

Dear Reader,

This year has witnessed the aggravation of the phenomenon of turning Islam, fear known as Islamophobia, of which all the good-intentioned people in the world have warned, roundly



condemned by several thinkers and decision-makers, and on which international organizations have adopted resolutions condemning this phenomenon and cautioning against its danger. We have witnessed during the past months a proof, if there was any need for such a proof, of the growing menace of this phenomenon in the Western World, where a New Zealand extremist killed scores of worshippers, in cold blood, as they were performing the Friday Prayers in two Mosques in Christchurch, in New Zealand. This horrifying incident reminds us of the imperative of combating this phenomenon which victimizes Muslims in several non-Islamic States, especially with the ascendancy of the extreme right in Western States. Leaders of this political faction do not refrain from propagating hatred against Islam and Muslims, and scaring people of this true religion which has come to salvage humanity from injustice and ignorance, and to spread love and brotherhood among all human beings. Those who nurture this phenomenon make a linkage between Islam and terrorism, ignoring the fact that terrorism has neither a religion, nor nationality, and that Muslims are the primary victims of this phenomenon.

We Realize that the bias and scare – mongering against Islam are not something new. Its root causes relate to ancient wars. This ideology has been behind the colonial campaigns. It still feeds seditions and wars in Muslim countries.

However, we recognize, objectively, that in the world there are leaders of enlightened thought who exalt, glorify, and defend Islam. Some of them converted to this true religion which has come to take humanity out of darkness into light.

In its previous Conference, the PUIC has warned against the gravity of the phenomenon of Islamophobia, and called for combating scare-mongering of Islam, as well as eliminating hatred and animosity directed against this true religion.

The PUIC Executive Committee in its Third Extraordinary Meeting approved last July, on the basis of a proposal made by Dr. Habib El Malki, PUIC President and the Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, to seek adoption of “an Annual Day, by the UN General Assembly, for Combating Islamophobia”.

Such a day shall be an international opportunity to call for tolerance, co-existence and informing about the moderation of Islam, and rejecting the discourses, ascribed to Islam and Muslim, which consider the ideology of terrorizing, and scare-mongering against Islam its creed. The day shall also be an opportunity for confronting extremism and bias.

It is certain that Islam is a religion of love, brotherhood and mercy, and that “The Religion before Allah is Islam”.

Towards a World Day For Combating Islamophobia: Roots...Manifestations... Dangers



Recommendations of previous PUIC Conferences have underlined the Union's resolve to effectively confront the phenomenon of hatred directed against Islam and Muslims (Islamophobia): Starting with discovering its roots, recognizing its manifestations and forms, and informing about its dangers for the values of tolerance and harmony among societies and civilizations.

Four Excellency Speakers of PUIC Member Parliaments have addressed this phenomenon, through poignant articles

written exclusively for the “PUIC”. The most outstanding themes of these articles are:
Calling for adoption of a World Day for Combating Islamophobia; Urgent need for international cooperation in this respect; Necessity of taking measures and setting up mechanisms to counter the phenomenon; and rejection of the discourses linked to Islam and Muslims which espouse the ideology of intimidation and terrorizing others of Islam as their creed.

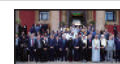
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Kampala Hosts 42nd Executive Committee Meeting

Parliament of the Republic of Uganda hosts in Kampala the 42nd Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee on 1-2 October, 2019. The meeting is considered important because of its preparatory nature for the PUIC annual Conference due to be held in the capital of Burkina Faso next January, 2020. The meeting is to draw up the draft agenda of each one of the 4 Standing Specialized Committees; the draft agenda of the subsidiary organs: Palestine Committee, Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians; Meeting of Secretaries General of the PUIC Parliaments, and Draft Agendas for the Symposia on Important Topics in the presence of specialists as well as participants from the esteemed member parliaments. The Executive Committee meeting also includes: Drawing up agenda of General Committee Session as well as drawing up draft agenda of the 15th PUIC Conference.

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Rabat Conference Seeks to Enhance Islamic Parliamentary Action

In response to the kind invitation extended by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, the 14th Session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) was held under the Presidency of H.E. Mr. Habib El Malki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco in Rabat on 13 – 14 March, 2019 corresponding to 6 – 7 Rajab, 1440H, under the sublime patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco with the participation of (36) Member Parliaments. (15 Speakers and 6 Deputy Speakers)

INAUGURAL SESSION:

- H.E. Mr. Moustapha Al Rumaïd, Moroccan Minister of State in Charge of Human Rights, Delegate of the Government of Morocco, kindly honored the inaugural session of the Conference. His Excellency was accompanied by several Ministers and ambassadors of Muslim States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco.
- H.E. Mr. Habib El Malki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco,

President of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference delivered the opening speech after expressing his pleasure and welcoming the participants. His Excellency stated that he looks forward to the Rabat Session to constitute a qualitative addition to the PUIC inventory of accumulated ideas, achieved works and sought for initiatives.

- H.E. Mr. Hakim Benchamach, Speaker of the House of Councilors of Morocco delivered an opening speech in which he welcomed the delegations, and expressed the hope that the current session would realize, even though, a reasonable level of the objectives of all the Islamic world, in terms of further consideration of bonds of cooperation and enhancement of consultation, at different levels, on issues of joint concern.
- H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, the PUIC Secretary General, delivered a speech in which he expressed thanks and great appreciation to the Parliament of Morocco for hosting the current PUIC Session. He stated that several issues of concern for Muslims are put before the Conference. At the conclusion of the Inaugural Session,

a commemorative photo was taken for participating delegations.

FIRST WORKING SESSION

The Conference resumed its proceedings. His Excellency Speaker Habib El Malki called for electing other members of the Bureau. The Conference approved elections of H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali, Vice President from the African Group; H.E. Mr. Fakhar Imam, Head of the delegation of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Vice President from the Asian Group, and H.E. Mr. Abdelilah El Halouti from the Moroccan Parliament, as Conference Rapporteur.

GENERAL DEBATE

A number of Speakers of the PUIC Member Parliaments took the floor: -

- H.E. Mrs. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- H.E. Dr. Amal Abdulla Al Qubaisi, Speaker of the Federal National Assembly of the State



of United Arab Emirates.

- H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda.
- H.E. Mr. Marzouq Ali M. Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait (His Speech was delivered by H.E. Dr. Safaa Abderrahmane Al-Hashem, member of the Kuwait delegation as per the request of Mr. Al-Ghanim on the occasion of the World Women Day).
- H.E. Mr. Alassane Bala Sakandé, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso
- H.E. Mr. Aguila Salah Issa, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Libya.
- H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Advisory Council of the State of Qatar.
- H.E. Mr. Cheikh Ould Baya, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- H.E. Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasir Al Ma'awali, Speaker of the Consultative Council of the Sultanate of Oman.
- H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Sheikh, Speaker of the Consultative Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- H.E. Mr. Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey.
- H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National

Assembly of the Republic of Mali.

SECOND WORKING SESSION

A number of Vice Speakers of PUIC Member Parliaments and Heads of Participating Delegations addressed the Second Working Session: -

- H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Salman Naser, First Vice Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- H.E. Mr. Yacine Ben Mohamed, Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Niger.
- H.E. Mr. Khaled Jamil Musmar, Representative of the Palestine National Council.
- H.E. Mr. Mustafa Jagdali, Representative of the Council of the National of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- H.E. Mr. Oumar Ibn Daoud, 5th Vice Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Chad.
- H.E. Mr. Martin Fidèle Magnaga, 5th Vice Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Gabon.
- H.E. Dr. Fadli Zon, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia.
- H.E. Mr. Sainey Touray, Head of the Delegation of the National Assembly of the Gambia
- H.E. Mr. Hassan Al Kaabi, First Vice Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq.
- H.E. Mr. Abdel Salam Mohamed Mostafa Ali, Representative of the House of Representatives of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- H.E. Mr. Abdul Karim Al Daghami, Representative of the House of Representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- H.E. Mrs. Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- H.E. Dr. Qassem Hashim, Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Lebanon.
- H.E. Mr. Mohamad Yassine, Representative of the Republic of Mozambique.
- H.E. Mr. Kebe Mandiaye, Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal.
- H.E. Mr. Ali Mohammed Ahmed Sulaiman El-Ihaimir, Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Sudan.
- H.E. Dr. Salim Al Abyad, Representative of the Parliament of the Republic of Tunisia.
- H.E. Mr. Fakhar Imam, Head of the delegation of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

CLOSING SESSION:

The closing session began at 16:00 hours on Thursday 14th March, 2019. The President of the Session H.E. Mr. Habib El Malki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, President of the Union, requested H.E. PUIC Secretary General, to submit the draft resolutions which were discussed and adopted by the relevant committees during the previous three days. H.E. the PUIC Secretary General stated that the Resolutions of the Committees have been circulated to the august delegations, but due to shortage of time, reports of the rapporteurs of the Committees will not be presented.

In the light of the methodical observations on the work modality, His Excellency the President was of the view that it is sufficient to adopt one conference document,



Necessity of Energizing the Specialized Standing Committees



● Affirming the Vital Importance of Democracy

● Rejecting Extremist Thought and Condemning Terrorism

i.e. the Rabat Declaration, and to transfer the resolutions of the Specialized Standing Committees to the next PUIC Conference. The Conference approved this step. His Excellency the President requested ratification of the Rabat Declaration. After listening to a number of interventions, the Rabat Declaration was adopted. The President of the PUIC Conference affirmed the necessity of energizing the Standing Specialized Committees, not be content with meeting once per year, and study the modality of setting up a mechanism for holding regular meetings of the Specialized Standing Committees, by the next meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.

Afterwards, His Excellency the President of the PUIC Conference announced that the next session i.e. the 15th PUIC Conference, will convene in Burkina Faso, and that the Executive Committee will hold its next meeting (42nd) in Republic of Uganda.

Rabat Declaration of The 14th Session of the PUIC Conference- Rabat – Kingdom of Morocco

We, Speakers of Parliaments and Heads and Members of Delegations of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) assembled on 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Rajab 1440 H.C., corresponding to 11, 12, 13, and 14 March 2019 G.C. in Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

- Expressing our gratitude to His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, for His High Patronage of the Conference, thereby providing all conditions for the success of its works, characterized by high quality and efficient debate of issues concerning the Islamic World;
- Reiterating our commitment to the fundamental principles of the particularly the principles of (a) non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, (b) respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states (c) resolution of conflicts through peaceful means and dialogue.
- Re-asserting our determination to continue our positive and efficient contribution to the improvement of the work of the United Nation and its Specialized Agencies, particularly in such domains as concern the establishment of world peace and regional security; observance of human rights, and respect for the sovereignty of states and their territorial integrity.
- Recalling the responsibility of the international

community in settling the Middle East Conflict, essentially, by enabling the Palestinian people to enjoy all of their legitimate rights, establishing their independent State with Al-Quds as its capital, and finally the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homeland, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations

- Stressing the importance of democracy and institution-based State in the process of development and safeguarding human rights and guaranteeing their respect, and emphasizing the role of our Parliaments in consolidating such rights, facilitating people's political participation in such a way as to ensure stability and social cohesion, and building people's trust in the institutions of their respective countries, by allowing them to take ownership of this building process through involving them in the decision-making and governance of public policies, through their elected representatives.
- Being aware of the scale of the threat posed by extremism, terrorism, and fanaticism not only to our societies, the stability of our countries, and the future of our nations, but also to the world peace and security without underestimating the impact of all that onto the Islamic World;
- Recalling the humanitarian situations and the suffering of large groups of citizens in a number of conflict-ridden zones in Islamic countries, as well as the suffering endured by Muslims in many non-Islamic countries;

We hereby declare the following:

1. We stress the vital importance of democracy, State of institutions, and the respect and safeguard of human rights in the advancement of societies, their development, and their stability. This is because these constitute an ultimate universal goal, a social requirement, and an objective to be achieved through accumulated experience, reforms, involvement of different groups and components of societies in political life, and through ensuring an enhanced and effective political participation of women and youth.
2. We reiterate the fact that the Palestinian Cause occupies a central position within our concerns and our Union's advocacy work, just as it does concerning our countries and people; and we assert our solidarity with the Palestinian people towards the recognition of their legitimate rights in establishing their independent state with Al-Quds as its capital, in conformity with the relevant UN resolutions, and we condemn, in the strongest terms, the practices of the Zionist occupation authorities against the Palestinian people;
Recalling the historical and spiritual value of Al-Quds for Muslim peoples, condemning the settlements and violations carried out by occupation authorities against Islamic and Christian landmarks and the inhabitants of the Holy City, for the purpose of altering its character and identity; in this regard, we express our great appreciation for the efforts of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco and the Chairman of OIC Al-Quds Committee and Bayt Mal Qods Asharif Agency aiming at preserving the legal status of Al-Quds, its civilizational character and its spiritual landmarks, and supporting the resistance of the inhabitants of al-Quds Al-sharif.
3. Condemning Israel's daily aggressions and

violations against the Palestinian people, we call upon the UN and its Specialized Agencies to provide the necessary protection for the Palestinian people and their cultural and architectural landmarks in the Occupied Territories, and to work towards securing the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and lifting the iniquitous blockade imposed on the Palestinian people;

4. Considering that occupation is the core of the conflicts in the Middle East and the root cause of its problems, we call upon the international community to put an end to Zionist occupation of the remaining Lebanese territories, and the Syrian Golan;

5. Commend Jordan's efforts, led by His Majesty King Abdullah II, to sponsor the Islamic sanctities and endowments in Al Quds. Confirm the Hashemite mandate thereon which has been decided by several Muslim and Arab Conferences.

6. We renew our rejection of extremist thought and condemnation of terrorism which targets several Islamic and non-Islamic countries. We call for a head-on confrontation of its roots and causes and intensified cooperation among the members of the International Community to achieve that aim. In this respect, we demand taking action to counter extremist and bigoted discourses, whatever their sources and origin, rejecting the establishment of any links between terrorism and Islam and Muslims, and the exploitation of terror claims in campaigns against Islam and Islamic Civilization.

7. We call for the resolution of conflicts in certain regions of the Islamic World, by dint of dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful means. We emphasize the necessity of sparing civilians the consequences of these conflicts, providing them with the requisite protection, and guaranteeing their moral and material rights to safety, security, social services, and all the necessities of dignified life. We reaffirm our rejection of civilian hostage-taking, arrest, detention, and their use as a means to exercise pressure in conflicts.

In this regard, we stress the importance of the role of conflict prevention in sparing the Islamic world the prospect of new tensions. We further call for inclination towards peace in settling differences, securing borders between Islamic and building the bridges of cooperation, exchange, and optimized economic integration among Islamic countries which are required to enhance trade, to promote human exchanges, and to foster service flows.

8. Being fully aware of the critical conditions that our countries are going through, and regardless of the differences in our assessment of these conditions, we are required—in the process of handling differences, conflicts, and crises to exercise wisdom, rationality,

the logic of shared interest, and our own people's vested interests in stability, security, development, and prosperity. We are equally required to stop wealth being squandered and political time being wasted in wars and conflicts—at a time when we possess all the potentialities and the essentials for a new renaissance.

Given that our True Islamic religion calls for tolerance, co-existence, and dialogue in any interaction with the Other, we, by virtue of being the representatives of the legislative branches in our respective countries, and in view of the standing our institutions enjoy, we express our firm intention to enhance this approach and to foster dialogue with the representatives of the other revealed faiths and other civilizations, such as would guarantee co-existence, stability, peace, and security.

9. In relation to the foregoing, we re-emphasize the dire need and the political and strategic necessity to respect the territorial and national integrity of states, to preserve their stability, and to abstain from any kind of interference with their domestic affairs. We also reaffirm our compliance with this central principle in international relations.

10. We underline our adherence to the genuine international efforts being expended in order to protect the environment and to face up to the disastrous consequences of climatic disturbances on man, the earth, and the future of humanity itself. We also call for a quick and effective implementation of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in the UN Conventions on Climatic Changes, notably the Conference of Paris and the Conference of Marrakech. In this respect, we, in particular, stress the importance of supporting Islamic African countries which are widely and adversely impacted on by climatic disturbances.

11. We affirm the responsibility of host

countries and countries of origin in protecting Muslim expatriate communities living in non-Islamic countries. We reject Islam-phobia inducing discourse and all racist discourses and practices which target these communities. We also highlight the contributions made by these Muslim expatriate communities in the development and growth of their countries of residence and countries of origin.

In relation to this, we call upon the host countries to respect the basic human rights of non-regular migrants, especially those coming from African countries

12. Reaffirm the necessity to protect Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries in accordance with human rights and freedom of conscience values and principles; we condemn the cleansing attacks targeting such minorities in some countries; and we demand holding those responsible internationally accountable and that the UN and its legal and humanitarian entities be in charge of this accountability;

13. Recalling the consequences of armed disputes including refugees, mass displacement, forcible migration within a country and across borders, we emphasize the need to guarantee the dignity and rights of refugees and migrants in conflict-ridden zones and to guarantee their access to basic services, in particular, education and health-care for young people, bearing in mind that the objective remains to work toward the return of these people to their homelands in a peaceful manner.

14. We renew our deep thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, for his High Patronage of our 14th Conference and our appreciation to the Moroccan Parliament for the good conditions made available for its works and for the care and welcome that was bestowed upon us in the Kingdom of Morocco.





In the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee: Proposing World Day Against Islamophobia

Upon the kind invitation extended by His Excellency Mr. Habib El Malki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and PUIC President, the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee of the PUIC, was held at the headquarters of the Moroccan House of Representatives in Rabat, on 17th July, 2019.

The Meeting focused on considering necessary means to develop the working methodology of the PUIC through the following proposals included in its Agenda:

- Taking necessary action for adopting only one document by the conference: The Conference Declaration
- Energizing the PUIC Committees and forming a mechanism for holding periodic sessions of the Committees throughout the year, with one subject dedicated to each meeting at the level of each committee.
- Holding Symposia on important topics in the presence of specialists, as well as participants from the august member parliaments.

● The Meeting was attended by Members of Committee, representing the Parliaments of: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Gambia, Lebanon, Libya, Kingdom of Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Uganda.

The following members of the Committee were absent: Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Parliament of Malaysia.

MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU WERE ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

● His Excellency Mr. Hamadou Sali Representative of the National Assembly of Cameroun, as Vice Chairperson from the African Group

● His Excellency Mr. Amjad Ali Khan, Representative of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Vice Chairman from Asian Group.

● His Excellency Mr. Abdelilah El Halouti, Representative of the Moroccan Parliament as Rapporteur.

The meeting was opened by a

Speech of Mr. Habib El Malki, PUIC President, which included a PUIC plan of action and initiatives during the intervening period between the 14 and 15 Conferences.

His Excellency reviewed the broadlines of the Plan of action and initiatives included therein which was prepared by the Presidency in consultation and coordination with the PUIC General Secretariat. Then His Excellency invited H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, PUIC Secretary General, to deliver his speech.

In His Speech, PUIC Secretary General thanked the Moroccan Parliament for its kind invitation to hold this Extraordinary Meeting, and explained that the items of the agenda include proposals to energize and develop the work methodology of the Union. He concluded his speech with calling for consolidating dialogue and consultation among Member Parliaments to overcome difficulties, which face our Islamic World.

Thereafter the Committee listened to

interventions by the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament and Heads of other delegations including the submission of a number of proposals.

Following are proposals presented by the PUIC President and adopted by the Executive Committee, which it considered as an Action Plan for the sake of developing PUIC work and furthering its radiance.

1- Creating "Palestine Award for Democracy and Historical Justice".

2- Taking action at the United Nations in order to define and adopt an annual world day for combating intimidation of people from Islam and Muslims or the so-called Islamophobia and bigotry and for the sake of tolerance and dialogue of civilizations, by the UN General Assembly.

3- Energizing the Specialized and Subsidiary Committees during the intervening period between two Conference Sessions and that their proceedings be crowned with draft recommendations and resolutions that are submitted to the Plenary Conference. The objective of this is to bring maturity to Consensus on the recommendations and resolutions after deepening discussions thereon at the level of the Committees and to be keen on limiting discussion in the committees on specific subjects.

4- Call for an extraordinary, broad-based conference of women parliamentarians sitting in Member Countries' parliaments. Participation should not be limited to regular members in the PUIC organs. The said conference should address matters relating to facilitating the political participation of women, the exchange of experiences and the presentation of comparative studies regarding regulations that promote women's access to elected bodies.

5- Taking number of measures designed to make PUIC regular conferences a platform for debate and for the adoption of the documents on which

a consensus has been achieved at Committee meetings in the form of draft resolutions and recommendations; this consensus should be matured beforehand, away from the conference pressure; the aim is to improve what was agreed upon, make it implementable, positive and constructive and achieve consensus on it so that it may impact international decision-making and make sure it has an impact on multilateral parliamentary organizations. In this regard, the Final Declaration should bear the name of the capital of the country traditionally in which the PUIC members record the agreed positions on the issues which are the subject of concern of our countries and peoples, and that it should include the total general discussion in the conference and the resolutions of the committees and should be adopted as a central and reference document.

On the other hand, The Executive Committee looked into the proposal of His Excellency the Secretary General on holding Seminars and symposiums relating to the following issues:

First: Combating Terrorism and Extremism

Second: Youth and Unemployment in the States of Member Parliaments.

Third: Migration and the Refugees

Fourth: Unity and Solidarity between Islamic Countries

Fifth: Human Rights in Islamic Countries

At the end of the meeting, members of the Executive Committee addressed a cable of thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI King of the Kingdom of Morocco in which they expressed to His Majesty their appreciation for the preparation and the excellent organization of the meeting and for the good hospitality and care which they have been provided with since their arrival in the territory of the Kingdom of Morocco.



● Adopting creation of a Palestine Award For Democracy and Historical Justice

● Activating PUIC Specialized and subsidiary Committees



A photograph of Dr. Habib El Malki, a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a dark blue suit and tie. He is seated in a red leather chair behind a wooden desk. On the desk, there is a small bouquet of white and pink flowers, a glass decanter, and a small flag of the Kingdom of Morocco. The background is a plain white wall.

Towards a World Day for Combating Islamophobia

By H.E. Dr. Habib El Malki, PUIC President, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco



► In Rabat, and on 17th July, 2019, at the opening of the proceedings of the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, I did not hesitate, in front of my brothers and colleagues, members of the Committee, to propose working and coordinating with the United Nations and its parallel organizations, and concerned bodies, and organs, primarily the UNESCO, in order to adopt a World Day, For Combating Islamophobia (Fear from Islam), as well as all forms of bigotry, hatred, racism, violence and exclusion directed against male and female Muslims in the world, and even against others including People of the Book and followers of other beliefs and religions.

Undoubtedly, this idea will offer us and the civilized world, an occasion for collective mobilization, through which we address our friends and allies in parliamentary and non – parliamentary fora and gatherings, and all justice – loving forces and personalities, who advocate values of tolerance, openness, peace, civilizational and ideological dialogue, and dialogue among cultures and languages. The aim is to motivate parliaments, governments, civil society constituents, thought makers, creativity producers and arts,

media, communication and information personnel, in order to confront kinds of dark thinking, shallow discourse, ignorant information that ignores the values of harmony; diversity; meaning of residing on Earth; and sharing the principles of human life with a spirit of coexistence; brotherhood; friendship; recognition; rapprochement; solidarity; understanding and sympathy.

I may not need, in an introductory paper like this, to linger much on the concept of Islamophobia, which simply means all kinds of intimidation or fear of Islam, as well as various expressions and practices which are prejudicial to Islam and hate-mongering against Muslims. Furthermore, they establish about our tolerant Islamic religion preconceived ideas and meaningless sentiments of hatred, animosity and vilification, which are devoid of any objective motivation. As stated by the Swedish researcher Mathias Gardelle (specialist in comparative religions discipline) that deeply, Islamophobia is nothing but “a social reproduction of fear and prejudice against Islam and Muslims, including practices which aimed at attacking or discriminating against persons or excluding them on the basis of assuming their connection to

Islam of Muslim. “

Today, this concept has a history of accumulation and usages. It also entered into most world dictionaries and encyclopedias, with almost the same open spirit. Fortunately, the materials on Islamophobia in those dictionaries and encyclopedias have been edited by credible great intellectuals and thinkers who were keen on making the contemporary world stand in the face of this new racist epidemic.

In fact, numerous male and female thinkers of the Islamic world, from different Muslim countries, writing and thinking in different languages, have not remained idle vis-a-vis this blind, strong and open enmity towards Islam and Muslims in the world, especially in countries of the Western World. Our initiative, In the PUIC,

does not come from void. But it supports this ideological and ethical accumulation which have been launched by thought makers and decision makers in our contemporary world, whether at the United Nations or at the levels of UNESCO or ISESCO, ALESCO and Inter Arab Parliamentary Union, as well as other organizations and unions. Here, we only enhance the ideological, ethical and institutional gains which have been made up to now by sensible and sagacious people of the world in opposition to preconceived expressions, sentiments and thoughts which run counter to Islam, as a belief, civilization, cultural plurality and linguistic richness.

In concluding this brief article, I have to recall what the late Kofi Anan stated in 2004, when he

stressed the necessity of beginning to confront the phenomenon of Islamophobia by “according the necessary importance to reformulate and define this concept” in order for us to be able to unify our rhetoric and thoughts, coordinate our efforts on a clear basis and a concrete roadmap which integrate all wills and initiatives that love peace, justice, equality, brotherhood, compassion, tolerance, openness, moderation and shrewdness.

Let us start, therefore, from where we should start. We ought to enhance the positive accumulation which has been achieved. We should all seek to establish and adopt a World Day for Combating Islamophobia; a confrontation which we should place, as of now, the table and agenda of the contemporary world.



Humanity Facing the Phenomenon of Islamophobia



By H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse, Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal



The crisis of migration and increasing unemployment in the West, at the background of growing poverty, are all excuses offered to justify sentiments of animosity towards foreigners who are victimized because of belonging to Islam.

In the face of these phenomenon which endanger peace, harmony, understanding and international security, it is necessary, rather urgently, to mobilize the international community in order to take measures and set up mechanisms to combat Islamophobia, and religious intolerance, in general.

The United Nations, the European Council, the OIC as well as other international organizations have ratified several resolutions in this respect. We congratulate them on this.

However, it is incumbent on us, from an educational approach, to enhance the mobilization, so that each group will realize that it cannot live in safety and stability at the expense of the freedom and rights of others.

Respecting the values and customs of others constitutes the essential basis of a world community reflecting cultural and religious diversity as well as socio-economic cohesion.

The National Assembly of Senegal salutes and encourages the commitment of the PUIC to confront Islamophobia, which is apt to serve humanity and support peace.

All PUIC Parliaments are called upon to contribute, amid uniting efforts and solidarity, in this campaign, in the name of the great values of our true Islamic religion which advocates tolerance and love.

► Deeds and stances of religious intolerance have multiplied across the world. This has materialized in deliberate attacks and aggressions against private properties, places of worship, and religious symbols of various creeds and sects.

In this context, the Islamic group was the most targeted, especially those who live in the West, where the phenomenon of Islamophobia has a worrisome dimension, following the intensification of prejudiced distortion campaign, the least we can about it is that it is unfair for mixing up between Islam and terrorism.

The horrifying massacre of innocent Muslims, at prayer time, in mosques in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, has come to alert us to the increasing magnitude of Islamophobia operations and intolerance in the ranks of racist and anti-Muslim movements, which,

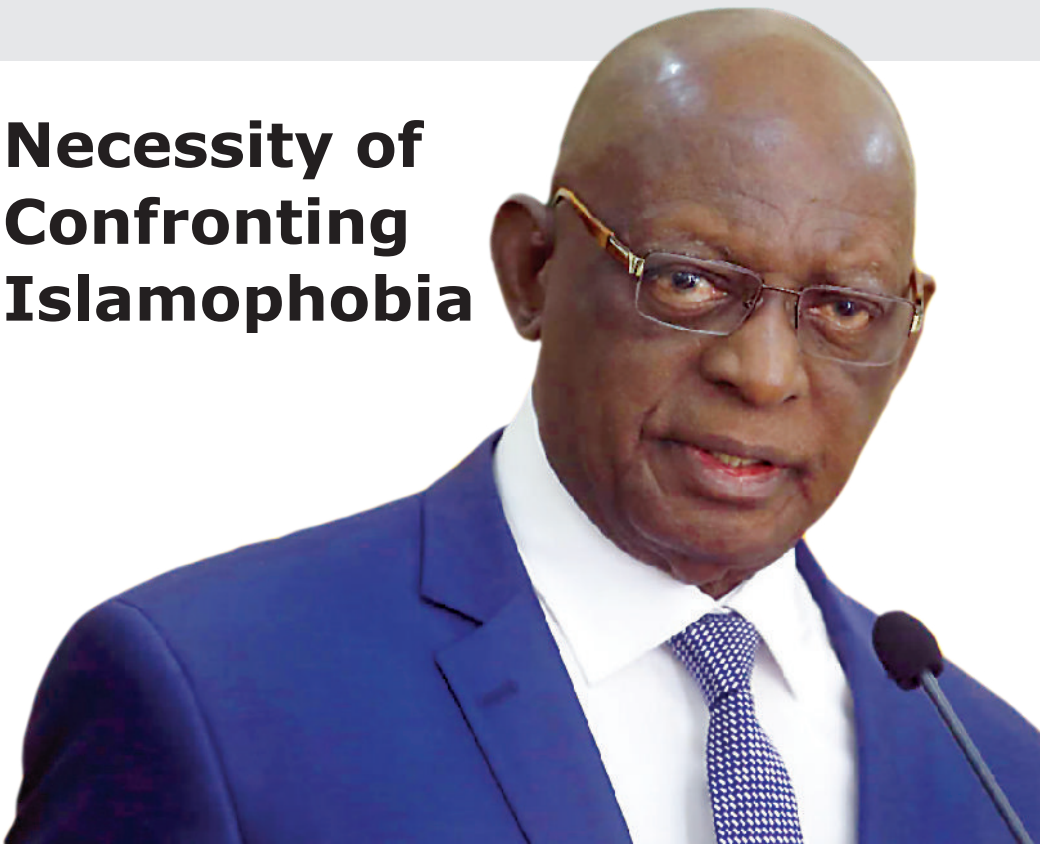
regrettably, keep growing at an alarming tempo, whether in Europe, America, Asia, or the Pacific Ocean region.

Xenophobia and political popularism of the extremist right groups are new phenomenon that gravely endanger peaceful co-existence and harmony among peoples, and also between nations.

Since 9/11, 2001 events in the USA, condemned World Wide, Islamophobia has spiraled among people of bad intentions, as well as intellectuals and leaders of populist movements who hastened to stigmatize Islam and Muslims.

These groups have succeeded, in some circles, to blemish the reputation of Islam communities, believers of this true religion, being the religion of peace, and tolerance, the faith which established a civilization that brought, though centuries, benefaction to the entire humanity.

Necessity of Confronting Islamophobia



By H.E. Mr. Issaka Sidibé, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali, President of the 12th PUIC Conference



► I thank the PUIC Secretariat for selecting me personally to write on the “Necessity of Confronting Islamophobia”. I feel obliged to mention that Islam is always crowned with the values of peace, love, tolerance and solidarity, which are, for every Muslim, basic principles, without which coexistence is not possible.

At the same time, it is regrettable to notice that we live now in a world where tolerance has been upset due to the feelings of Islamophobia. Gradually the topic of Islamophobia has moved to center stage when discussing terrorism. Several accusations have been made against our religion, which appeared in the form of enmity and hatred against Islam and Muslims. In some circles and for some persons dealing with Islam has become a source of unjust discrimination against Muslims. This clearly shows enormous ignorance of the teachings of Islam.

I would like to point out, in this context, that Islam shall remain a religion of

outstanding principles which are our reference in our community life. By distancing themselves from these principles, misguided persons have deviated the Islamic teachings and easily fell into the trap of extremism. In this way, and instead of following the teachings of the religion, those extremists have opted to set up themselves as a religious authority to sacrifice innocent citizens.

It is, therefore, necessary not to mix between Islam and terrorism, in order not to enhance the negative stereotypical image of Muslims. Preconceived provisions impede a large number of our brothers and sisters from access to work, housing, transport as well as other activities related to their social and vocational integration. It is, therefore, urgent to stop practices and utterances of Islamophobia in order to preserve the position of Islam and its Nation.

Confronting Islam, by upholding to the principles of genuine Islam, ought to be, for every Muslim, a permanent Jihad, for all time and instant. ◀



A Collective Stance Against Islamophobia-Hatred Against Islam

► The term of Islamophobia is broadly described and acknowledged as the fear, bias and hostility against the religion of Islam, its tenets and its believers. However, this lexicographic definition of Islamophobia is a shallow one, which falls short of explaining the substantiated dimension of violence and discrimination deriving from the hatred against Muslims. Thus, instead of Islamophobia, I hereby suggest that we should call it hatred-against Islam to have a comprehensive and solid understanding of the issue before us.

The virus of hatred-against Islam (and against its followers) is spreading from the shores of Far East to the heart of the USA and from one end of Oceania to the capitals of Europe poisoning wherever it passes. Henceforward, the alarming rise of hatred-against Islam that we witness and experience today is pointing out an obvious fact: hatred-against Islam is not unique to any geography or culture or nation. Just like racism

and xenophobia, it is a global problem along with several dimensions that cannot be overcome by a single actor. Then, the world must realize the urgent need of international cooperation in order to counter hatred-against Islam and prevent further contagion of this anomaly.

With almost 5 million Turkish citizens living abroad, Turkey has been going through tragic experiences due to series of violent attacks, discriminatory policies and deliberate judicial delays. Especially in the Western Europe, there have been a clear inflation in the attacks targeting Turkish communities. While 75 violent attacks took place in 2014, Turks living in the Western Europe were exposed to 97 assaults in the year of 2018. By and large, hatred-against Islam and its repercussions are not new to Turkey.

Being an active and committed member of the international community, Turkey sets an inspiring example of how to fight hatred-against Islam on international level. Particularly,

during its Summit Chairmanship of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) between 2016 and 2019, Turkey spearheaded a number of efforts for countering hatred-against Islam by advocating the rights and freedoms of the Muslims across the globe and mobilizing the international community.

At this point, it is worth mentioning about the manifest role of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey, who voiced the common concern of the Ummah and steered the OIC to take immediate actions in the face of grave incidents that aggrieved fellow Muslims in different parts of the world. During the Turkish Summit Chairmanship of the OIC under the leadership of H.E. President Erdoğan, the plight of Muslim minorities all over the world were rightly brought to forefront as core issues of the Organization.

In addition to activating the OIC, Turkey has been contributing to the capacity building efforts in the combat of hatred-against Islam on other levels. The 5th of the annual seminar of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), which is the dynamo of the OIC regarding human rights matters, was held in Istanbul on 17-18 October 2018 with the theme of “Islamophobia: A Human Rights Violation and a Contemporary Manifestation of Racism”. The declaration adopted in the seminar put forth important aspects of hatred-against Islam such as the lack of legal gap to implement sanctions on hate crimes i.e. defamation and the absence of a close examination of the political and ideological background of the violent attacks against Muslims.

Nevertheless, what I referred as international cooperation earlier could be seen best by looking at the timely and significant initiatives taken by the OIC at critical junctures, during Turkey’s Summit Chairmanship.

Most recently and more crucially, on 22 March 2019, as the OIC Summit Chair, Turkey called upon holding an emergency meeting in Istanbul

for discussing increasing violence related to hatred-against Islam, racism and xenophobia, in particular to the terrorist attack targeted two mosques in New Zealand on 15 March 2019. Upon the invitation of Turkey, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister together with the Minister for Ethnic Communities of New Zealand also attended the meeting. Terrorism, regardless of the target or the motivation, is a global threat that leaves the very same deep scar wherever it touches. However, the Christchurch terrorist attack was an overextension, not only because it caused death of 51 Muslims in a sacred house of prayer, but it also unveiled the fact that religion based violence can even reach to the most harmonious and intra-tolerant societies.

The Final Communiqué adopted at the end of this meeting by the OIC Member States, which is a comprehensive and well-developed document on the issue, acted as a catalyzer and paved the way for adoption of the Resolution on “Combating terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief” on 2 April 2019 by consensus in the UN General Assembly.

As another output of the said meeting Turkey contends that the

OIC Contact Group on Peace and Dialogue led by Indonesia convened for the first time on 30 July 2019 in Jakarta with a mission to draft a Plan of Action to combat Islamophobia. For the first time in the history of the OIC there appeared a light of hope to fight hatred-against Islam, its institutions and followers under this serious plan. We, as the Parliaments being the very representatives of our people should also endorse this Plan.

Ultimately, the most reliable and reasonable way to cope with hatred-against Islam and intolerance is engagement at the international level. Since the problem of hatred-against Islam is a multilayered and global threat, likewise, the solution should be built upon the same scheme. And yet, cooperation just among state actors including their various organs along with Parliaments does not suffice to ensure the ultimate success. As in the case of OIC during Turkey’s Summit Chairmanship, international organizations should also cooperate more to establish, promote and preserve universal values in order to eradicate deep rooted and ideologically motivated violent and verbal attacks against people based on their religious beliefs, notably Muslims.





In preparation for the PUIC Conference:

Kampala Hosts an Important Meeting

Kampala, the capital of the Republic of Uganda, is hosting the 42nd Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee on 1-2 October 2019, scheduled to be chaired by H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

The agenda of the meeting reflects its importance to the work of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, and joint Islamic Parliamentary progress, in general.

Items of the agenda include:

- Report of the PUIC Secretary General;
- Following up the Rabat Declaration adopted by the 14th PUIC Conference as well as the report of the Conference;
- Following up the report of the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee in Rabat.

It draws up the draft agenda of the 8th meeting of the following specialized standing 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 of Civilizations and Religions.

It draws up the draft agenda of each of the following subsidiary organs:

- Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine;
- Ninth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- Third meeting of the Association of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.

The meeting also covers the following items:

- Drawing up the Draft Agenda of the 22nd Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Defining the date of the 15th PUIC Conference to be held in Burkina Faso.
- Drawing up the Draft Agenda of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Motto of the 15th PUIC Conference and other related meetings.
- Drawing up the Draft Agendas for the symposia on important topics in the presence of specialists as well as participants from the esteemed member parliaments
- Adoption of the Report of the 42nd Meeting of the Executive Committee
- Adoption of the Kampala Declaration

Report of the Secretary General:

The report covers the period between the

date of holding 41st Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, which was held as part of the proceedings of the 14th PUIC Conference, in Rabat, on 11th March, 2019, and the date of the current meeting. The report includes the activities of the General Secretariat; PUIC Secretary General participation in international and regional fora; statements issued by the PUIC General Secretariat, statements issued by some Member States; PUIC Secretary General's congratulatory messages on the occasion of the election and re-election of some Parliament Speakers, PUIC Secretary General messages of condolences and sympathy, the details on the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, attendance of the PUIC Secretary General to the investiture Ceremony of Mauritanian President; meeting with the Speaker of Mauritanian National Assembly, Meeting with the IPU President at the PUIC Headquarters, PUIC Participation as part of the International Monitoring Team on the Indonesian Parliamentary Elections, Media Activities and Organizational Matters.

The closing session will adopt the Report of the 42nd Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Kampala Declaration. ▶



Azerbaijan

The National Assembly of Azerbaijan hosted the 53rd General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), from 19-21 June, 2019. The agenda of the General Assembly included a wide range of issues discussed at the meetings of the committees on economy, trade, technology and ecology, culture, education, as well as social, legal and political affairs.



Bangladesh

H.E. Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said, Bangladesh is now a role model of women development in the world. "The contribution of the Prime Minister to making enlightened women will remain as a milestone. The participation of women in different professions of the state and levels of the society is clearly visible," she said. The Speaker was addressing the International Mother Language Institute to honour enlightened women, marking the International Women's Day, on 8 March, 2019.



Burkina Faso

On April 26, 2019, the 11th Conference of Presidents of Assemblies and Sections of the African Region of the Parliamentary Assembly of Francophonie (APF) opened in Ouagadougou. During the Conference, the Presidents of the Assemblies exchanged views on issues of interparliamentary cooperation, undeclared children to the civil status, solidarity, nuclear weapons, as well as those relating to crises and conflicts over the years on the continent.



Egypt

H.E. Dr. Ali Abdul Aal, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Egypt received in his office Mr. George Ferry, Speaker of the Senate of Canada and his accompanying delegation, on 19 May, 2019. The Speaker of the House of Representatives reviewed the great socio-economic transformation which is taking place in Egypt, being materialized by the ambitious program of economic reform which is being supported by a distinctive legislative structure, aimed at bringing in investments. Mr. Abdul Aal announced the establishment of a parliamentary Friendship society between the Egyptian and Canadian Parliaments for consolidating bilateral relations between the two friendly peoples at the bilateral level.



Iran

H.E. Dr. Ali Larijani, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran met and held talks with President of the Inter-Parliamentarian Union, H.E. Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, during her visit to Tehran, on 23 June, 2019. During the meeting, Larijani said that the Americans occupy countries in the region and belittle those countries with their behavior, which prepares the social ground for terrorism. Larijani later referred to the US peace plan for Palestine or

the so-called 'Deal of the Century', saying that trading the dignity of the Palestinian people with money is a 'fiasco' and would strengthen the Palestinian resistance groups.



Iraq

The Parliament Speaker, H.E. Mr. Mohammed al-Halboosi met in Abu Dhabi with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. During the meeting, they discussed relations between Iraq and the United Arab Emirates and a number of issues and developments in the region. The meeting touched upon the mechanisms of developing parliamentary relations and the importance of the role of parliaments in enhancing relations between the two countries to serve the interests of the two brotherly peoples and work to achieve stability in the region in the light of the challenges and crises it witnesses.



Jordan

The Speaker of the Jordanian Senate, H.E. Mr. Faisal Akif Al-Faiz paid a visit to Al-Bijairi heritage neighborhood in the historical city of Al – Dariea during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His Excellency and the accompanying delegation toured the neighborhood which is being developed within the program to develop the historical city. Mr. Al-Faiz saw the commercial services which tend to customers in the neighborhood and the region.



Kazakhstan

Making an official visit to Uzbekistan, Chairman of the Majilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin held talks with the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (the Parliament of Uzbekistan) Nurdinjon Ismoilov, on 6 June, 2019. Nurlan Nigmatulin expressed interest in further strengthening the relations between the relevant Parliamentary committees, fostering inter-factional and inter-party dialogue, and actively using the potential of the cooperation group.



Kuwait

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, H.E. Mr. Marzouq Ali Ghanim, met in his office, on 22 May 2019, H.E. the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Adil Abdul Mahdi and his accompanying delegation during his visit to Kuwait. The two sides discussed the security and political conditions in the region in the framework of the prevailing hot developments in the area. The discussions also covered bilateral relations and ways to enhance them for the interest of Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples.



Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to developing friendly relations with Belarus on the basis of mutual trust and dialogue, H.E. Mr. Dastanbek

NEWS

Djumabekov, Chairman of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, said as he met with Chairman of the House of Representatives of Belarus, Mr. Vladimir Andreichenko in Bishkek on 19 May, 2019. The parties discussed the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in parliamentary and other domains.

The Belarusian speaker spoke in favor of strengthening the legal framework of inter-parliamentary cooperation and suggested signing an agreement between the two legislative bodies. He suggested paying more attention to cooperation in education and medicine.



Lebanon

H.E. the Speaker of the National Assembly of Lebanon, Mr. Nabih Berri met in Beirut, on 19 June, 2019 a delegation from the Saudi Consultative Council, headed by H.E. Mr. Salih Bin Manie Al-Khilaiwi, and in the presence of the Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Committee with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Tammam Salih and the Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Walid Bukhari. The two sides discussed bilateral and parliamentary relations between the two countries in addition to the current political developments in the local and international domains. The meeting lauded the official positions of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon vis-a vis the current Arab developments, especially as regards facing imminent dangers.



Mali

As part of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 on gender equality, the National Assembly of Mali and the IPU organized a workshop on improving women's representation in parliament from 27 to 28 February 2019 in Bamako. The workshop aimed to support the Parliament in monitoring the government's commitments to gender equality; encourage more women to enter politics; work with political parties to encourage women to stand for political office by, for example, giving women access to financing; and raise awareness about the importance of women's representation among parliamentarians, the media, and the general public.



Morocco

The proceedings of the 27th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Francophonie opened at the building of the Moroccan Parliament on 14 June, 2019. The opening Session was addressed by their Excellencies Habib El Malki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco, and Mohsen Al Jouzouli, Minister in charge of African cooperation, and Jack Karbal, Parliamentary Assembly of Francophonie. The African Region of the Assembly include Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia (North Africa), Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo (West Africa), Cameroun, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of

Congo and Chad (Central Africa), Burundi, Comoros, Rwanda and Djibouti (East Africa), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles (Indian Ocean)



Niger

The National Assembly of Niger, was the host to a conference on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the National Assembly of Niger, organized a conference for regional parliamentarians in Niamey from 12 to 14 June 2019.

The conference was the second in a series of capacity-building activities organized by the IPU-UNODC-UNOCT Joint Program on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. Since 2017, the program has been helping parliaments implement IPU resolutions, international conventions, protocols and UN Security Council resolutions related to terrorism. The Conference was attended by parliamentarians from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Senegal.



Oman

H.E. Speaker of A'Shura Council, Mr. Sheikh Khalid Bin Hilal Al Maawali, received in his office H.E. Ahen Jeyo Pak, Chairman of the Standing Committee on National Defense Affairs in the Korean Parliament, and his accompanying delegation on 14 May, 2019, in the framework of strengthening relations between the Sultanate and the Republic of Korea. The Speaker of the Council underlined the depth of Omani-Korean relations and their continuous development. He briefed the guest on A'Shura Council since its establishment in 1991 and its legislative and control powers as well as the success of the consultative experience in recent years.



Palestine


The Palestine National Council (PNC) considered the opening of a new Judaizing settlement tunnel underneath Salwan neighborhood, South of Al Aqsa Mosque and extending to Al Buraq Wall as a new crime with the participation of the US administration. The PNC called on the UNESCO and the UN Secretary General not to keep silent vis-à-vis the American and Israeli behavior which blatantly violates the International resolutions. The PNC also warned against the flare-up of a religions war in the region.





Qatar


A Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the headquarters of the Shura Council between the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and the African Parliamentary Union on parliamentary cooperation between them, on 31 March, 2019. The MOU was signed

by H. E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid Al- Mahmoud, the Speaker of the Shura Council, for the State of Qatar and by H. E. Mr. Al-Hassan Balla Sakandi, President of the African Parliamentary Union, and the Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Burkina Faso for the African Parliamentary Union. Both sides agreed under the provisions of the MOU on establishing a work program for cooperation between the Shura Council and the African Parliamentary Union to promote friendship, exchange of experiences and take joint initiatives on issues of common interest and to strengthen the presence and role of the two parties in international parliamentary forums.

 **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** In response to an invitation extended by the Speaker of the Senate of Pakistan H.E. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, H.E. the Speaker of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia Mr. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammad Al – Sheikh, started a visit to Pakistan on 23 April, 2019 at the head of a parliamentary delegation. His Excellency Al-Sheikh met with Pakistani leaders: Prime-Minister Imran Khan, Speaker of the Senate Mr. Sanjrani, and the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Asad Qaisar. Discussion focus on ways and means to enhance and support existing friendship bonds in the fields of trade, economics and investment. Mr. Al Sheikh reviewed with the Pakistani Prime Minister a number of issues of common concern and the means for strengthening bilateral relations. The Speaker of the Pakistani Parliament Mr. Assad Qaisar, lauded the Pakistani Saudi relations.

 **Senegal** The working and friendship visit to Senegal from 6 to 9 June by the President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Mr. Amadou Soumahoro, ended with the signing with his Senegalese counterpart, H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse, according to the final communiqué, informing the creation of a Parliamentary Friendship Group between the two countries. Through this framework, joint working groups will meet more regularly in Abidjan and Dakar to boost cooperation between Ivorian and Senegalese MPs. Members' capacity building, education and training of citizens, the fight against extremism and terrorism, the fight against trafficking, the fight against illegal emigration, and the promotion of fair trade are areas of cooperatio

 **Tunisia** H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al Nasser, Speaker of the Assembly of People's Representatives paid an official visit to Kuwait at the head of an Assembly Delegation, from 13 to 17 April, 2019, in response to an invitation extended by H.E. the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait Mr. Marzouq Al- Ghanim. During the visit, Mr. Al Nasser met with the Emir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Jabir Al Sabah. He Also had talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. He Also held a working session with Mr. Al- Ghanim.

 **Turkey** The Grand National Assembly of Turkey was the host of the Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), in Ankara on the "Nexus of security and population movements" on 19 to 21 June, 2019. "We should display much more care to provide a security zone in Mediterranean basin, where people can live in peace and with [at least a] minimum level of welfare," said, Mustafa Sentop,



The 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:

- ▶ 24 February 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Mustafa Şentop as Speaker of the Grand National Assembly (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi) of Turkey
- ▶ 4 March 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Aidross as Speaker of the Consultative Council (Majlis Alshoor) of Yemen
- ▶ 7 March 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Amadou Soumahoro as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) of Côte d'Ivoire
- ▶ 14 March 2019 Re-Election of H.E. Mr. Djibril Cavayé Yeguie as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) of Cameroon
- ▶ 14 March 2019 Re-Election of H.E. Mr. Marcel Niat Njifenji as Speaker of the Senate (Sénat) of Cameroon
- ▶ 20 March 2019 Election of H.E. Mrs. Dariga Nazarbayeva as Speaker of the Senate (Sénat) of Kazakhstan
- ▶ 9 April 2019 Appointment of H.E. Mr. Salah Goudjil as Acting President of the Council of the Nation (Majlis al-Oumma) of Algeria
- ▶ 12 April 2019 Re-Election of H.E. Mr. Habib El Malki as Speaker of the House of Representatives (Majliss-annowab) of Morocco
- ▶ 18 April 2019 Re-Election of H.E. Mr. Cipriano Cassamá as Speaker of the People's National Assembly (Assembleia Nacional Popular) of Guinea-Bissau
- ▶ 18 May 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Louis Vlavonou as Speaker of the National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale) of Benin
- ▶ 26 May 2019 Re-Election of H.E. Mr. Ali Larijani as Speaker of the Islamic Parliament (Majles Shoraye Eslami) of Iran
- ▶ 28 May 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed as Speaker of the Majlis (People's Majlis) of Maldives
- ▶ 9 June 2019 Re-election of H.E. Mr. Hammouda Sabbagh as Speaker of the People's Assembly (Majlis Al-Chaab) of Syria
- ▶ 11 June 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Femi Gbajabiamila as Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria
- ▶ 11 June 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Ahmad Lawan as Speaker of the Senate of Nigeria
- ▶ 29 June 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Mir Rahman Rahmani as Speaker of the House of the People (Wolesi Jirga) of Afghanistan
- ▶ 10 July 2019 Election of H.E. Mr. Slimane Chenine as Speaker of the National People's Assembly (Al-Majlis Al-Chaab Al-Watani) of Algeria
- ▶ 27 July 2019 Appointment of H.E. Mr. Abdelfatteh Mourrou as Acting President of the Assembly of People's Representatives (Majlis Nawwab ash-Sha'ab) of Tunisia

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Turkey's parliament speaker in the two-day meeting among lawmakers from 26 Mediterranean countries. In this meeting, Turkish Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Çavuşoğlu, emphasized that Turkey played a key role for the security and stability of the Mediterranean region.



UGANDA

The Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga has reassured that Islamic Banking will soon be operational. Mrs. Kadaga who was presiding at the Annual Parliament Iftar dinner on 10 May 2019 said that following the passing of the bill, the Minister of Finance was tasked with seeing that Islamic Banking is effected. "I want to assure you that the Minister of Finance is here to inform us on how far Islamic banking is as we had made an undertaking on updating you on the same," she said.



United Arab Emirates

The Speaker of the Federal National Council, H.E. Dr. Amal Abdullah Al- Qubaisi, Chairperson of the High-level Parliamentary Consultative Group on Combating terrorism and Extremism of the IPU participated in the ceremony of signing the Tripartite Agreement between the IPU and the UN represented by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Geneva, and the UN Office on Combating Terrorism in New York, at the IPU Headquarters in Geneva, on 8 May, 2019. The agreement is part of the main programs on achieving the strategic goals set up by the Consultative Group which is headed by H.E. Dr. Amal Abdullah Al- Qubaisi, aimed at preparing an institutional framework which is the first of its kind in the world for cooperation between the UN and parliamentary organization in combating terrorism and extremism.

In the Meeting of the Islamic Group at IPU:

Remarkable Agreement of Attendees

► PUIC Member Parliaments, participating in the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held its regular Consultative Meeting, chaired by H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid al-Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shoura Council of Qatar, on Saturday 06 April 2019, in Doha- the State of Qatar.

The meeting, was attended by Their Excellencies Speakers of Bangladesh, Jordan, and Lebanon as well as more than 200 MPs from the three geographical groups of PUIC. Deliberations focused on the Emergency item which would be included in IPU Agenda which H.E. the PUIC Secretary General presented a brief report on the proposed emergency items.

About the emergency items, the delegations of the Republic of Indonesia, State of Kuwait, the



Kingdom of Morocco, and the Republic of Turkey submitted proposals on issues of concern. A committee composed of the said delegations was composed in order to integrate their proposals and submit the result as an emergency item.

The unity and consensus of the participants in this meeting was remarkable and resulted in

selecting a unified emergency item titled:

“Ensuring International Protection of Palestinian People, Rejecting the Israeli Authority over the Occupied Golan Heights, Promoting the Values of Peaceful Coexistence Among People and Religions and Combating All Forms of Racism and Intolerance”.



IPU President Visits PUIC Headquarters

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, received H.E. the IPU President, Mrs. Gabriela Cuevas Barron in his office, on 23rd June, 2019. Her Excellency, accompanied by members of IPU delegation, paid a visit to the PUIC Headquarters.

H.E. the Secretary General welcomed the honorable guest and highly appreciated the important role which the IPU plays

to enrich parliamentary life at the world level, as well as the services which it offers to advance the work of the national parliaments. Mr. Niass thanked the IPU President for facilitating the convening of the meeting of the Islamic Group on the sidelines of the IPU Assembly. Then, Mr. Niass briefed the IPU President on the PUIC: Formation, membership, objectives, meetings and aspirations.

Secretary General attends Mauritania Ceremony

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, attended the proceedings of the investiture Ceremony of the new President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ould Cheikh Ghazouani in Nouakchott in First of August 2019. His Excellency Mr. Ghazouani won

the presidential elections which took place on 22 June 2019. H.E. the PUIC Secretary General expressed congratulations to the Mauritanian President during the Ceremony, wishing him success in his tasks, and further progress and prosperity to the Mauritanian people.



PUIC Secretary General meets Qatar's Speaker

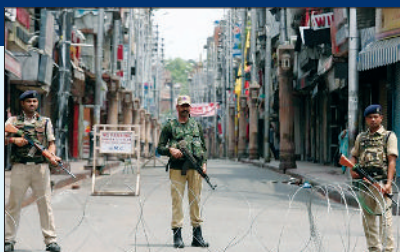
On 6th April 2019, PUIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, paid a visit to H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and discussed with him the relations existing between PUIC and the Shoura Council,

and the mechanism for strengthening this relations. Secretary General also discussed the topics on the agenda of the 140th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which is held in Doha, State of Qatar with His Excellency Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, host of the meetings.

PUIC Monitoring Indonesia Elections

In response to a kind invitation extended by His Excellency Mr. Bambang Soesatyo Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, a PUIC delegation, headed by H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, PUIC Secretary General, and the membership of the PUIC Deputy Secretary General H.E. Mr. Aliasghar Mohammadi Sijani, went to Jakarta

capital of Indonesia, to participate, as part of an international monitoring team, in observing the simultaneous direct elections for the president and members of the House of Representatives (DPR), the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD), and the Regional Representatives Council (DPD) have been held in Indonesia on 17th April, 2019.



Call for Settlement of Kashmir Dispute

Following the decision made by India revoking the special status of Jammu – Kashmir region and the resulting tension, H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, PUIC Secretary General, called on India to rescind its decision, on 18 August, 2019. His Excellency stressed the necessity

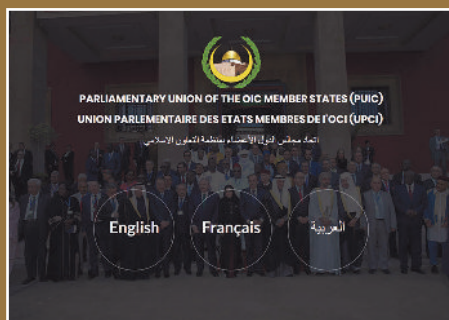
of finding a final settlement to the issue of Jammu –Kashmir, according to the resolutions of the UN Security Council which call for conducting a free and independent referendum under UN auspices, aimed at realizing the wish of the Jammu – Kashmir people to join India or Pakistan.

Communique on Terrorist Attack in New Zealand

His Excellency Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, strongly condemned the shooting of worshippers and the bombing of mosques in New Zealand, on Friday 15 March 2018, 8 Rajab 1440H. These incidents resulted in the deaths of at

least 50 martyrs and wounded dozens of worshippers, and the Secretary-General called on the Government of New Zealand to inflict the most severe punishment of these fanatics. In his statement, the Secretary General prayed to Almighty God to grant mercy to the dead and speedy recovery to the injured people.



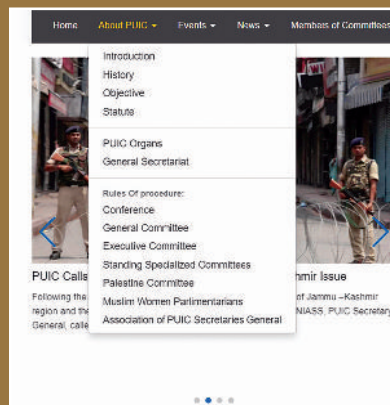


New look of the PUIC Website

For visiting the PUIC website, please log on to this address: www.puic.org and then select your language:

All Materials are available in three PUIC working languages. (Arabic, English and French) The PUIC Media Department is updating its website with the latest activities and news of the Secretary General and the General Secretariat.

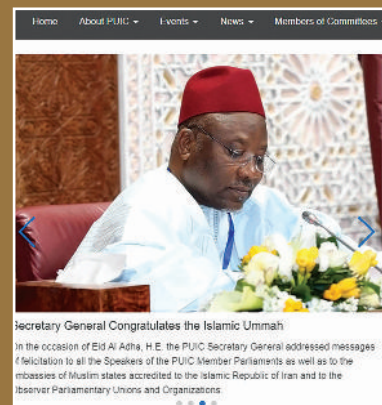
1



Menu

By clicking on the Black Menu, you have access to more details about the PUIC history and structure, Events, News, etc...

2



Top News

Top News contain four important news regarding the PUIC Member Parliaments, and General Secretariat.

3

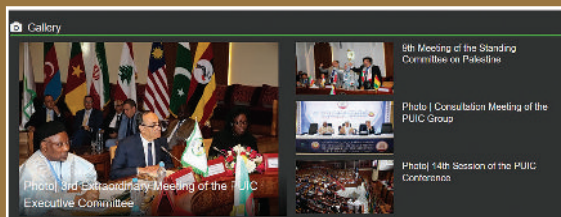


Photo Gallery

Gallery Contains the Pictures of the activities of the PUIC Conferences, Secretary General's visit and related events.

4

View-Point

Articles reflect the view of parliamentarians

of PUIC Member Parliaments. The PUIC Website welcomes the views and comments of the Member Parliaments.

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Viewpoint



Rohingya Muslims: Necessity of Finding Quick Solution



Ordeal of the Rohingya



Pilgrimage of the Rohingya Refugees

Upcoming Events



42nd Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee Kampala, UGANDA

Upcoming Events

PUIC Conferences and Events

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Editorial Board

Editor in Chief:

Amb. Mohammadi Sijani

Senior Editors:

Mohamed El Hafed Maham
Ibrahim Ahmed Dirar

Managing Editor:

Zahra Khodaie

Address:

34, Pesyan St. Moghadas Ardabili, Za'afaraniyeh - Tehran - Iran

Tel: +9821 22418860-1-2

Fax: +9821 22418858-59

Email: g.s@puic.org

Site: www.puic.org

SECRETARY GENERAL

- Secretary General Congratulates the Islamic Ummah
- Secretary General Felicitates Syrian Speaker

- PUIC Secretary General attends Investiture Ceremony of Mauritanian President
- Message of Secretary General to the Afghani Speaker

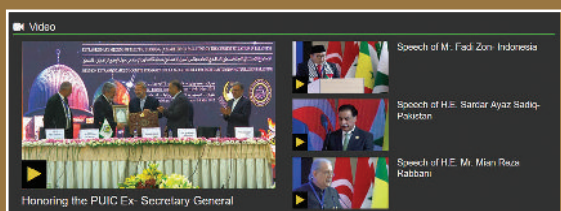
- PUIC Secretary General Condemns Terrorist Act in Cairo
- Secretary General Commends IPU Role

- Mauritanian National Assembly Speaker Receives PUIC Secretary General
- Secretary General Congratulates Speaker of Nigerian Senate

6

Spotlight:

Focusing light on activities of the PUIC Secretary General and Secretariat.



PUIC in Videos

Capturing important and interesting events, including the Speech of Speakers through video.

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