



Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States No.27 Winter 2021

**Editorial**

By **Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, Secretary General**



**Dear Reader**

The world has lived through the two years 2020 & 2021 amid the pandemic circumstances which have immensely impacted the populations of the Earth, because of which hundreds of thousands of people passed away. Economies collapsed everywhere. Fear and panic prevailed. All of this exacerbated turmoil and conflicts in today's world.

The states of PUIC Member Parliaments were not less impacted by this pandemic. However, our Muslim communities witnessed magnificent pictures of interdependence and mutual assistance which proved its upholding to the values of our true religion, religion of peace, mercy and altruism.

At a time when the world is recovering from the pandemic, the PUIC 16th Conference is convened in Istanbul, Turkey, under the theme "Sharing, Conscience and Islam: Palestine, Migration and Afghanistan". Undoubtedly, the cause of Palestine is the most important cause for Muslims in our current age because of the intense suffering of the Muslim people, and because it connects to the sanctities of Islam. In Palestine there is the city of Al Quds, cradle of Al-Aqsa Mosque (First Qibla, Third of the Holy Sanctuaries and Destination of the Night Journey of the Master of the Messengers, our Lord and prophet, Mohammed (pbuh)). This Noble Sanctuary is being desecrated by Zionist occupiers. Indeed, the policy of judaization of the Islamic and Christian sanctities in the city of Al-Quds, in particular, is widening. The policy of colonization and illegal settlement, coupled with the plan of coercive deportation of Palestinian families from their homes. Furthermore, the Palestinian people suffer, at the hands of the occupiers, arbitrary arrests, killing and a blockade that affects all dimensions of their lives.

Concerning Afghanistan, the Afghan Muslim people suffer, for decades from foreign intervention in their affairs which has destabilized their community and led to the rise of seditions, internal fighting and armed conflict which resulted in the collapse of the economy of the state of Afghanistan. Migration and exodus of citizens because of disputes, catastrophes and crises constitute one of the tragedies from which suffer several peoples in our Islamic world.

Such major issues require treatment that proceeds from the necessity of solidarity and cooperation among states of PUIC Parliaments, taking inspiration from the teachings of our true Islamic religion which affirm brotherhood, compassion and standing by the side of brothers in their calamity.

In this new edition of the "PUIC" I pray to Almighty God to remove anguish from this Ummah, unify their word, and grant it power and victory, as well as to remove this pandemic from the world. We pray to Him in following what pleases His Messenger. Allah is Most Able and Powerful.

**Istanbul Gathering Convenes Under the Umbrella of: "Sharing, Conscience and Islam: Palestine, Migration and Afghanistan"**



Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, is hosting the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference. The session is held amid extraordinary circumstances engendered by the Corona Virus Pandemic which is throwing its negative shadow on all activities throughout the entire world.

In spite of this, the PUIC has been carrying out its tasks, as far as possible, and holding its meetings in person, sometimes, and virtually by the internet, in other times.

The PUIC activities, as customarily, concentrate on discussing causes and issues of special importance to the Islamic Ummah, as well as to the progress of Islamic parliamentary action and cooperation, as is underlined by the draft agendas put in front of the parliamentary delegations.

Following is a record of some of the agenda items which point to the significance of the Istanbul Conference:

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Ouagadougou Hosted PUIC 15th Conference	
Under the high patronage of H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian KABORE, President of Burkina Faso, the PUIC Conference, in its 15th Session, was held in Ouagadougou on 3 - 4 Jumadel Thani, 1441H, corresponding to 29 - 30 January 2020. The Conference was attended by (32) delegations, including (11) Parliament Speakers, (9) Vice-Speakers and (12) Heads of delegations, in addition to (9) Observers.	

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## Istanbul Hosts 16th PUIC Conference:

# “Sharing, Conscience and Islam: Palestine, Migration and Afghanistan”

**T**he Executive Committee:  
 Report of the PUIC Secretary General.  
 Examining the application of “League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds” for observer status and informing the General Committee about its recommendations  
 Preparing the Draft Agenda of the 23rd Session of the PUIC General Committee.  
 Preparing the Draft Agenda of the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference.  
 Adoption of the Report of the 46th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee

**The General Committee:**  
 Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work.  
 Report of the PUIC Secretary General.  
 Examination and adoption of the Reports of the Executive Committee 44th, 45th and 46th Meetings and their Annexes.

**Financial Affairs:**  
 Report of the External Auditor and Financial Control Committee on the Accounts of the Fiscal year 2020.  
 Proposed budget for 2022, which are the same amounts that were approved in previous years, compared to the last budget approved by the General Committee in its 22nd session held in Ouagadougou on January 29, 2020

**Organizational Matters:**  
 Expressing opinion regarding application of League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds for accession to the Union with Observer status submitted by the Executive Committee to be presented to the Conference.  
 Updating the Draft Agenda for the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference.  
 Adoption of the Report of the 23rd Session of the PUIC General Committee.

**Consultation Meeting of The African Group**  
 Election of the President of the 18th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session from the African Group.  
 Consultation for the nomination of four members from the African Group for the membership to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Consultation Meeting of The Arab Group**  
 Election of the President of the 17th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session. (Republic of Tunisia)  
 Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Arab Group for the membership to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.  
 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 Arab Group for the next meeting:  
 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 the next Session.  
**Consultation Meeting of The Arab Group:**  
 Election of the President of the 17th PUIC Conference and hosting of the Session. (Republic of Tunisia)  
 Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Arab Group for the membership to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.  
 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 the next meeting:  
 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 the next session.

#### **Consultation Meeting of The Asian Group**

Consultation for the nomination of four members from the Asian Group for the membership to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

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 the next meeting:

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 next session.

#### **The 16th Session of The PUIC Conference**

Adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work of the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference.

Report of the PUIC Secretary General.

Addresses by the Heads of Delegations.

Adoption of the Report of the 23rd Session of the PUIC General Committee.

#### **Organizational Matters**

Nomination of the Members of the PUIC General Committee for the next session

Nomination of Members for the next meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.

Nomination of the Members for the following four PUIC Standing Specialized Committees for the next meeting:-

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 17th Session of the PUIC Conference (From the Arab Group - Republic of Tunisia).

Defining the date and venue of the 18th Session of the PUIC Conference. (From the African Group)

Defining the date and venue of the 47th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee.

#### **Closing Session**

Adoption of the Final Report of the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference.

Adoption of the Istanbul Declaration of the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference.



## Highlights of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey usually called TBMM (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi) is the unicameral parliament of Turkey which is the legislative body based by the Turkish Constitution. Sultan Abdülhamit II, who ascended the throne on September 1, 1876, established a special committee with 28 persons called "Meclis-i Mahsusa" in order to draft the first constitution. The committee, drafted the constitution on November 20, 1876, and presented it to the Sultan. The Sultan promulgated the Constitution (Kanun-i Esasi) on December 23, 1876. After a 40-years of changes in the structures of the "Meclis", the first parliament was formally established in Ankara on 23 April 1920 in the midst of the Turkish War of Independence. Parliamentary elections are held every five years. Parliamentary elections and presidential elections are held together. Currently, a system

of proportional representation with a national threshold of 10% is valid. Accordingly, political parties that cannot obtain more than 10% of valid votes throughout the country cannot win seat(s) in the Assembly. The Grand National Assembly of Turkey shall be composed of six hundred (600) deputies directly elected from 81 provinces and 87 electoral districts in total. As per Article 87 of the Constitution, the duties and powers of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey have been stated as follows: Enacting, amending and repealing laws, Debating and adopting the Budget Bills and the Final Account Bills, Deciding on issuing currency, Deciding on the declaration of war, Approving the ratification of international treaties, Deciding on granting general amnesty and pardon, Exercising the powers and carrying out the duties foreseen in the other articles of the Constitution. The Bureau of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey has

significant roles regarding the legislative activities and administrative matters. The Bureau is composed of the Speaker, Vice-Speakers, Quaestors, and Secretaries. The Bureau consists of fifteen deputies in total, including the Speaker, four Vice-Speakers, three Quaestors and seven Secretaries and ensures the proportionate representation of all political party groups. The Committees The committees have been established by the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure, or the laws. Committees are classified into two categories in terms of their duration as ad hoc committees and standing committees. Standing committees are also known as “specialized committees” are as follows:

- Constitution committee

- Justice committee
- National Defense committee
- Internal affairs committee
- Foreign affairs committee
- National Education, Culture, Youth and Sports committee
- Development, reconstruction, transportation and tourism committee
- Environment committee
- Health, family, employment, social works committee
- Agriculture, forestry, rural works committee
- Industry, Commerce, Energy, Natural Resources, Information and Technology
- Equal Opportunity for Women and Men
- Application committee
- Planning and Budget committee
- Public economic enterprises committee

- Committee on inspection of Human rights
- Security and Intelligence Committee
- European Union Harmonization Committee

#### Political Parties:

Political parties are essential components of democratic life. It is obligatory for a political party to have twenty deputies in order to establish a group. The Constitution stipulates the participation of the political parties in all activities of the Assembly according to the percentage of their numbers. Several advantages have been granted to the political party groups in their legislative and scrutiny activities. The 27th Parliament of Turkey took office on 7 July 2018, following the ratification of the results of the general election held on 24 June 2018.

## Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT)

# H.E. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop

H.E. Prof. Mustafa Şentop, was born in 1968 in Tekirdağ province. He graduated from Istanbul University, Faculty of Law and took master’s degree and PhD in field of Public Law in Marmara University. He started to work in Marmara University, Faculty of Law as research assistant in 1993. He got PhD title in 2002, and became associate professor in 2005 and professor in 2011. Apart from Marmara University, he gave undergraduate and postgraduate lectures in various universities. He took several administrative functions in Marmara University. Beginning from university years, he functioned as writer and editor in various journals and was the member of editorial board of academic journals and editor of referred journals. He served as the Chairman of Istanbul Branch of Economic and Social Research Center (ESAM). He was elected as the member of Justice and Development Party (AK Party) Central Decision-Making and Administrative Committee (CDAC) at the 4th and 5th Party Congresses. He served as Deputy Chairman of AK Party from 2012 to 2015.



He was elected as Member of Parliament from Istanbul in 24th and 25th Legislative Terms. He served as Deputy Chairman of Committee on Constitution.

Took in charge at Reconciliation Committee on Constitution as the representative of AK Party. He

also served as Deputy Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey in 27th legislative term. He was elected as the 29th Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) on February 24th, 2019. He is fluent in English and Arabic. He is married with four children.





**Ouagadougou Conference Seeks to:**

# Establish Parliamentary Mechanism to Combat Terrorism

## **O**PENING SESSION

The Conference was opened on Wednesday evening, 29 January, 2020, at the Ceremonies Hall Ouaga 2000 (Salle de Banquet) in Ouagadougou, in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Christoph Dabiré, Prime Minister and Head of the Government, Ministers, Members of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, Members of Participating Delegations, as well as Members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Ouagadougou.

The ceremony started with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. There was also a reading of the Fatiha for the soul of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, May Allah showers mercy on him, Sultan of Oman.

The Inaugural Session was addressed by: H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, H.E. the OIC Secretary General, Mr. Yousif Bin Ahmed Al-Otheimeen, H.E. the IPU President, Mrs. Gabriela

Cuevas Barron, H.E. the Second Vice-Speaker of the House of Counsellors and Head of the Moroccan delegation, Mr. Abdul Illah Al-Halouti, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Habib Al-Malki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco, President of the 14th Session of the PUIC Conference, H.E. Mr. Alassane Bala Sekande, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, and President of the 15th PUIC Conference,

### **Election of Members of the Bureau:**

Members of the Bureau were elected as follows:

- Vice-President (from the Arab Group) – National Assembly, State of Kuwait;
- Vice-President (from the Asian Group) – Islamic Parliament of Iran;
- Rapporteur: National Assembly of Burkina Faso.

### **Speeches of Heads of Delegations:**

The Conference continued its proceedings by listening to the speeches

of their Excellencies Parliament Speakers and Heads of Delegations in the order of their taking the floor:

H.E. Mr. Slimane Chenine Speaker of the National People's Assembly of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Djibouti; H.E. Mr. Ousseini Tinni Speaker of the National Assembly of Niger; H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Mahmoud, Speaker of the Advisory Council of Qatar; H.E. Dr. Abdullah Bin Mohammad Bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, Speaker of the Saudi Consultative Council; H.E. Mr. Mohammed Mursal Sheikh Abdul Rahman, Speaker of the Somali House of the People; H.E. Mr. Rached Ghannouchi, Speaker of the Tunisian Assembly of People's Representatives; H.E. Mr. Abdul Nabi Salman Nassir, First Vice Speaker of the Bahraini Council of Representatives; H.E. Mr. Aziz Syamuddin, Vice



Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives; H.E. Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, Vice Speaker of the Senegalese National Assembly; H.E. Mr. Omar Ebrahim Abd Elmged Hamroch, Head of Delegation of Egypt; H.E. Mr. Masoud Pezeshkian, First Vice Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran; H.E. Mr. Agaba Abbas, Parliament of Uganda; H.E. Mr. Ngari Idriss, First Vice Speaker of the National Assembly of Gabon; H.E. Mr. Garba Datti Muhammad, Head of Delegation of Nigeria; H.E. Mr. Guediouma Sanogo, Member of the Delegation of the National Assembly of Mali; H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Aladwan, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan; H.E. Mr. Hamadi Sayed Al-Mokhtar, Second Vice Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritania; H.E. Mr. Orhan ATALAY, Head of Turkish Delegation; H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouhdoud, Member of the Parliament of Morocco; H.E. Mr. Adnan Hamad Mohamed Hamad Alhammedi, Head of Delegation of the UAE Federal National Council; H.E. Mr. Sainey Touray, Head of the Delegation of the Parliament of Gambia. H.E. Mr. Yahia Al Haj Awad, Head of Delegation of the People's Assembly of Syria; H.E. Mr. Kahled Jamil Musmar, Head of Delegation of the Palestine National Council;

**The most outstanding issues addressed by the Speakers were:**

Firstly: Cause of Palestine:  
The Majority of the delegations spoke about the so-called “Deal of the Century”. They emphasized their

rejection and condemnation of it.  
Secondly: Combating Terrorism  
The Majority of the addresses dealt with terrorism and its combating:  
•Solidarity with Burkina Faso and the 5 Sahel States, in their battle against terrorism, as well as offering their condolences for the victims of the terrorist acts; also affirm the stand with the Burkinabe people.  
•African Speakers declared that the African Group has issued two statements: one relates to the massacres and terrorist aggressions taking place in the five Sahel States, and Nigeria, Cameroon, Mozambique and Somalia. The second statement deals with the proposal on establishing a Committee on Peace, Security and Combating Terrorism at the PUIC Level; which shall be considered at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

**Adopting the Ouagadougou Declaration:**

Ouagadougou Declaration was adopted and read by, H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, the PUIC Secretary General, at the conclusion of the Session: We, Speakers of Parliaments and Heads and Members of Delegations of the Parliaments of the OIC Member States, assembled at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), held in Ouagadougou, Capital of Burkina Faso, on 3-4 Jumada Al-Thani 1441 H., corresponding to 29-30 January 2020;  
**Expressing** our deep thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Roch Marc Christian KABORE, President

of Burkina Faso, for having kindly placed this Conference under his High Patronage; thereby ensuring all conditions for the success of its proceedings which have been marked by a fruitful and high-quality debate on current global issues of concern to the Islamic world;  
**Reiterating** our adherence to the founding principles of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), particularly the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts by means of dialogue;  
**Reaffirming** our determination to pursue our positive and efficient contribution to the development of the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, particularly for the establishment of world peace, regional security, and respect for human rights and state sovereignty;  
**Recalling** the responsibility of the international community in settling the Middle-East Conflict, mainly by enabling the Palestinian people to enjoy all their legitimate rights and establish their independent State with Al-Quds as its capital, thereby providing the conditions for the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homeland in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;  
**Underlining** the need and the urgency for greater solidarity on the part of the international community toward the Sahel countries which are faced with unprecedented terrorism and insecurity;



Insisting on the importance of democracy and the rule of law in promoting development, and in safeguarding and ensuring respect for human rights;

**Recalling** the role of our Parliaments in meeting the genuine and legitimate aspirations of peoples, by strengthening their participation in the implementation of public policies;

Alarmed by the scale of the threat that extremism, terrorism, and fanaticism pose to the stability of our countries and to global peace and security, in addition to their negative impact of the image of the Islamic World;

**Concerned** over the humanitarian situation and the sufferings of large groups of citizens in numerous conflict-ridden zones in Islamic countries, as well as the sufferings endured by Muslims in many non-Islamic countries; Aware of the global nature of the security issue and of the consequences of terrorism on the stability of our States, irrespective of their geographical location;

**AFFIRM** our solidarity with the people of Burkina Faso and, through them, with all peoples of the Sahel countries confronted with terrorism, violent extremism, and insecurity;

**WELCOME** the efforts deployed by the Governments of the Sahel countries, in particular Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad, in the fight against terrorism, both individually and as part of joint mechanisms;

**CALL** for stronger international solidarity and for more action toward these countries whose populations are enduring the adverse effects of terrorism, which undermines their process of development;

**REAFFIRM** the central place of the Palestinian Cause in

the concerns and advocacy action of our Union and of our countries and peoples; as well as our solidarity with the people of Palestine in their quest for their legitimate rights to establish an independent State with the city of Al-Quds as its capital, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

**CONDEMN** the settlement activities and the violations carried out by the occupation authorities against Islamic and Christian sites and against the inhabitants of Al-Quds, with the aim of altering the character and identity of this City;

**URGE** the United Nations and its specialized agencies to provide the necessary protection for the Palestinian people as well as for the monuments and the architectural and cultural sites in the occupied territories; and also to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Palestinian people;

**REITERATE** our rejection of extremist thought and of terrorism targeting many Muslim and non-Muslim countries;

**CALL**, in this regard, for tackling the deep roots of terrorism and for strengthening cooperation among the members of the international community in pursuit of this goal;

**CONDEMN** the massacres and terrorist attacks perpetrated against the brotherly countries of G5-Sahel, Nigeria and other African countries, and **CALL** on the States of the PUIC Member Parliaments to support the affected populations.

**BANISH** all forms of extremist and fanatical discourse, whatever their origin, and **REJECT** any conflation of terrorism with Islam and Muslims as well as its exploitation in orchestrated campaigns against Islam and Islamic civilization;

**REITERATE** our commitment to contribute to international efforts to protect the environment and face the disastrous consequences of climate change on Man and the Planet, and on the future of Humankind;

**CALL FOR** the rapid and effective implementation of the resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, notably the Conferences of Paris, Marrakech and Madrid, and

**UNDERLINE** in particular the importance of supporting African countries vulnerable to large-scale climate change;

**SUPPORT** the actions carried out by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to accompany member States in the implementation of public policies, particularly as regards the issues of support to vulnerable groups, and **ENCOURAGE** the Organization to strengthen these actions in favor of weak countries;

Call, in this respect, for establishing an Islamic solidarity fund, as soon as possible, in the framework of the PUIC, for supporting parliamentary initiatives of the member countries, especially parliaments of low-income states. **REJECT** Islamophobia discourse and all that can cause harm to our communities, including racist rhetoric and practices; **EMPHASIZE** the need to safeguard the dignity and rights of refugees and migrants from conflict zones, by allowing them access to basic services, including education and healthcare for children;

**EXPRESS** our deep thanks and gratitude to the Parliament of Burkina Faso for the excellent working conditions, warm hospitality, and great attention extended to us on the soil of Burkina Faso.



Palestine is the essential Issue of Muslims



Rejection and Condemnation of the Deal of the Century



## First Virtual Meeting of Executive Committee: Call for Coordination of Public Health Measures

The First Webinar Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee on Covid-19 was held at the PUIC Headquarters in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 19 October 2020.

Statements of participants focused on significant principles and stances in this regard, including necessity of adopting proactive action to prevent the spread of the Pandemic. They also stressed the urgent need for a coordinated international approach among States of PUIC Members based on the principle of solidarity. They called for mobilizing all available means to coordinate public health measures to protect populations of PUIC Members.

They appealed for greater cooperation between those members, as well as with WHO to draw up strategic programs to combat the Pandemic and limit its spreading. They also called for the exchange of experiences and capabilities among all countries, and drawing up legislations to protect economies of PUIC Members.

Following is the text of the Report of the First Webinar Meeting of Executive Committee Meeting:

As Covid-19 Pandemic is still throwing its shadows on the health reality in all parts of the world rendering in person presence in meeting was very difficult, the PUIC General Secretariat was of the view to hold a virtual meeting through the internet of the Executive Committee concerning this subject.

Considering the on-going circumstances, and in response to a kind invitation by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, the first – trial – meeting

through the Web, of the PUIC Executive Committee on Covid-19 Pandemic, was held on 19 October, 2020.

The meeting was attended by their Excellencies Representatives of Parliaments and Assemblies of: People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Lebanon, Republic of Nigeria, Sultanate of Oman, Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey,

At the outset of his speech, the PUIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, welcomed the honorable participants, Members of the PUIC Executive Committee, and said: “ We have organized this meeting according to available circumstances. We wanted through it to re-sume our meetings which have been interrupted by Covid-19 Pandemic spreading throughout the world since last March. As soon as we concluded

our conference in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Corona Pandemic started to spread. In spite of this, the General Secretariat prepared the reports and documents of the Conference and circulated them to the members in due time”.

His Excellency stated that today we have resumed our activities, and will live with this pandemic which we pray to Almighty Allah to remove speedily from the face of the world. His Excellency added by saying; In this day we want to consider only the condition relevant to this pandemic in terms of its impacts on the states of Member Parliaments as well as the modality of future cooperation thereon in the field of exchanging experiences, and cooperation in the field of medical and humanitarian assistance.”

### Speeches of Participants:

A number of Their Excellencies the Members of the Executive Committee delivered speeches, namely:



H.E. Mr. Sayouba Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), H.E. Mr. Bako Arifari (Republic of Benin), H.E. Dr. Abulfazl Ammoui (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Dr. Qassim Hashim (Republic of Lebanon), The Hon. Dr. Ah-med Bin Ali Bin Abdullah Al-Amri (Sultanate of Oman), H.E. Dr. Orhan Atalay (Republic of Turkey)

Some of the honorable Members stated that “the spread of the disease in some countries have actually disclosed the state of unpreparedness, and weakness of strategies to deal with the emergency as a nation. It also disclosed the weakness of the infrastructure of the health care as well as the unorganized supply of basic medical expendable materials. Also, citizens, particularly rural population were not given awareness information in a proper manner on how to respond, and the responsibility in monitoring the health protection protocols which might have lessened the spread of the virus.

In fact, this is a wake-up call for us when there is Pandemic. We ought to develop our local economy which revolves around the prosperity of Man who is able to build a society on equality and awareness of the ability to resist following crises. Collective will must be unified and continuing. God has bestowed on us an abundance of genius and scientists. Some of our universities occupy high global status. With the increase of investment in financing research and development of health care, as well as with more training and retraining of workers in the medical and health field, we will be able to upgrade their capacities and move forward in presenting innovative solutions to deal with challenges of our medical care systems.

The Representative of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso conveyed the speech of H.E. Mr. Alassane Bala Sakandé, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, and President of the 15th PUIC Conference. He said: “Our responsibility in the current phase is to overcome our differences in the implementation of joint cooperation and solidarity which is our best weapon against Covid-19. This virus that does not differentiate between borders, races, political systems and levels of social and economic development.”

Speeches of the esteemed Members of the Committee focused mainly on the outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic and the necessity of paying attention to the

Palestinian people, noting:

- Negative repercussions of the Corona pandemic which affected all countries of the world without exception.
- Necessity for adopting proactive and timely action to prevent the spread of the Pandemic, to deal with the effects of the crisis and to take initiatives in various areas affected by the Pandemic.
- The urgent need for a coordinated international approach among the States of the PUIC Member Parliaments based on the principle of solidarity.
- Mobilizing all available means to better coordinate the public health measures needed to protect the population of States of the PUIC Member Parliaments in the face of difficulties associated with economic growth and job protection.
- Greater cooperation among the States of PUIC Member Parliaments in order to decrease health and economic risks caused by Covid-19 pandemic by laying the foundations for the recovery of economic activity among them.
- Cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the framework of international laws to develop targeted strategic programmes aimed at combating, and limiting the spread of Covid-19.
- Exchanging experiences and capabilities will all countries, especially States of PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Necessity of legislating laws to take appropriate measures to protect the economy of States of PUIC Member Parliaments, solve the problem of unemployment resulting from the circumstances of the pandemic; and supporting the living situation of the various sectors of society in those countries.
- Issuing special laws to face this pandemic.
- Importance of cooperation among PUIC Members, and exchanging experiences and expertise among them in the field of combating the Corona pandemic.
- Assisting the poor States to face the disease.
- Necessity of approving laws at the various international, regional and local levels to defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; and force the Zionist entity to implement international resolutions and laws, and put an end to its coercive practices against the Palestinians. Also, necessity to help the people to face the disease.



## H.E. Mr. Sakandé, President of the 15th PUIC Conference: Calls for Cooperation to Confront the Corona Pandemic

«May Allah the merciful extend his blessings on all of us, during these particularly difficult times in the world. It is with a profound feeling of distress that I have to speak out, in my capacity as President of the 15th Conference of the PUIC, regarding the painful ordeal that our communities are going through, due to Covid-19 pandemic.

In this particular time, on your behalf, I wish to express a deep sense of reverence for all those who passed away since the beginning of this pandemic. May Allah the Almighty receive them in His heavenly Kingdom and grant them eternal peace. Beyond the international health crisis consequent of propagation of the coronavirus, our world is now faced with a real human tragedy. Serious socio-economic consequences are threatening the foundation of our political institutions and the stability of our States.

I would therefore call for:

- Closely coordinating International approach, due to pressing necessity, among PUIC Member States, based on the solidarity principle uniting our States and our respective scientific experiences;
- Mobilization of all resources in favour of our Governments to achieve better coordination of public health measures required to protect our populations, given the challenges related to economic growth and jobs protection;
- Stronger cooperation among our States, in order to reduce health and economic risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, by building the foundations for a better economic recovery.

At the current state of scientific research, responsibility and solidarity are our best weapons to combat Covid-19, which ignores borders, races, political organisation systems, and level of socio-economic development. More than ever, it is urgent to put aside our differences, in order to implement a joint response as part of a reinforced cooperation. May God bless our respective countries»!



## 4th Extraordinary Meeting of the Palestine Committee:

# Demanding International Prosecution of Zionist Leaders

## Launching World Campaign of Donations for Palestine

**I**n response to the kind invitation extended by H.E. Dr. Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Fourth Extraordinary Meeting of the PUIC Palestine Committee was held titled “Al Quds: Symbol of Unity and Victory”, in the presence of a number of their Excellencies the Members of the Committee as well as a number of representatives of PUIC Member Parliaments, in Tehran, on Monday 12 Shawwal 1442H, corresponding to 24 May 2021, in order to discuss the outrageous Israeli aggressions on the Palestinian people in the various parts of the occupied Palestinian territories, and its recent military aggression, following is the Final Communiqué:

**Affirms** that Al Quds Al Sharif and the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam’s First Qibla and third Holiest sanctuary, is a red line for the Islamic Ummah and that there would be no security or stability unless it is totally liberated from occupation, and returned to the cradle of its Palestinian people and the Islamic Ummah. **Calls on** the States of Member Parliaments to enhance collective and individual efforts and rally to the defence of Al Quds, and its sanctities; and to stand up to Israel’s crimes; and provide support to the Palestinian people; as well as to provide the necessities for steadfastness in the face of the savage Israeli aggressions. Requests them to execute the OIC and PUIC resolutions on the Palestinian cause, considering it the central cause of the Islamic Ummah.

**Hails** the steadfastness of the sons of the Palestinian people on their land, and for their historic stand in the face of aggression and occupation as well as their epic defence of their legitimate rights, and their resistance of attempts

to cancel, eliminate and disperse them by the Israeli racist colonialist regime.

**Expresses** intense rage and vehement indignation of the Islamic Ummah vis-à-vis the barbaric aggression on the steadfast Palestinian people. **Condemns** in the strongest terms the savage aggressions waged by Israel, the occupying power, on the Palestinian people, their land and sanctities. **Affirms** that Israel’s actions in Palestine such as demolishing houses, confiscating lands and the willful murdering of women, children and the elderly, as well as targeting health, social and cultural facilities are considered as criminal actions and a manifestation of State Terrorism.

**Expresses** its concern in a special way about the acceleration of the tempo of the Israeli colonialist policy of the Palestinian territories, specifically the threat to forcefully and illegally evacuate hundreds of Palestinian families from their houses in the occupied Al Quds Al Sharif by force, including families in Sheikh Jarrah and Salwan Neighborhoods which are facing imminent eviction by organized groups of extremist colonizers supported and assisted by the Israeli occupation authorities in collaboration with the racist courts. **Affirms** the necessity of the immediate halting of all these illegal policies and practices which contradict the commitments of the occupation according to the UN Charter, the 4th Geneva Convention and the International Law of Human rights, and the relevant UN resolutions. **Calls for** confronting these illegal measures at all levels, and taking fast and effective regional and international measures to face them. **Warns** especially of the serious effects resulting from Israel’s repeated and deliberate inflaming of religious

sensitivities and provocation of the sentiments of the Palestinian people and the entire Islamic Ummah, through the escalation of its attacks on the worshippers, specifically those which commenced as of the beginning of the past blessed Month of Ramadan, and obstructing access of worshippers to the holy sites to perform their religious rites, including access of Muslims to Al Aqsa Mosque, and access of Christians to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre during the celebrations of Easter, and the violent storming of Al Aqsa Mosque/the Noble Sanctuary by the forces of occupation, as well as terrorizing and attacking peaceful worshippers, considered as a blatant violation of the principles of the Humanitarian International Law.

**Demands** putting an end to all the violations committed by Israel, the occupying power, including its disrespect for Islamic and Christian sanctities, specifically the inviolability of Al Aqsa Mosque/the Noble Sanctuary. Demands also not to harm its historical and legal status, and stresses that Israel is an occupying force and has no legitimate rights whatsoever in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the City of Al Quds, Al Aqsa Mosque/the Noble Sanctuary, and that all measures which harm their status are nil and void and without any legal effect.

**Holds** Israel, the occupying force, fully responsible, for the deterioration of the situation due to its systematic crimes against the Palestinian people in all the occupied Palestinian territories, specifically the wide-ranging barbaric aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip, where the recent aggression alone saw the fall of tens of martyrs and the wounding of hundreds, large scale destruction of properties, of the basic infrastructure due to the barbaric





military offensives by the occupation authority. **Stresses** the necessity of providing international protection for the Palestinian people according to the international criteria of the Humanitarian Law.

Reiterates its rejection and condemnation of the continuing Israeli settlement colonization of the occupied Palestinian territories. Affirms that all these settlement actions constitute grave violations of the International Law, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, for which the occupation must be held accountable as well as boycotting its colonization system on which sanctions must be imposed.

**Affirms** that the occupation forces are acting to establish a racist regime that practices ethnic cleansing and all kinds of racial segregation, and requests the PUIC Member Parliaments to enact legislations that classify the Zionist entity regime as a racist regime pursuant to its treatment of the Palestinian people, therefore the international community must treat it as it had treated the eliminated segregated system in South Africa. **Affirms** the support of the resistance of the Palestinian people against the Zionist entity, in all its forms, especially the resistance of the steadfast Palestinian people in the face of Zionist aggression, considered as a legitimate right until the national rights of the Palestinian people are realized; **affirms also** that the action of the Palestinians is an exercise of their legitimate right in defending themselves, properties and homeland. **Calls on** the Islamic countries to renounce differences, close ranks and enhance the bonds of Islamic brotherhood in order to confront the savage attack launched by the enemies of the Islamic Ummah, especially the Zionist entity which is counting on the current regional situation, and using it to ignite the fire of sedition and disturbance to distract the attention of the states of the region away from the serious violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, especially those relating to the city of Al Quds. **Affirms** the necessity of mobilizing all the capabilities of the Islamic World in order for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights. **Demands** rejection of the policy of

normalization with the Zionist enemy. And **Calls on** all freedom-loving people to use all their efforts in support of the Palestinian people. Calls for an international legal move to compel Israel, to pay the necessary material and moral reparations for the damage of the Palestinian infrastructures as well as public and private properties, and supports the Palestinian decision on submitting the crimes committed by the Israeli Zionist entity against children and women in the Gaza Strip to the International Criminal Court (ICC), and calls for prosecuting the Zionist leaders for their crimes according to the International Law, **and considers** that the victims have a right to follow up the crimes of these Zionists in independent courts.

**Invites** the international community to exercise pressure on the Zionist entity, the occupying power, in order to end the illegal air, sea and land blockade imposed on Gaza Strip as a kind of collective punishment, and to open all border crossings, and ensure the free movement of people, materials and goods to and from Gaza Strip and the rest of the Palestinian territories.

**Call on** the states of the Member Parliaments, in collaboration with the international community, to seek the rebuilding of Gaza city which has been destroyed by the Zionist war machine, and **Calls for** backing the existing financial funds dedicated to supporting the steadfast Palestinian people. Demands the PUIC Member Parliaments to enact laws for supporting the Palestinian people in the face of the aggressions of the Zionist entity.

**Calls on** activating the Islamic boycott of the Israeli occupation, and abiding by all the OIC resolutions thereon as well as backing the World Boycott Movement, headed by B.D.S as a way of confronting the racist policy of the occupation

**The following delegations of Assemblies and parliaments participated in this Meeting:**

State of Palestine – Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria – Burkina Faso – Islamic Republic of Iran - Republic of Iraq – Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – Republic of Lebanon – Kingdom of

Morocco – Islamic Republic of Pakistan – State of Qatar – Syrian Arab Republic – Republic of Tunisia and Republic of Turkey.

The meeting was also attended by a number of ambassadors and diplomats of the Islamic countries accredited to Tehran.

**Inaugural Session:**

The inaugural Session was presided by Dr. Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the beginning of his address, H.E. Dr. Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, the Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, offer the most sublime expressions of felicitations to the Palestinian people on the victory of the united and heroic resistance of the Palestinian people in their struggle against the criminals of the Zionist entity, and also congratulated all the Muslim people, and free people of the world on their expression of support to Palestine and AlAqsa Mosque.

Dr. Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf underlined that after this brave resistance against the Zionist enemy, the Islamic States, in general, and the Islamic Parliaments as representatives of the people, in particular, should take measures to support Palestine, including:

Islamic governments and parliaments must go beyond verbal condemnation and take punitive and effective measures against the Zionists.

Affirming the unanimity of Islamic Parliaments on taking all the possible measures to help the citizens of Gaza, and rebuild the areas affected by the recent Israeli aggression.

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, delivered a speech in which he spoke of the victory realized by the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy through their heroic confrontations of the recent aggression. He underlined that the Palestinian people were exposed recently to simultaneous criminal acts in terms of the destruction of houses on the heads of their legitimate owners; forcible dispersion; desecration of Islamic sanctities; the killing of innocent people; and waging war by the use of most modern weapons of death and destruction against a besieged people. He concluded by affirming that AlAqsa Mosque is a trust on the neck of every Muslim and that supporting our brothers in Palestine is a religious obligation for each of us. H.E. Mr. Salah Al Zawawi member of the Palestine National Council, took the floor on behalf of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and began his speech by thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Meeting. He said that, for one century past till now, the Palestinian people are confronting the most dangerous conspiracy that targets their holy land and their perseverant generations. He added that it is our destiny, in the land of Isra and Miraaj, to confront these conspiracies, and rise up in revolution after another, and continue

to defend our land and people whose most of their sons have become forbearing and full of confidence in his country or a refuge in one camp and other, waiting the day of victory over the conspiracy and return to the land of his fathers and grandfathers.

After the opening session, the proceedings of the meeting continued under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Aboufazl Amouei, Head of the Iranian Parliamentary Delegation.

The Representatives of participating Assemblies and Parliaments took the floor in the meeting according following order:

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria – Burkina Faso- Republic of Iraq – Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – Republic of Lebanon – Kingdom of

Morocco – Islamic Republic of Pakistan – State of Qatar – Syrian Arab Republic – Republic of Tunisia – Republic of Turkey and Islamic Republic of Iran. The outstanding contents of the interventions were as follows:

Using mechanisms of parliamentary diplomacy to support the oppressed Palestinian people as a contribution towards lifting the huge injustice on our brothers in occupied Palestine. Seeking adoption of UN resolutions considering that the Zionist aggressions are war crimes, and the prosecution of the leaders of this entity before international courts.

Boycotting the products, commodities as well as financial and commercial interactions with the states which support the Zionist entity.

The Palestinian cause would not have reached

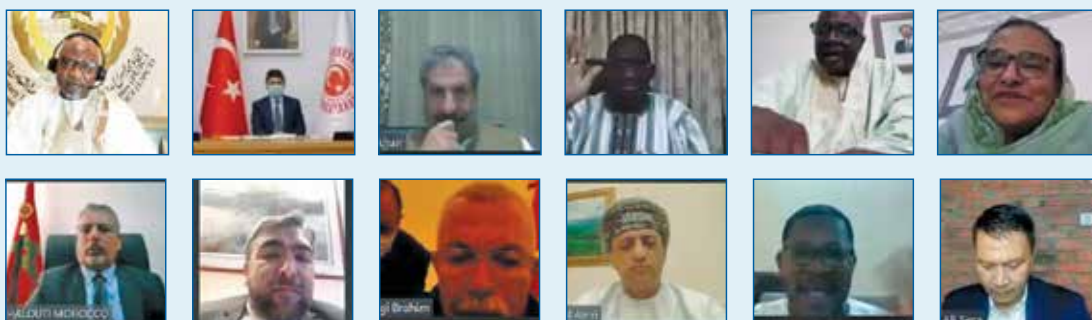
such a level of crime (against it) without Western American patronage and partiality as well as a lot of Arab-Islamic silence.

Necessity of preparing an urgent presentation plan to mobilize international solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Parliaments must exercise their powers in order to commit the governments of their states to carry out balanced policies vis-à-vis the Palestinian cause.

Launching a campaign of donations to support the Palestinian people, and the necessity of providing protection for them.

Drafting a parliamentary petition to the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) aimed at delegating an international mission to investigate the conditions in Al Quds Al Sharif.



## Second Virtual Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee: Defining Date For Holding PUIC Meetings

The General Secretariat of the PUIC invited the august members of the Executive Committee to hold their meeting on 7th December 2020, at 10:30 (GMT) in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

In view of the agenda of the meeting, discussion focused on the date of convening the 44th Meeting of the Executive Committee in the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, as well as the date of holding the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference scheduled to be hosted by Tunisia.

The Meeting was attended by their Excellencies representatives of the following Assemblies and Parliaments: People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Lebanon, Kingdom of Morocco, Sultanate of Oman, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uganda, The Federal Republic of Nigeria was absent.

1- Report of H.E. Secretary General of the PUIC H.E. the PUIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass welcomed the honorable participants, Members of the PUIC Executive Committee, and presented to them his report stating that it covers the period between the date of holding the 43rd Meeting of the PUIC Executive

Committee, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 27 January 2020, and the date of convening this Virtual Meeting of the Executive Committee through the Web on 7 December 2020. The Report of H.E. the Secretary General included:

- 1-1 PUIC participation in international and regional fora,
- 1-2 Statements issued by the PUIC,
- 1-3 Statements issued by the august PUIC Member Parliaments,
- 1-4 Messages of congratulation addressed by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General,
- 1-5 Messages of condolences and consolation sent by H.E. the PUIC Secretary General,
- 1-6 Organizational matters,
- 1-7 Report of the First Virtual Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee

2- Speech of H.E. Representative of the Assembly of People’s Representatives of Tunisia H.E. Mr. Noureddine Al-Behairi, Representative of the Assembly of the People’s Representatives, Republic of Tunisia, expressed thanks to the PUIC Secretary General and all the members for their trust placed on Tunisia to host the 16th Session of the PUIC Conference. He said that it is an honor for all members of the Assembly of People’s Representatives of Tunisia. He welcomed PUIC members in Tunisia, and wished that the conference will constitute a qualitative move in PUIC history. He proposed

that the date for convening the Conference is to be at the end of May and beginning of June 2021, God willing.

It was decided that the august Assembly to conduct consultation and coordination with the PUIC General Secretariat in order to specify the date of holding the 16th Session of the Conference and other Related Meetings, and that it shall be convened at the end of May 2021, and to inform the august Members thereof.

3- Defining the Date of Holding 44th Meeting of PUIC Executive Committee

In view of a technical disturbance in sound on the part of honorable brothers in Algeria and the impossibility of listening to them, it was decided to contact them later in order to define the date of holding the 44th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee. Contact took place and the brothers in Algeria informed the General Secretariat that they will host the Executive Committee Meeting on 7-8 April 2021 in Algiers.

4- Defining the Date of Holding 16th Session of PUIC Conference

Following consultation and coordination with the PUIC General Secretariat, the Tunisian Parliament announced that it will host the next 16th Session of the PUIC Conference and Related Meetings in the city of Tunis, on 31 May to 3 June 2021, and that the Conference to be held on 2 and 3 June 2021.





## 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:

- ▶ 12 January 2021 Election of H.E. Dr. Hanafy Ali El Gebali, as Speaker of the of the House of Representatives of Egypt
- ▶ 15 January 2021 Re-election of H.E. Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- ▶ 24 February 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. Salah Goudjil, as Speaker of the Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- ▶ 1 March 2021 Re-election of H.E. Mrs. Lucie Milebou-Aubusson, as Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Gabon
- ▶ 12 March 2021 Re-election of H.E. Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani as Speaker of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- ▶ 23 March 2021 Election of Mr. Seyni Oumarou as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Niger
- ▶ 30 March 2021 Re-election of H.E. Mr. Amadou Soumahoro as Speaker of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire
- ▶ 14 April 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov as Speaker of the People's Council of the Republic of Turkmenistan
- ▶ 24 May 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. Jacob L. Oulanyah, as Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda.
- ▶ 8 July 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. Brahim Boughalia as speaker of the National People's Assembly of Algeria.
- ▶ 5 September 2021 Re-election of H.E. Mr. Hamouda Sabbagh, as Speaker of the People's Council of the Syrian Arab Republic
- ▶ 10 September 2021 Election of H.E. Mrs. Lindita Nikolla, as Speaker of the Albanian Parliament
- ▶ 5 October 2021 Election of H.E. Haroun Kabadi, as Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly of the Republic of Chad.
- ▶ 9 October 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. Rachid Taleb Alami as speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco.
- ▶ 9 October 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. Naam Miyara as speaker of the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco
- ▶ 26 October 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. Hassan Bin Abdallah al- Ghanim as Speaker of the Advisory Council of the State of Qatar.
- ▶ 15 November 2021 Election of H.E. Mr. bdul Karim al-Daghmi, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Hasehmite Kingdom of Jordan

**Algeria** The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria witnessed, on June 12, 2021, Parliamentary elections for renewal of the Algerian National People's Assembly, which were conducted in favorable conditions for all. In its first session, the new Algerian Parliament elected independent Member Parliament H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Bougali as its speaker.

### Kingdom of Bahrain

Her Excellency Mrs. Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Speaker of the House of Representatives, head of the parliamentary delegation participating in the 143rd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the Spanish capital, Madrid, affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain provides fair and just health care and treatment services to all citizens and residents, as part of the Kingdom's efforts to addressing the "Corona" pandemic, and in a manner that translates the royal directives from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the country, may God protect him, by harnessing all capabilities and resources in order to preserve the health and safety of citizens and residents.

### Azerbaijan & Kazakhstan

The Speaker of Azerbaijani Parliament H.E. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova has met with H.E. Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Speaker of Parliament, and H.E. Mr. Maulen Ashimbayev, the Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan on September 29 within the framework of her official visit to Kazakhstan. Mr Nigmatulin remarked that his country thought it very important to promote its relations with Azerbaijan. He congratulated Azerbaijan on its victory in the Patriotic War and wished the country success. Sahiba Gafarova spoke of the growth prospects of the political, economic, cultural and inter-parliamentary relations and of the need to increase the volume of bilateral trade.

### Benin & Cameroon

The President of the National Assembly of Benin, Louis G. Vlavonou received on November 2, 2021 in his cabinet the Honorable Brigitte Emabot, President of the

Cameroon-Benin Parliamentary Friendship Group. She was at the head of a delegation of Cameroonian parliamentarians. On the agenda of discussions were issues related to decentralization, the economy, free trade between countries and many other subjects of interest to the two nations.

### Burkina Faso & Benin

H.E Mr. Alassane Bala Sakandé, President of the National Assembly received his Beninese counterpart H.E Mr. Louis Gbèhounou Vlavonou, as well as the President of the National Transitional Council of Mali, H.E Mr. Malick, on March 3, 2021. This audience allowed these personalities to address topical issues of common interest, namely insecurity in the Sahel and the issue of displaced persons. But even more and above all, it was a question of strengthening the secular links on the one hand between Benin and Burkina-Faso and on the other between Mali and Burkina-Faso. Also, during these exchanges, Presidents Louis Gbèhounou Vlavonou, Alassane Bala Sakandé and Malick Diaw scrutinized questions of interparliamentary cooperation with a pooling of efforts between the various Parliaments of the sub-region.

### Egypt & Iraq

H.E. Dr. Hanafi Jabali, Speaker of the House of Representatives, received on September 15, 2021, Muhammad Al-Halbousi, Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, who was visiting Egypt at the head of a high-level Iraqi parliamentary delegation. At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Hanafi Jabali welcomed the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, and his accompanying delegation, stressing that this visit comes at a time when Egyptian-Iraqi relations are witnessing positive momentum at all levels, and the Speaker of Parliament affirmed that the Egyptian state stands by Iraq in its war against terrorism and its support in its efforts to restore security and stability, praising Iraq's escalating role in supporting the stability of the Arab region. On the parliamentary level, H.E. Dr. Hanafi Jabali stressed that the

Egyptian Parliament is looking forward to strengthening the frameworks of parliamentary cooperation with the Iraqi Parliament, which represents an impetus and enhances bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

**Djibouti & (APU)** The Parliament of Djibouti hosted the 43rd Conference of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) on 14 and 15 October 2021. The conference culminated in issuing recommendations that call in their entirety to find long-term solutions through public policies that make the pandemic a challenge, support development partners, strengthen democracy and strengthen health systems and support the vulnerable groups... They also stressed the start of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and investment in the green economy, and called on the international community to show solidarity with African countries in order to help them address the repercussions of the epidemic and achieve sustainable development goals. The agenda of the conference included - in addition to approving the reports of the governing bodies of the union - studying and discussing two topics: the impact of the health crisis of the Corona epidemic on African peoples: reality and challenges and the impact of the health crisis of the Corona epidemic on African economies: how to secure economic recovery.

### **Gabon & Rwanda**

The 12th Conference of Presidents of Assemblies and Sections of the Africa Region of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF), was held from May 26 to 27, 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda. The proceedings were chaired by the president of the National Assembly of Gabon, Faustin Boukoubi. And when it came to topical issues, the Honorable Faustin Boukoubi spoke of the socio-political and security crises which place the African continent at the heart of world news and call for sustained attention from the African parliamentary community and a particular interest, in the name of the protection of human life and the safeguard of peace in this space.

**Iran** President of the Islamic Parliament of Iran H.E. Mr. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in a meeting on 11 October 2021, with Swiss National Council President Andreas Aebi said the Afghan government should be established in the presence of all

ethnic groups. Qalibaf said that millions of Afghans migrated to Iran due to security, food, health and medical issues and Iran has provided all services for them. Stressing the importance of developing bilateral cooperation between Tehran and Bern, Qalibaf said we need to develop relations between the two countries in various fields, especially agriculture, water, animal husbandry, tourism and human rights issues regarding Afghanistan.

**Indonesia** The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Dr. Puan Maharani said on 8 October 2021 at the conclusion of the Seventh Group of 20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) in Rome, Italy: "We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the leadership and achievement made by Italy during its presidency, including this P20 summit event," Maharani said at the handover ceremony of the P20 presidency.

The forthcoming annual meeting of the G20 members will be held in Indonesia in September 2022. For the P20 forum, Indonesia will explore the theme of 'The Role of Parliament in Promoting Higher Growth and Healthy Society'. Inviting officially the G20 parliamentary speakers to attend this event, Maharani said the main agenda proposed by Indonesia will include sustainable development and green economy, health, human empowerment, and capacity building.

**Jordan & Kuwait** The Speaker of the Senate, Faisal Al-Fayez, praised on 13 October 2021, the depth of Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations and the high level they reached, describing them as strategic, deep and historical. Al-Fayez, while presiding over part of the meeting held by the Jordanian-Kuwaiti Parliamentary Fraternity Committee, indicated that the Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations are well-established and strong, and constitute a model in joint Arab action.

Al-Fayez valued Kuwait's stances towards Jordan, and thanked His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people, for always standing by Jordan, and providing support and assistance to it, to enable it to face economic challenges. Al-Fayez also valued Kuwaiti investments in Jordan, which amounted to about \$18 billion, and called for increased investments and joint cooperation between the two brotherly countries, based on the strategic partnership that brings the two countries together.

**Kuwait** National Assembly Speaker H.E. Mr. Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim said that criticizing wrong practices in the democratic system does not aim to undermine it, but rather protect and strengthen it. H.E. Al-Ghanim stressed that criticizing and constantly reviewing erroneous practices related to the democratic system does not aim to undermine this system, but rather protect it from cases of setback and regression, and protect it from everything that distorts its essence and meaning. Al-Ghanim said that everyone should be bold in dealing with challenges that could affect the essence of the democratic system, away from the sensitivity of the logo and symbol. This came in a speech delivered by Speaker Al-Ghanim before the General Assembly of the 143rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference which was held in the Spanish capital, Madrid.

**Lebanon** The Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, H.E. Nabih Berri, affirmed on 25 April 2021 that "the Ramadan uprising of the Palestinian people in the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque and in the neighborhoods of the city of Jerusalem, is a holy call for us in Lebanon and on the area of the nation and its peoples to awaken awareness about the importance of solidifying national unity and abandoning political absurdity and sacrificing homelands and national constants in exchange for narrow personal and categorical interest. In a statement, President Berri said: "The Ramadan Intifada for the Palestinian people in the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the neighborhoods of the city of Jerusalem, and at the outskirts of the eleven gates of the Holy City, especially the gates of the column, the tribes, and the Moroccans, is as much as it represents Palestinian awareness among the children of Jerusalem, young and old. Children and women about the identity of their city and its future as the eternal capital of the State of Palestine, and about its Arab human culture and heritage that refuses Judaization. It also represents a holy call for us in Lebanon and the nation and its peoples to awaken awareness.

**Kingdom of Morocco** The consultative meeting between the Speakers of African Parliaments was organized on July 8, 2021 in the Moroccan capital, Rabat. The Speakers of African Parliaments called for union and integration between the countries of the continent. The statement said: "We renew our commitment to constructive and positive African parliamentary work". Presidents and



Representatives of African Parliaments, members of the Pan-African Parliament, also welcomed the constant commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco and of HM King Mohammed VI in favor of fruitful cooperation, solidarity between African peoples and development of the continent. The African Parliament is the legislative body of the African Union and comprises 229 MPs, representing 52 countries.

**Mauritania** The birth of a Mauritanian-Gambian friendship parliamentary group was announced on January 18, 2021, at the National Assembly in Nouakchott. The group's aim is to contribute to the strengthening of the Mauritanian-Gambian cooperation relations and to push them to wider horizons in the mutual interest of the two brotherly peoples. In a speech delivered for the occasion, the vice-president of the National Assembly of Mauritania, indicated that Mauritania and The Gambia are linked by old fraternal relations woven by bonds of Islamic brotherhood and neighborhood, reinforced by the interests common and preserved by the two peoples through cultural and commercial exchanges, stressing that the weight of our community in The Gambia and that of the Gambian community in Mauritania demonstrate the strength and importance of the relations existing between the two brotherly countries.

**Niger & Pakistan** On August 06, 2021, the President of the National Assembly of Niger, His Excellency Seïni Oumarou paid a working visit to Islamabad, Pakistan. During this trip at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart, the Head of the Nigerien Parliament and his Pakistani counterpart signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Assembly of Pakistan and that of Niger. This document foresees, among other things, the strengthening of cooperation in all spheres of parliamentary development such as legislative procedures, laws, committee work and the role of monitoring and sharing of experiences in the field of the Green Parliament.

**Oman** H.E. Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Speaker of the Shura Council said, "The Sultanate of Oman has played a prominent role in promoting common human values,

deepening bridges of civilized communication between other peoples, nations and religions, and endeavored to raise awareness and consolidate a positive image through the message of peace emanating from religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence." Speaker of the Shura Council, head of the Oman Council delegation participating in the 143rd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which was hosted by the Spanish Parliament in Madrid during the period from (26-30) November, confirmed, through a speech before the International meeting, saying: We are all aware of the importance of dialogue in building bridges of communication between different peoples and races; This is because it contains a positive factor in bringing together the views of different religions to bring humanity to safety, righteousness and the reconstruction of the earth. Also, moderate dialogue strengthens the concept of community partnership, and provides the requirements for development, progress and advancement of nations, and world stability.

**Qatar** The State of Qatar witnessed on October 2, 2021, successful elections, being the first of its kind in the history of the country. The rate of participation was 63.5%. There were (234) contenders in the elections competing for (30) seats out of a total of (45) seats in the Qatari Shura Council. The Members of the Qatari Shura Council elected Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim as the Speaker of the Council on October 26, 2021.

### **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

Speaker of the Shura Council, H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Asheikh, participated in the Seventh G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit in Rome on 7 October 2021. In his statement, Al-Asheikh expressed his hope that the summit will boost the G20's efforts to improve people's lives, achieve sustainable development, boost the global economy, realize the hopes and aspirations of all people, and highlight efforts to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Tajikistan & Turkey** As part of working visit to Turkey, H.E. the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Tajikistan, Mahmadoir Zokirzoda met in Ankara with H.E. the President of the Republic, H.E. the

Speaker of Parliament and H.E. the Foreign Minister. Şentop and Zokirzoda attended a meeting between the countries' delegations. The two officials also signed a cooperation protocol to improve interparliamentary ties. Pointing out that 2022 is also the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries, Şentop said: "I hope that the inter-parliamentary cooperation protocol will be a start for the new steps we will take together in 2022." The Tajik official underlined Turkey and Tajikistan want the bilateral trade volume to reach \$1 billion in coming years, noting the level of cooperation will increase with the interparliamentary cooperation protocol.

**Senegal** The President of the National Assembly H.E. Mr. Moustapha Niasse and members of Parliament received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine on February 26. They were vaccinated during a ceremony held in the lobby of the National Assembly, APS found. Moustapha Niasse hailed "a high-impact civic act and a contribution to the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic". "To overcome the invisible wall of mistrust in the face of the unknown, the President of the Republic has set an example by getting vaccinated," Niasse said. According to him, "it is therefore logical that, in this spirit, the National Assembly, in its various components, the Deputies and the administrative staff, take over, for this first phase, which will be extended, at the rate of arrivals for the next weeks".

### **United Arab Emirates**

H.E. Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council, received H.E. Manzur Nader, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and his accompanying delegation, at the Council headquarters in Abu Dhabi, on November 6, 2021, who was on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates. During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance parliamentary cooperation relations between the two sides, through exchanging visits and enhancing coordination and consultation on various issues of common interest and which constitute a priority for the two countries, especially in terms of activating and supporting bilateral relations between the two sides. The meeting also dealt with a number of regional and international issues of common interest between the UAE and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

## The Consultative Meeting of the Islamic Group

H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, the PUIIC Secretary General, accompanied by H.E. Ambassador Ali Asghar Mohammadi Sijani, Deputy Secretary General, participated in the 143rd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), whose proceedings took place in the Spanish Capital, Madrid, on 26-30 November 2021.

On the sidelines of the Conference the PUIIC Consultative Meeting was convened, under the chairmanship of H.E. Professor Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The meeting was attended by the Speakers of the Parliaments of the following States: Kuwait, Turkey, Morocco, (Speakers of the Moroccan House of Representatives and the House of Counselors were in attendance), Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. In addition to those Speakers, a number of PUIIC Member Parliaments also attended.



It is worth noting that a large number of PUIIC Members were absent from the IPU Conference.

In his opening address at the Consultative meeting, H.E. Professor Mustafa Şentop announced that the 16th PUIIC Conference will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 9-10 December 2021. He requested the Members to attend the said Conference.

As regard the emergency items proposed by the members, it was agreed that the chairman of the Meeting would coordinate with the Speakers of Parliaments and the delegations of Indonesia and Palestine in this respect. Those who made interventions affirmed the importance of the Palestinian Cause. Agreement was reached to adopt the proposal for inclusion in the emergency items of the IPU Conference.

## Secretary General Attends Meetings of Strategic Vision Group

H.E. the PUIIC Secretary General Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass attended the Meeting of the Strategic Vision Group: "Russia and the Islamic World", in Jeddah, on Wednesday 24 November, 2021.

The Meeting discussed ways of enhancing relations between Russia and the Islamic World. The Meeting, taking place under the motto "Dialogue and Horizons of cooperation", was opened by the Advisor of the Saudi King, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, prince of Makkah and Mukarramah Region, Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, with the presence of H.E. Rustum Minikhanov, President of the Republic of



Tatarstan, Chairman of the Strategic Vision Group, as well as the participation of a number of officials, scholars and thinkers from the Russian Federation and the Islamic World.

In his speech, the OIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Hussain Ibrahim Taha said that the meeting of Russia and the Islamic World affirms the spirit of cooperation among states and peoples, through the culture of dialogue, and through widening participation in order to neutralize the voices of exclusion.

He stated that the motto of the Conference "Dialogue and Horizons of Cooperation", conforms with the interests of both sides, Russian and Islamic, in the fields of peace keeping, security, conflicts resolution, resisting extremism and terrorism, as well as issues of sustainable development.

High Representative of the UN Coalition of Civilization, MR. Mighel Ankhil Muratinos, stressed that the Russian- Islamic World Meeting, held in Jeddah, aims at developing

joint programs with objectives of enhancing cultural and religious diversity, and pointed out that the aims of the Meeting and the Strategic Vision Group conforms with the work of the coalition of civilizations which has been launched as a forum for dialogue between religions and cultures in the framework of the United Nations.

The High Representative also pointed out that discussion and measures to be taken in the Jeddah Meeting is part of a wider discussion to enhance dialogue between cultures and religions.

On the sidelines of the Meeting an exhibition of "Traditions of Islam in Russia" was organized. Also a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA), and the Russian News Agency and Broadcasting (Sputnik), aimed at strengthening cooperation between (UNA) and (Sputnik) in the field of Joint information action.

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