al-Laham as Speaker of the Majlis Al-Chaab (People's Assembly) of Syrian Arab Republic
- 9 June 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Yakubu Dogara as Speaker of House of Representatives of Nigeria
- 9 June 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Olubukola Abubakar Saraki as Speaker of Senate of Nigeria
- 10 June 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Barton Scotland as Speaker of National Assembly

of the Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

- 1 July 2015 election of H.E. Mr. Ismet Yilmaz as Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey



Afghanistan: His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC, condemned the treacherous attack which has been launched by Taliban movement against the building of the Afghan Parliament in Kabul.

While expressing support to His Excellency the Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan, Prof. Kilic denounced this criminal act which is considered a violation of the inviolability of the parliament which expresses the aspirations and hopes of the Afghan people in a safe future in which peace and development prevail.



Iran: The Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Speaker Ali Larijani says cooperation between Tehran and the European Union (EU) can contribute to the settlement of crises in the Middle East.

“Iran and the EU have common interests in promoting cooperation, which can help improve the situation in the Middle East and put an end to the current threats to bring about stability and tranquility in the Middle East,” Larijani said in a meeting with visiting EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini in Tehran.

He added that Iran and the 28-nation bloc can also work together in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking.

Touching on the conclusion of nuclear talks between Iran and the P5+1 group, Larijani underlined the need for mutual commitment to the agreement.

“If the nuclear agreement is approved [by the Iranian parliament], Iran will be committed to the terms of the agreement and will carefully implement it, but if the Iranian nation feels that the P5+1 is not making good on its obligations under the agreement, the tables will be turned,” Larijani said, stressing that the Iranian parliament will closely watch the implementation of the agreement by the opposite side.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Larijani called for development of economic ties with European countries, especially joint ventures in energy and technology sectors. Mogherini, for her part, described Iran as a significant and powerful partner for the EU,

saying the bloc seeks to revive ties with the Islamic Republic in all areas.

She also welcomed promotion of economic and trade ties with Iran, saying the two sides can also cooperate in the campaign against terrorism and drug trafficking.

The senior EU official said that the EU attaches great significance to restoration of stability and security in the Middle East, stressing that Iran-EU cooperation can bring about positive results for the region.



Jordan: H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC, PUIC Secretary General expressed strong condemnation of the vicious criminal act perpetrated by the terrorist group, DAESH, against the Jordanian citizen Maaz Kasasbeh. In this respect he sent a message of condolences to H.E. Atef Tarawnah, Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives. Following is the text of this message:

“We have been shocked by the detestable crime and the cowardly terrorist act which has been committed by the terrorist organization DAESH which resulted in the martyrdom of the hero Maaz Kasasbeh. We condemn, in the strongest terms, this vicious crime whose perpetrators have not heeded the inviolability of any religion or human being. This abominable action which has nothing to do with Islam or with its tolerant teachings can only be viewed with denunciation and condemnation from us and from the international community as a whole. It will certainly hasten the elimination of this cowardly terrorist group which spread terror and destruction on earth. Our tolerant religion, Islam is a religion of mercy, compassion and love, and our Islamic Nation shall stand united to confront anyone who dares to disregard or play with its inherited noble capabilities. Please, Excellency accepts our heart-felt condolences and convey this message to the family of the deceased and to the people and leaders of sisterly Jordan.”



Palestine: The Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, condemned with the strongest terms the crime which led to the martyrdom of the Palestinian infant Ali Saad Dawabsheh following the burning of his family house in Doma village south of Nablus by the Zionist settlers.

His Excellency confirmed that this heinous crime which has shaken the world conscience adds to the abhorrent Israeli crimes perpetrated by the government of the Israeli occupation and its army against the unarmed Palestinian people.

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General appealed to all the parliaments of the world and their respective governments to exert serious efforts in order to stop such despicable crimes which are committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people, and demands to take practical steps to hold the criminals accountable and put an end to the Israeli occupation.

Somalia: H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), expressed his condemnation and denunciation of the crime and terrorist act in Mogadishu which caused the death of Somali Members of Parliament (MPs), senior government officials and a number of innocent people.

H.E. the Secretary General presented his sincere condolences to the families of the victims, and prays to Almighty God for the quick recovery of the injured.

Tunisia: H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, the Secretary General, expressed his condemnation in the strongest terms of the terrorist attack that targeted the Tunisian Parliament building and the museum in Bardo district in Tunisian Capital which resulted in killing and injuring a number of innocent people.

H.E. the Secretary General expressed his sincere condolences to the families of the victims, and prays to Almighty God for the quick recovery of the injured.

PUIC Secretary General expressed his full confidence in the ability of the Tunisian leadership in restoring security and stability in sisterly Tunisia.

Turkey: The President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that elections will be held on First November 2015, with an interim government in the meantime, headed by the current PM Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu. This step followed weeks of efforts to form a coalition government with opposition parties.

The last Turkish general election of 2015 took place on 7 June 2015 in all 85 electoral districts of Turkey to elect 550 members to the Grand National Assembly. This was the 24th general election in the history of the Turkish Republic, electing the country's 25th Parliament. The result was the first hung parliament since the 1999 general election.

The Justice and Development Party (AKP), which had governed Turkey since 2002 won 258 seats with 40.9% of the vote. The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) also fared worse than their 2011 result, winning 132 seats with 25.0% of the vote. The Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) saw an increase in their vote share, winning 80 seats with 16.3% of the vote. ❖

PUIC Delegation Discusses in Baghdad Arrangements for Next Conference



PUIC Delegation, headed by H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, held talks in Baghdad, on Sunday 31/5/2015 with H.E. Speaker of the House of Representatives of Iraq Dr. Salim al-Jabouri concerning administrative and technical arrangements for convening the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference in the Iraqi capital early next year 2016.

Dr. al-Jabouri stressed that his country will exert utmost efforts to make the Conference a success, hoping that it may lead to further cooperation among PUIC Members. His Excellency also expressed the hope that the Conference will address the problems and challenges which face Muslim peoples, primarily terrorism and extremism.

Dr. al-Jabouri highly appreciated the OIC role in resolving disputes and differences and establishing peace in the region.

Prof. KILIÇ expressed pleasure for meeting with the Speaker of the Iraqi House of Representatives and commended the role of the House in the framework of the Union.

The Iraqi-PUIC meeting was also attended by H.E. the First Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi House of Representatives Sheikh Hammam Hamoudi and a number of deputies. ❖

SG attends 42nd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, accompanied by H.E. the Assistant secretary General, attended the 42nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of OIC, which was held in Kuwait on May 27-28, 2015 under the high auspices of His Highness Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On the sidelines of the Session H.E. the Secretary General met with H.E. the OIC Secretary General Mr.

Iyad Medani, The two sides discussed means to develop and enhance PUIC-OIC Cooperation. The PUIC Secretary General also contacted a number of their Excellencies Foreign Ministers and exchanged with them views on joint Islamic Action. ❖



Secretary General Condoles with Kuwaiti Speaker



H.E. PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC, expressed profound sorrow and grief over the passing away of H.E. Mr. Jassem Mohammad al-Khorafi, former Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

In his message of condolences, sent to H.E. Mr. Marzouq Ali al-Ghanim the Speaker of the National Assembly of

Kuwait, the PUIC Secretary General underlined the notable activities of the late al-Khorafi in the field of Parliamentary and Humanitarian work as well as in his official functions in Kuwait.

Mr. KILIC mentioned that the late al-Khorafi had well known stances in support of the PUIC progress, and that he was keen on advancing joint Islamic Parliamentary action aimed at realizing the objectives and aspirations of the glorious Islamic Nation to solidarity, progress and prosperity.

His Excellency the Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait Mr. Marzouq Al-Ghanim received in his office the PUIC delegation to the Conference of the OIC Foreign Ministers who offered condolences on the passing away of the former Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait Mr. Jassem al-Khorafi. On the other hand the two sides discussed during the meeting extending support to the initiatives aimed at enhancing cooperation and solidarity among Muslim States as well as acting to unify positions at international parliamentary fora in such a way to serve the interests of these states. ❖

PUIC ICYF-DC Cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation between the PUIC and the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) was signed in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey 21 January 2015 on the sidelines of the 10th PUIC Conference.

His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC signed for the Union, and His Excellency Mr. Elshad Iskandarov, the ICYF-DC Secretary General, signed for the ICYF-DC, in the presence of the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Mr. Cemil Cicek.

The MOU included agreement of the two sides on: Coordination and consultation between the PUIC and ICYF-DC; Exchange of information and documents; holding joint conferences and seminars; mutual obligations concerning the implementation of joint activities. ❖



Secretary General participates in the 3rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the PAM

H.E. the Secretary General participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the PAM and the international Seminar on International Protection of endangered Cultural Heritage in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 14-15 May, 2015.

His Excellency delivered an exhaustive speech in which he called for cooperation to roll back extremism, and bizarre alien ideas to communities, as well as to give preponderance

to the culture of peace, revive the dialogue of cultures and co-existence of civilizations and enactment of laws which preserve the heritage and which are implementable. He also met with H.E. Segio Pizzai, PAM's Secretary General and H.E. Mr. Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, Speaker of the Moroccan House of Counsellors and President of the PAM, with whom he discussed ways to strengthen joint cooperation between the PUIC Members. ❖

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