



At the 8th Session of PUIC Conference

A call for focusing on common issues

In Baku.. The Executive Committee Studies:

Following Up Implementation of PUIC Resolutions

The Executive Committee of the PUIC holds its 30th Meeting in Baku, capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 19-20 June 2013. Members of the Committee will discuss its agenda which includes eleven items, mainly: Report of the Secretary General; following up implementation of the resolutions adopted by the PUIC in general, preparation of the draft amendment of the PUIC rules of procedure in the light of the new Statute, drawing up the draft Agendas of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committees, drawing up the agenda of the 3rd Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians, drawing up the draft agenda of the meeting of the Palestine Committee, drawing up the draft agenda of the 16th Session of the General Committee, drawing up the draft agenda of the 9th Session of the PUIC Conference .

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Under the slogan “ towards a United , Prudent and Capable Islamic Ummah” , the proceedings of the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference took off in Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, on 21-22 January 2013, corresponding to 9-10 Rabi ul- Awwal, 1434H, with the participation of 39 Member Parliaments as well as the attendance of Observers and Guests.

The inaugural ceremony was honoured by the presence of His Excellency First Vice-President of the Republic of the Sudan Mr. Ali Osman Mohammad Taha who called, in his speech, for making the PUIC a reference to recurrent questions in contemporary life, focusing on common parameters that bring Muslims together and overcome whatever that leads to dispersion.

Simultaneous with the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference, the Second Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians was held on 19th January 2013. At the conclusion of its deliberations, the Conference adopted a number of important recommendations, namely: adoption and approval of the Document on Muslim Woman; energizing the network of Muslim Women Parliamentarians; necessity of representing women parliamentarians in delegations that participate in PUIC meetings; and necessity of adopting positive policies that allow Muslim women to participate constructively in all fields.

The 8th Conference also witnessed the convening of the Second Meeting of the Palestine Committee on 18th January 2013. The meeting reviewed the Draft Rules of Procedure, introduced some amendments and then submitted the Draft to the Political Committee and finally to the Conference for approval .

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Editorial

Dear Reader,

By holding a conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians



for the first time in Indonesia, the PUIC has entered an era of qualitative conferences which will widen the scope of its role and relevance to joint Muslim parliamentary action

However our aspirations go beyond this very important step to address a social category which is of no less significance and relevance to the present and future of our Islamic Ummah. I am referring here to the category of Youth. According to established statistics young people constitute the majority of the population in most Muslim countries. This means that they represent the future of the Ummah.

Addressing the question of Youth is two-pronged. On the one hand it involves the necessity of providing the means for capacity-building, academic qualification and proper moral upbringing . on the other hand there is the urgent and most pressing task of protecting youth against negative and harmful influences that are apt to lead young people astray, sap their energies and turn them into human wrecks. In a nutshell that means the destruction of the future of the Ummah. This Statement is not meant to scare Muslim communities but the fact is that certain circles are actively working to destroy the youth through drugs, negative practices and throwing doubts about the parameters of their Ummah and its noble message.

A qualitative action that targets Muslim youth should be high on our agenda before it is too late. ❖



Informing About Member Parliaments:

Highlights on People's Majlis of Maldives

The People's Majlis is the supreme legislative authority in the country and is one of the three principal organs of the State. Unicameral in Constitution, the People's Majlis is vested with the power to enact, revise or amend the Constitution.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker

- The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are elected among Members of the Majlis by secret ballot.
- The Speaker of the Majlis presides over the sittings of the Majlis. He or she is responsible for orderly debates within the Majlis by ensuring that members comply with the rules and regulations.
- The Deputy Speaker takes over responsibilities of the Speaker in his absence and assists the Speaker in the discharge of functions conferred upon him.

Structure of the People's Majlis

People's Majlis consists of 77 elected members from 21 administrative divisions of Maldives. The current 17th Majlis was instated on 28 May 2009. The term of the

People's Majlis is 5 years.

Functions of the People's Majlis

1. Formulating, amending and abolishing laws.
2. Amending the constitution.
3. Holding the government accountable by supervision of policies and actions.
4. Approval of State Budget.
5. Holding public referendums.
6. Determination of matters related to independent commissions and independent offices.

Sittings of the Majlis

The sittings of the Majlis are divided into three sessions a year. The speaker has the authority to assign the dates for the commencing and closing of the Majlis sessions. For a Majlis session to commence, the meeting should be presided by the speaker or the deputy speaker. The quorum of the Majlis is 26 and this number is required to begin a session of the Majlis. If the quorum is not present, the speaker has to adjourn the session. Most of the Majlis meetings are open to the public.

Quorum

The Quorum of a sitting of the Majlis is 25 percent of its members. If any time during a sitting of the Majlis, quorum is lost, such sittings are then adjourned or suspended until quorum is met.

Functions of Members of Parliament

Members of the People's Majlis should be guided in their actions by considerations of national interest and public welfare foremost, and should not exploit their official positions in any way for their own benefit or for the benefit of those with whom they have special relations. They shall represent not only their constituencies but the whole country as a whole.

Parliamentary Committees

There are two types of parliamentary committees in the Majlis: Standing Committees and Select Committees.

Standing Committees are permanent committees to which members are elected by the Majlis for examining Bills in detail and to conduct further review on the subject matter for a comprehensive study.

Select Committees are temporary committees elected among members to deal with a specific issue or a Bill and they cease to exist once the inquiry is over or the issue is resolved.

There are 13 Standing Committees in the Majlis. They meet regularly to study bills, issues, petitions, motions, etc. referred to them by the Majlis. During the Second Reading, the bills are debated and amendments are proposed in the Committee. Once the review of a bill is completed, the Committee will issue a report to the main Majlis outlining their findings and recommendations pertaining to the bill.

The People's Majlis Secretariat

The administration of the People's Majlis is served and managed by the People's Majlis Secretariat. Independent from the Government, the People's Majlis Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General. He is responsible for organizing the proceedings of the Majlis. The Speaker supervises the Majlis Secretariat.

A total of 465 candidates - 211 from 11 political parties and 254 independents - were vying for seats in the People's Majlis. The 2009 elections saw a duel between the MDP and the DRP. The latter formed an electoral alliance with the PA.

Final Results:

- Maldivian Democratic Party (26 seats)
- Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (28 seats)
- People's Alliance (7 seats)
- Jumhooree Party (one seat)
- Dhivehi Qaume Party (2 seats)
- Independent (13 seats)

Total (77 seats)



CV of the Speaker of People's Majlis of the Republic of Maldives

Abdulla Shahid

- The Honourable Abdulla Shahid, MP was elected as the Speaker of the People's Majlis on 29 May 2009.
- He was appointed as a President's member in the Special Majlis (the Constitutional Assembly) by President Gayoom in 1994.
- He was appointed as a President's member to the People's Majlis (Parliament) in 1995 and his career in the People's Majlis continued uninterrupted since then, and in, 2000, he was elected as the Representative of the Vaavu Atoll constituency.
- The first multi-party parliamentary elections of the Maldives in May 2009, the Honourable Shahid won the seat of the Keyodhoo Constituency.
- In 1987 Mr. Shahid earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science (Politics) from Canberra College of Advanced Education in Australia and served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an Assistant Undersecretary and after a brief period in Foreign Service, left for the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston, USA where he graduated with a Master's Degree in International Relations, in 1991.
- Prior to his role as an MP the Honourable Shahid served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1984 and rose through the ranks quickly to the post of Director in which capacity he headed the International Organizations and Conferences Department.
- He also served as the Executive Secretary to President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in 1995.
- In 2005 he was appointed to the post of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and as the Minister of Foreign Affairs on 23 August 2007.
- Mr. Shahid ended his term as the Minister of Foreign Affairs on November 11, 2008.
- Mr. Shahid enjoys soccer and plays badminton. He is fond of writing Dhivehi poetry and is married and has 2 sons and a daughter. ❖





Mechanisms For Combating Economic Violence Against Women

39 Member Parliaments Participate in Khartoum Conference

Khartoum, capital city of the Republic of the Sudan, hosted the proceedings of the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference, on 21-22 January 2013, corresponding to 9-10 Rabi ul Awal 1434, under the slogan "Towards a United, Prudent, and Capable Islamic Ummah". The inaugural session, held in the Friendship Hall, was graced with the presence and address of H.E. Mr. Ali Osman Mohammed Taha, First Vice-President of the Republic of the Sudan, and presided by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, President of the National Legislature and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Sudan.

The 8th Session of the PUIC Conference was attended by (39) PUIC Member Parliaments, represented by Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Heads of Delegations. There were also Observers and Guests. It was also attended by large members of Sudanese parliament members, government ministers, ambassadors accredited to Khartoum, and local and international media and news agencies personnel.

In his inaugural address, His Excellency Mr. Ali Osman Mohammed Taha Stressed that what is required is that the PUIC should be a reference to the recurrent questions in contemporary life and a rallying entity with a message, which focuses on common factors, and overcomes whatever leads to schism.

The inaugural session was also addressed by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, and H.E. Mr. Surhaman Hidayat, Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives (President of the 7th PUIC Conference), as well as H.E. Prof Mahmud Erol KILIC, PUIC Secretary General.

Working Sessions:

The First Working Session was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, Speaker of the Sudanese National Assembly and President of the 8th PUIC Conference. The attendees discussed the 14-item-agenda.

In the beginning the session elected its Bureau as follows:

- H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda - Vice President from the African Group.
- H.E. Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey - Vice President from the Asian Group.
- H.E. Dr. Al Tijani Mustafa from the National Assembly from the Sudan - Rapporteur.

Report of the Secretary General:

His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General presented his report containing PUIC activities during the period from the date of holding the Seventh Session of the PUIC Conference, in Palembang, Republic of Indonesia, on 30 - 31 January 2012, to the Meeting of the Eighth Session held in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, on 21 - 22 January 2013.

The report contained participation in international and regional fora, and statements issued and those circulated by the General Secretariat upon the request of Member Parliaments as well as organizational affairs and activities. It also included important visits made to the PUIC headquarters and a review of following-up and implementing resolutions adopted by the various PUIC organs. The Report was adopted.

Speeches of Heads of Delegations, Observers and Guests:-

The Conference was addressed by Their Excellences the Speakers of Parliaments, (according to English alphabetical order):

Kuwait, Chad, Egypt, Iran, Niger, Turkey, Qatar, UAE and Uganda.

The Speech of the Consultative Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was circulated to the Conferences as he was unable to attend in person.

The Session was addressed by the Deputy Speakers of Parliaments of the following States:

Algeria, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania; Morocco; Senegal; Somalia; Yemen and the Comoros.

OIC Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs delivered the

Speech of H.E. the OIC Secretary General.

The following Heads of Delegations also took the floor: Senate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, National Assembly of the Republic of the Sudan; Palestine National Council of the State of Palestine; National Assembly of Afghanistan; National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan; National Assembly of Burkina Faso; House of Representatives of Malaysia; National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia; and National Assembly of Togo.

The Session was addressed by observers from the following organizations:

Arab Inter-parliamentary Union; Asian Parliamentary Union; African Parliamentary Union; and Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The following guests also addressed the Conference: Arab Parliament; and Palestinian Legislative Council.

Adoption of the Following Reports and Resolutions:

- Report of the 15th Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- 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 among Civilizations and Religions
- Report of Second Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians
- Reports of the First and Second meetings of the Standing Committee on Palestine

Organizational Affairs:

Nominations of the members of the following Committees for the year 2013:

- PUIC General Committee
- Executive Committee

The Following Four Standing Specialized Committees:

- 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 between Civilizations and Religions.

- The Conference agreed to the invitation of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso to hold the 9th PUIC Conference early in 2014.
- The 10th PUIC Conference shall be hosted

by a parliament from the Asian Group.

- The Conference agreed to the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 30th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.
- The Conference approved to accept the Parliament of the Federal Comoro Islands as full PUIC Member.
- The 8th PUIC Conference adopted its Final Report and the Khartoum Declaration and the Final Communique.

Meeting of Subsidiary Organs:

Second Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians:

The Second Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians was held at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, under the motto "Together towards Ideological Renaissance of High Values", on 19th January 2013, simultaneously with the proceedings of the 8th PUIC Conference.

The opening ceremony was honored and addressed by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-

all mechanisms and measures for its implementation.

2. To energize the Muslim Women Parliamentarians network in order to contribute towards deepening bonds of cooperation and the exchange of experiences between Muslim Women Parliamentarians and civil society organizations at all levels.

3. Necessity of representing women parliamentarians in the constitution of delegations, particularly in PUIC Conferences and Standing Committee meetings.

4. Necessity of adopting positive policies that allows Muslim women to participate constructively, actively and effectively, in economic, political, cultural and social fields.

5. To adopt mechanisms which prevent economic violence and the use of women in commercial promotion. To call on the Islamic world which possess the essentials of financial power to put in place such mechanisms.

6. Necessity of pointing to the positive



Tahir, President of the 8th PUIC Conference and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Sudan, as well as H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ, PUIC Secretary General and H.E. Samia Ahmed Mohammed, Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.

Conference Sessions

The Conference held three sessions – beside the procedural session which witnessed:-

Election of current Chairperson of the Conference H.E. Samia Ahmed Mohammed.

Election of two Vice Chairpersons: from the African Group (State of Benin) the Hon. Mrs. Soufiatou Schanon, and from the Asian Group (Republic of Indonesia) the Hon. Dr. Nur Hayatti Assaqaf.

Election of the Rapporteur of the Conference from the Republic of Sudan, the host State.

At the Conclusion of its deliberations, the Conference recommended as follows:

1. To adopt and approve the Document on Muslim Woman, principally, and take

aspects and developments at the level of implementing the recommendations.

7. Necessity of submitting detailed reports in between convening the sessions of the conference.

8. Necessity of setting up a plan or agreement on the priorities and pivots which will become a focal point for evaluating the performance of States upon submission of reports.

The Meeting of the Palestine Committee:

The Second Meeting of the Palestine Committee was held on 18th January 2013 in Khartoum, and was chaired by H.E. Dr. Emrullah Isler, Representative of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The meeting was also attended by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General and a number of Member Parliamentarians.

The meeting reviewed the Draft Rules of Procedure Presented by the PUIC General Secretariat and introduced some amendments thereon in preparation for submission to the Political Committee and then to the PUIC Conference for approval. ❖



The 30th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee

The city of Baku, Capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, will host the 30th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee on 19 and 20 June 2013.

The Meeting involves the convening of two working sessions on Wednesday 19th June, and a closing session on Thursday 20th June.

The august members of the Committee will discuss the 11-item agenda, primarily:

- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Study of the Islamic Parliamentary Declaration.
- Following up implementation of the resolutions adopted by the PUIC in general.
- Observation on the draft amendment of the PUIC Rules of Procedures in the light of the new Statute which has been amended in the Second Extraordinary PUIC Conference which was held in Abu Dhabi in January, 2011.
- Drawing up the Draft Agendas of the 2nd Meetings of:-
 - 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.

- Drawing up the Draft Agendas of the 3rd Meetings of:-
 - Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians
 - Standing Committee on Palestine
- Drawing up the Draft Agenda of the 16th Session of the PUIC General Committee
- Drawing the Draft Agenda of the 9th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Report of the 30th Meeting of the Executive Committee
- Any other business.

The report of the Secretary General to the Meeting covers the period between convening the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference held in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan on 21 – 22 January, 2013 and the date of holding the 30th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 19 – 20 June, 2013. The report points out that the PUIC General Secretariat has dispatched via DHL the following documents to the august PUIC Member Parliaments:-
Final Documents adopted by the 8th PUIC Conference and related meetings, namely:-
1. Khartoum Declaration;

2. Final Communique of the 8th PUIC Conference;
3. Resolutions adopted on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
4. Resolutions adopted on Economic Affairs and Environment;
5. Resolutions adopted on Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs;
6. Resolutions adopted on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
7. Final Report of the Standing Committee on Palestine.
8. Report and Declaration of the Second Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians;
9. Final Report of the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference;
10. Final Documents of the 15th Session of the PUIC General Committee.
11. Final Documents of the 29th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee
12. Final Documents of the 28th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee

The General Secretariat also dispatched to the Member Parliaments:

The Report of H.E. the PUIC Secretary General on the Draft Islamic Parliamentary Declaration as well as the Final Documents adopted by the 3rd Meeting of the Committee of Experts on preparing a Draft Islamic Parliamentary Declaration held in Khartoum on 5 – 6 March, 2013.

The Report includes PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FORA:-

- The UN Forum on Alliance of Civilizations, Vienna, Austria.
- 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.
- 128th Assembly of the IPU in Quito, capital of Ecuador.
- His Excellency also organized and participated, accompanied by H.E. Assistant Secretary General in the Consultative Meeting held by PUIC Member Parliaments participating in the 128th Assembly of the IPU.
- 19th Ordinary Conference of the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union, in Kuwait City, held under the exalted auspices of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait.

The Report also covers statements issued by the General Secretariat ie.:

Condemning and denouncing Israeli aggression on Jamaya region in rural Damascus and condemning and denouncing the aggression on the city of Um Rauwaba and other regions in northern and southern Kordofan State of the Republic of the Sudan.

And also the STATEMENTS CIRCULATED BY REQUEST OF ESTEEMED MEMBER PARLIAMENTS:-

Statement issued by the Federal National Council of the State of the United Arab Emirates;

Letter of H.E. the Speaker of the Lebanese National Assembly concerning Israeli air aggression on the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Report covers as well as the CABLES OF THANKS AND FELICITATIONS:-

Cable of thanks to H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, Speaker of the Sudanese National Assembly and President of the 8th

PUIC Conference, for the generous hospitality and excellent preparations for the 8th PUIC Conference and related meetings held in Khartoum which were crowned with success; and a Congratulation Cable to H.E. Engineer Saad Hail Sorour on the occasion of his election as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

In the media field the report states that the General Secretariat has prepared and circulated the Fourth Edition of the Parliaments Directory which received commendation because it contains important basic information about the honourable Member Parliaments advancing bilateral and collective contact between

our parliaments. In order to develop the Directory the General Secretariat requests to be kindly provided with new items of information in the Directory which the Member Parliaments may wish to add.

The General Secretariat has produced edition No.12 of the "PUIC" Bulletin which contains subjects including outcome of the 8th PUIC Conference and related meetings, held in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, on 17-22 January, 2013. It also contains interviews and the poignant matters which

will be discussed by the 30th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 19 – 20 June, 2013, as well as the most important Parliament news. The PUIC General Secretariat exhorts the esteemed Member Parliaments to continue providing it with any information, news or subjects which they wish to be published in the Bulletin.

And due to some technical problems concerning the PUIC Website, the General Secretariat is now redesigning the site and hopes it will be back in operation soon. The General Secretariat reiterates its request to the august Member Parliaments to contact it through the e-mail: g.s.@puic.org.

The Report also addresses the efforts exerted by H.E. the PUIC President to energize and implement the resolutions:

HE Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Sudan and President of the 8th PUIC Conference deployed the efforts mentioned below aimed at energizing and implementing the resolutions adopted by the Eighth Session of the PUIC Conference, held in Khartoum-Republic of the Sudan on 21-22 January 2013:

a. Holding the Meeting of the Committee of Experts to examine the Draft Islamic Parliamentary Declaration under the Chairmanship of His Excellency in

Khartoum on 5 and 6 March 2013 and the final documents of the meeting of the Experts Committee shall be presented for consideration to the 30th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.

b. In pursuance of the implementation of what was stressed in the Final Communique and Khartoum Declaration of the 8th PUIC Conference, H. E. the President of the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference initiated to form a delegation of Their Excellencies Speakers of PUIC Member Parliaments visit the parliament of the Republic of Mali – the visit was postponed to a later date. ❖





Informing About Member Parliaments:

Highlights on Togo National Assembly

The unicameral National Assembly is the legislative body of Togo with 81 members elected in a political system with a term of 5 years.

The National Assembly of the Fourth Republic:

The inauguration of the National Assembly took place March 22, 1994 with four political parties including: Rally of the Togolese People (RPT), Action Committee for Renewal Convention Forces. It has also one (01) independent member.

In fact, following the death of the President of the Republic His Excellency Gnassingbe Eyadema General, on 5 February 2005 and noting the absence from the national territory of Mr. Ouattara Fambare Natchaba (Speaker of the National Assembly), the National Assembly dismissed on 6 February 2005 the Speaker of the National Assembly by a motion of censure and the election of a new Speaker in the person of El Hadj Abass Bonfoh February 2005. Thus, based on Article 65 of the Constitution of Togo His Excellency Mr. Abass Bonfoh becomes acting President of the Togolese Republic and has 60 days to organize presidential elections.

In accordance with 22 commitments signed in Brussels on 14 April 2004 by the Government of Togo, new elections were scheduled in the first half of 2005.

With the conclusion of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) signed on 20 August 2006, the President Faure Gnassingbe Esozimna dissolved the current National Assembly on August 30, 2007 and declared the organization of anticipated elections for 14 October 2007.

After the election of October 14, 2007, three (03) political formations sit in the National Assembly as follows:

Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) with 50 deputies elected
The Union of Forces for Change (UFC) with 27 deputies and finally

Action Committee for Renewal (CAR) that gets 04 seats.

An office was established and is composed of the following:
Speaker: El Hadj Abass Bonfoh

Vice-speakers:

- 1st Vice Speaker: Klassou Sélom
 - 2nd Vice-speaker: Ms. OURO-BANG'NA Nassara
- Quaestors:
- First Quaestor: Dago Yabré
 - 2nd Quaestor: Ms. APOUDJAK Larba

Parliamentary Secretaries:

- 1st Parliamentary Secretary: SAMBIANI Yentéma

● 2nd Parliamentary Secretary: TCHASSE Awèdèou

Standing Committees

- 1-Committee on constitutional laws and laws of general administration;
- 2- Committee on Human Rights;
- 3- Committee on Trade and Finance;
- 4- Committee on Development and Economic Planning;
- 5- Committee on sociocultural development;
- 6- Committee for External Relations and Cooperation;
- 7- Committee on defense and security:

Parliamentary Groups

The parliamentary group of the Action Committee for Renewal (CAR); Parliamentary Group of the Union of Forces for Change (UFC); Parliamentary Group Parliamentary Majority (GMP); The Non-registered International Relations

1 – Inter-parliamentary Organizations

Togo is member of following organizations:

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP / EU (APP-ACP/UE) Parliamentary Assembly of the Franco-phony (APF) African Parliamentary Union (APU) Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) , ECOWAS Parliament, Parliamentary Committee of the CIP / UEMOA

2 - Parliamentary Friendship Groups

To act on the international scene, the parliamentarians, beside the parliamentary organizations, form and participate also to parliamentary friendship groups. This is the ideal channel for realizing the international parliamentary actions. They are finally a pole par excellence for mixing of peoples.

Composition of Parliamentary Friendship Groups

Parliamentary groups are divided into five zones each comprising a number of countries including: Africa Europe Asia / Middle East and America; Togo-America South-Central Cuba.

Former Speakers of the National Assembly of Togo;

Faure Gnassingbe

Natchaba Ouattara Fambare

KODJO Agbéyomé Messan

FATHER Dahuku

Philippe Kpodzro Fanoko

Acouetey Messan

Valentin Vovor Mawupé

Georges APEDO AMAH

Lamboni Bartholomew

Jonathan Sanvi OF TOVE ❖



Speaker of the National Assemble of Togo

H.E. Mr.El Hadj Abass Bonfoh



● Born in 1948 in A Kabou (Bassar), he is married and the father of five children. He did his primary school in Bassou and Lomé, and then his high school at the College modern Sokodé.

● Professional Studies

The National Institute of Youth and Sports (INJS) Abidjan - Ivory Coast, 1971 - 1974), the National Institute for School and University Administration (INAS) or Administrative Service Training (SFA) to Paris 1977 - 1979 National Institute of Planning and Administration of Education in Paris (IIEP) in September 1985.

● Professional Experiences

Teacher on Physical Education lecturer in Anatomy and Physiology at CEG Kodjoviakopé - Lomé (1974 - 1977), Regional Director of Planning Education Plateaux Kpalimé West (1980 - 1985), Regional Director of Planning Education Kara station transformed into a Regional division of the Education (1985-1999).

● Political Affiliation:

Member of the UNIR Rally.

● Duties of Policies

March 21, 1999: Elected Member of the National Assembly of Togo and serving as Rapporteur of the first socio-cultural development.

October 2002: Re-elected to Bassar elections and serving as first Vice-speaker of the Office of the National Assembly of Togo.

25 February 2005: Elected Speaker of the National Assembly assuming the Acting President of the Republic, following the death of President Gnassingbe Eyadema (February 25 to May 4, 2005 for the interim President of the Republic).

October 27, 2007: Re-elected Member of the Legislative of the Fourth Legislature.

November 24, 2007 to date: Elected Speaker of the National Assembly of the Fourth Legislature.

● Honorary Distinctions

Grand Officer of the Order of Mono (Togo) ❖



Burkina Faso Parliament sends a delegation to PUIC Headquarters

discussing the way to make the 9th PUIC Conference successful

Following the kind initiative of His Excellency Soungalo Apollinaire Ouattara, President of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, a parliamentary delegation headed by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Malakilo Diasso, Deputy of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso visited the PUIC Headquarters, from 19 to 25 May 2013, to discuss the practical arrangements for the organization of the 9th Conference of the Union in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso in January 2014,

The Burkinabe delegation was received and welcomed at the PUIC headquarter by the PUIC Officials. Views and ideas were exchanged by both sides and a brief given to the Burkina delegation in which it was expressed total availability of the PUIC staff to work as one team for the success of the 9th PUIC Conference in Burkina Faso.

The Burkinabe delegation thanked the PUIC General Secretariat for all its support and attention by the PUIC Officials and the readiness to provide information and best advice to Burkina Faso delegation in order to be able to succeed in the organization of the 9th PUIC Conference in its country.

During the sessions, the parliamentary delegation exchanged and discussed on the aspects of the conference as:

- The holding of the 30th Executive Committee Meeting in Baku;
- The administrative and technical arrangements of the

Ouagadougou conference;

- The organization of the 3rd Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians on the sidelines of the conference.

The 30th PUIC Executive Committee scheduled to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, June 19 to 20, 2013, will besides finalizing the Agendas of the Conference, the General Committee and the Five Standing Specialized Committees will finalize the date of hosting the 9th PUIC Conference.

Brief on the administrative and technical arrangements for the Ouagadougou conference was given.

It was suggested that the Troika follow up the resolutions adopted by the 2nd Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.

H.E. the Director of the Cabinet gave a luncheon party at the PUIC Headquarters in honour of the Burkinabe delegation to which were invited their Excellencies the Ambassador of Mali in his capacity as Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the Ambassador of the Sudan in his capacity as the Head of Diplomatic Mission of the country whose Parliament is the current President of the PUIC.

The Islamic Parliament of Iran invited the Burkina delegation for a dinner at the Parliament house.

At the end, the Burkinabe parliamentary delegation thanked the Secretary General and his entire staff for assistance and constant availability. It welcomed the meeting and work climate that prevailed throughout their stay in Iran. ❖

PUIC Website: Communicating more effectively

To stress the important role of the PUIC at the level of its objectives defined under the Statute of the PUIC, the Secretary General of the PUIC took the initiative to modernize the PUIC website, as well as upgrade the quality of all other communication and

media tools of the PUIC, which should be standardized to reach international levels of competitiveness.

First, to solve the technical problems and then increase the quality of communication between members of the PUIC and upgrade the quality of information accessible by all website visitors it was necessary to change the technical, physical and graphic design of the PUIC website.

This important change has made the PUIC

website to be more effective, user-friendly and newly designed. By the 20 of May 2013 all 3 languages of the website has become accessible to visitors.

The Media Department appreciates the visitors' attention, and if they need some Information they may please contact us by email: g.s@puic.org, puic@puic.org.

Also please send us your comments, any suggestions and news which could also be added on the new PUIC website. ❖



**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:

- 28 December 2012 election of H.E. Mr. Soungalo Appolinaire Ouattara as Speaker of National Assembly of Burkina Faso
- 9 January 2013 re-election of H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Bensalah as Speaker of the Council of the Nation of Algeria
- 11 January 2013 election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed El Hacem Ould El Hadj as Speaker of Senate of Mauritania
- 10 February March 2013 election of H.E. Mr. Sa'ad Hayel Srour as Speaker of House of Representatives of Jordan
- 18 March 2013 re-election of H.E. Mr. Idriss Arnaoud Ali as Speaker of the National Assembly of Djibouti
- 30 April 2013 election of H.E. Mrs. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury as Speaker of Parliament of Bangladesh
- 28 May 2013 re-election of H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani as Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 3 June 2013 election of H.E. Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq as the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan.



Algeria: The President of the National People's Congress (NPC), Mr. Larbi Ould Khelifa received at the headquarters of the Parliament, the Head of the European Parliament delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries, Mr. Pier Antonio Panzeri. Both sides "have reviewed the relations between Algeria and the European Union (EU) and uniting the two parliaments, Algerian and European," said a statement from the NPC. On this occasion, Mr. Ould Khelifa said that relations with the EU 'first partner of Algeria are secure,'



Azerbaijan: The 10th session of the Azerbaijan-Russia commission for inter-parliamentary cooperation was held in Baku.

The Deputy Speaker of the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan Valeh Aleskerov and Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Svetlana Orlova are the co-chairs of the commission.

The meeting is being attended by members of parliament and ambassadors of both countries.

The meeting will consider the appointment of deputy chairs and changes in commission staff, expansion prospects of humanitarian, economic, trade and legislative cooperation. The final protocol will be signed and the place and date of the next committee meeting will be agreed at the meeting.



Saudi Arabia: The Consultative Council approved with a majority the draft agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait in the field of air transport services. The approval followed hearing the report of the Transportation, Communications, and Information Technology Committee. The Committee recommended to approve the draft agreement because it dealt with all aspects relevant to the air transport industry in terms of charges and tariffs for using airports, air safety and airport security, etc. The Council also approved with a majority the draft framework agreement of cooperation in the field of agriculture, animal resources and fisheries between the Kingdom and the government of the Republic of the Sudan. The Committee on Housing, Water and General Services stressed that the agreement will enhance cooperation between the two countries in the areas of agriculture, animal and fish resources, and promotes investment.



Pakistan: Newly elected members of Pakistan's National Assembly were sworn in on Saturday First of June 2013, officially celebrating the first transition of power between democratically elected civilian governments in the 66-year history of the country.

The PML-N won 176 seats in the 342-member lower house of Parliament and is expected to rule in an alliance with some independent legislators. The previous ruling Pakistan People's Party earned 39 seats and the Tehreek-e-Insaf party has won 35 seats.



Palestine: The Palestine National Council emphasized in a statement issued on 14/5/2013 on the 65th anniversary of the Nakba that the Palestinian national rights of return in accordance with resolution 194 and self-determination are inalienable.

The statement said that the suffering of the Palestinian people in the homeland and in the diaspora by displacement from their land since 65 years is not only the responsibility of Zionist death squads and criminals, but also the international community, which neglected the issue, demanding it to be fair to the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights according to the international legitimacy resolutions, particularly resolution 194 and establishment of their independent state with Al-Quds as its capital.

The Palestinian National Council called on this occasion to end the division and achieve the national unity – led by PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, for confronting the aggression and the occupation and the terrorist practices against our people and their sanctities. ❖

At the 19th Regular Conference of the APU: Secretary General Confirms Parliaments Role in Reducing tension



H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, accompanied by H.E. the Assistant Secretary General, attended the 19th Regular Conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union (ARAB IPU), held in the State of Kuwait, on 9-10 April 2013, under the high auspices of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait. The Secretary General delivered a speech at the conference in which he called for enhancing understanding among sects communities and states aimed at developing mutual respect and

equality, especially between Islamic parliaments and their counterparts in the West in order to eliminate ideas of hatred.

In his speech the Secretary General stressed that the PUIC calls for tolerance and compassion, and rejects violence as well as all forms of aggression, particularly, murder, irrespective of colour, religion and race. PUIC condemnation of terrorism

emanates from the fact that the latter runs counter to the precepts of Islam. He underlined that the PUIC distinguishes between terrorism, in all its manifestations, and peoples' right to resist occupation and colonization for the liberation of their homelands and the restoration of their legitimate rights which are guaranteed by international conventions.

His Excellency met on the sidelines with a number of their Excellencies the Parliament Speakers and heads of participating delegations. ❖

Secretary General Participates in UNAOc Forum

H.E. PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC participates in the 5th United Nation Alliance of Civilization (UNAOc) Forum in Vienna, on 26-27 February 2013.

This Forum is organized in the context of the 6th edition of the Global Junior Challenge which aims at reflecting on the 21st Century challenges for innovation in education, integration, sustainable development and the eradication of world poverty.

The competition in the challenge is open to schools, associations, public and private institutions, cooperatives, universities, companies and individuals of any age and any country. ❖

PUIC Secretary General Participates in Islamic Summit

His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC, accompanied by Assistant Secretary General, participated as an observer in the proceedings of the 12th Islamic Summit Conference which was held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6 – 7 February 2013, corresponding to 25 – 26 Rabiul Thani 1434 H. Participants in the Summit discussed a

number of significant subjects included in the Conference agenda which were of concern to the Ummah and would enhance joint Islamic action.

Prof. KILIC met on the sidelines of the conference with some members of delegations and their discussions focused on promoting cooperation between the PUIC and the OIC in order to serve common objectives. ❖



On the Sidelines of the IPU Meetings: PUIC Holds Consultation Meeting

The Consultative Meeting of the PUIC was held on the sidelines of the 128th IPU Assembly on Saturday 23rd March 2013 in Quito, Capital of the Republic of Ecuador.

At the beginning the meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Fahd Al Rashid, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, and then proceeded under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Karim Ghallab, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco.

More than a hundred PUIC members participated in the meeting.

At the outset, H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, PUIC Secretary General delivered a brief speech concerning the meeting, then the participants proceeded to discuss the agenda which included:

1. Proposal presented by the UAE Federal National Council on "Role of Parliamentarians in reaching an international agreement criminalizing

insulting religious symbols and sanctities, and emphasizing mutual respect between world religions and civilizations as a major requirement for international peace and security".

The attendees supported the proposal.

2. Consideration of proposals submitted by the parliaments of : Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Kingdom of Morocco; and Syrian Arab Republic, concerning the Emergency Item.

Following exhaustive discussion, it was decided that member delegations may support any of these proposals deemed appropriate.

The 128th IPU Assembly approved the proposal of the JORDANIAN Parliament as an Emergency Item which stipulates as follows: "Role of Parliaments in urging their respective governments to shoulder their international and humanitarian responsibilities towards Syrian refugees and to support the States which receive them". ❖

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