

Twenty Years Towards:

## Cooperation, Solidarity and Brotherhood



**P**UIC attention to the Palestinian cause, greatest cause of Muslims at the present time is manifested through the resolutions of its conferences and the contents of its pamphlets it receives.

This also comes to the fore in the new edition of the "PUIC" Bulletin No. 26 which contains an article by Dr. Habib El-Malki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco, PUIC 14th Conference President about the "Palestine Award for Democracy and Historical Justice" as a new initiative from the PUIC presidency aimed at doing justice to the Palestinian people in their national struggle to gain their freedom and independence,

and build their independent national state. It contains also an article by H.E. Mr. Salim Zaanoun, Speaker of the Palestine National Council, titled "European Court of Justice Champions Palestine". This edition contains also an interview with H.E. Mr. Alassane Bala SAKANDE, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, the next PUIC President in which he emphasizes that the PUIC is invited to enhance its gains in order to strengthen the unity of the Islamic Ummah.

The kind reader will find in this issue a special section on the 20th anniversary of the PUIC, which contains a number of photos depicting all the PUIC Conferences across its march.

### Editorial

#### Dear Reader

The cause of Palestine is the mother cause for the parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States. The PUIC has always affirmed the focal nature of this issue for the Islamic Ummah. Hence it is incumbent on all Muslim States, their parliaments and organizations to cooperate among themselves for supporting and defending it as well as championing it in all international fora, until the struggling Palestinian people regain their full legitimate rights, return to their land, and establish their independent state, with Al Quds as its capital. In order to restore the momentum to the interest in this cause, on different levels, the PUIC has decided to establish "Palestine Award for Democracy and Historical Justice". This is a great prize which is apt to promote information about the justice of the Palestinian Cause and the legitimacy of the 70 year Palestinian struggle.

The PUIC seeks to make this prize a weighty one, especially in the Islamic Parliamentary field, that would project the various dimensions of the Palestinian issue, including the City of Al- Quds, center-most of which is Al Aqsa Mosque, "First Qibla and Third of the Holy Mosques".

The Prize, with all its branches, shall be granted to persons who have served this central issue for the Islamic Ummah, whether inside or outside the PUIC States.

These persons shall be ambassadors to this cause, wherever they may be, in order to increase the feelings about the suffering of the valiant Palestinian people, as well as enhance international mobilization to support this just cause.

The PUIC has embarked on setting up a Statute for this great prize, defining the conditions for awarding it, as well as controls and details thereof. This comes at a time when the PUIC has completed twenty years of its life while increasing its determination and resolve to achieve the noble objectives for which it has been established.

While renewing congratulations to all our PUIC parliaments for the achievements made during its successful progression, I confirm the keenness of the General Secretariat to remain committed to its pledges for the sake of the prevalence of the religion of Allah and the glory of Islam and Muslims.



### Ouagadougou Hosts PUIC 15th Conference:

**T**he Capital City of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, will witness the convening of meetings of PUIC organs covering the period from 27 to 30 JANUARY, 2020. The culmination of these meetings will be the 15th Session of the annual PUIC Conference which brings together Speakers of Member Parliaments or their representatives. The PUIC organs and related bodies are: Executive Committee, Committee on Palestine,

Women Parliamentarians Conference, General Committee, Secretaries General Association, Meetings of the 4 Specialized Standing Committees (Political Affairs and Foreign Relations, Human Rights, Women and Family Affairs, Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions, Economic Affairs and Environment) and Consultation Meetings of Arab, African and Asian Groups.

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# Palestine Award

H.E. Dr. Habib El Malki, President of the PUIC 14th Conference,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco



In a new initiative we undertake in the context of the PUIC, we thought of creating a great prize called Palestine Award For Democracy and Historical Justice. This is pursuant to our vision of the contact mechanism within and outside the organization, and introducing a symbolic media occasion for the meeting of the Palestinian Cause with the values of democracy and the Justice of the historical citation as well as the ideological and moral equity of the Palestinian people in their national struggle for their freedom, independence and building of their national independent state.

For sure there are many prizes in the world today. Many of these constitute a kind of social and media amusement. However, the great, respectable prizes with noble stakes and credibility, and moral commitment are few. Therefore, creating a weighty prize in the Islamic space, especially within the Islamic parliamentary filed, carrying a noble symbolic name, and expressing a just cause, is apt to draw attention – if we ensure for it the moral, legal and perhaps the financial conditions- to the different dimensions of the Palestinian cause, inter alia, the issue of the City of Al-Quds and its religious and spiritual position, particularly Al-Aqsa Mosque with all that it represents for the Arab and Islamic sentiment.

Pending the laying down of a legal and organizational basis for the creation of this prize, we may propose to the General Secretariat, and all the august PUIC members to form an ad hoc committee with limited membership to draw up a draft law for the prize as well as a vision of the mechanisms and regulations for running

it. It must be an annual prize to be granted during the inaugural session of the PUIC Conference, whenever or wherever it is convened.

**We are of the view that this prize should be composed of three basic branches:**

## 1- The Great Merit Prize

We visualize granting this prize to legal persons who have served, and still serve, the wider horizon of the just Palestinian cause, and support international legitimacy, and the principles of justice, peace and friendship among peoples; however, those persons may be from within or outside the Islamic world; or they may be Muslim or non- Muslim; parliamentarian or non – Parliamentarian; state and government officials; secretaries of international or regionally important organizations. Why not intellectuals, media, literary or artistic characters whose humanitarian and moral horizon conform with the stakes and determinants of our prize?

## 2- Prize of Appreciation

This prize is to be granted to esteemed persons from inside the PUIC whether Speakers who have shouldered or continue to shoulder the responsibility, at the level of Member Parliaments, or the level of steering our organization itself. This category may submit their nomination files, or may be nominated by the presidency or members of the organization.

## 3- Encouragement Prize

This prize shall be dedicated to distinguished members inside or



outside the organization, whether related to Secretaries General at the level of Member Parliaments or male or female researchers, who have contributed researches, studies or books that serve horizons of democratic thought, and advance parliamentary practices in our Islamic space.

A statute may stipulate the general principles and objectives of the Great Prize; define the necessary requisites as well as the various legal articles which control the specifics of the prize branches; type of certificate, shape of its shield, its material or symbolic value, also the mechanisms and conditions of candidacy and nomination; jury; and sources of appropriations, equally awarded to two or more persons- if necessary. The prize can also be withheld in case of lack of satisfactory conditions.

The Prize, any prize, this or others, do not constitute, in essence, but a symbolic mechanism for expression of thankfulness to deserving people, as well as a moral embodiment to the spirit of gratitude to esteemed persons of both sexes, from different ethnicities, cultures, languages, and generations, that have served parliamentary life, and particularly, who have been involved, politically, diplomatically or intellectually in the struggle and humanitarian horizons of the Palestinian cause, including the issue of Al Quds Al Sharif as a spiritual, religious and civilizational Capital which faces now the threat to its legal and legitimate status in contravention of all international covenants, conventions and laws.

The prize, awarded to this or that person, becomes, in addition to its information contact function, part of the memory of individuals and groups, and hence realizes a measure of satisfaction for generous humanitarian deeds carried out by the winners, or equitable and just decisions or positions he has undertaken, which perhaps, may have involved some sacrifice or costly performance.

God willing, we hope that this prize will maintain regularity and continuity until it carries out its noble expectations in serving the Islamic World, with its large-scale geography, history, civilization and cultures, as well as in supporting horizons of democratic practice, and options of freedom, dignity, justice, security, peace and stability in the contemporary world. ◀



**H.E. Mr. Alassane SAKANDE, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, President of the 15th PUIC Conference Talks to the "PUIC" Bulletin:**

## **Our Organization Must Enhance Gains and Strengthen Unity of the Nation**

▶ **H**ajj Alassane Bala SAKANDE, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso is known for his stances and actions in favor of the fragile sectors in his country. However, this statement must not be misunderstood. Because behind this affection towards the vulnerable layers in the society, which made him relinquish 50% of his basic salary as a parliamentary Deputy in favor of orphans, there is a solid and powerful political character.

With his frankness, trustfulness and benevolent discourse, he reminds people of Thomas Sankara, whom he is one of the latter's senior admirers.

In January 2020, his country hosts, in Ouagadougou, the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference when he will assume presidency of the Union.

In his capacity as the forthcoming PUIC President, Speaker Alassane Bala SAKANDE, is responding to the questions of the "PUIC".

**"PUIC": The year (2019) marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the PUIC. How do you evaluate the progress of the Union?**

Alassane Bala SAKANDE: Before I answer your questions, allow me to hail the sagacity and enlightenment of our Founding Fathers, and the effort they deployed for establishing the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) in 1999 in Tehran. I am not going to recall names for fear of forgetting one of them. However, I express my appreciation of this initiative which brings together now more than fifty parliaments around common values.

Going back to your question about establishing the PUIC 20 years ago, this may not constitute something compared to other much older organizations. However, the advancement of organizations is not measured only by their age.

Considering PUIC membership, achievements and the status acquired at the international level, we recognize the importance of the march covered by the PUIC in two decades only.

Casting a glance on what has been achieved compared with the principles and objectives which has led to the establishment of the PUIC, we must express our legitimate satisfaction despite the huge challenges which we ought to address. ▶



● **Conference is a golden opportunity to open to sisterly nations**

● **Terrorism is a cross-border phenomenon**

Allow me to give three examples, although there are more than this.

The first justification for satisfaction relates to the regularity of convening PUIC meetings. These meetings, considered a framework for discussion and exchange of views, constitute factors of rapprochement of Member Parliaments prompting enhancement of harmony and unison for the sake of the unity of the Ummah.

To ensure further opportunities of meeting between us, means more hope of agreement on the big issues set before the group of believers in Islam.

The Second justification for satisfaction, which relates to the first one, is concerned with contacts which furnish opportunities for parliamentarians to convene and document such meetings. This relates to one of the objectives behind the establishment of the PUIC.

These contacts have become a reality today. They made it possible, in many cases, to build relations among parliamentarians, on the one hand, and to document and enhance cooperation among parliaments, on the other.

The third example has to do with the resolutions and recommendations which we prepare. These have definite impact on the general policies of our states. I must explain that when the PUIC approves a resolution, commitment to it resides with our states, which bear responsibility for comprehending the directives adopted collectively.

However, as they say, the tree does not hide the forest. Beside these positive results, many challenges remain, in terms of procedures, steering the organs or relations among members. Regarding procedures and steering it is important that the Standing Specialized Committees be able to function outside the times of conferences in such a way as to ensure meeting of these committees between the convening of two Conferences.

It is also important for the PUIC to work towards establishing an effective mechanism for follow up and evaluation of the implementation of resolutions and recommendations.

Finally, it is a priority to enhance the PUIC and its partnership with the UN and to have a permanent mission with the latter.

**“PUIC”: Your country is hosting, for the first time, a PUIC Conference despite the challenges facing Burkina Faso. What is your view of hosting such Conferences in states similar to your country?**

Alassane Bala SAKANDE: At the outset, it is an honor to have chosen Burkina Faso to host this organ which is considered the highest body for decision – taking in our Union. This Conference, wherever it has been convened, constitutes a challenge for the state organizing it. Fully aware of the issues involved, Burkina Faso has accepted to host the 15th PUIC Conference. Our Country is ready to lift the challenge of organizing this event; moreover it constitutes a



golden opportunity to further open to other sisterly nations with which we share the common values of brotherhood, solidarity and humanity.

Beside its geographical location and reputation as the land of hospitality the “Land of Good Men” has a measure of experiences in the field of organizing events of an international nature.

For recollection, our country previously hosted successfully substantial parliamentary gatherings, such as 71st Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union; the 40th Conference of the Speakers of the Union (November 2017); 106th IPU Assembly (September 2001) ..ect. I say, therefore, that Burkina Faso, has experience in organizing big parliamentary events.

Every meeting has its special objectives and special context. Therefore, the National Organizing Committee of the 15th PUIC Conference, has taken into consideration all dimensions of the event.

**“PUIC”: The world is suffering from the danger of terrorism, meanwhile the African Sahel States suffer more. How do you envisage the optimum strategy to remove this danger?**

Alassane Bala SAKANDE: there is no panacea in the field of combating terrorism. We must be aware, first of all, that terrorism is a cross – border phenomenon, which impact states of the South and States of the North; advanced nations like states moving along the path of development; democratic states like those living under other types of political system. I will use the metaphor of cancer to express my view of this phenomenon as it appears now. Cancer cells of terrorism concentrate at present on the Sahel. But the malignant tumors threaten all regions of the world. We need, therefore, a common and strong response.

The establishment of the group of the five Sahel States (G5), as well as the formation of a common parliamentary Committee of the Sahel States prove the will of the Member States to double their efforts in struggling against the danger of terrorism. However, the matter necessitates more than this in order to stop the exportable terrorism. The Sahel – Sahara line constitutes for terrorism the victimized region now. However, we must fear the aggravation of violence if other states do not commit themselves to their military and political pledges.

The support and keeping abreast of partners in bilateral manner; regional and international organizations such as the United Nations, and all the international community... are necessary to stop the proliferation of armed groups.

To confront the security challenges, the PUIC has to enhance its gains at the time it is carrying out reforms aimed at strengthening unity of the Ummah.

The military option is not the only sustainable response in fighting terrorism and getting protection from it. Regions where the state is absent must have more socio- economic investments, because we must not forget that poverty and ignorance are the essential nourishment of all types of violent extremism. In this point, in particular, keeping abreast by partners in development is also necessary.

**“PUIC”: The Palestinian cause and the status of Al-Quds remain the central issue for the Islamic Ummah, as it is the cause of a people who were driven out of their land more than seventy years ago. In your view what could the PUIC do more in this regard?**

Alassane Bala SAKANDE: It is obvious for everyone that the cause of Palestine is the primarily cause for the Islamic World and that the duty of the PUIC is to approach a more just and equitable world. This is the principle from which the PUIC proceeds in its struggle in order to defend the rights of our brothers in Palestine. It is also the responsibility of the various operators to seek saving the world from injustice and violence.

**“PUIC”: The Parliament of Burkina Faso has an appreciable experience in the field of parliamentary diplomacy. Can you inform us about your experience so that others may benefit from it?**

Alassane Bala SAKANDE: The National Assembly of Burkina Faso is proud that its parliamentary diplomacy has been a model today, and not, without doubt, a world model. However, we proceed from the principle that the Deputy carries with him, wherever he goes, the aspirations of his parliamentary responsibility in the context of the common parliamentary organizations, and at friendly parliaments. In the field of international cooperation, the activity of the 7th Legislature comes in the framework of an old parliamentary tradition in Burkina Faso which focuses always on opening to organizations, whether in the bilateral or multilateral domains. We are always ready to share our experience, and we are also ready to receive the experiences of others.

**“PUIC”: In our contemporary age, Muslims, especially in the Western World, suffer from the phenomenon of “Islamophobia”. How do we combat this phenomenon? Is it through dialogue of civilizations, or by informing about our tolerant Islamic religion, or by what other means?**

Alassane Bala SAKANDE: It is regrettable that, in this day and age, persons are harassed because of their religious affiliation. Religious intolerance, the victims of which are Muslims and other monotheists, is derived from stereotyping and erroneous ideas which are promoted by malicious persons that harbor animosity for others.

Concerning Islamophobia, in particular, we will be able, through the daily practicing of our creed and keeping to our Islamic principles, to dismantle the anti- Muslim discourse. Also Islamic organizations must double their efforts in propagating awareness and information about the genuine values of Islam. Such a campaign must target all age sectors, however there must be more focus on youth because they are the builders of a tolerant future. On the national level, the public authorities and the civil society organizations must seek to enhance the frameworks of dialogue of religions, cultures and civilizations. Groups must open up to each other and exchange visions and ideas.

**“PUIC”: Our Islamic religion urges Muslims to maintain solidarity among themselves. How can we materialize this through PUIC Parliaments?**

Alassane Bala SAKANDE: Solidarity is one an essence of human values. Pursuant to this concept, consolidating solidarity through PUIC parliaments comes by way of strengthening the principle of continuous consultation among parliamentary organizations. This consultation leads to the sharing of useful experiences among parliaments. However, this solidarity among Muslims must not be directed against another religious group. But the opposite is true... Allah Almighty says: “Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out” – Al Bagarah- 256



## Ouagadougou Gathering Focuses on Important Issues: Palestine, Environment, Dialogue of Civilizations, Role of Youth and Women

The Fourth week of January 2020, witnesses the convening of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference as well as related meetings to be hosted by Ouagadougou, Capital city of Burkina Faso. The total of 13 meetings is scheduled to discuss causes and issues of significance to the Islamic Nation and progress of its joint parliamentary action, which are reflected in the draft agendas of PUIC Committees and subsidiary organs. In the following paragraphs, we review some of the items included in those drafts which underline the crucial importance of Ouagadougou gathering:

### PUIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

general.

- Updating the Draft Agendas of the 8th 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.
- Updating the Draft Agendas of the following Meetings: -  
-Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Palestine;  
-Ninth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.  
-Third Meeting of the Association of

Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.

- Updating the Draft Agenda of the 22nd Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Updating the Draft Agenda of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Moto of the 15th PUIC Conference and other related meetings.

### COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

- Al-Quds Al Sharif, Palestinian Cause and the occupied Territories in Syria and Lebanon.
- Situation in Palestine.
- Role of Islamic Parliaments in confronting Zionist Israeli plans concerning Jewishness of Zionist entity



(Israel) and judaization of Al-Quds.

-Decision of the US Administration to stop funding United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

-Occupied Arab Territories in Syria and Lebanon.

● Combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations:

-Combating terrorism under the umbrella of the UN and reconfirming the legitimate right to resist occupation and foreign aggression.

-Concerted management of situation related to acts of Terrorism in the Sub-region of Lake Chad and Africa in general.

-Fetullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO).

-Progress made in finalizing the basic project of the OIC Centre for Police Cooperation and Coordination

● Rejection of all types of

sanctions imposed on any Muslim country.

● Possible Negative Impacts of passing JASTA

● The inalienable equal and balanced rights of all peoples to have free access and free use of modern technology for peaceful purposes.

● Making the whole Middle East region a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons with no exception.

● Situation in Republic of Sudan.

● Humanitarian situation in Syria

● Situation in Republic of Somalia.

● Situation in Afghanistan.

● Consideration of the situation in Republic of Mali and its effect on neighboring States.

● Problem of Migration and Refugees and internally displaced in Muslim countries.

(particularly Chad and other African countries etc.)

● 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.

● Situation in Cyprus.

● Situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

● Solidarity with Muslim Minorities around the world.

-Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim population of the Dodecanese.

-Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

-Cause of Muslims in Southern Philippines.

-Muslim Minority in Central Africa.

-Situation of Muslim Tatars in Crimea.

-Situation in the Xinjiang



## ● Problems of migration, refugees and dispersion in Muslim States





● **Combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations**

● **Cooperation to project the sublime values of Islam**

Uyghur Autonomous Region

- Consideration of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region.

#### **COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT**

- 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.
- 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.
- Commission of the Chad Lake Basin, in acronym LCBC.
- Strategy for development of cooperative partnership, program of establishing one thousand integrated agricultural cooperative enterprises.

#### **COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN AND FAMILY**

- Ongoing human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.
- 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 the states of PUIC Member Parliaments, 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.
- Custody problems of Muslim Migrant Families in Europe.
- Steps taken by the National Assembly of the Sudan to put into effect its offer to host the Islamic Health Centre in the Sudan.
- Protecting Muslim Women and Children in areas under occupation and Conflict

#### **COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AND DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS AND RELIGIONS**

- 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.
- Dialogue among Civilizations with special emphasis on facing Western Campaigns against Islamic values.
- Alliance of Civilizations.

#### **COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE**

- The escalation of the tempo of violations and attacks by the Zionist occupation forces and the growing settlement in occupied Palestine.
- Repercussions of moving the US Embassy to





Al-Quds on the political situation in the region.

- Affirming the importance of the unity of the Palestinian ranks and national reconciliation.

### **MUSLIM WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

- Report of the Bureau of the 8th Conference on progress made in implementing the recommendations adopted by the 8th Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
- 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.

### **ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE PUIC MEMBER PARLIAMENTS**

4. Consideration of a Working Paper about Developing Administrative Work by the Consultative Council of the Sultanate of Oman.

### **CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

- Election of the President of the 18th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the African Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2020.
- Consultation for hosting the next PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the following four Standing Specialized Committees from the African Group for 2020: -
  - Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.
  - Economic Affairs and Environment.
  - Human Rights, Women and Family.
  - Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership of the General Committee from the African Group for 2020.

### **CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE ARAB GROUP**

- Election of the President of the 17th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session. (from the Arab Group)
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Arab Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2020.
- Consultation for hosting the PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.

- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the following four Standing Specialized Committees from the Arab Group for 2020: -
  - Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.
  - Economic Affairs and Environment.
  - Human Rights, Women and Family.
  - Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership of the General Committee from the Arab Group for 2020.

### **CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE ASIAN GROUP**

- Election of the President of the 16th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session. (from the Asian Group).
- Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Asian Group for the membership to the Executive Committee for 2020.
- Consultation for hosting the PUIC Executive Committee Meeting.
- Consultation for the nomination of four members for each of the following four Standing Specialized Committees from the Asian Group for 2020: -
  - Political Affairs and Foreign Relations.
  - Economic Affairs and Environment.
  - Human Rights, Women and Family.
  - Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- Consultation for the nomination of two members from each Member Parliament for the membership of the General Committee from the Asian Group for 2020.

### **22nd SESSION OF THE PUIC GENERAL COMMITTEE**

- Examination and adoption of the Reports of the 42nd and 43rd Meetings of the PUIC Executive Committee, as well as the Third Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee and their Annexes.
- Adoption of the following financial documents of the Union:
  - Report of the Financial Control Committee on the Accounts of the Fiscal year 2019.
  - Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2020.
- 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 15th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Report of the 22nd Session of the PUIC General Committee.

### **15th SESSION OF THE PUIC CONFERENCE**

- Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Report of the PUIC Secretary General.
- Addresses by the Heads of Delegations.
- Adoption of the Report of the 22nd Session of the PUIC General Committee.
- Examination and adoption of the Reports and the Draft Resolutions presented by the Rapporteurs of the following Standing Specialized Committees (S.S.C.s): -
  - Eighth Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations;
  - Eighth Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment;
  - Eighth Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family;
  - Eighth Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions.
- Examination and adoption of the Reports and Draft Resolutions of: -
  - Tenth Meeting of the Committee on Palestine.
  - Ninth Conference on Muslim Women Parliamentarians.
  - Third Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Nomination of the Members of the PUIC General Committee for the year 2020.
- Nomination of Members of the PUIC Executive Committee for the year 2020.
- Nomination of the Members for the following PUIC Specialized Standing Committees for the year 2020: -
  - 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.
- Defining the date and venue of the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference (from the Asian Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 17th Session of the PUIC Conference. (From the Arab Group)
- Defining the date and venue of the 18th Session of the PUIC Conference. (Burkina Faso from the African Group).
- Defining the date and venue of the 44th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.
- Adoption of the Final Report of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference.
- Adoption of the Rabat Declaration and Final Communiqué of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference.



**European Court of Justice  
Champions Palestine**

## **Pompeo's Announcement Exposes US- Zionist Partnership**

By H.E. Mr. Salim Zaanoun  
Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC)



► In the context of realizing achievements for the Palestinian efforts that aim at isolating, proscribing and incriminating Israeli settlement activities, considered illegitimate for violating international law, the European Court of Justice took a step that may be considered genuinely historical. On 12 November, 2019 the Court endorsed the recommendation presented by the prosecutor General at the Court last June stating that not putting labels on products of the settlements is apt to mislead European consumers.

The Court's ruling was a review of a contested decision which was issued by the French Ministry of the Economy in November 2016, which obligates Israel to put different labels on the products of the Palestinian territories. The French ministry took this decision as an application of a European legislation adopted in 2011 which stipulates that consumers must be informed about food stuffs. In 2015, the European Commission issued an Explanatory Note about mentioning the origin of the commodities coming from the Palestinian territories since June 1967, and ratifying the application of the controversial decision on stating the origin of commodities. The European High Court, being the highest judicial authority in the European

Union, stated in an appeal made by a wine factory in Bessghot settlement against putting labels on settlement products, that "food materials coming from the occupied territories by way of the State of Israel, must carry a reference to the place of origin, together with reference to the source, if those materials were coming from an Israeli settlement inside this place."

Fifteen judges wrote that it is necessary to put labels on commodities produced in the Israeli settlements so as to "preclude misleading consumers on the fact that the State of Israel is present in the concerned areas as an occupation force and not as a sovereignty." The Court stated further that the Israeli settlements reflect the fact that the policy of moving citizens which this State practices outside its lands, is in contravention of the general International Humanitarian Law." The Court stated also that the label which refers only that the "product has been manufactured in the "West Bank" is not sufficient because consumers will not know that the product which they purchase is manufactured in a local community established in contravention of the rule of the International humanitarian law." The Court stated further that according to the European Union's laws of 2011 on placing labels on food materials, the

source of materials must be made clear so that consumers are able to choose on the basis of "moral considerations, considerations that relate to commitment to international law." The Court stated that the label says products are from the "State of Israel", whereas in fact they are from "lands occupied by Israel... as a force of occupation as defined by the International Humanitarian Law."

Points of Strength in the Decision of the European Court of Justice :

In 2010 the European Court of Justice looked into another case, called (Breta Case). It concerns the entry of settlement products into Germany. The Court's decision has set up legal rules for the behavior of the states of the European Union through formulating new important legal principles and rules. The importance of this decision comes from the fact that: it is first decision to be made by a high judicial European authority, concerning several aspects of Zionist settlement.

-It established not only European jurisprudence but a new world jurisprudence which is difficult to recant. It reaffirmed the legal status of occupied territories, and that the competence of the agreement of Israel – EU partnership does not apply to the West Bank and Al-Quds, and that Israel does not have any



sovereignty on these lands even if international law has given it some authority in the security field.

-Comprehensiveness of the application of the decision on Israel's products in the regions of Al-Quds will consolidate their description as part of the occupied territories. This gives us the ability to challenge any country's decisions. It will make it easy for us to face the risk of departure of some EU States from European unanimity, through carrying out political and diplomatic steps which may underline the legal status of Al-Quds as part of the occupied territories.

- The decision addressed the products coming from Palestine and not from Palestinian territories or lands of the national authorities, which means a legal recognition of the State of Palestine by the highest European court, and lays the ground for the recognition of the EU States of the State of Palestine which is under Israel occupation.

-The decision addressed in length the colonialist settlement, maintaining that it is not permissible for Israel, the occupying power, to move inhabitants from and to the occupied territories. It mentioned a very important expression that settlement has led to the "establishment of gatherings of residents of foreign origins in the occupied territories in clear violation of the international law," and that the presence of Israel does not change the legal status of the occupied territories despite illegal annexations and settlement, and that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination on these lands, and that the European Union must act to ensure application of the international law and the principles of the UN Charter as regards occupied territories, and that the decision to label the products expresses a moral commitment towards the European consumer, as well as, towards commitment

to the rules and provisions of the international law.

Future effects of the decision

a- The decision constitutes a victory for international legitimacy and a painful blow to the policy of colonial settlement practiced by Israel through stealing Palestinian lands, and exploiting natural resources in favor of settlers.

b- The European judicial decision is a step toward totally preventing entry of settlement products in European and world markets, and imposing an economic blockade on the occupying power just like blockading the racial segregation regime which led to the downfall of extinct Apartheid in the Republic of South Africa.

c- Decision of the Court is binding to all (28) EU states, and constitutes a legal precedent allowing taking similar steps in other states outside the European Union, if this precedent is exploited, especially by activists of Boycott Israel Movement.

#### **Pompeo Announcement Unmasks the US- Zionist Partnership**

Following issuing of the decision / ruling, the US secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, announced, on the evening of 18 November, revocation of the legal opinion of the US State Department concerning Israeli Settlements in the occupied West Bank of 1978, which provides that settlements in the occupied territories "do not conform with the international law", and that the US opposes the positions of previous US Administrations on establishing Israeli settlements, and now considers that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank does not contradict international law. This announcement comes to abolish the pertinent decision/ position which was written by the legal advisor of the State Department Herbert Hansel in 1987, which stipulates that "establishing Israeli settlements

on Palestinian lands contradicts international law according to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which stipulates that it is not permissible to any occupying power to repatriate or partially move part of the civilian inhabitants to territories under its occupation".

#### **Urgent Steps:**

The above shows the historical nature and importance of the decision made by the European Court of Justice which will result in many consequences and dimensions, and rectify previous European positions bringing them back to the path of international law and provisions of international legitimacy. The urgency of investing this court ruling by being adopted in the strategy of diplomatic action and Palestinian rights, to follow up what has been made in this urgent and brief article and:

-Calling on the High Commissioner For Human Rights Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, to be committed to her competence according to the resolution 31/36, and issue a long-awaited date base on the companies involved in the work of occupation.

- Inviting EU States to implement the resolutions of their respective parliaments and the ruling of the European Court of Justice, by recognizing the Israeli- occupied States of Palestine.

-Urging the international community to hold Israel and the US administration accountable for their systematic violations of the International Humanitarian Law, and the UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolution No. 2334 as a sine qua non for preserving the peace process that leads to ending occupation, and establishing the independent, sovereign Palestinian State, in the shade of a durable and just peace in the region, according to the principles and rules of international law and successive resolutions of the legitimacy on the Palestinian cause. ◀



● **European Union must ensure application of international law and principles of UN Charter**



## Highlights of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

▶ **T**he National Assembly constitutes an essential pillar of democracy in Burkina Faso. The Tasks of the Assembly are defined as follows:

Voting laws, approving taxation and controlling government function. Members of the National Assembly in Burkina Faso are called “Deputies”. They are elected by way of universal suffrage, direct, equal and secret balloting.

In the current legislative period, the National Assembly has 127 Deputies according to the legislative elections which took part on 29 November, 2015. The Parliamentary Institution is presided, since 8 September, 2017, by H.E. Alassane Bala Sakande.

In its 7th legislature the Burkinabe parliament has defined for itself the following vision: “By the year 2020, the National Assembly of Burkina Faso must be a strong, modern, institution, accessible and renders service to the people”.

That is the vision of the National Assembly in its seventh legislature. It aspires to be an institution that strongly contributes to consolidate the state of law, considered as an institution that carries the aspirations of the population, and ensures the best communication between the elected persons and the people.

Realizing this vision depends on exercising and promoting the values of integrity, accountability, responsibility, solidarity and transparency. These values guide the daily activities of the National Assembly and directs the practices and behavior of the Deputies and parliament personnel.

In its organization and functioning, the National Assembly depends on organs and bodies. They include the Bureau, the Conference of Presidents, General Committees, Parliamentary Groups and the

Plenary Assembly.

### **The Bureau**

The Speaker of the National Assembly presides over the Bureau which is the leading organ of the institution. The Bureau enjoys full power to organize and direct the function of the National Assembly. In addition to the President of the institution, there are six (6) Vice- Presidents, ten (10) Parliamentary Secretaries and two (2) Quaestor.

### **Conference of the Presidents**

The Conference of the Presidents include the President of the National Assembly, the Vice- Presidents, Chairmen of Parliamentary Groups, Chairmen of General Committees, General Rapporteur of the Committee on Finance and Budget, as well as the Minister in Charge of Relations with the Parliaments, and the Government Representative. The Meeting is convened by the President, and he decides the day and time of the meeting in order to examine the agenda of the work of the National Assembly, and to offer proposals relating to the order and agenda of the session.

### **The General Committees**

The National Assembly has eight (8) General Committees responsible for legislative activity and controlling the formulation of public policies. They can also address any issue of national interest according to current provisions.

Committee on Foreign Affairs and Burkinabes Abroad

Committee on General Affairs, constitutional and Human Rights.

Committee on Rural Development, Economy and Climate Change.



Committee on the Evaluation of Public policies and Follow up of Recommendations.  
Committee on Gender, Social Action and Health.

Committee on Youth, Education, Employment and Culture.

Committee on Defense and Security.

Committee on Finance and Budget.

### Parliamentary Groups

A Parliamentary Group is an organization of Deputies and is formed for a political purpose. According to the regulations of the National Assembly, the Parliamentary Group is composed of ten (10) deputies at least. In the present session there are six (6) groups: There are (14) political Parties and political formations in the National Assembly. The Political grouping in the National Assembly may be tabled as follows:

-Majority: 69 Deputies, representing 54.33% of the total number of Deputies

-Opposition: 58 Deputies, representing 45.67% of the total number of Deputies.

### Legislative Procedure

Elaboration of law is governed by a group of formalities as follows:

-Deliberation by the Council of Ministers – the Government;

-Depositing the bill at the Bureau of the National Assembly;

-Including it in the Agenda of the Conference of Presidents;

-Examining it in Committee.

-Discussing the law in a Plenary session.

In this particular case there are several possibilities: a second deliberation by the National Assembly at the request of the government; the Committee in charge or Deputy may review it; possibility of a second reading upon a request from the president of

Burkina Faso, finally there is the possibility of investigation by the Constitutional Council (Constitutional Law, Organic Law, non-financial acceptance, non-competence acceptance);

-Promulgation by the President of Burkina Faso;

-Entry into force

Any proposed law shall be delivered to the government and shall not return to the National Assembly within two months during which it shall be fully deliberated.

In general, voting on the law in committee or in the plenary session is preceded by a wide discussion of the report which contains a review of the justifications, followed by an examination and adoption article by article of the constituents of the law.

### Parliamentary Cooperation

Cooperation at the international Parliamentary level is carried out through parliamentary friendship groups, parliamentary organizations, and international or joint parliaments. Burkina Faso is a member in parliamentary organizations and international or joint parliaments. This is related to the IPU, Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie; Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and EU States; the Parliamentary Committee of UEMOA, and parliamentary of the Economic Commission of West African States; African Parliamentary Union; African Parliament, PUIC, ...ect.

Burkina Faso has been chosen to host the 15th PUIC Conference on 26-31 January 2020.

National Assembly

General Directorate and Communication

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## Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

**Name:** Alassane Bala SAKANDE

**Date of Birth:** 21 August 1969 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

**Social Status:** Married and father of two sons

### Posts:

- President of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

- Chairman of the of the Parliamentary Committee of G5 Sahel (CIP-G5 Sahel)

### Degrees:

- Master/MBA in Foreign Trade- International Affairs- Ouagadougou University- University of Lyon/

- Diploma of Bank Commercial Counsellor.

- Baccalaureate – BEPC

### Political Experience:

**Since April 2019:** Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of G5 Sahel

**November 2018- November 2019:** President of the African Parliamentary Union

**Since September 2017:** President of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

**March 2017:** Assistant Executive National Secretary of the People's Movement for Progress (MPP)

**-2016-2017:** Chairman of the MPP Parliamentary Group

**Since 29 November 2015:** Elected Deputy of the National Assembly

**2006-2012:** Counsellor of the Municipality of Ouagadougou

**1995-2000:** Counsellor of the Municipality of Ouagadougou

### Professional Experience:

**2008-2015:** Chief of Equipment Department, Public Sector, and Foreign Relation Sector in the United African Bank (UBA)

**January 1995:** Employee at the International Bank of Burkina Faso (BIB)

Parliamentary Group	Deputies Male	Deputies Female	Total	Position
People's Movement For Progress (GP/MPP)	44	11	55	Majority
Union For Progress and Change (GP/UPC)	17	02	19	Opposition
Congres For Democracy and Progress (GP/CDP)	14	02	16	Opposition
Burkindlim (GP/ BURKINDLIM)	14	00	14	Majority
New Democracy (GP/ RD)	11	2	13	Opposition
Peace, Justice, National Reconciliation (GP/ PJRN)	9	1	10	Opposition
TOTAL	109	18	127	

## Kampala Meeting Calls For: Extending Urgent Assistance to Muslim Refugees

In response to the kind invitation extended by H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament, of the Republic of Uganda, the PUIC Executive Committee held its 42nd Meeting in Kampala, Republic of Uganda on 1st October, 2019.

The opening Session was chaired by H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliaments of the Republic of Uganda.

The Meeting was attended by delegates of the Member Parliaments of the following states: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Republic of the Gambia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Niger, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uganda. The following member Parliaments of the Executive Committee were absent: Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Cameroon.

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General offered, at the beginning of his speech, ample thanks to H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament, of the Republic of Uganda and the Parliament of Uganda for their kind invitation to host the 42nd Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee. H.E. the PUIC Secretary General reviewed the issues set before the Meeting, and recalled that this year marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the PUIC, which has maintained its unity, despite the special circumstances of our Islamic World, through keeping away from divisive issues and upholding those that promotes togetherness and unity.

H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, welcomed the Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso and members of the PUIC Member Parliaments to Uganda. She thanked all attendees, and expressed the pride of Uganda in belonging to the PUIC, and its interest to pursue effectively working in it. She recalled that she was the Vice Speaker of the Parliament when Uganda hosted the Sixth PUIC Conference in 2010.

She wished that the preparations and organizations of the Meeting will be at the level of the aspirations of the delegations.

She said that Uganda is blessed with a plethora of wonderful tourist landmarks, especially the national reserves and expressed the wishes that the delegations will have the opportunity to visit those landmarks. Her Excellency reiterated welcoming the delegations.

### Report of the PUIC Secretary General:

His Excellency the PUIC Secretary General submitted his report to the Meeting which covered the period between the date spanning the convening the 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 42nd Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, on 1 October, 2019.

The Report covered the following:

Participation in international fora in response to kind invitations from similar organizations

and unions, as Observer; Statements issued by the General Secretariat as well as the Member Parliaments on various occasions; Messages of felicitations and condolences sent by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General; activities of the Secretary General; activities in the media field; 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 Third Extraordinary Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee in Rabat.

Organizational Matters: Hosting of the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference by Burkina Faso, in January 2020.

• The Report was adopted.

The Executive Committee adopted the Kampala Declaration as follows:

We, Chairman and members of the Executive Committee of the PUIC, participating in the 42nd Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda on 1 October, 2019:

Affirming our devotion to realizing the objectives and basic principles enshrined in the Statute of the PUIC;

Guided by the objectives stipulated in both the OIC and UN Charters;

Sensing the magnitude of the threat posed by extremism, terrorism and bigotry to our societies and the stability of our countries;

Observing that the phenomenon of scaring people because of Islam, known as "Islamophobia" has taken a serious turn as regards the values of tolerance, peace and harmony;





### We hereby:

1- Affirm the urgent need for unity of our Islamic Ummah in order to overcome the challenges which face it at the present time, considering its status among nations. Almighty God says: "Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah" - Al-Imaran-110

2- Reaffirm the centrality of the Palestinian cause for our PUIC, on the basis that it is the primary issue of Muslims. Also affirm our support to the steadfastness and the seventy years struggle of the proud Palestinian people, with heroism and bravery, for the sake of restoring their legitimate rights in establishing their independent state, with Al-Quds its Capital. Condemn the illegal occupation of Palestinian land by Israel and its continuous committing of crimes against the Palestinian people, their land and sanctities. Also Condemn the continuous occupation of the Syrian Golan, Shabaa Farms and the Lebanese Kafar Shouba Hills. Condemn the Israeli threats and Israel's attempts to control areas of the lands of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

3- Dissociate ourselves from the phenomenon of scaring people because of Islam, known as "Islamophobia", especially in the shadow of increasing, disturbing developments. Also Condemn all actions and activities which fanatics carry out in the World. Call for adoption of an Annual World Day to combat Islamophobia and eliminate hatred and animosity against our true religion.

4- Call upon leaders of both Muslim and non-Muslim communities to promote unity, cooperation and peaceful co-existence of both the Muslim and non-Muslim. Emphasizing the bigger issues that unite their people and minimizing the points of differences for the sake of peace and tranquility.

5- Advocate for the advancement of the status of women, promote their economic empowerment, and offer women and children maximum protection from the effects of war and poverty and provide them with humanitarian assistance.

6- Condemn terrorism, in all its forms, and Call on the states and peoples of the world to engage in constructive cooperation to fight terrorism, eradicate it, and address its root causes. Reject linking terrorism with a specific religion.

7- Condemn the recent decision by the Indian government concerning Jammu and Kashmir, considered contrary to

the international resolutions. Demand implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions which recognize and grant the right to self-determination for the Muslim Kashmiri People.

Call on India to stop its unjust practices in the region, especially arbitrary detentions, internet and communication blackout and the curfew which has denied the population, including women, children, and the elderly and the sick, access to the basic necessities of life.

8- Express our concern about the suffering of millions of Muslim refugees, migrants and internally displaced people who were forced to flee their homelands and regions. Call on Muslim states, in particular, international organizations, philanthropic bodies and civil society organizations to extend urgent and necessary assistance to them. This is what our true religion calls for: to offer relief to the needy and to help distressed Muslims.

9- Strongly denounce the gross violations inflicted on the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar which led to the fleeing of hundreds of thousands of them. Affirm that the PUIC mission to the refugees in Bangladesh views the events in the region as tantamount to crimes against humanity. Therefore, call for effective international measures through referring the crimes file to the International Criminal Court, as well as international protection for the hundreds of thousands of those threatened by genocide. Request urgent humanitarian assistance to those who have migrated to neighboring states.

10- Declare our solidarity with all the Sahel States, especially Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali which suffer consequences of the aggravation of terrorist operations which led to internal displacement and migration, amid security turmoil and humanitarian tragedies that require all States of PUIC Member Parliaments to support those Sahel States in their incessant endeavors to combat terrorism and extend relief to the displaced people.

11- Call for settling crises taking place in various regions of the Islamic World through dialogue, negotiation and peaceful means. Affirm the necessity of resorting to wisdom, sense and the logic of common interests in resolving differences and disputes for the sake of ensuring our peoples further stability, security, development and prosperity. Affirm, in this context, the brotherhood among Muslims, and the requirement of solidarity interdependence and compassion: "believers, in their sincere affection, being merciful toward one another, and sympathy with each other, are like one body. If one bodily limb is affected, all the other limbs will respond with sleeplessness and fever."

12- Affirm our interest in effective contribution to genuine international efforts aimed at protecting the environment, and addressing climatic imbalances and their catastrophic results for Man, earth and the future of humanity. Renew our support for PUIC African countries afflicted by drought and desertification on a wider scale.

13- Also affirm the necessity of activating the working of PUIC Committees in order to achieve the objectives of the PUIC.

14- Express our gratitude and thanks to the Parliament of Uganda for the generous hospitality and warm reception, as well as for the excellent preparation, organization, and the care bestowed on the Members of the Executive Committee since their arrival in Kampala.



## ● Adoption of World Day to Combat incitement to hate Islam

## ● Necessity of Ummah's Unity to confront current challenges





## 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:

- ▶ 2 October 2019 Election of H. E. Mrs. Puan Maharani, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia
- ▶ 3 November 2019 Re-election of H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasir Al Ma'awali, as Speaker of Consultative Council of the Sultanate of Oman (Majlis A'Choura)
- ▶ 5 November 2019 Re-election of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, as Speaker of the Advisory Council of the State of Qatar (Shura Council)
- ▶ 13 November 2019 Election of H. E. Mr. Rached Ghannouchi, as Speaker of the Assembly of People's Representatives of Tunisia (Majlis Nawwab ash-Sha'ab)
- ▶ 14 November 2019 Election of Saqr Ghobash, as Speaker of the Federal National Council of United Arab Emirates (Majles El Watani el Etehad)



### Algeria

The President of the National People's Assembly, H.E. Mr. Slimane Chenine called on the international Parliament to reflect on the introduction of structural and functional reforms in the United Nations (UN) system. Speaking during the work of the preparatory committee meeting of the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments, held in Geneva, Mr. Chenine presented a series of proposals mainly focusing on the need to reflect on the means to find a balance between the demands of states and the demands of the categories of society. He also called on "the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to reflect on the introduction of structural and functional reforms in the UN system, so that more justice can be achieved in international relations".



### Azerbaijan

The Azerbaijani Parliament hosted the 9th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking countries (TURKPA) in Baku on 18 December 2019. In this Meeting, Azerbaijan has assumed the chairmanship of the Council of the TURKPA from Turkey. The event brought together delegations of member countries led by Speakers of Parliaments, representatives of Turkic cooperation structures and other international organizations.

The agenda of the 9th General Assembly includes reports and recommendatory decisions of the meetings of the TURKPA standing committees, adoption of model laws, reports of the observation mission for the early presidential elections in Kazakhstan, as well as the adoption of legal documents of the organization.



### Bangladesh

Parliament has passed a motion declaring a "planetary emergency" and calling for quick action by the

international community, including the United Nations, to tackle the effects of climate change. Placing the motion on 13 November, 2019, H.E. MP Saber Hossain Chowdhury said Bangladesh was among the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Mr. Chowdhury, urged lawmakers to declare a "planetary emergency" on account of existential crisis of climate change, impact of disasters and increase in extreme weather events, irreparable loss of bio-diversity, looming food insecurity, rising water stress, unprecedented pressure on oceans and unsustainable use of resources. The global community must act urgently, decisively and with considerably higher ambition in achieving net zero carbon emissions well before 2050, capping temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius and transitioning swiftly to low carbon economies as overarching priorities, Saber said.



### Ivory Coast

The 45th Plenary Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie was held at the Hôtel Ivoire, in Abidjan, on July 8 and 9, 2019. This meeting, under the theme "Parliaments and strengthening of democracy", brought together nearly 300 parliamentarians from 51 APF sections.

The parliamentarians also adopted 13 resolutions, notably on the political situation in certain countries, digital governance, corruption as an obstacle to economic development, student mobility, replenishment of the resources of the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the health needs of refugee women and girls, trafficking in human beings, as well as - for the first time - two draft framework laws on compulsory, free and public registration of births and on Protection of personal data. The Plenary Assembly finally proceeded to the election of Mr. Amadou Soumahoro, President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, as President of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie.



### Djibouti

Djibouti National Assembly hosted the 42nd Conference of Presidents of the UPA (African Parliamentary Union), and the 75th Session of its Executive Committee, which took place on 25-29 November, 2019. According to a press release from the UPA, the conference examined topical continental issues, including the promotion of a diversified economy and local processing of basic products for the employment of women and young people.



### Egypt

In his official visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, heading a parliamentary delegation, H.E. Dr. Ali Abdul Aal, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Egypt, met with Mr. Femi Gbajabamila, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria. Dr. Abdul Aal reaffirmed that several bonds tie the two brotherly peoples and countries in the light of unity of belonging to the African Continent. He underlined that the two countries have potentials that ensure fertile environment for close relations on all levels. He referred to the basic common challenges for the two countries: terrorism,



development, building youth abilities and facing the shortage of water. At the parliamentary domain, Dr. Abdul Aal made a presentation on the role of the Egyptian House of Representatives, its structure and the outstanding laws which it has enacted in all fields, especially in countering terrorism and addressing the economy.



## Iran

Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, H.E. Mr. Ali Larijani met top lawmakers from neighboring states

on 14 December, 2019, on the sidelines of the 12th Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, in Turkey. In a meeting with his Qatari counterpart, Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Mahmud, the Iranian speaker described Doha's role in the region as positive. "We will always hold close consultations about key regional issues. We are also interested in expanding economic ties with you," he told al-Mahmud. In his meeting with Deputy Speaker of Oman's Majlis A'Shura, Abdullah Al Amri, he highlighted longstanding relations between Tehran and Muscat, which have not been negatively affected by recent developments in the region. Mr. Larijani met also with H.E. Mr. Mustapha Sentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. They discussed bilateral ties and cooperation as well as regional developments. Describing the talks as productive, Mr. Larijani believed that the two sides could together achieve sustainable security in the region, adding that their cooperation would benefit the people of both Turkey and Iran.



## Iraq

The Parliament Speaker H.E. Mr. Mohammed al-Halboosi

inaugurated on 26 September, 2019, the ceremony of the Rafidain Forum for Security and Economy, in Baghdad, under the slogan "Iraq is recovering" in which a large number of MPs, officials, scientists, researchers and intellectuals from different Arab and foreign countries participated.

H.E. the Speaker said in his speech that Iraq has gone a long way in strengthening security after the victory over DAESH, and is also determined to mature the economic vision in the country from the rentier economy to multi-resource economy, which depends on advanced industrial and agricultural plans, as well as working to develop investment opportunities and support investors.

The Speaker affirmed that the Parliament is working to legislate laws that contribute to the provision of a decent living for all Iraqis, and continues to monitor the performance of the government program, provide services, and the development of infrastructure.



## Jordan

H.E. the Speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives and President of the Arab Parliamentary

Union, Engineer Atif Al – Tarawneh stated that confronting occupation and its savagery in the Palestinian territories necessitates unity of Palestinian ranks, and proceeding with reconciliation, being the way for cohesion of the brothers and pursuance of their struggle until restoration of their rights. In

a statement issued by the House of Representatives, coinciding with the 102nd anniversary of the ill-omned Balfour Declaration, Mr. Al – Tarawneh affirmed that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II, will remain upholding its resolve to support the Palestinian brothers and defending Jerusalem.



## Kazakhstan

The 4th Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments themed "Greater Eurasia: Dialogue.

Trust. Partnership" has been held on September 23-24 in Nur-Sultan city. The Parliamentary Forum is timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Eurasian integration initiative of the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. Chairman of the Mazhilis, Nurlan Nigmatulin, summing up the results of the meeting, expressed confidence that the initiatives and proposals made at the forum will bring the partnership of the Eurasian States to a new level. "our current meeting allowed us to actively use the existing potential of parliamentary diplomacy to strengthen cooperation between our States", he said.



## Maldives

The Fourth South Asian Speakers' Summit, on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) organized jointly by the People's Majlis of the Maldives and the IPU, held on 1 and 2 September 2019, in Malé, Maldives, with the participation of the Speakers of Parliament from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. As representatives of a region particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with increased severe flooding and landslides as a consequence of sea-level rise and extreme rainfall. The Speakers called on parliaments to use their budgetary and legislative powers to deliver on the Paris Climate Agreement. The Speakers also called on developed nations to honour their commitments to mobilize US\$ 100 billion annually for disaster risk and climate change financing, as well as contributing to the Green Climate Fund.



## Malaysia

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof

along with a Parliamentary delegation visited Islamabad on 1 October 2019.

Besides meetings with his Pakistani counterpart, the Malaysian Speaker also met with high political officials and discussed promotion of bilateral ties and parliamentary exchanges. Prime Minister Imran Khan briefed the Malaysian guest on the recent developments in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and said that Pakistan deeply appreciates the Malaysian support to the Kashmir cause. He appreciated Prime Minister Mahathir's statements supporting just and durable solution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Charter and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He said there was an immense potential to increase trade and investment between Pakistan and Malaysia in particular for the promotion and development of tourism in Pakistan.



## Kingdom of Morocco

The International Symposium on “Parliaments and the Stakes of Food Security” concluded its proceedings in Rabat, Morocco, on November First, 2019. The two-day Symposium was organized by the Moroccan House of Counsellors and the Association of Senates, Shura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, in partnership with the UN Food Agriculture Organization (FAO). The Final communique of the Symposium called for adoption of effective and sustainable mechanisms to ensure food security, improved food and enhancing agriculture, in such a way as to overcome the effects of climate change, desertification, rain water shortage, and other climate factors, as well as promoting joint action between governments and parliaments and private sector in order to tackle the issue of food security as a strategic and essential approach to promising cooperation at the level of the Arab and African regions, to be closely linked to the objectives of sustainable development and combating climate changes.



## Niger

The “Continental Summit of Africa - Niger 2019”, co-organized in collaboration between the Parliament of Niger and the Federation for Universal Peace, was held on November 27-29, 2019. The said Conference, chaired by the Head of State of Niger, H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, has the theme “Building a Pacific, United and Prosperous Africa centered on Universal Values: Peace, Security, Reconciliation, Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity. The main objective of this Summit was to promote the Project for a “Heavenly Africa” in order to contribute significantly to support the efforts of African leaders for peace, security, reconciliation, human development, the realization of the ideals of the African Union and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## Palestine

The Palestine National Council (PNC) demanded a new complaint to be submitted to the International Court of Justice against Trump administration following the announcement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are not in violation of international law. PNC affirmed that the members of Trump Administration are partners to the Israeli occupation in its violations of international law and UN resolutions, in particular the Security Council Resolution 2334, as well as violating the Fourth Geneva Convention and its violation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which considered all forms of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories null and void, and it is also a war crime under the 1998 Rome Statute, which states that those who support and recognize the legitimacy of settlements must be held accountable.



## Qatar

In the closing Session of the 7th Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), which was held in Doha, the President of the Qatari Shura Council, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed bin

Abdullah Al Mahmoud, was unanimously elected as President of the Organization, where he will take over the next session until 2021. Mr. Al-Mahmoud said that this organization “deserves all support, because its multi-modal work constitutes a unique contribution to preventing and fighting corruption, and to achieving sustainable development for future generations in a world that is witnessing rapid and radical changes.”

He added in his speech as the head of the organization, that he will work with everyone to achieve the goals of the organization, and activate the initiatives, plans and programs to develop mechanisms for its work and improve its performance.



## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Speaker of the Shura Council, H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin

Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Al-Sheikh has called for lifting of curfew and lockdown in Indian Occupied Kashmir at the earliest.

He was talking to Speaker of National Assembly, H.E. Mr. Asad Qaiser along with delegation of Saudi Majlis-ash-Shura, in Islamabad on 5 December, 2019. He said Saudi Arabia wants resolution of all conflicts including the Kashmir issue through dialogue.

The Speaker of the Saudi Majlis-ash-Shura also agreed with Asad Qaiser’s proposal of convening conference of parliamentary representatives of Islamic countries on Kashmir.

He condemned the brutalities being perpetrated on the Muslims of Kashmir and Palestine. He said we stand by the Kashmiri people and express our firm solidarity with them. The Speaker said friendly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are strengthening with the passage of time. He said his country considers Pakistan its sincere friend and brother.

He also appreciated the role of Pakistan in promoting harmony amongst the Muslim countries.



## Tunisia

H.E. Mr. Rashid El Ghanooshi, Speaker of the Assembly of People’s Representatives received at the

Parliament building, Mr. Gianni Buquicchio, Chairman of Venice Committee (European Committee on Democracy Through Law at the Council of Europe) and his accompanying delegation.

Mr. Ghanooshi emphasized the importance of cooperation with the Venice Committee, and benefiting from its experiences and expertise in terms of formulating laws and legislative consultation, and underscored the interest of the Assembly to continue action in this direction.



## Turkey

Grand National Assembly of Turkey was the host of the 12th Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, in Antalya, on 13-18 December, 2019. The gathering was held under the slogan: “The Role of Multilateral Cooperation Among Asian Parliaments”, and was attended by a large number of parliamentarians from Asian countries. In the



opening ceremony, H.E. Mr. Mustafa Şentop, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey stated: the center of geopolitics and economics in the world is rapidly shifting to Asia. In every region of the Asia continent, there is a remarkable process of development and advancement and our fundamental purpose is to strengthen the inter-parliamentary collaboration in the subjects of economy and social relations, along with peace and prosperity.



## UGANDA

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, (EAAACA) has been held in Kampala, capital of Uganda. The Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Mrs. Rebecca Kadaga, officiating at a dinner where the heads of the anti-corruption authorities from East, Western Africa and West Balkans were meeting for their Annual General meeting on 21 November 2019. She called upon anti-corruption authorities to strengthen regional collaboration and combat corruption. The Speaker said the anti-graft agencies work under difficult conditions but strive to achieve their targets. "Sometimes as we go through the reports of the Public Accounts Committee, we are amazed at how much money is stolen. This country

is wealthy; Africa is wealthy if only the money is used correctly," she said.

This year's conference themed "Strengthening Regional Collaboration to Prevent and Combat Corruption" attracted heads of Anti-Corruption Authorities from Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Serbia, South Sudan, Albania, Macedonia, Botswana and the host Uganda.



## United Arab Emirates

H.E. Mr. Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council

received in his office at the Council's building in Abu Dhabi, on 16 December, 2019, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al-Jarwan, Chairman of World Council on Tolerance and Peace, and the high-level accompanying delegation.

In the meeting Mr. Ghobash welcomed the visiting delegation, and stressed the importance of the visit which will immensely contribute to the development of various aspects of cooperation, particularly at the parliamentary level, which will contribute in turn to enhancing the parliamentary relations of the UAE with the different states of the world.

## On the Sidelines of the IPU Assembly:

# Consultative Meeting Affirms Importance of Palestine Issue



► The Consultative Meeting of the PUIC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, and the attendance of a large number of their Excellencies parliament Speakers, Heads and Members of august Member Parliaments.

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General presented a brief report on the proposed emergency items.

On the Emergency Item, there was one proposal only titled "Call for including youth Voice in Combating Climate Change". There were interventions by a number of delegations, some of

whom referred to student demonstrations in various parts of the world for Climate Change. They also underlined that issues of Palestine, the Rohingya and enhancing International Law are subjects which must be given prominence in the speeches of heads of delegations of Member Parliaments, and that implementation of what has been agreed upon till now must be accorded great significance.

H.E. Chairman of the meeting affirmed the necessity of working on preparing a proposal on the Palestinian Cause to be included as an emergency item in the next IPU meeting. ◀

## Secretary General Attends the Opening of the Saudi Shura Council

His Excellency Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, PUIC Secretary- General attended the opening of the 7th Parliamentary Session of the Shura Council, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on November, 11, 2019, in response to the invitation of H.E.

Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al Sheikh, Speaker of the Shura Council.

The Secretary General met with the Speaker and discussed ways to achieve the goals of the PUIC.



## Signing MOU on 15th PUIC Conference

The National Assembly of Burkina Faso and the PUIC signed an MOU on technical and administrative matters concerning the 15th Session of the PUIC Conference, at the Assembly Building in Ouagadougou on 18 November, 2019.

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, signed

the MOU for the PUIC, while Mrs. Raketa ZOROME, signed for the National Assembly of Burkina Faso.

The Signing ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Alassane Bala Sakandé, Speaker of the National Assembly, members of the Assembly, as well as a number of ambassadors of Muslim Countries accredited to Ouagadougou.

## Secretary General Meets Speaker of Nigerian Parliament

H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, the PUIC Secretary General, met H.E. Mr. Femi Gbajabiamila, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in his office in Abuja, on 26th November, 2019. The meeting addressed PUIC relations with Nigeria, and the ways for effective Nigerian

participation in PUIC activities. H.E. the PUIC Secretary General highly appreciated the role of Nigeria's Ulema and Sheikhs in propagating Islam and consolidating the tolerance of this religion which was brought by Prophet Mohammad whom God Almighty has sent as mercy to all the universe.



## Secretary General Condemns US Declaration on Settlements



His Excellency Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, the PUIC Secretary General said on 25 November, 2019 that the PUIC considers the Palestinian issue as the central issue of Muslims and that no right of the Nation can be waived until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital.

He explained that these rights have been defended by a struggling people for more than seventy years,

supported by one and a half billion Muslims in the world. International law and resolutions of the international legitimacy affirm these inalienable rights.

Therefore, the Secretary General strongly condemns and deplores the US declaration of "legitimizing Israeli settlements" and considers it a violation of international resolutions and an unfair bias supportive of the arrogant Israeli enemy.

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## Secretary General Affirms Solidarity with Algeria

The PUIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS took note of the decision issued by the European Parliament on 28 November, 2019, concerning the current situation in Algeria, including positions on the internal situation in the country.

H.E. the Secretary General considers that the decision constitutes a blatant intervention in the internal affairs of Algeria.

He denounced, therefore, the decision, in form and content which does not serve stability of Algeria, and harms the sovereignty of the Algerian people who have struggled for their freedom and independence, and offered one million



martyrs along this way.

The Secretary General affirmed his solidarity with the brotherly Algerian people and the heroic people's opposition of any intervention in their internal affairs.