



The Honorable Sidibe to the “PUIC”: Important Challenges Facing Muslims



- Marshall Plan needed to help the poor
- PUIC is Mechanism for Parliamentary Diplomacy

The Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Issaka Sidibe, identified the most important challenges facing Muslims and the world at large. He pointed out that the fight against those who tarnish the image of Islam must be carried out on military, media and ideological levels. In the area of Islamic solidarity he envisaged a Marshall Plan where rich OIC countries can help poor Muslim countries shake off the shackles of poverty and destitution. He also stated that the PUIC is a mechanism for parliamentary democracy that enhances the role of peoples in international relations. Regarding cultural and religious dialogue Mr. Issaka Sidibe stressed putting and end to stereotyping and to accept the other despite differences.

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PUIC Organs Meeting in Bamako

The Capital City of the Republic of Mali, Bamako will witness the convening of meetings of PUIC organs covering the period from 23 January 2017 to 28 January 2017. The culmination of these meetings will be the 12th Session of the annual PUIC Conference which brings together Speakers of Member Parliaments or their representatives. The PUIC organs and related bodies due to meet in Bamako are: Executive Committee, Committee on Palestine, Women Parliamentarians Conference, General Committee, Secretaries General Meeting, and 12th Conference.

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Editorial



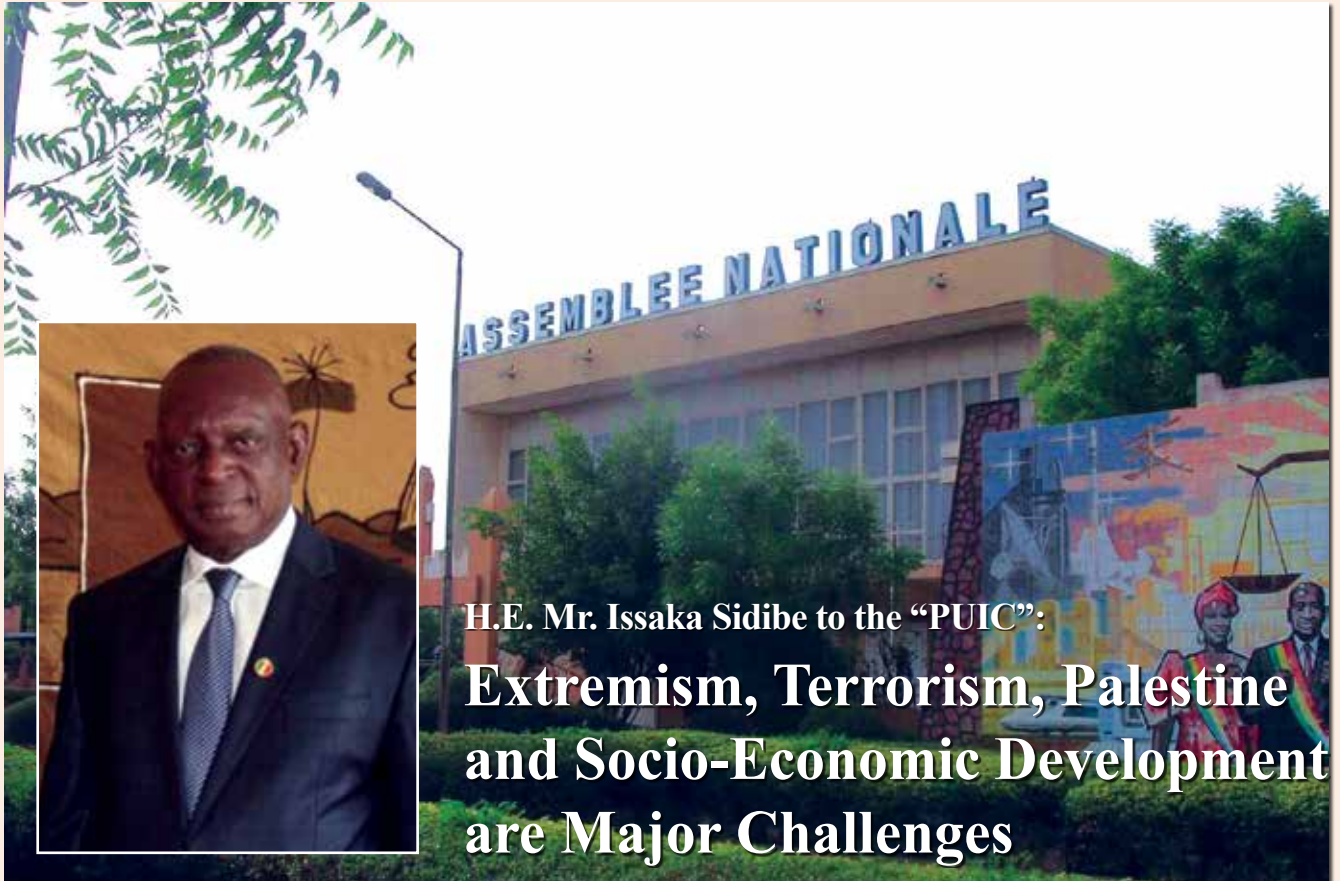
Dear Reader

Most regions of the world are passing through harsh circumstances and conditions of obvious apprehension, fear and tension resulting from terrorist acts which have come to threaten all people with no exception. Despite enhanced efforts exerted by the international community in east, west, north and south to combat terrorism, yet its danger has not subsided but is increasing and widening in its scope. Terror has become a painful reality more that a transient phenomenon destined to disappear with the vanishing of its causes. Terrorism is naming its state, and establishing specialized departments to manage its affairs. It has unjustly and falsely claimed that it is ruling in the name of sharia in its imaginary possessions. Terrorist entities do not realize that they are insulting Islam, Muslims and the teachings of our tolerant religion. As terrorism has struck to a great extent some Muslim States and inhabited some of their parts, it is incumbent on us, as Muslims, to combat and limit its spreading, being guided by the principles of our religion that enshrine the prevalence of peace, equality, tolerance, understanding and respect. We should cooperate and combine to establish security in our areas. Allah says in Suerat Quraish, “Who provides them with food against fear (of danger)”. The meaning is provision of security against assaults, wars and fighting.

Our PUIC has deployed substantial efforts through condemnation and rejection of terrorist entities, organizations and groups, as well as their despicable deeds. The PUIC welcomed and supported practical steps taken by some states of our Member Parliaments to coordinate their regional efforts to combat terrorism.

As PUIC Secretary General I hail our Union’s efforts exerted in the field of combating terrorism, under UN umbrella, by calling for enactment of effective counter terrorism legislations, which conform with relevant international conventions and commitments, including the UN Strategy in this respect. I commend, in particular, the appreciable efforts exerted by PUIC members which resulted in the passing of the PUIC Charter in combating Terrorism and Extremism by the 11th Session of the PUIC Conference held in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq, in January 2016. The Charter is a comprehensive document that obligates its parties to fight terrorism and extremism and take all bilateral and collective measures in this respect, especially the contents of Article IV of the Charter. We may go to the extent of proposing the establishment of a mechanism to follow up and implement the (12) articles of the Charter.

Security and peace are pillars which are necessary for life, without which there would not be honorable living, or ensure earth habitation. We have witnessed the experience of how terrorism plundered the lives of people, threatened their livelihood, destroyed their infrastructures and tried to sabotage our civilization, coexistence and tolerance. But terrorism cannot realize its objectives because through the solidarity of our Ummah and cooperation in righteousness and piety we shall remain the “best of peoples” as Allah wants us to be. ❖



H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibe to the “PUIC”:
**Extremism, Terrorism, Palestine
 and Socio-Economic Development
 are Major Challenges**

Introduction:

Honorable Issaka Sidibe, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali highlighted in his interview with the “PUIC” current issues of crucial concern to the Islamic world, in particular, and contemporary world, in general. His Excellency identified the most immanent challenges facing Muslims today and called for more proactive parliamentary democracy and collective action against the common enemy. He also called for a Marshall Plan by rich OIC Countries to pull poor Muslims out of the abyss of poverty and destitution. Mr. Sibide stressed that the new world economic order that ought to seek the preservation of the ecosystem for the survival of Mankind. He underscored the imperative of putting an end to stereotyping, and valued the acceptance of the other with its cultural and religious differences. Following is the test of the interview:

Facing the Challenges:

“PUIC”: The Islamic World is currently faced with critical challenges. Can these be identified in order of importance, and how can Muslims effectively confront them?

Speaker: Beyond the nations and the Muslim world, the world is facing unprecedented major challenges. The first challenge, in my opinion, is religious fundamentalism, whoever uses Islam to commit reprehensible acts. We all know its consequences for our religion. It tarnishes in many ways the image of Islam. Therefore, within the PUIC, we must overcome the degrading image that some want to give to our religion and project a positive image of Islam. This combat can be carried out on several levels: military, media and ideological. Above all, it is a matter of avoiding the wicked linkage between the actions of these faithless killers, on the one hand and law and the principles of Islam, on the other. I am convinced that this challenge is within our reach, if we adopt a common approach of solidarity of the Islamic Umma.

The second challenge is terrorism, which feeds on fundamentalism on the basis of intolerance. Till now, terrorism has already cost the lives of thousands and even millions of people around the world. Recently, many Islamic countries have been victims of terrorism: Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Mali, Tunisia, etc.

Another challenge that I want to raise, is the situation of Palestine and its people. I believe that this situation should be at the center of PUIC’s concerns. We must seek and find solutions so that our brothers and sisters in Palestine can live peacefully in the land of their ancestors.

My last concern is the socio-economic development of our states. It is above all a fight against the poverty of people by ensuring their well-being. But all this will only be possible in an environment of peace and stability.

Faced with these challenges, the PUIC must invest more in proactive parliamentary diplomacy and more aggressive stance against the common enemy, which can only be defeated collectively. Whether we are parliamentarians from poor or rich, developed or developing countries, it is important that we act together for the welfare of the entire Muslim community.

Marshall Plan

“PUIC”: Islamic solidarity is a cherished goal long awaited by Muslim masses. Are you satisfied with what has been achieved in this respect so far? Do you envisage a roadmap to achieve this objective?

Speaker: The actions carried out in our countries under the banner of solidarity of the Islamic Umma are certainly significant, particularly in the construction of religious infrastructures such as mosques and in the humanitarian field. We hail this Islamic solidarity which brings much to the destitute populations of the Muslim community. It provides many people with access to food, water and health care. Above all, we want these interventions to continue and deepen, because let us not forget that extreme

poverty is very often the bed of indoctrination and therefore of radicalism. However, there is no major development program for poor countries that are members of the PUIC. Ideally, the rich countries of the PUIC should embark on a genuine Marshall Plan that can help poor countries, particularly those in Africa, cope with the great economic crisis that the world is experiencing today. It is therefore suitable that the PUIC develop an economic and financial mechanism for major development projects in poor countries.

Establishing Democracy

“PUIC”: In your view, what role can parliaments play in establishing democratic principles and good governance in our counties?

Speaker: Democratic principles are based on their concrete application to the adoption of laws. Agree with me that this is the first mission of parliaments. They then monitor the implementation of laws through the monitoring of government action. This rigorous distribution of roles already in the constitution of many countries, such as Mali, allows parliaments to legislate and control government action, taking into account the interests of the population. Through its mission of overseeing government action and the management of finance laws, Parliament ensures respect for good governance.

Parliamentary Democracy

“PUIC”: Parliamentary Democracy is gaining importance in international relations. What role can it play in shaping a new world order which is more fair and beneficial, especially for developing nations?

Speaker: Democracy is the sine qua non for the harmonious development of every nation. It enables us to take care of the legitimate aspirations of the people. Who better than Parliament can be the lever for the full participation of the people in fulfilling their aspirations for sustainable human development?

The new world economic order, for the survival of mankind, must have as its objective the preservation of our ecosystem, which implies the responsible participation of the people. The role and place of the peoples of the world in international relations is strengthened by parliamentary democracy, cooperation among parliaments around the world through mechanisms such as the PUIC.

In its conception, parliamentary democracy establishes equality, freedom and justice. Unfortunately it is still under construction in many countries. But we as representatives of the people hope that in a few years, this much desired democracy will be a reality.

Economic Interdependence

Speaker: “PUIC”: How do you evaluate the action of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in addressing the most pressing issues of West African region?

Speaker: It should be remembered that West Africa has been engaged in a process of economic integration for more than forty years. This is reflected in a very great convergence of policies between the 15 States and eight best among them grouped within the West African Economic and Monetary Union share the same currency as the CFA F. In short, to say that beyond geography and history, these countries have established ties of economic interdependence, the basis of true regional integration. All that justifies the cohesion displayed in the fight against the scourges of terrorism, drug trafficking and so on. Beyond the economic and security agreements, the West African States also agree on the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. In short, one of the objectives of ECOWAS is to transform conflicts into strong development. For example, in Mali following the events of March 2012 and currently in Guinea Bissau and the Gambia, as part of the promotion of peace, ECOWAS observes zero tolerance of coup as a means of access and the exercise of power.

Fighting Desertification

“PUIC”: Climate change and desertification hamper socio-economic development in the African Sahel. What programmes



Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali

Issaka SIDIBE

● Born on 26 June 1946 in Koulikoro,

● He is married and father of 5 children.

● STUDIES AND DEGREES

- Master degree in Private Law from the National School of Administration (ENA) of MALI.

- International Olympic Committee, Certificate of Sport Administration June 2000.

- Military training at the CSK 1982 in Koulikoro.

● DIPLOMAS IN THE POLICY AND SPORT FRAMEWORKS:

- Graduate of the Superior Course in Sport Management.

- Graduated from the School of UDPM Party under UNTM 1985.

- Certificate of Military Training from the Military Instruction Center of Koulikoro in 1981.

● PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES - OCCUPIED FUNCTIONS

Number of years of experience: 42 years

- 2002-2007: Member of the National Assembly

- 2002-2005: General Rapporteur of the Committee on Finance, Economy and Planning

- 2002: Head of Border Section at Customs investigations

- 2001: Head of Airport Customs Brigade

- 1997-2000: Head of Brigade of the Bureau of Economic Regimes of the Customs and Malian diaspora.

- From 1968 to 1997: he held various positions in Malian

customs from official and supervisor to Chief and Deputy Chief.

● PRINCIPAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Custom control.

- Research and prosecution of customs infringements.

- Control of customs clearance operations, in particular as regards customs exemptions.

- Control of passengers and transport.

- Control of foreign exchange transactions.

- Monitor litigation cases.

● OTHER EXPERIENCES

Honorable Issaka SIDIBE, is a great sportsman and was President of the athletics league of the district of Bamako, successively 1st Vice-President and President of the Olympic and Sports Committee of Mali, Treasurer of the Malian Football Federation, Founding-president of “Cheick Kouyaté” athletics Center and President of AS Real of Bamako.

● SYNDICAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Deputy Secretary General of the National Customs Union (1983 to 1986)

- Secretary of Education of the National Syndicate of State Administrations (SYNTADE) (1983 to 1986)

● HONORARY TITLE:

- Commander of the National Order of Mali (January 2015)

● LANGUAGE: French, English, Bambara and Wolof. ❖



are put in place to overcome such natural disasters, and how successful are such programmes?

Speaker: The fight against desertification and global warming has been one of the priorities of the Malian authorities for years. The programs implemented for this purpose are the Great Green Wall and the Natural Resources Management Project. The Malian government has also initiated a national campaign to raise awareness of the consequences of desertification and climate change. It is within this framework that reforestation actions have been launched by the Malian State with the support of NGOs and some partner countries.

This huge campaign, which is part of the fight against desertification and the harmful effects of climate change, is aimed at all the social strata of the Malian nation. But it is within educational institutions that the Malian authorities have intensified the awareness campaign. Thus every year thousands of trees are planted across the country.

Add to this the participation of Mali in international meetings on climate change: COP 21 in France and COP 22 in Morocco.

Evil Forces

“PUIC”: The war on terrorist and extremist groups in the region is continuing. How do you measure the current level of threat to stability and development as a result of these phenomena?

Speaker: As I said before, terrorism that is mingled with extremism is a global reality. However, for poor countries like those in the Sahel, the situation takes a particular importance given the weakness of the means of struggle and therefore of resistance. We have an obligation to commit the meager resources of our budgets to defend our territorial integrity.

I see that terrorism is slowly destroying the development efforts of our various states. Which country can today aspire to any stability, economic growth when the forces of evil roar around us and our projects, ready to strike at any moment? Our democracy

is threatened and investors are suspicious. Even, fear and death have become the daily life of our peaceful populations.

It seems to me therefore more than necessary that within our organization we should redouble our efforts, especially in terms of cooperation, to overcome this phenomenon. We therefore call for unconditional support from the international community to provide our military and security forces with tactical and operational capabilities. Our priority today is to stop this asymmetrical war whose dimensions are far from being limited in the perimeter of the Sahel alone.

- Necessity of Marshall Plan to Combat Poverty in Muslim Countries
- Democracy is the Cornerstone of Development
- Campaign to Fight Desertification
- Terrorism and Extremism a Global Reality
- Acceptance of the other is Backbone of Dialogue

Acceptance of the Other

“PUIC”: Dialogue among cultures and religions is among the concerns of the PUIC. What, in your view, are the bases and conditions of such dialogue to make it meaningful and fruitful?

Speaker: This dialogue between cultures and religions is a permanent practice in international relations. Hence the greatest importance we attach to these gatherings between parliamentarians belonging to the OIC member nations. We believe that the first dialogue that will involve all the others is to bring people together, to organize meetings, to get together to discover and know each other better. We must put an end to stereotypes and misunderstandings

which rot relations between races, beliefs around the world. The acceptance of the other with its differences and its cultural bases must be the backbone of a genuine dialogue between cultures and religions. And that is the whole purpose of the PUIC, which, through the meeting of parliamentarians, goes to meet other nations of different cultures but sharing Islam.

We are thus satisfied in Mali of the choice made on our country to host the next conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States. Come to us, the Malian population welcomes you in the greatest hospitality worthy of our venerated religion that is Islam. ❖



In Bamako Meetings:

Important Subjects for Discussion by PUIC Delegations

The Bamako, Capital of the Republic of Mali, is hosting important meetings of PUIC organs during the period from Monday 23 January 2017 to Saturday 28 January 2017. Items included in the agendas of these meetings reflect such importance, and underscore their expected impact on joint Islamic Parliamentary action.

Executive Committee Meeting:

The PUIC Executive Committee is scheduled to convene its 37th meeting on Monday 23 January 2017. It will consider the items of its agenda which is composed of (9) points, most importantly:

- Updating the Draft Agendas of the 5th 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.
- And also updating the agendas of:
 - Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine;
 - Sixth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
 - Consultation meeting of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.

Committee on Palestine:

The Committee on Palestine will hold its 7th meeting on Monday 23 January 2017. It will discuss the items included in its agenda which is composed of (8) points, including:

- Review of the recent developments in Palestinian arena. (Representative of the Palestine National Council – Vice Chairman of the Committee)
- Zionist Aggressions on Al Aqsa Mosque and the efforts exerted

to protect it.

- Recognition of the Palestinian State.
- Reconsidering school curricula in all phases on the nature of the conflict and the responsibilities towards the Palestinian Cause.
- Specifying academic courses on the cause of Palestine in universities of Member States.
- Requesting establishment of museums and exhibitions in Member States for informing about Al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestine as well as documenting crimes of Zionists

Meetings of the Standing Specialized Committees:

Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations:

This Committee holds its 5th meeting on Tuesday 24 January 2017, and considers its agenda which is composed of (22) items, including:

- Al-Quds Al Sharif, Palestinian Cause and the occupied Territories in Syria and Lebanon.
- Combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations
- Rejection of all types of sanctions imposed on any Muslim country.
- The inalienable equal and balanced rights of all peoples to have free access and free use of modern technology for peaceful purposes.
- Problem of Migration and Refugees in Muslim countries
- Cooperation and coordination among Muslim States and communities to project the sublime value of Islam and curb the prevailing phenomenon of extremism and violence in the Islamic world and address their root causes.
- Solidarity with Muslim Minorities around the world.
- Combating intolerance, Islamophobia, and xenophobia.
- Entry Visa facilitation among Muslim countries.
- Possible Negative Impacts of passing JASTA



Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family:

This Committee holds its 5th meeting on Tuesday 24 January 2017, and discusses its agenda which is composed of (13) items, including:

- Ongoing Human Rights Violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir
- Coordination in international and regional fora on Human Rights issues among the States of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Enhancing the role of women in all development aspects in PUIC Member States, including their participation in decision making positions.
- Preventing the exploitation of women in commodity promotions.
- Participation of women in the delegations of the PUIC Conferences.
- Promoting the Status of Youth in the Islamic World.
- Child care and protection in the Islamic world.
- The Role of the Islamic Parliaments in Promoting Basic Health among PUIC Member States.
- Study presented by the National Assembly of the Sudan on hosting the Islamic Health Centre in the Sudan.
- Custody problems of Muslim Migrant Families in Europe.
- Supporting societal peace in areas liberated from the control of terrorist groups.

Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs, and Dialogue of Civilizations and Cultures:

This Committee holds its 5th meeting on Tuesday 24 January 2017, and discusses its agenda which is composed of (10) items, including:

- Encouraging the teaching of Arabic language to students from non-Arabic-speaking Islamic States.
- Protecting the Al Aqsa Mosque against Zionist Israeli threats.
- Protection of Holy Places in Muslim States.
- Following up the protection of the Islamic cultural heritage, religious and endowment institutions in non-Muslim countries.
- Cooperation between Member Parliaments in legislative, legal and parliamentary affairs.
- Dialogue among Civilizations with special emphasis on facing

Western Campaigns against Islamic values.

- Promotion of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative
- Supporting the efforts to establish sustainable dialogue between Muslim and Western Parliaments in order to eliminate all forms of intolerance, negative stereotyping, and in stigmatization and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against person based on religion or belief.

Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment:

This Committee holds its 5th meeting on Tuesday 25 January 2017, and discusses its agenda which is composed of (15) items, including:

- Increasing Trade Exchange and Lowering Trade Barriers among OIC Member States.
 - Confronting Unilateral and Multilateral Sanctions affecting the people of targeted States.
 - Energizing and supporting economic Institutions active in the field of development in the Islamic World.
 - Dealing with foreign debts of Islamic States.
 - The Economic crises in Chad.
 - Environmental issues and sustainable development.
 - Combating desertification particularly in African Sahel States.
 - Cooperation in the field of preserving of water resources in States Member Parliaments.
 - Combatting sand and dust storms.
 - Enhancing cooperation in the field of environmental protection and combatting climatic change.
 - Cooperation among PUIC Member Parliaments in Science and Technology.
 - International parliamentary cooperation in overcoming natural disasters, particularly in the framework of extending relief.
- ### **Muslim Women Parliamentarians Conference:**
- This Conference holds its 6th session on Wednesday 25 January 2017, and considers its agenda which is composed of (9) items, including:
- Women abilities for solving local and regional problems and conflicts.
 - Protecting Muslim Women and Children in areas under occupation and conflicts, especially in Palestine, and other



conflict ridden countries.

- Preventing violence against women and children and refraining from exploiting women in cheap commercial ads.

Consultative Meeting of the Secretaries General:

The Secretaries General will hold their Consultative Meeting on Wednesday 25 January 2017, and will discuss their agenda which is composed of (6) items, mainly:

- Discussing the draft objectives and Rules of Procedures of the Association of the Secretaries General, which have been prepared by the PUIC General Secretariat in coordination with the Iraqi Council of Representatives, Chair of the meeting, and circulated to the august Member Parliaments, in addition to any new proposals.

19th Session of the General Committee:

The General Committee will hold its 19th session on Thursday 26 January 2017, and will consider its agenda, which is composed of (9) items, including:

- Adoption of the following financial documents of the Union:
 - Report of the Financial Control Committee on the Accounts of the Fiscal year 2016.
 - Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2017.
- Formation of an Open-ended Committee chaired by the Conference Rapporteur with the participation of the Rapporteurs of the Four Standing Specialized Committees (S.S.C.s) in order to draft the Final Communiqué of the Conference.
- Updating the Draft Agenda for the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference.

Consultative Meetings of Geographical Groups:

The three geographical groups (African, Asian and Arab) will hold their Consultative meetings on Thursday 26 January 2017:

African Group:

- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the African Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2017.
- Consultation for hosting the 38th PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the four Standing Specialized Committees from the African Group for 2017
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the African Group for 2017.

Asian Group:

- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Asian Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2017.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the four Standing Specialized Committees from the Asian Group for 2017
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the Asian Group for 2017.

Arab Group:

- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Arab Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2017.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the four Standing Specialized Committees from the Arab Group for 2017
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership to the General Committee from the Arab Group for 2017.



PUIC Conference:

The PUIC Conference will hold its 12th Session on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 January 2017. Participants will consider during this period subjects included in the agenda which is composed of (17) items, mainly:

- Examination and adoption of the Reports and the Draft Resolutions presented by the Rapporteurs of the Standing Specialized Committees
- Examination and adoption of the Reports and Draft Resolutions of:
 - Seventh Meeting of the Committee on Palestine.
 - Sixth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
 - Consultation meeting of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Nomination of the Members of the PUIC General Committee for the year 2017.
- Nomination of Members of the PUIC Executive Committee for the year 2017.
- Nomination of the Members for the PUIC Specialized Standing Committees for the year 2017
- Defining the date and venue of the 13th Session of the PUIC Conference (House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia from the Asian Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference (from the Arab Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference (from the African Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 38th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.
- Adoption of the Final Report of the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Bamako Declaration and Final Communiqué of the 12th Session of the PUIC Conference.❖



Highlights of
the House of
Representatives of
EGYPT

House of Representatives (according to 2014 Constitution of Egypt) formerly people's Assembly (according to 1971 Constitution) is the legislative authority in the Arab Republic of Egypt. It has various powers enshrined in Chapter V of the Constitution. According to Article 101 the House of Representatives assumes the power of legislation, approves the general policy of the state as well as the General Plan of socio-economic development and the General Budget of the State. The House also monitors the working of the executive power, and assumes:

- Legislation
- Approval of treaties and agreements
- Approval of the Budget
- Monitoring functioning of the Executive Branch
- Discussing the statement of President of the Republic
- Amending the Constitution
- Approval of declaration of war and emergency situations.

Constitution of the House:

The Egyptian Constitution stated that the member of elected members of the House of Representatives shall be defined by Law, and that the number shall not be less than 450 deputies. Article one of Law No.92 of 2015 provides that the House of Representatives shall be composed of 568 members to be elected by direct secret ballot. The President

of the Republic may appoint not more than 5% of the members. Law No. 202 of 2015 specified that the number constituencies shall be 205.

Committees:

The House has 25 Committees, namely:

- Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Affairs
- Commission on Planning and Budget
- Committee on Economic Affairs
- Committee on Foreign Relations
- Committee on Arab Affairs
- Committee on Defense and National Security
- Committee on Proposals and Complaints
- Committee on Labour Force
- Committee on Education and Scientific Research
- Committee on Religious Affairs and Endowments
- Committee on Transport and Communications
- Committee on Housing, Public Facilities and Construction
- Committee on Human Rights
- Committee on African Affairs
- Committee on Industry
- Committee on Medium, Small and micro Projects.
- Committee on Energy and Environment
- Committee on Agriculture, Irrigation, Food Security and Animal Resources
- Committee on Social Security, Family

and Disabled People

- Committee on Culture, Information and Antiquities
- Committee on Tourism and Civil Aviation
- Committee on Health Affairs
- Committee on Telecommunications and Information Technology
- Committee on Local Administration
- Committee on Youth and Sports

Leadership:

The House of Representatives elects a Speaker and two Deputy Speakers from among its members at the first sitting of its ordinary annual session. If the post of any of the three becomes vacant, the House shall elect a member in his place. House regulations specify the rules and procedures of election to the three posts. In case one of the three persons violates the obligations of his office, he may be dismissed by a request of a third of the members of the House, and the approval of two-thirds.

- The current Speaker is Mr. Ali Abdel-Aal Sayed Abmed. (Independent)
- Deputy Speaker is Mr. Mohammad Al Sharif. (Independent)
- Deputy Speaker is Mr. Sulliehan Wahdan. (New Wafd Party)

Members of Political Groups (596):

- Egypt's Liberal Party: 65 seats
- Future Homeland Party: 53 seats
- New Wafd Party: 36 seats
- Homeland Protectors Party: 18 seats

- Republican People's Party: 13 seats
- Congress Party: 12 seats
- Nour Party: 11 seats
- Conservative Party: 6 seats
- Democratic Peace Party: 5 seats
- Social Democratic Egyptian Party: 4 seats
- National Movement Party: 4 seats
- Modern Egypt Party: 4 seats
- Development and Reformation Party: 3 seats
- Freedom Party: 3 seats
- Egypt is My Country Party: 3 seats
- Unionist Progressive Bloc Party: 2 seats
- Nasserite Democratic Arab Party: one seat
- Revolution Guards Party: one seat
- Free Egyptian Edifice Party: one seat
- Independents: 351 seats

Sessions:

Sessions of the House of Representatives shall be open. It may meet in Camera upon the request of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Speaker, or twenty members of the House at least. With a majority of members, the House shall decide whether a certain issue to be discussed in an open or closed session.

The House of Representatives may hold an extraordinary session to consider an urgent matter upon a request by the President of the Republic, or a request signed by a tenth of the number of membership of the House at least.

In exceptional circumstances the House may hold its meetings in a place other its headquarters upon a request by the President of the Republic or a third of the number of

members.

Otherwise the meeting and resolutions adopted shall be null.

A session shall not be valid or its resolutions legal unless the majority of the members are present. And in cases where a special majority is not conditional, resolutions shall be adopted by absolute majority of those present.

The Prime Minister, his deputies, and the ministers and their deputies may attend the sessions of the House or the meeting of one of its committees. Their mandatory presence shall be upon a request by the House. They may seek the assistance of senior government officials. The House must listen to them if they request to speak. They have to reply to queries concerning an issue under discussion without the right to vote.

Dissolution of the House:

The President of the Republic may not dissolve the House of Representatives except when necessary and in accordance with a decision which details the reason/reasons behind it, and following a popular referendum. The President of the Republic shall issue a decision to suspend the sessions of the House and carry out the referendum for disbandment within a period of not more than twenty days. If those polled at the referendum give a majority approval, the President of the Republic shall issue the decision to dissolve the House. He shall call for holding new elections within a period of not more than thirty days of the date of issuing the decision. The new House shall convene within ten days following the announcement of the final result of the election. ❖



Speaker of House of Representatives of Egypt Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal Sayed Ahmed



Educational Background:

PhD in Law, Paris University
Bachelor Degree of Law

Professional Background:

Elected Speaker of House of Representatives on January 10, 2016.

Professor of Law at Ain Shams University
A member of the committee for drafting the current election Laws

A member of the 10-member committee entrusted with preparing a draft of Egypt's new Constitution

Egyptian Cultural Attaché in Paris in 1987
Deputy Prosecutor General in 1973

Activities:

- 12th round of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UFM) in Morocco, 28 -29 May 2016
- Pan-African Parliament (PAP) in Johannesburg, South Africa, 3 -13 May 2016
- 23rd Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union held at the Arab League headquarters, Cairo, 10 -11 April 2016
- 134th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly held in Lusaka, Zambia, 19-23 March 2016
- First Conference of Arab Parliaments' Speakers held at the Arab League headquarters, in Cairo, 24-25 February 2016.
- 10th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) Tirana, Albania, 18-19 February 2016.
- Visit Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, 14 -17 February 2016.
- Mediterranean Youth Conference in France.
- Conference on outlining the draft of the Ethiopian Constitution in Addis Ababa.

Languages: Arabic, English, French. ❖



At the 36th Meeting of the Executive Committee:

Drawing Up Draft Agendas of 12th PUIC Conference and Related Meetings in Mali

In response to a kind invitation extended by H.E. Mr. Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the PUIC Executive Committee convened its 36th Meeting in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on 17 – 18 October, 201, under the Chairmanship of Their Excellencies Mr. Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly and Dr. Orhan Atalay, representative of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to the PUIC.

Delegations representing 15 parliaments which are members of the Committee participated in the meeting, namely:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Chad, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Turkey.

Six Speakers participated in the meeting heading their respective delegations: H.E. Mr. Abdul Rauf Ibrahim (Afghanistan); H.E. Mr. Issaka sidibe (Mali); H.E. Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq (Pakistan); H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al Sheikh (Saudi Arabia); H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer (Sudan); and H.E. Mr. Ismail Kahraman (Turkey).

The working sessions were held at the headquarters of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey which was partly damaged by military planes during the failed Coup in July 2016. The proceedings of the meeting were as follows:

Members of the Bureau were elected as follows:-

- H.E. Dr. Orhan Atalay, Representative of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to the PUIC as Chairman.
- H.E. Mr. Nureldain Ahmed Tayeb as Vice Chairman from the Arab Group

- H.E. Mr. M. Yacine Ben Mohamed as Vice Chairman for the African Group.

SPEECH OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

H.E. Dr. Orhan Atalay, Chairman of the Meeting, welcomed the members of the Executive Committee. He thanked all the parliaments and friendly States which sided with the Republic of Turkey in condemning and denouncing the failed coup attempt which targeted democracy, legitimacy and national will. The failed attempt was defeated by the will of the people. He added that the 15th July 2016 violent attempt, against which stood the unarmed Turkish masses resulted in victimizing 250 martyrs and more than one thousand injured people. He stated that Fethullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) is active clandestinely, not only in Turkey but also in many countries. He hoped that all the States should combat FETO, and extend support to Turkey in order to eliminate the Organization.

- The Agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL;

His Excellency expressed thanks and appreciation to H.E. Mr. Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, for hosting the 36th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee by the august Assembly. He stated that the Meeting derives its significance from the fact of holding it at the level of Their Excellencies the Speakers of Parliaments of the Executive Committee. His Excellency referred to the contacts which he conducted with their Excellencies the Presidents of the current Session of

the PUIC Conference as well as the Speaker of the Host Parliament, after appreciable circumstances precluded the hosting of the Tunisian House of Representatives of the Session.

The Report of His Excellency the Secretary General also included:

- Participation in an observer capacity in international and regional for a.
- Important messages dispatched to their Excellencies the Speakers Member of Parliament.
- Statements issued by the PUIC as well as a report on media activities.
- Detailed monitoring of the follow up the implementation of resolutions adopted by PUIC Conferences and Standing Committees.

The Report of the PUIC Secretary General was adopted.

FOLLOWING UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUIC RESOLUTIONS IN GENERAL:

- This was approved

STANDING SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES: DRAWING UP AGENDAS OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.

- Agenda was adopted following the addition of two items on:

- Possible Negative Impacts of passing JASTA”
- Situation in Afghanistan

Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment.

- Proposed items were adopted without amendment.

Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family:

- Agenda was adopted following the addition of one item on:

- Supporting Societal Peace in Areas Liberated From Control of Terrorist Groups.

Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of civilizations and Religions:

- Items of Agenda were adopted without amendment.

SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

Seventh Meeting of Standing Committee on Palestine:

- Draft Agenda was adopted without amendment.

Sixth Session of the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians:

- Draft Agenda was adopted without amendment.

DRAWING UP DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 19th SESSION OF PUIC GENERAL COMMITTEE:

- Draft Agenda was adopted without amendment.

DEFINING THE DATE OF THE 12th SESSION OF THE PUIC CONFERENCE:

- Approval of the date proposed by the National Assembly of Mali, i.e. 23-28 January 2017.

DRAWING UP DRAFT AGENDA OF THE 12th SESSION OF PUIC CONFERENCE:

- Draft Agenda was adopted without amendment.

MOTTO OF THE 12th SESSION OF THE PUIC CONFERENCE AND OTHER RELATED MEETING:

- To be defined Later.





ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Report was adopted.

SPEECHES DELIVERED BY SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENTS AND HEADS OF PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS.

MOST IMPORTANT THEMES REFLECTED IN THE SPEECHES AND INTERVENTIONS DELIVERED BY THEIR EXCELLENCIES SPEAKERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION:

- Condemning and denouncing the failed coup attempt, and congratulating Turkish people, government and President on defeating the conspiracy as well as supporting the Republic of Turkey in eliminating Fethullah Terrorist Organization (FTO).
- Calling for adoption of a strategy to combat terrorism, in all its forms, and confronting it through denouncing the aggressions against Muslim Countries and enacting deterrent legislations.
- Underlining the negative effects of terrorist operations on political stability and the concomitant human and material losses, and destruction of the infrastructure.
- Calling for Islamic unity for the sake of extending support to the Palestinian People and cause, and protecting Islamic sanctities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
- Energizing joint Islamic action by enhancing dialogue and negotiation mechanisms, finding political solutions, and inviting parliamentary personalities to seek solutions to problems through national and societal dialogue.
- Extending support to the States which receive refugees due to developments in conflict-ridden regions.
- Calling for providing material capabilities by Islamic banks in order to support education, fight

poverty; decrease the rate of unemployment, as well as supporting and backing the Least Developed States.

- Calling for ending Armenian occupation of Azerbaijan territories; putting an end to the Israeli occupation of parts of Lebanese territories and the Syrian Golan, stopping aggressions and violations of the human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir; and maintaining solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot State.

- Rejecting “Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act” (JASTA), because of its negative impacts on international peace, security and order.

- Supporting Muslim Communities in Western States.
- Calling for confronting threats to environment such as desertification and soil erosion, and saving agriculture and animals.

- Urging states of Member Parliaments to accede to agreements which have been approved by the OIC.

- Emphasizing the necessity of implementing the resolutions adopted by PUIC meetings and Conferences.

- Calling for effective participation in the next PUIC Conference scheduled to be held in Bamako, Republic of Mali, as an expression of cooperation and solidarity among the PUIC Member Parliaments.

DRAFT ANKARA DECLARATION:

- Declaration was approved following addition and deletion of some paragraphs.

READING THE ANKARA DECLARATION

- The Ankara Declaration was read in the presence of the Media.

The attendees addressed a cable of thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the sisterly Republic of Turkey. The Meeting closed with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. ❖

ANKARA DECLARATION

The Speakers of the parliaments and heads of delegation issued the Ankara Declaration. The latter highlighted the affirmation of several objectives and parameters which the PUIC seeks to realize.

The attendees underlined the solidarity of democracy in the Republic of Turkey in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt which took place in July 2016. They also underscored that combating terrorism is the responsibility of all Member States and the international community, and stressed the need to adopt a comprehensive Islamic strategy to combat terrorism and extremism, and for the OIC to play an effective role in international efforts to right terrorism. They declared their commitment to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, rule of law, democracy and accountability in the Member States.

Following are some of the main themes of this Declaration:

- Strongly condemning the violent coup attempt, against the Constitution, President, Parliament and Government of Turkey and its people, perpetrated on 15 July 2016, by an armed faction and their civilian collaborators belonging to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO),
- Condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of motive and wherever and by whomever committed, and calling for equal determination towards all terrorist organizations;
- Rejecting any attempt to affiliate terrorism with any religion or ethnic group and refuse provision of any direct or indirect support to the groups that call for violence, extremism and terrorism,
- Expressing full solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to free themselves from the Israeli occupation, to achieve national unity and to live a dignified life in their own sovereign and independent country with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital,
- Stressing commitment and adherence to the principle of sovereignty and immunity of states, in accordance with the Charters of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations, which is a principle firmly established in the laws of international relations. Expressing condemnation and rejection of the law which has been recently adopted by the US Congress, known as Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), due to its negative impacts on international peace, security, order and economic development, as well as on well-established conventions, principles and traditions which govern relations among states.
- Inviting all international partners to refrain from double-standards and approaches that could hamper international cooperation against terrorism and instead to take insightful and useful steps with a view to enhancing international cooperation and solidarity in this regard.
- Refusing sectarianism in all its forms and manifestations; and encouraging national efforts aimed at combating sectarian and discriminatory policies and practices as well as at enhancing reconciliation among all Muslims;
- Expressing once more that the noble teachings of Islam call



for moderation and tolerance based on peace, justice, dialogue, renunciation of violence,

- Underlining the importance of the dissemination of the true teachings of Islam in our societies and throughout the world,
- Reiterating our commitment to the legal, political and social status as well as fundamental rights and freedoms in all fields of the Muslim communities and minorities living in non-OIC Member States, calling on the parliaments of the non-OIC member states, to ensure the protection of the status, rights and freedoms of Muslim in their countries,
- Confirming that the religious minorities in the Islamic world are an integral part of the societies and States, and emphasizing that they must enjoy all their rights and guarantees,
- Reiterating its continued support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General under his mission of Good Offices towards a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus.
- Reaffirming support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the realization of their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and Calling on India to implement numerous UN resolutions on Kashmir which declare that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir
- Supporting finding a solution Nagorno Karabakh within territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Demanding strongly the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories, including Nagorno Karabakh Region.
- Reiterating the support of States of Member Parliaments for the Sudan in its efforts to confront its economic and financial difficulties, and rejecting the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on Sudan, which negatively affected the development and prosperity of the people of the Sudan and calling for an immediate lifting of those unjustified sanctions
- Strongly urging the States of the Member Parliaments to help Afghanistan to tackle the evil of terrorism.
- Expressing concern over immigration crisis due to conflicts in Islamic nation; call upon States of Member Parliaments to accept and embrace refugees from Islamic Countries
- Affirming the necessity of extending support by PUIC member States and African States for Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon in their struggle against Boko Haram group whose acts impact the economic situation in these states and the region. ❖

Highlights of The National Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain

The National Council of Bahrain is the legislative authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Council is composed of the Council of Representatives, elected by the people; and the Shura Council whose members are appointed by Royal decree according to procedures and controls specified in the decree.

Shura Council:

The Shura Council is composed of 40 members who are appointed by Royal Decree. The duration of the Shura Council is four years beginning from the date of its first meeting.

Members whose tenure have expired may be reappointed. Without prejudice to the rules stipulated in the Law on the Exercise of Political Rights, the person appointed to the Shura Council must fulfill the following conditions:

- A- Bahraini citizenship and enjoying all his civil and political rights.
- B- His name is included in the election list
- C- His age on the day of appointment must not be less than 35 years.
- D- Must have experience or has done important services to the homeland.

The Council's Bureau:

The Bureau is composed of the Council's Speaker, two Deputy Speakers and Chairmen of qualitative standing Committees.

The Bureau represents the highest administration of the Shura Council in preparing agendas for the Council's session. The Chairman announces the agenda and notifies the members and the government of its content. The Bureau reviews the council's annual budget and its proposed end of year accounts before their submission to the council for approval. It also follows up the activities and reports of the Council's activities and assists these committees in putting organized groundwork's to administer and coordinate their activities. It reviews delegates' reports pertaining to their duties and parliamentary visits before presenting them to the Council.

General Secretariat:

The Secretariat manages the Council's administrative and technical affairs. It coordinates between the departments in order to help members to perform their legislative functions. It also prepares for all meetings of the Council's committees and the meetings of the Bureau. It provides members with all parliamentary and technical information.

Powers and Role of Members:

Members represent the people to realize public interest through their legislative and financial roles.

- Place of Birth: Al Manma
- Social Status: Married and has 3 sons.

Academic Qualifications:

B.A. (Commerce) from University of Ein Shams

Posts Occupied:

- 1973: Member of Constituent Council
- 1973- 1975: Member of the National Council. Deputy of President of Bahrain's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- June 2000: Member of the Higher Council of Economic Development, Member of Council of Trustees of the University of Bahrain
- 1993: Second Deputy Speaker of the Shura



Speaker of the Shura Council

Ali Bin Salih Al-Salih



● The Legislative Role:

- Right to offer a proposal with a Law
- Approving or rejecting decrees with Laws
- Discussing bills coming from the Council of Representatives and making amendments thereon by addition, deletion or amending its articles, and then casting votes of approval or rejection.
- Approving, rejecting or postponing consideration of proposals by Law.
- Adopting international agreements concluded by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

● The Financial Role:

- Discussing the general budget; approving it; or amending its appropriations by consensus with the government
- Discussing and adopting the Final Accounts

The Committees:

The Shura Council has 6 specialized standing Committees:

- Legislative and Statutory Affairs Committee
- Foreign, Defence and National Security Affairs Committee
- Financial and Economic Affairs Committee
- Services Committee
- Public Utilities and Environment Committee
- Woman and Child Affairs Committee

Temporary Committees:

The Council constitutes temporary committees which shall expire upon completion of the tasks for which they have been created.

Council of Representatives:

It has 40 members elected by secret, direct, and general balloting according to the provisions of the Decree No.14 (2002).

The duration of the Council is four years beginning from the date of its first meeting. A deputy may be reelected upon the expiry of his membership of the Council. The king shall, when necessary, extend the legislative term of the Council with Royal Decree for not more than two years.

Candidacy for Membership of the Council:

Without prejudice to the provisions stated in the Law of Exercising Political Rights, Candidates for the Council must have the following:

Council for First Term

- 1995-2004: Minister of Commerce and Industry
- 1995- 2004: President, Board of Directors of Bahrain Stock Market.
- 2005- 2006: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture
- 15 December 2006: Speaker of Shura Council at Second Legislative Term
- 14 December 2010: Speaker of Shura Council at Fourth Legislative term.
- President of the 8th Session of the Association of Senates, Shura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World. ❖

- Bahraini citizenship and enjoying all civil and political rights
- His name must be included in the electoral record of his constituency.
- His age on the day of election must not be less than 30 full years
- He must be proficient in reading and writing Arabic
- His membership of the Shura Council must not have been dropped by a decision of the Council because of lack of trust or negligence of the duties of his membership.

The Council's Bureau:

This is composed of the Speaker, two Deputy Speakers, Chairmen of the qualitative committees provide for in Article (21) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

● Duties of the Bureau:

1. Prepares the session's agenda giving priorities to government draft laws concluded by the relevant committees and current important subjects. The Speaker declares the agenda and notifies it to members and the government in sufficient time before holding the session.
2. Arbitrates on objections referred by the Council concerning the minutes of sessions.
3. Reviews the Council's proposed annual budget and year-end final accounts referred by the Speaker, before submission to the Council for endorsement.
4. Follows up on the work and reports of committees and assists these committees in maintaining its necessary regulations for managing their work and coordinating aspects of their activities.
5. Proposes, on the nomination of the Speaker, members to represent the Council internally prior to the presentation of the matter to the Council for a decision.
6. Reviews reports presented by delegations on their tasks and visits abroad, prior to presentation to the Council.
7. Carries out, on the request of the Speaker, the Council's administrative authorities between the convening rounds of the Council.
8. Studies the cases presented by the Speaker on members not performing their duties, or pursue ways that are not compatible with membership honor, prior to the presentation of the matter to the Council for its appropriate action.
9. Discusses any other matter that the Speaker deems necessary in taking the opinion of the Office thereon.

The General Secretariat:

● The General Secretariat consists of the following Sectors:

A- The Sector of H.E. the Speaker of the Council: Consisting of the Directorate of the Speaker, Advisors, Internal Audit, and Directorate of communications.

B- The Sector of H.E. the Secretary General: Consisting of:

- 1- Assistant Secretariat General for Committees & Sessions Affairs, comprising: Directorate of Sessions Affairs, Directorate of Committees Affairs and Directorate of Research and Information
- 2- Assistant Secretariat General for Resources, Services, comprising: The Directorate of Human Resources, Finance, and Directorate of Services, The



**Speaker of the Council
of Representatives**

**Ibrahim
Ahmed Bin
Rashid Al-Mulla**

- He was born in the city of Al Muharrq in 1962
- Obtained his licentiate in Law from the Emirates University in 1984, and M.A. in International Law from the American University in Washington in 1995.
- 1985- 1987: Legal Officer at the General Command of Bahrain Defence Force.
- 1995- 1998: Military Prosecutor General
- 1995- 1997: Judge at military tribunals
- 1997- 2001: Legal Advisor on Secondment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Directorate of information Technology and Parliamentary Training Center

3- Directorate of Inter-Parliamentary Group

4- Directorate of General Record

5- Office of Secretary General.

● The Assistant Secretariat General for Committee and Sessions Affairs:

It is responsible for the preparation for the Council's sessions and its draft agendas, preparation of minutes of committees meetings, writing reports, preparing the annual report and other matters related to sessions, committees and services provided to members.

● The Assistant Secretariat General for Resources and Services:

It is concerned with preparing and implementing the Council's employee regulations, proposing and implementing the Council's general budget and its related financial and administrative matters.

● Inter-Parliamentary Group:

It is the kingdom's Inter-Parliamentary group that participates in regional and international parliamentary bodies and conferences. Its general assembly consists of all members of both Councils. It has an Executive Committee chaired by the Speaker of the Council of Representatives and the membership of eight members elected on the basis of four members from each council.

The Council's Committees:

There are specialized permanent committees and sessional committees:

During the first week of the beginning of every ordinary legislative round, the following specific committees are formed to study the work coming within the powers of the Council.

● First: Permanent Committees:

- 1- Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs
- 2- Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security
- 3- Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs
- 4- Services Committee
- 5- Committee on Public Utilities and Environment

● Second: Sessional Committees: Committee for Supporting Palestinian people- Human Rights committee- Youth and Sports Committee- Woman and Child Committee

● Third: Temporary Committees:

These are committees formed by the Council on interim basis to study a specific subject and ceases to exist once the committee fulfills the purpose for which it was formed.

● Fourth: Investigation Committees

These committees are established by the Council to investigate any matters within its powers.❖

● 2001- 2005: Chief Military Prosecutor

● 2005- 2006: Director In-Charge of the Directorate of Military Judiciary

● 2006- 2008: Chief, Legal Affairs at Ministry of Defence, and Chief of the Higher Military Court of Appeal

● 2008-2010: Legal Advisor at the Ministry of the Council of Ministers

● 2010: Won a seat at the Council of Representatives

● 2014: Won a seat the Council of Representatives

● 2014 Elected Speaker of the Council of Representatives❖

Highlights of the National Assembly of Nigeria



The National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a bicameral legislature. It consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

Leadership

The Senate is chaired by the President of the Nigerian Senate, the first of whom was Nnamdi Azikiwe, who stepped down from the job to become the country's first Head of State. The House is chaired by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. At any joint session of the Assembly, the President of the Senate presides and in his absence the Speaker of the House presides.

President of the Senate, Bukola Saraki, 09 June 2015–present
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara, June 2015–present

Functions

The Assembly has broad oversight functions and is empowered to establish committees of its members to scrutinise bills



Speaker of Senate

**BUKOLA
ABUBAKAR
SARAKI**

- Age: 53yrs
- Constituency: Kwara Central
- Party: All Progressives Congress (APC)

Education:

- CORONA SCHOOL, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS, 1972, PRIMARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
- KING COLLEGE, LAGOS, 1978, WAEC
- CHELTENHAM COLLEGE, UK, 1981, MBBS
- LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE, LONDON, 1987

and the conduct of government officials.

The Senate has the unique power of impeachment of judges and other high officials of the executive including the Federal Auditor-General and the members of the electoral and revenue commissions. This power is, however, subject to prior request by the President. The Senate also confirms the President's nomination of senior diplomats, members of the federal cabinet, federal judicial appointments and independent federal commissions.

Before any bill may become law, it must be agreed to by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and receive the President's assent. Should the President delay or refuse assent (veto) the bill, the Assembly may pass the law by two-thirds of both chambers and overrule the veto and the President's consent will not be required.

Administration

- Office of the Clerk to the National Assembly
- Office of the Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly
- The Senate
- The House of Representatives

Legislative Interests:

ENVIRONMENT- AGRICULTURE
FINANCE-BANKING HEALTH

Previous Offices:

- SENATOR, 2011- 2015
- GOVERNOR OF KWARA STATE, 2003- 2011
- Chairman Presidential Committee, 2000-2001
- Special Assistant to the President on Budget, 2000- 2001
- Executive Director Societe Generale Bank, 1990- 2000
- Chairman Nigeria Governors Forum.❖

- Directorate of Legal Services
- Directorate of Common Services
- Directorate of Finance and Accounts
- Directorate of Procurement, Estates & Works
- Directorate of Corporate Affairs

The House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is the 2nd Chamber in Nigeria's bicameral legislature, the National Assembly.

The House of Representatives is headed by the Speaker assisted by the Deputy Speaker. There are three hundred and sixty (360) members in the House of Representatives representing the 360 Federal Constituencies the country is divided into based on population.

Principal Officers of The House of Representatives

- Hon. Dogara Yakubu, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Hon. Yusuf Sulaimon Lasun, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Majority Leader
- Minority Leader
- Chief Whip
- Minority Whip
- Deputy Majority Leader
- Deputy Minority Leader
- Deputy Chief Whip
- Deputy Minority Whip

Constitutional Roles

The Constitution has vested in the House of Representatives the power to make laws for the peace, order and good governance of the Federation. The House of Representatives also has broad oversight functions and is therefore empowered to establish committees of its members to scrutinize bills and the conduct of government institutions and officials. The House of Representatives is also empowered by the Constitution to legislate on Exclusive, Concurrent and Residual lists.

The Senate

The Senate is headed by the Speaker of the Senate assisted by the Deputy Speaker of the Senate.

There are one hundred and nine (109) members in the Senate corresponding to the 109 senatorial districts in the

country. Senatorial Districts are evenly distributed among the thirty six states. Each state has three senatorial districts while the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja has just one senatorial district.

Principal Officers of the Senate

- Sen. Olubukola Abubakar Saraki, Senate President
- Sen. Ike Ekweremadu, Deputy Senate President
- Majority Leader
- Minority Leader
- Chief Whip
- Minority Whip
- Deputy Majority Leader
- Deputy Minority Leader
- Deputy Chief Whip
- Deputy Minority Whip

Senate Constitutional Role

The Constitution confers exclusive powers to the Senate among

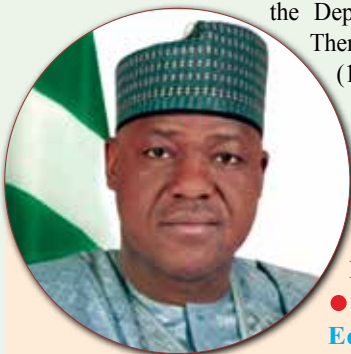


them the power to scrutinize and confirm major appointments of the executive organ. It is, however, specific about the appointments to be confirmed. They are those of the Ministers, Special Advisers, Ambassadors, top Judicial Officers heading specified levels of courts, the Auditor-General of the Federation, and the Chairmen and Members of the vital National Commissions.

Senate Compositions

There are 109 Senators in the Senate, 3 each from each of the 36 States of the Federation and 1 representing the Federal Capital Territory. However, irrespective of size, the Senate is based on equal representation of the States of the federation.

In addition, there are 54 Standing Committees in the Senate. ❖



Speaker of the House of Representatives

YAKUBU DOGARA

- Age: 49yrs
- Constituency: Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa
- Party: All Progressives Congress (APC)

Education

- BAUCHI TEACHERS COLLEGE, 1987
- UNIVERSITY OF JOS, 1992, LL.B HONS
- ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABAERDEEN, UK 2015, LL.M

Legislative Interests:

REGULATION OF MONOPOLIES. EDUCATION LABOUR ISSUES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Target Achievements:

PASSING OF COMPETITION BILL, DATA PROTECTING BILLS AND REPEAL OF OBSOLETE LAWS.

Previous Offices:

- Member House of Reps, 2007-2015
- SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT, 2005- 2006. ❖



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:

- 27 September 2016 re-election of H.E. Mr. Faisal El-Fayez as Speaker of the Senate (Majlis Al-Aayan) of Jordan
- 1 November 2016 re-election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bin Mubarak Al-Khulaifi as Speaker of the Advisory Council (Majlis Al-Shura) of Qatar
- 7 November 2016 re-election of H.E. Mr. Atef Tarawneh as Speaker of the House of Representatives (Majlis Al-Nuwaab) of Jordan
- 30 November 2016 Election of H.E. Mr. Setya Novanto as Speaker of the House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat) of Indonesia
- 2 December 2016 re-election of H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al Sheikh as Speaker of the Shura Council (Majlis Ash-Shura) of Saudi Arabia
- 11 December 2016 re-election of H.E. Mr. Marzouq Ali M. Al-Ghanim as Speaker of the National Assembly (Majles Al-Ommah) of Kuwait



Azerbaijan:

A draft law on amendments to the law on labour pensions has been submitted to the Azerbaijani Parliament. The document offers an increase to the retirement age and amendments to the pension system.

The draft law is likely to be discussed at the parliament's spring session in 2017. Earlier, it had been planned to submit for a parliamentary

discussion by the end of the year.

The document does not include the issue of increasing the retirement age for military servicemen. However, the work experience required for all other occupations is increased accordingly. The draft law provides for increasing the retirement age and differentiating it with the required labor pension age limit.



Iran: Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and his Bosnian counterpart stressed the need for the two countries to promote bilateral relations in all spheres, economy in particular.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Tehran with Speaker of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina Safet Softic, Larijani highlighted the importance of the trip by the Bosnian speaker after a recent visit of the country's president to Iran and said it indicates that Sarajevo is resolved to boost relations with Tehran in all political, cultural, economic and scientific areas.

He further pointed to his talks with Softic before the press conference and said the talks focused on ways to promote economic relations between the two countries and remove any problems on the way.

The Bosnian official, for his part, hailed the nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), describing it as a great political victory for Iran.

Islamic Parliamentary Group Meeting in Geneva



PUIC delegations participating in the 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held their annual meeting chaired by H.E. Mr. Nabih Berri, Speaker of the Lebanese National Assembly in Room N° 5 & 6 of the International Convention Centre (CICG) in Geneva (Switzerland), on 23 October 2016 from 11:00 to 13:00 Hours.

The speakers of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, and Lebanon participated in the meeting as well as delegates representing their respective parliaments.

After a brief speech delivered by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Mahmud Erol KILIC, the meeting discussed the Agenda Items, and made a decision to constitute a committee comprising the Sudan, Palestine and chaired by UAE aimed at closing the gap between the views expressed by the delegations attending the meeting. ❖



Kuwait: National Assembly Speaker H.E. Mr. Marzouq Al-Ghanim held at his office, official talks with the Speaker of the Parliament of Mongolia Enkhbold Maag and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his official visit to Kuwait.

During the talks, they reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and exchanged views on the status and the future of cooperation between Kuwait and Mongolia, particularly in the parliamentary field. The two sides also discussed a number of topics and issues of common concern in addition to the current political situation on the regional and international arenas and the mechanism for the coordination of positions in the continental and international parliamentary forums.



Lebanon: The Lebanese parliament overwhelmingly granted confidence to the government of Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

87 lawmakers voted in favor of the government. Kataeb MPs Sami Gemayel, Nadim Gemayel and Samer Saadeh, and MP Khaled Daher withheld their confidence from the cabinet.

MP Imad al-Hout, the only representative in the parliament of al-Jamaa al-Islamiya abstained from voting.

The parliament convened for the second day in a row where Hariri responded to the MPs remarks made a day earlier on the ministerial statement.

Lawmakers' policy statement deliberation was originally set to happen in three consecutive sessions in the morning and evening, but parliamentary blocs sought to cut them short.



Mauritania: Members of the National Assembly of Mauritania approved the draft budget of 2017 which was submitted by the government after a series of discussions during the past days. The members adopted an amendment to increase the Parliament's budget by 250 million Oukiya. The increase concerns restoring an amount which has been reduced by the draft budget of the New Year compared to the budget of last year 2016. On the other hand the majority of members rejected a proposal for a second amendment for increasing the appropriation benefiting disabled people amounting to 50 million Oukiya.

The proposal to amend the draft budget was limited

to the two above mentioned proposals. The second proposal was rejected and the first was approved.



Palestine: The Palestine National Council (PNC) called on the Palestinian people to defend itself against Israeli terrorism which goes hand in hand with shameful international silence vis-à-vis the crimes perpetrated by the government of occupation, settlement and field executions.

The PNC invited Palestinian Factions, powers, trade unions and unions to intensify popular struggle against occupation, its aggression and crimes, being a natural right guaranteed by the UN Charter and the UNGA resolutions as well as the provisions of other international agreements and conventions, in the framework of legitimate self-defence, and the legitimacy of peoples' struggle for independence and liberation from the Yoke of colonialism.

The PNC appealed to regional and international parliamentary unions, primarily the IPU, the European Parliament as well as Mediterranean and Euro-Med Unions to shoulder their responsibilities and condemn the systematic aggression and criminality practiced by the occupation against the unarmed Palestinian people, and to unmask the falsity of Israeli democracy and the Israeli racist parliament, the Knesset.



Turkey: The Parliamentary Constitution Committee reviewed a constitutional amendment proposal that will allow Turkey to switch to a presidential system. The 21-article bill was submitted to Parliament after the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) and the opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) reached an agreement on the draft for the long sought after constitutional reform.

According to the current practices, the constitutional amendment must pass through the second stage in the General Assembly. Deputies will discuss the entirety of the proposal initially before discussing and voting on each item.

If the proposal were to be accepted by the public in a referendum, Turkey would undergo a transitional period until 2019 when the new system would come into full effect. Moreover, during this period there will be no early elections and both the presidential and parliamentary elections will be held on the same day in 2019 and every five years thereafter. ❖

Secretary General Calls for Enhancing Democracy

The PUIC Secretary General H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC paid a visit to H.E. Mr. Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, in his office, at the Parliament Headquarters in the aftermath of the failed coup which took place in the Republic of Turkey in July 2016.

Prof. KILIC expressed to Mr. Kahraman the PUIC's strong condemnation of this abominable act which targeted democracy and its well established institutions in Turkey.

The discussions stressed the necessity of enhancing democracy in Muslim countries and strengthening the national will and popular vigilance as well as continuation of the process of development in all the political economic, social and cultural fields. The discussions also affirmed keenness on enhancing cooperation among Muslim countries to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism and extremism. ❖



Secretary General Addresses APA Session



H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC, accompanied by the Assistant Secretary General, participated as an observer, in the proceedings of the 9th Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), which was held in Siem Reap, cultural capital of the kingdom of Cambodia, in the period 28 November to first December 2016.

The theme of the Session was "Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia". The Session was chaired by H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia.

H.E. the Secretary General delivered a speech at the session in which he stated that, "If peace is achieved, development

shall be easy to attain and realize. As you know, peace has pillars that ensure its firm establishment and deep-rootedness, the most important of which is justice that is protected by strong institutions which guarantee justice for all. Furthermore, transparency shall flourish as well as accountability by which people shall be equal before the law."

H.E. hailed the initiative to promote peace in Asia, and said, "As peace is an indivisible whole, its assurance and durability requires that all states, especially neighboring ones, shall also enjoy it."

H.E. offered congratulations to H.E. Dr. Mohamad Ridha Majidi on the occasion of his election as the new Secretary General of the APA. ❖

Secretary General Participates in Summit of Women Speakers

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIC, PUIC Secretary General, participated in the proceedings of the World Summit of Women Parliament Speakers, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 12-13 December 2016.

The Summit, jointly organized by the UAE Federal National Council and the IPU, was held under the motto "United to shape the Future", and the kind patronage of H.H. Sheikha Fatimah Bint Mubarak (Mother of the Emirates), president of the

General Women Union, Supreme President of Family Development Institution, and President of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

The summit, to be held for the first time in the Middle East, was an opportunity to discuss a number of international issues in various sectors and levels, especially under political, economic, environmental and social changes which affect global security, that necessitate unifying world efforts and vision. ❖

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