

By **Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, Secretary General**



All the serious challenges and issues from which our Islamic Ummah is suffering, the most outstanding which is the lack of coordination and the unity of the decision, especially in our essential causes, such as the cause of Al Quds Al Sharif, and the enemy targets of partitioning the Islamic World, all of which cannot be confronted except by solidarity and the strengthening of the principles of brotherhood and unity, proceeding from teachings of our true Islamic religion which advocates unity and harmony, and cautions against disunity and schism. Allah the Almighty says: “And hold fast, all together, by the Rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves.” Also in the traditions of the Prophet (Pbhh) it is stated (The believers, in their compassion, mercy and sympathy, are like the single body; if one part of it is affected by illness, the rest of the body responds by lack of sleep and fever”.

Currently, the cause of Palestine, in general, and that of Al Quds, in particular, is passing through a critical turn, experiencing aggressions and provocations committed by the government of the Zionist enemy, and settler gangs, represented by the desecration of the Holy Sanctuary, continuation of excavation and tunneling underneath Al – Aqsa Mosque in search of an alleged temple, as well as the suffering of the steadfast Maghdesi people in the holy city because of the injustice carried out by the Zionist occupiers. The Palestinian cause has been, in our modern era, the main incentive for the establishment of our joint organizations, and hence pushing our Ummah for further solidarity and understanding. This cause necessitates, today, unified stances so that the Palestinian people can restore their freedom and establish their independent state with Al Quds as its capital. Indeed, our solidarity and understanding which will make us prevail in Palestine, will also enable us to address our urgent issues.

I call for action to establish understanding in all issues that divide us, by opting for dialogue and communication. I affirm the keenness of the PUIC to be the tool for understanding and rapprochement between the states of the Member Parliaments.

The PUIC has the “Charter of Brotherhood” which was approved in February 2014, as well as the “Initiative for Unity and Brotherhood”, which was approved in January 2020.

All of these show the will of Islamic Parliaments to hold to the principles of brotherhood, unity and harmony, among ourselves, as states and peoples, and the readiness of the Union to exert its utmost to establish amicability and harmony in order to serve the interests of the Islamic Ummah so that Muslims will feel that the Union takes care of the issues of their respective countries.

Allah grants success

Following the Burning of Copy of Holy Quran in Sweden: Sweeping Wave of Wrath and Condemnation Engulfs Islamic World



At the time when the Muslims, in East and West, were celebrating the blessed Eidul Adha, and about 2 million Muslims were performing the Hajj rituals in the holy lands; the city of Stockholm witnessed a heinous crime and an act of provocation for all Muslims, represented by the burning of a copy of the Holy Quran near the big mosque in the Swedish Capital.

Immediately, Muslims expressed their anger and denunciation of this outrageous action, at the official and public levels. Several Islamic States recalled their ambassadors to Sweden and issued angry statements. Several Speakers of PUIC Member Parliaments expressed their condemnation of this crime. Demonstrations took place in various cities of the Islamic world during which demonstrators expressed their attachment to the clear Book of Allah. Demonstrators also burned the Swedish flag in protest against the perpetrators of such evil crime which is not the first one of its kind in that European country. Allah said, “No falsehood can approach it from before of behind it; it is sent down by One Full of Wisdom, Worthy of all Praise.”

(See reactions inside pages)

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Abidjan Hosts the 49th PUIC Executive Committee Meeting

Parliament of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire hosts in Abidjan 49th Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee on 17-18 July, 2023. The meeting is considered important because of its preparatory nature for the PUIC annual Conference due to be held in the city of Abidjan in early next year. The meeting is to draw up the draft agenda of each one of the 4 Standing Specialized Committees; the draft agenda of the subsidiary organs: Palestine Committee, Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians; Meeting of Secretaries General of the PUIC Parliaments. The Executive Committee meeting also includes: Drawing up agenda of General Committee Session as well as drawing up draft agenda of the 18th PUIC Conference.



**Under the Patronage of H.E. President Abdelmadjid Tebboune...
the 17th PUIC Conference Discusses:**

“Islamic World and Challenges of Modernization and Development”

Under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) held its 17th Session in Algiers on 8-9 Rajab 1444 AH, corresponding to 29-30 January 2023 under the slogan “The Islamic World and the Challenges of Modernization and Development.”

The conference was attended by (39) delegations, including (20) Parliament Speakers and (8) Vice-Speakers, in addition to (18) Observer bodies.

The Opening Session:

The conference was opened on the afternoon of Sunday, Rajab 8, 1444 AH, corresponding to January 29, 2023, in the Zarqa Hall at the International Conference Center in Algiers, in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Ayman Abdel Rahman, the Algerian Prime Minister, a number

of ministers, and members of the participating delegations, in addition to members of the diplomatic corps, accredited in Algeria. The ceremony began with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.

Ghoudjil: Firm Stance on Palestine

After that, the Speaker of the Algerian Council of the Nation, His Excellency Mr. Saleh Goudjil, delivered a speech welcoming the participants in the 17th Session of the Conference, and called for defining a precise position on the Palestinian Cause, standing by the Palestinian people, and coming out with a unified position towards this central issue of the Islamic nation, and highlighted Algeria’s firm position on The Palestinian cause. He said that we are proud of Algeria’s stance towards this just cause, and the Speaker of the Algerian Council of the Nation recalled the initiative of His Excellency President Abdelmajid

Tebboune to reunite the Palestinian factions and build national unity, which is the initiative that was agreed upon in Algeria.

PUIC Secretary General: Call for a pause of reflection

Then, His Excellency Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), delivered a speech in which he said that this Conference is being held under the slogan of: “The Islamic world and the Challenges of modernization and development”, and that our Islamic world seeks to win these urgent challenges in our contemporary life and called for a pause of reflection.

Mustafa Sentop: Raising Voices in face of Provocations

After that, H.E. Prof. Mustafa Sentop, President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye highlighted that xenophobia, discrimination and hate crimes directed



تحت الرعاية السامية لرئيس الجمهورية



against Muslims have increased dramatically in non-member countries, adding that these practices find official support as if they are state politics. He stated that 400 million Muslims living in non-Muslim countries around the world are subjected to violations of their human rights in a systematic, individual or collective manner. He called on Islamic countries to raise their voices in the face of provocative acts.

Initiative of the Algerian President

After that, His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, President of the Algerian National People's Assembly, read the message of the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmajid Tebboune, to the conference. The President of the Republic said that the Palestinian Cause will remain the primary issue of the Islamic Ummah. The President of the Republic presented a three-point initiative containing practical mechanisms to enhance Islamic cooperation and solidarity, namely:

- Establishing a research center to enhance intellectual immunity in the face of the rapid digital transformations facing Islamic societies, within the PUIC system and that Algeria is ready to host it.
- Creating a strategy for intellectual, electronic and cyber cooperation among the states of PUIC Member Parliaments.
- Establishing an incubator to attract and promote startups and innovative projects

for the benefit of young people.

The session was also addressed by His Excellency Mr. Chav Fortin Charumbira, Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament, Her Excellency Mrs. Gloria Ines Florez, Speaker of the Andean Parliament, and His Excellency Mr. Adel Al-Assoumi, President of the Arab Parliament, as guests of honor.

Working Session:

The Conference resumed its proceedings, on the morning of Monday, January 30, 2023, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, President of the Algerian National People's Assembly,

Election of the members of the Bureau:

- Vice President (from the African Group): Ivory Coast
- Vice President (from the Asian Group): Malaysia
- Rapporteur: Algeria

The agenda and work program of the 17th Session of the Union Conference were adopted. The Report of the Secretary General of the PUIC was adopted.

The applications of the following organizations to join the PUIC as an observer were approved:

- Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM PA).
- The International Parliamentary

Congress (IPC).

- Association of Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments.

The main topics covered in the speeches of delegations are:

● THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE:

- Praising the efforts being made to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation in accordance with Algeria's initiative known as "reunification" because of this initiative's direct impact on supporting the Palestinian people and achieving their legitimate goals in establishing their independent state.

- Calling for the implementation of the decision of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to issue paper value in every Islamic currency to support the steadfastness of the residents of Al Quds.

· INSULTING ISLAM AND MUSLIMS:

- Condemnation and denunciation of insulting the Holy Qur'an in a number of European countries

- Demanding the imposition of international legislation that protects religious symbols, curbs hatred, and guarantees freedom of belief as an integral part of human rights.

● MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES:

- The establishment of the Muslim

Communities and Minorities Committee will help improve the conditions of those minorities that suffer from human rights violations, while praising the efforts made by the Republic of Bangladesh in providing support to the Rohingya refugees.

● **COMBATING TERRORISM:**

- Calling for solidarity and collaboration with the African Sahel countries in their war against terrorism and the security threats it received from some outlaws.

● **ECONOMIC COOPERATION:**

- Calling for an increase in trade exchange between the states of PUIC Member Parliaments, with the development and diversification of energy sources, in order to ensure the achievement of food security for peoples.

● **CLIMATE CHALLENGES:**

- The need for joint cooperation to limit the damages of the climate change phenomenon that threatens many countries.

● **SOLIDARITY AND HARMONY:**

- Calling for solidarity among Islamic countries, setting aside differences, and laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development. Spreading the spirit of peaceful coexistence and rejecting violence and sectarianism.

● **ACTIVATING ISLAMIC ACTION ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR DECISIONS:**

- Acting to develop joint Islamic action institutions and helping them to implement the decisions issued to serve the issues of the Islamic nation.

● **SPREADING TOLERANT ISLAMIC VALUES:**

- Calling for tolerance, encouraging dialogue and moderation, and demonstrating the teachings of Islam in dealing with others.

The report of the 24th Session of the PUIC General Committee was adopted.

Studying and adopting reports and draft decisions submitted by:

- The 9th Meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations

- The 9th Meeting of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Environment

- The 9th Meeting of the Committee on Human Rights, Women and the Family

- The 9th Meeting of the Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and the Dialogue of Civilizations and Religions

SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

Studying and adopting reports and draft decisions submitted by the following committees:

The 11th Meeting of the Permanent



Committee on Palestine.

The 10th Session of the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians.

The 4th Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments

Determining the time and venue of the 18th and 19th Sessions of the PUIC Conference:

The conference approved the offer of the esteemed Parliament of Ivory Coast to host the 18th PUIC Conference in 2024, with the Asian Group hosting the 19th Session of the Conference in 2025.

Determining the time and venue for the 49th meeting of the Executive Committee of the **PUIC:**

The Conference agreed to host the 49th meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee in the esteemed Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire.

Closing Session:

A- The Final Communique of the Palestine Committee was read by the representative of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

B- Adoption of the Algiers Declaration: His Excellency Mr. Yazid Ben Hammouda, member of the Algerian National People's Assembly, read the Algiers Declaration and then it was adopted.

A Motion of thanks:

The Secretary-General of the PUIC, His Excellency Mr. Mouhamed Khourachi Niass, read the motion of thanks and appreciation that the conferees submitted to His Excellency Mr. Abdelmajid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The Session was concluded with verses from the Holy Quran.

ALGIERS DECLARATION

The Speakers of Parliaments and Heads and Members of Delegations of the Parliaments of the OIC Member States, assembled at the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), held in Algiers, Algeria, adopted the Algiers Declaration. Following are excerpts:

CALL the international community, in particular the United Nations Security Council, to fully take his responsibilities and undertake an urgent action to provide necessary protection for the Palestinian civilians, for their rights and fundamental freedoms as well as their holy sites in accordance with the international law and Charter of the United Nations;

URGE the Palestinian factions to respect the Algiers Declaration and scale up their efforts to face together the Zionist illegal policies and practices in particular its violations against the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and violence against unarmed worshippers;

SUPPORT the Palestinian demand to obtain full membership in the United Nations Organization to achieve a two-states solution according to rules and principles of the international law. In this regard, we underline, the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution requesting an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Israeli occupation;

REITERATE the call to enhancing international and regional cooperation, between States of PUIC Member Parliaments, in fighting terrorism by embracing a comprehensive strategy to combat this scourge effectively;

REAFFIRM the need to respect the specificities, cultural and civilizational

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**Support
Palestinian
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values of each society and reject all attempts to impose, under any cover or pretext, strange /external behaviors or practices;

HIGHLIGHT Algeria’s initiative leading to the adoption by the UN General-Assembly of resolution 72/130, proclaiming May 16 as «the International Day of Living Together in Peace»;

WELCOME the adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution introduced by Pakistan, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, designating 15 March as an “International Day to Combat Islamophobia” aiming to foster global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights, religions and beliefs;

Condemn in the strongest terms the programmed burning of the Holy Koran in Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, which is a heinous crime and a blatant attack on the holiest Muslim sacred values

and feelings in the name of freedom of expression. Condemning these barbaric practices, which are contrary to all human and moral values and principles, we call on the OIC to take the necessary measures to respond to these provocations and make recommendations in this regard;

EMPHASIZE the need to resolve without delay the refugees and migrants’ crisis which constitutes a threat to international peace and security by ensuring access to basic services in countries of origin as water and electricity;

CALL on the international community to act collectively to enhance international cooperation and accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals in all its social, economic and environmental dimensions, in order to adequately meet the needs of developing countries in particular those affected by food crisis, climate change, loss of biodiversity, desertification, as well as other forms of environmental degradation;

REITERATE our support to any international initiative aiming to combat all forms of environmental degradation such as climate change, desertification, loss of biodiversity and major threats;

DECIDE to establish a « Committee of Friends of the Union President » composed of the Troika and three Members, one Member from each geographical Group (African, Asian and Arab Groups), and the Secretary General, aiming essentially at achieving harmony and preserving the Islamic Ummah interests;

Adopt a strategy of cooperation between Member States in the field of digital and cyber security to ensure the intellectual security of Islamic States,

Create, in Algiers, a study Centre for the immunity of Islamic thought to protect the Islamic intellectual heritage from any penetration targeting its foundations;

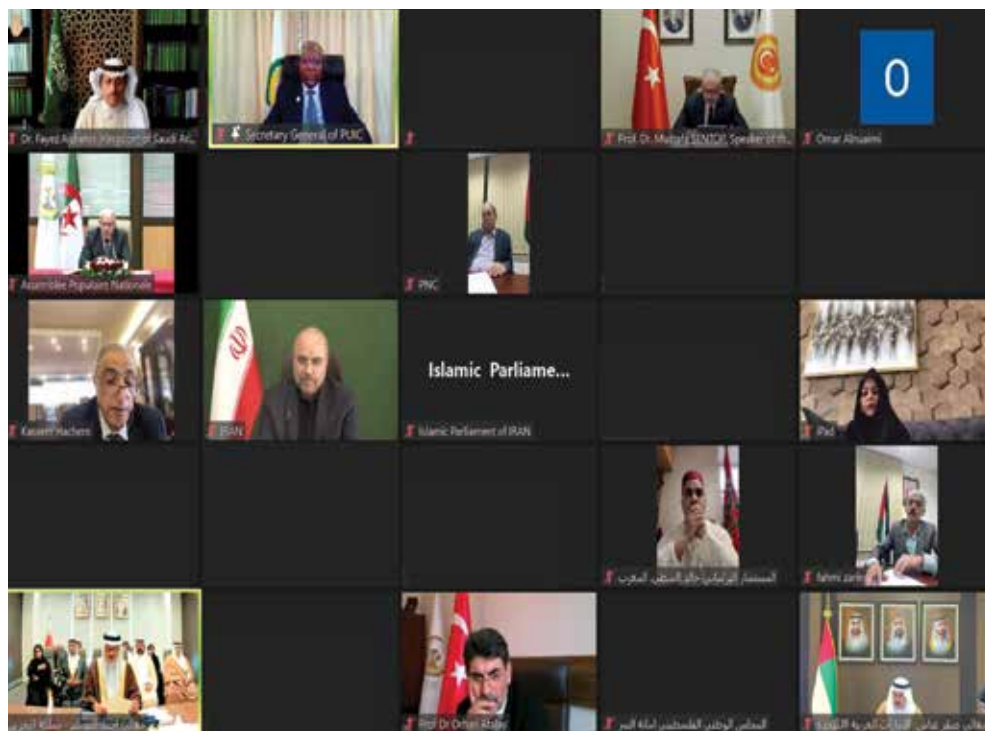
PROCEED to create a start-up incubator to promote innovative projects for the benefit of young people.



In the First Virtual Emergency Meeting of the PUIC Presidential Troika and the Palestine Committee:

Troika and Palestine Committee Discuss Aggressions on Al Aqsa Mosque

In view of the emergency situation prevailing in Palestine, specially the recent blatant aggressions launched by the occupying Zionist entity on Al Aqsa Mosque, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, Speaker of the National People’s Assembly of Algeria, President of the 17th PUIC Conference, called on the PUIC Presidential Troika and the esteemed Members of the Standing Palestine Committee to hold a virtual Meeting of Committee on April 11, 2023, at 10: 00 am, Algerian local time. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, Speaker of the National People’s Assembly of Algeria with the participation of H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, the PUIC Secretary General.



Participation:

Their Excellencies the following Speakers of Parliaments participated in the Meeting:

- Rowhi Fattouh (State of Palestine)
- Mustafa Sentop (Republic of Türkiye)
- Ahmed bin Salman Al - M u s a l l a m (Kingdom of Bahrain)
- Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Saqr Ghobash (United Arab Emirates)

Their Excellencies Representatives of the following PUIC Member Parliaments also participated in the Meeting: Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Iraq, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, Kingdom of Morocco, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, Speaker of the

National People’s Assembly of Algeria, opened the Meeting. He thanked all for attending and participating in the Meeting in order to consult as to how to deal with the blatant aggressions on the People of

Palestine. He invited the UN Human Rights Council to convene an urgent emergency Meeting and also for the International Criminal Court to seek a just settlement and to punish the perpetrators of these crimes.

Speeches of

Participants:

The Speeches of their Excellencies the attendees addressed several aspects of the Palestinian Cause, being the central cause of the Islamic Ummah, where all of them affirmed the necessity of standing up to stop these practices and violations to which the unarmed Palestinians people are exposed during the month of

Ramadan and to address an expression of salutation and appreciation to the Palestinian stationed in Al Aqsa Mosque. The Speakers also stressed the necessity of protecting the worshipers and ensuring religious freedom. They also confirmed the importance of the role which may be assumed by Parliamentarians in various fields of action to halt such violations in the shadow of the disregards of the international community and the policy of double standards.

The important pivots addressed by the Speakers may be summarized as follows:

H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, Speaker of the National People’s Assembly of the People Democratic Republic of Algeria, President of the 17th PUIC Conference, and Chairman of the Meeting:

Demanding an urgent action by the International Criminal Court to consider the Israeli violations and crimes which aim at liquidating the ethnicity of the Palestinians and to issue a collective

“ Role of Parliamentarians in Stopping Zionist Violations ”

punishment against the Zionists.

H.E. PUIC Secretary General:

Necessity for the Meeting to address a strong message, in the name of the peoples of Islamic Oumma, rejecting inflicting any harm on the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque. There will be no peace or stability in the world without resolving the Palestinian issue and the recovery by the Palestinian People of their legitimate rights and establishing their independent state with Al Quds as its capital.

H.E. Mr. Rowhi Fattouh, Speaker of the Palestine National Council, Vice Chairman of the Committee:

What is taking place in Al Quds is a religious war and an aggression on 2 billion Muslims during the month of Ramadan.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Mustapha Sentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye:

The Objective of Israel is to destroy the vision of the two-state solution through its unilateral steps.

Necessity also of compelling the international community to hold Israel accountable for the crimes which it has perpetrated, and its violations of the international law, and to ascertain that these moves go beyond condemnation.

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Salman Al – Musallam, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain:

It is important for the international community to call for the adoption of an international agreement incriminating all forms of religious, sectarian and racist hate speech.

H.E. Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

The Zionist entity is covering up its internal crisis through perpetrating its crimes against the Palestinians, as well as ethnic liquidation and the burning of holy sites.

Resistance is the only solution to the issue of confronting Zionist expansionism and totalitarianism.

H.E. Mr. Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates:

The recent Israeli violations have taken an escalatory trend that exceeds storming the blessed Al – Aqsa Mosque and preventing worshippers from exercising their rights to perform their prayers, to the extent where Israel has issued a number of grave laws and legislations, inter alia, the decision of the Israeli government to allow re-settling in the northern areas of the West Bank, which endangers peace efforts in the region.

H.E. Dr. Fadli Zon, Representative of the Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia in the Palestinian Committee:

Requesting the UN to take anticipative strides in order to preclude future repetition of Israeli violations and aggressions through deployment of a peace-keeping force at Al Aqsa Mosque during the month of Ramadan.

H.E. Mr. Khalid Al-Satti, Representative of the Parliament of the kingdom of Morocco in the Palestine Committee:

Pushing for and exercising pressure for the sake of creating genuine Islamic unity.

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**Pushing For
Establishing
Real Islamic
Unity**
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H.E. Dr. Faiz Al Shihri, Representative of the Consultative Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Proposing to constitute a task force to draw up a PUIC action plan, including inviting Islamic States which have relations with Israel to exercise pressure and diplomacy, as many of these states have announced that their relations with Israeli will enable them to serve the Palestine Cause in a better way.

H.E. Dr. Qassim Hashim, Representative of the Parliament of the Republic of Lebanon, in the Palestine Committee:

It is high time to take audacious decisions which amount to the level of the values of Al Quds. We must confront the Israeli occupation.

In the conclusion of the deliberations, the meeting adopted an exhaustive communique that has contained the views of the participating parliaments on facing the emergency situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.





Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire

H.E. Mr. Adama BICTOGO

Born on December 14, 1962, Mr. Adama Bictogo is a graduate of the Institute of Commerce and Management (ICOGES) in Paris. He held several senior positions in the private sector from 1990 and then created in 2007, the National Society for the Edition of Administrative and Identification Documents (SNEDAI) specializing in biometrics. The SNEDAI Group currently has more than 1,000 employees in 14 subsidiaries in Côte d'Ivoire and in the sub-region (Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea).

His commitment to the economic and social development of his country and his determination earned him the title of Commander in the National Order of Côte d'Ivoire in 2014 and the prize for best businessman and politician in 2016. This former Minister of African Integration from 2011 to 2012 has been Deputy of the municipality of Agboville since 2011.

He was appointed Deputy Secretary General for Trade from 1994 to 2003, then National Secretary for Relations with Political Parties from 2003 to 2014 within the General Secretariat of the Rassemblement Des Républicains (RDR).

He was elected First Vice-President of the National Assembly, then Acting President of the National Assembly from February 1 to May 7, 2022.

On June 7, 2022, with the support of the opposition, he was elected President of the National Assembly with a record score of 97%, or 237 votes in favor, against only six for his only competitor, from the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire, 'Ivory (PDCI)

He thus replaces the deceased President, Amadou Soumahoro. This gives him access to the presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF) until July 9, 2022, a mandate exercised by his predecessor.



National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire

The National Assembly is the lower house of the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire since the adoption of the Constitution of November 8, 2016 marking the advent of the Third Republic which saw the establishment of parliamentary bicameralism through the creation of a Senate. Previously, it was the sole chamber of Parliament during the First and Second Republics.

The National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire draws its heritage from the colonial period. It was established by the Ivorian Constitution of October 31, 1960 and composed on November 27, 1960, with a staff of seventy elected deputies.

The current National Assembly is made up of 255 deputies elected for five years by majority vote in one round, including 169 in single-member constituencies and 36 in constituencies of 2 to 6 seats.

Since June 7, 2022, following the death of Mr. Amadou Soumahoro, His Excellency Mr. Adama BICTOGO has been elected President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire with 237 votes to 6.

Organization And Fonction

The National Assembly comprises a bureau, standing committees and parliamentary groups.

The office of the National Assembly comprises a president, eleven vice-presidents, twelve secretaries and three quaestors. The President of the National Assembly is elected for the entire duration of the legislature while the other members of the office are renewed each year.

The standing committees are seven (7) in number, namely:

- The Commission for General and Institutional Affairs (CGIA)
- The Commission for Economic and Financial Affairs (CEFA)
- The Commission for Social and Cultural Affairs (CSCA)
- The External Relations Commission (ERC)
- The Commission for Security and Defense (CSD)
- The Commission for Research, Science, Technology and the Environment (CRSTE);
- The Commission for the Evaluation of Public Policies (CEPP).

The Deputies are divided into three parliamentary groups:

- RHDP: Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace, the party in power, 168 deputies;
- PDCI-RDA: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire, 65 deputies;
- PPA-CI: Party of African Peoples Côte d'Ivoire, 18 deputies;
- Non-registered: 04 deputies.

he National Assembly votes the law and consents to taxes, controls government action and evaluates public policies. Each year, the National Assembly meets as of right in a single ordinary session which opens on the first working day of the month of April and ends on the last working day of the month of December. The National Assembly may be convened in extraordinary session by its President on a determined agenda, either at the request of the President of the Republic, or at that of the absolute majority of the Deputies.



Senate of Cote d'Ivoire

Created by the Constitution of November 8, 2016, the Senate is a parliamentary institution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

It constitutes, with the National Assembly, the Ivorian Parliament, which has thus become bicameral. The seat of the Senate is located in Yamoussoukro, the political capital of Côte d'Ivoire.

The Senate, a parliamentary chamber, focuses on sustainable development, strengthening participatory democracy and peacebuilding.

The Senate, in common with the National Assembly, votes bills into laws, approves the tax, controls the action of the Government and evaluates public policies. In addition, the Senate ensures the representation of local authorities and Ivorians living outside Côte d'Ivoire.

In the exercise of its mission, the Ivorian **Senate is based on the following four (4) principles:**

The autonomy of parliamentary actions;
Compliance with national and international standards;

The participatory approach and results-based management;

Compliance with budgetary principles.

Senate Values: Six (6) values characterize the Senate:

Wisdom that inspires respect and promotes the consolidation of the nation-state;
Independence in the accomplishment of its missions;

Openness to diversity that ensures social peace and stability;

Probity as an essential foundation of the rule of law;

Social inclusion, which facilitates ownership of public decisions;

Vigilant trust that places the citizen at the heart of public action.

Composition

Article 3 of the organic law on the status of parliamentarians sets the number of seats for Senators at ninety-nine (99).

Two-thirds of the Senators are elected by indirect universal suffrage by an electoral college composed of councilors from elected autonomous districts, regional and municipal councilors.

A third of Senators are appointed by the President of the Republic from among Ivorians recognized for their proven expertise and competence in the political, administrative, economic, scientific, cultural, sports, professional and social fields.

The Senate thus has 99 Senators, 66 of whom are elected and 33 appointed.

Two (2) parliamentary groups were formed during the first legislature: The RHDP Parliamentary group and The PDCI-RDA Parliamentary group

However, some senators do not belong to either of these two (2) parliamentary groups. They are non-attached senators.



**President of the Senate
H.E.M. Jeannot AHOUSSOU-
KOUADIO**

H.E. Mr. Jeannot AHOUSSOU-KOUADIO is since April 5, 2018, the very first President of the Senate of Côte d'Ivoire. Born March 6, 1951 in Raviart. He is a Senator for the Bélier constituency, married and father of six (06) children.

Diploma of Specialized Higher Studies (DESS) in Business Management in Rennes, France, in 1978. Since 1981, with his Certificate of Aptitude for the Profession of Lawyer (CAPA) obtained in November 1980, he practices at the Bar of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, as a lawyer.

Political Activities

- Appointed Economic and Social Counselor in 1999, he was elected Member of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire during the legislative elections of December 2000, representing the constituencies of Didiévi and Tié-n' diékro;

He was appointed successively:

- Minister of Industry and Promotion of the Private Sector from August 5, 2002 to December 2005;

- Minister of State for Justice and Human Rights on December 5, 2010;

- Prime Minister from March 13, 2012 to November 14, 2012;

- Minister of State at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of Political Dialogue on January 12, 2012;

- He was elected President of the Bélier Regional Council in October 2013;

- Elected President of the Senate on April 12, 2018, he holds this position to this day.

Global Reactions to Quran Burning



President of the PUIC: Burning the Quran Fuels Hatred

HE. Mr. Ibrahim Bogali, President of the National People's Assembly and President of the PUIC, issued a statement condemning and denouncing the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden, which he considered a criminal act that fuels feelings of hatred and extremism, undermines peace and security, and the principle of peaceful coexistence and freedom of religion and belief, at a time when it is needed to promote the spirit of tolerance. He stressed that this attack is nothing more than a racist act at a time when we are in dire need to promote the values of tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, and therefore we call for the immediate cessation of such despicable acts and to take the necessary measures to ensure that they are not repeated in the future.

Speaker of Iranian Parliament Condemning Swedish Government

Iranian Parliament Speaker, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf expressed his strong condemnation of the Swedish government for allowing and supporting the desecration of the Holy Quran, stating that the Muslims of the world will appropriately respond this disgusting insult within the framework of the holy laws of Islam.



Tuskish Speaker: Burning Quran is a Crime against Humanity

"I would like to express that we strongly condemn the burning of the Holy Quran. In Sweden, for a while, insults on Holy Qur'an and sacred values of Islam have been carried out overtly, under police surveillance and protection. Those who talk about respect for beliefs when they open their mouths, those who talk about the peaceful coexistence of different ideas, those who talk about the democratic values of Europe, how come they accede the attack on the sacred values of 2 billion people as legitimate? There is not an explanation for this and the high court arguing that it was 'part of freedom of thought'. Those who make this decision, those who turn a blind eye to this practice, and those who somehow prepare the ground for such anti-Islamic, anti-Muslim, anti-human fascist outbreaks are actually partners in crimes against humanity. It can never be described. As the state of Republic of Türkiye and our 85 million nation, as the spokesperson of nearly 2 billion Muslim nations, we express our strong condemnation of this situation".



Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament: Standing against Danger

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al Halbousi stressed that we deplore the deliberate insult to the Holy Quran, which takes place under the pretext of "freedom of expression. These repeated abuses violate the rights and beliefs of Muslims, and necessitate a position on the part of moderates and peace-loving people in the world to stand in the face of this danger that threatens peace and coexistence between societies, and contributes to spreading hate speech."



Secretary General: Burning Copy of Holy Quran, Heinous Crime

H.E. the PUIC Secretary General, Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, considered the burning of a copy of holy Quran, in Stockholm, Sweden, an outrageous crime as well as a provocative act for all Muslims. He stated that this crime, permitted by the Swedish authorities, and protected its perpetrators, is repeated for the second time, in Stockholm. This time, the crime which was committed during the days of the blessed Eidul Adha, and near the big mosque in the city, under the protection of the Swedish authorities, underlines the premeditated will to provoke the sentiments of Muslims.



Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly: Measures to Prevent Islamophobic Actions

Pakistan National Assembly Speaker, H.E. Mr. Raja Pervaiz Asharaf has strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, stating that this painful incident has deeply hurt the sentiments of billions of Muslims. Mr. Ashraf said every state must take measures for the prevention of such Islamophobic acts. He urged the international community to work for promoting inter-faith harmony and dialogue to create tolerance for each other's religious beliefs and values.



Islam and its Great Civilization



By: Dr. Ahmed Ali Abdullah Al-Amri
Deputy in State Council of the Sultanat of Oman

We are the best nation brought forth for mankind. This is the word of the Great Qur'an, the truest, greatest, and noblest of all constitutions, and it is a divine message from the Lord of Glory, may He be glorified and exalted, that does not change, does not mutate, and does not alter until God, inherits the earth and the creations, while positivist constitutions, which are man-made change from time to time as needed.

The divine will ordained that the origin of Islam be from Makkah Al-Mukarramah, the birthplace of the master of humanity, our Prophet Muhammad, may God's blessings and peace be upon him. Glory be to God, modern science comes to prove with conclusive evidence that Makkah is the center of the globe and its compass, and exactly in terms of north to south, as well as from east to west.

We, as Muslims, have a prolific civilization that the world witnesses up to the Day of Judgment. We have a great civilization that is immortal.

The comprehensive Islamic civilization is the one that constructs the serious and sound steps for this world and the hereafter, and we exported distinguished scholars to the world, such as Al-Khwarizmi, Jabir bin Hayyan, Ibn Khaldun, and many others, and the list goes on.

But, unfortunately, what happened after we released our most important science, our knowledge, and our scientists?

Here they are taking advantage of the opportunity and adding some ornamentation to it or what is called modern technology which is exported to us.

Then they have intervened in our lives, to a greater of lesser extent, and determined for us what we eat, what we drink, what we wear, how and what we think and care about. Rather, they went beyond that to beliefs because they found the path easy, smooth, and passable without any complication, resistance, aversion, or even objection or request for clarification, so they said that you must change Islamic education to Islamic culture and national education to sociology.

And they linked the description of terrorism to Islam in order to scare people from Islam or what is called Islamophobia. When a person anywhere in the world acts individually while he is a Muslim, they describe the act as terrorism, while we have seen that when a person is of any other religion, this description is denied.

Then they came to us with the need to renew the Islamic discourse, and this in itself is very dangerous.

Unfortunately, we were affected by them and we lived in their intoxication and misguidance, and when we cite something or set an example or cite an example, we forget our civilization and the comprehensive and adequate teachings of our religion and turn to them. When we talk about

the rights of women, we talk about the American Experience, we cite European orientation, as though it is the example and guidance. We forget that what has honored women and granted them their rights and made paradise under their feet is our true Islamic religion.

And so, such is the case, when we talk about children's rights, equality, and even personal freedom, social justice, rights and duties, all the way to human rights.

Finally, a strange and wondrous story appeared to us that contradicts all values and principles and contradicts all monotheistic religions and human norms. It is that they are thinking of imposing sanctions on every country that does not allow or believe in homosexuality, as is their position against Uganda.

And the peoples felt contentment and reassurance with this rational awakening and the true and realistic approach. The aspirations and wishes of these peoples have risen to wish to see the day when this Ummah will manufacture its food, medicines and weapons.

The summary and outcome: we must not listen to what the East calls for or what the West demands, but rather we must consider our interests according to our beliefs and civilization. Praise be to God, matters in our religion is moving towards the best .





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:

- ▶ 26 January 2023, reelection of H.E. Mr. Maulen Ashimbayev, as Chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
- ▶ 26 March 2023, election of H.E. Mr. Dileita Mohamed Dileita, as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Djibouti.
- ▶ 26 March 2023, election of H.E. Mr. Brahim Bouderbala, as Speaker of the Assembly of People's Representatives of the Republic of Tunisia
- ▶ 29 March 2023, reelection of H.E. Mr. Yerlan Koshanov, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- ▶ 18 April 2023, reelection of H.E. Mr. Gbèhounou Louis Vlavonou, as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Benin.
- ▶ 18 April 2023, election of H.E. Mrs. Gulmanova Dunyagozel Akmuhammedovna, as Speaker of the Assembly (Mejilis) of the Republic of Turkmenistan
- ▶ 24 May 2023, reelection of H.E. Marcel Niat Njifenji, as Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Cameroon
- ▶ 24 May 2023, reelection of H.E. Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, as Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- ▶ 7 June 2023, election of H.E. Prof. Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş, as the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Türkiye
- ▶ 20 June, 2023, election of H.E. Mr. Tajuddin Abbas, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- ▶ 20 June, 2023, election of H.E. Mr. Godswill Akpabio, as Speaker of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- ▶ 21 June, 2023, election of H.E. Mr. Wan Junaidi Tuang Jaafar, as Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Malaysia
- ▶ 21 June, 2023, election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bamba Meguett as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- ▶ 21 June 21, 2023 reelection of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun election as Speaker of the National Assembly in the State of Kuwait



Algeria

Algeria hosted, on February 26, 2023, the proceedings of the second meeting of the Call of the Sahel, at the International Conference Center in Algiers, under the title "Involvement of local communities in preventing violent extremism and addressing conditions leading to terrorism", in the presence of 70 actors, parliamentarians and international religious leaders. On the sidelines of this meeting, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, Speaker of the National People's Assembly of Algeria received Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Mr. Boughali mentioned that Algeria adopts an interactive and integrated policy to support all efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahel region through its continuous support for strengthening the national capabilities of the countries of the region, which is confirmed by the strategic direction, expressed by the President of the Republic, HE. Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, by allocating financial aid to support development in African countries



Kingdom of Bahrain

HE. The 146th IPU Assembly took place from 11 to 15 March 2023 in Manama, Bahrain. Hundreds of parliamentarians attended, of which 34% were women and 22% were young MPs (under 45 years old). It was the first IPU Assembly to include this number of MPs. Parliamentarians representing close to 140 countries adopted by consensus the Manama Declaration Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance and they also adopted a landmark resolution on Cybercrimes: The new risks to global security.



Bangladesh

HE. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Parliament inaugurated the Smart Leadership Academy at a workshop organized by the World Bank funded Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project of the Bangladesh Computer Council. Dr. Shirin Sharmin stated that with the emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, various sectors including agriculture, education, and health will operate more efficiently through the utilization of frontier technologies. "If we fail to cope up with these advancements, we will lag behind," she observed. She said that the key requirement for building Smart Bangladesh is to develop smart leadership with simultaneously ensuring digital literacy for the people.



Burkina Faso

HE. Dr. Ousmane Bougouma, President of the Transitional Legislative Assembly stressed that we have strong expectations in terms of support from Côte d'Ivoire in the struggle we are waging today, and are hopeful that Burkina Faso, with the support of sister countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, will regain peace, tranquility and will reconnect with development, he declared in the exchanges between the President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire and the Burkinabe parliamentary delegation which took place in Abidjan on April 4, 2023.



Cote d'Ivoire

The Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of the National Assembly adopted by a majority of the members present, on May 15, 2023, the orientation bill relating to youth. The bill addresses six strategic pivots, including improving the participation of young people in development activities, institutionalizing the participation of young people in political debates, implementing actions to improve the situation of young people through education, training and skills development. During the exchanges, the deputies suggested the

establishment of an aid plan for young people living in rural areas.



Gabon

The 3rd International Conference of Parliamentarians on the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa, was held in Libreville, Gabon, on February 27 - 28, 2023. Organized by the Network of Parliamentarians of Central Africa on the Management of Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa (REPAR-AC) under the theme: "Parliamentary action in the face of emerging environmental challenges in the sub-region". The Conference aimed to strengthen the contribution of Parliamentarians from Central Africa to the analysis and management of emerging environmental challenges in the sub-region. "This international meeting should be understood by all as "a big window of opportunity to strengthen dialogue between the private sector, through Corporate Social Responsibility, rural populations, parliamentarians, civil society and governments on issues such as the improvement of forest governance, but also of food and nutritional security", specified H.E. Mr. Faustin Boukoubi, the President of the National Assembly.



Gambia

The Speaker of the National Assembly of the Gambia, HE. Mr. Fabakary Tombong Jatta delivered a speech during the Africa Economic Summit 2023 on 26th April in Accra, Ghana. The Gambian Speaker pointed out that the challenges confronting the continent intensify concomitantly with the concentration on the effects of Covid-19 Pandemic, Ukraine War and the unfavorable global economic outlook forecast by IMF and the World Bank. "These coupled with the political instabilities, poverty and underdevelopment in Africa make it all the more necessary for duty bearers like ourselves to engage in forums of this nature to reflect, think outside the box, and proffer initiatives to position our continent in the vanguard of innovation, investment and development." To that end, he called for the formulation of a white paper on coordinated actions that require governments and institutions to commit to and implement for the improvement of the African Economy, strengthening the competitiveness of African companies, and addressing security challenges among others.



Indonesia

Speaker of the House of Representatives, HE. Mrs. Puan Maharani, has called for the active participation of youth in ASEAN, especially during Indonesia's chairmanship of the grouping this year. Maharani, who is also serving as President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) for 2022-2023, stated on the sidelines of the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, on 9 May 2023, that

the Youth Standing Committee under AIPA can advance the quality of the region's young generation in terms of skills related to digital technology and its utilization. "This committee will accommodate the active role of young people in ASEAN development with the aim to collect ideas, opinions, and aspirations from youths who are future leaders," she said.



Iran

"In Central Asia, Uzbekistan with its high population provides excellent opportunities for collaboration in various fields such as economics, transportation, and transit," stressed HE. Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's Parliament Speaker in a meeting with the Parliament Speaker of Uzbekistan Nurdinjon Ismoilov, who arrived in Tehran on 5 May, 2023.

It is worth mentioning that 18 cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding have been signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan, last year, and the acceleration of their implementation will greatly increase the level of relations.



Iraq

The Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union opened its 34th Conference in Baghdad on February 25-26, 2023. The Speaker of the Iraqi House of Representatives and the President of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, HE. Mr. Muhammad al-Halbousi, who opened the conference, said that this parliamentary summit constitutes an important step towards strengthening close relations between our brotherly countries, modernizing its tools and means, and transforming theoretical in its schedules and plans to practical in its field. He pointed out that the time has come for the Arab House to unify efforts, and discard side disputes, to stand up to the current challenges internationally and regionally by formulating a comprehensive and realistic strategy towards the long-standing problems. Mr. Al-Halbousi affirmed his rejection of the attacks of the Zionist occupation forces, and its disregard for all human values and principles against the Palestinian brothers.



Kazakhstan

In a meeting under the title: "Women's Dialogue of Central Asian countries, the Role of Women in the Development of Innovations and Technologies", held on 19 June 2023, in Astana, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, HE. Mr. Yerlan Koshanov, stressed that President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is convinced that the level of a country's development is measured by the position of women in society. We believe that today's meeting will contribute to the comprehensive expansion of women's participation in the social, economic and political life of the countries of

the region. In this regard, modern information and communication technologies create new opportunities for gender equality."



Kuwait

In its first regular session, June 20, 2023, the National Assembly of Kuwait recommended Member Parliament HE. Ahmed Abdel Aziz Al-Sadoun as Speaker of the National Assembly for the 17th legislative term, after the withdrawal of his rival, Deputy Dawood Marafi. Deputy Muhammad Al-Mutair won the position of deputy speaker of the Assembly by obtaining 32 votes, while his rival, Deputy Marzouq Al-Habaini, won 14 votes, out of 49 votes, 3 of which were invalidated.



Lebanon

Parliament Speaker H.E. Mr. Nabih Berri condemned the massacre carried out by the Israeli occupation forces at dawn on 10 May 2023 in the Gaza Strip, which led to the death of more than 14 martyrs, including women and children, and more than 20 wounded. His Excellency President Nabih Berri said: what happened in the Gaza Strip confirms beyond any doubt that the security and political levels in the Israeli entity represent an advanced model of organized state terrorism. The massacre was perpetrated at a moment when the Arab Region was moving toward a new formulation of the unity of the Arab position regarding the parameters of the nation, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people to return and establish an independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, but it expresses the dilemma in which the Israeli entity is floundering. The firearms and strength of the resistance fighters is the language that the Israeli enemy understands.



Kingdom of Morocco

The first global Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue was jointly held by the IPU and the Moroccan Parliament, in Marrakesh, Morocco on 13-15 June, 2023. The Conference brought together hundreds of parliamentarians from some 70 countries, including dozens of Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliament, for three days of debate and exchange of views with representatives of religions, beliefs, faith-based organizations, civil society and academia.

The Marrakesh Communiqué called on parliamentarians to ensure that "all religions, beliefs and faith-based organizations are treated equally and without discrimination under the law". It encouraged parliaments to be more inclusive of religions, beliefs and faith-based organizations when implementing national legislation and international commitments, and in promoting social cohesion.



Mozambique

On a three-day official visit to Russia, in response to the invitation by the President of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of Russia, H.E. Mrs. Esperança Laurinda Francisco Nhiuane Bias, the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique, arrived on 24 April 2023, to Moscow. In a meeting with her counterpart, Mrs. Bias expressed her interest in seeing a greater increase in economic and trade relations between Mozambican and Russian businessmen, especially in the areas of mineral resources with a focus on gas, oil and energy, as a way to boost cooperation between the two countries and peoples. The President of the Mozambican Parliament saluted Russia for the decision to increase the number of scholarships for Mozambicans, from 35 to 70, and requested that, in addition to being trained at a theoretical level, students could also benefit from a pre-professional internship in Russian companies, which according to the President will allow the consolidation of knowledge and the acquisition of practical experience to be applied in Mozambique.



Niger

From May 16 to 18, 2023, the 29th Africa Regional Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of Francophonie (APF) was held in Niamey. H.E. Mr. Seini Oumarou, the Speaker of the Nigerien Parliament specified in this Conference that: “the Sahelian countries are beset by hordes of criminals whose objective seems to be limited to the destabilization of States and all organized structures, and the Francophonie, as a whole should help countries to treat the problem from the root by attacking the objective causes which give rise to clandestine migration. He added that it is mainly poverty aggravated by conflicts of all kinds and, quite often, by the vagaries of the climate



Qatar

The Speaker of the Shura Council, HE. Mr. Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim criticized the silence of the major powers, and the international community’s complacency towards the repeated crimes committed by the Israeli occupation authorities and the settlers’ militias in the occupied Palestinian territories. In his speech before the opening session of the 34th conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) in Baghdad, His Excellency referred to the new massacre committed by the occupation forces, when they barbarically stormed Nablus using rockets and live bullets to leave dozens killed and injured.



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

H.E. Speaker of the Shura Council, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al Al-Sheikh, praised the positive and blessed results of the meeting of the 32nd regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level in Jeddah. His Excellency noted what was included in the “Jeddah Declaration” in terms of emphasizing the importance of strengthening joint Arab action based on foundations, values, common interests and a single destiny, and the need for unifying the word, solidarity and cooperation in maintaining security and stability, protecting the sovereignty of states and the cohesion of their institutions, preserving their achievements, and achieving further advancement of Arab action and benefiting from the human and natural resources that our region enjoys to deal with the challenges of the new era in a way that serves the goals and aspirations towards a promising future for peoples and future generations.



Senegal

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Amadou Mame Diop, Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of China, Zhao Leji, paid a 3-day official visit to Senegal on May 14, 2023. Thanking China for its support and its long-standing assistance to Senegal’s economic and social development, Mr. Diop noted that the latter is willing to strengthen its friendly exchanges with the Chinese National People’s Assembly and promote bilateral cooperation in such fields as economy, trade, culture, sport or science and technology as well as at the sub-national level. Accompanied by a delegation of a hundred people, Mr. Zhao Leji, said that China is willing to expand its practical cooperation with Senegal, develop synergy between the nine China-Africa cooperation programs and the Plan for an emerging Senegal, as well as deepen exchanges in the fields of culture, education and medical care and that China and Senegal should implement the outcomes of the forum and jointly build the Belt and Road.



Togo

In partnership with the United Nations System in Togo, and as part of the institutional devel-

opment of the National Assembly, a meeting was held on March 29, 2023, at the seat of the Assembly under the chairmanship of Yawa Djigbodi Tsègan, President of the National Assembly with a view to reviewing the partnership framework for the period 2023-2026. The meeting, which was attended by deputies and representatives of nearly 11 agencies of the United Nations system, aims mainly to strengthen the development of national representation, and consolidate priority actions through a series of coordinated actions. An overview of the strategic and institutional plan of the National Assembly articulated around 4 fundamental pivots was presented. It makes it possible to generate generally satisfactory results, in particular the improvement of the website and social networks, real communication relays, a collaborative work platform currently being created, training of deputies and staff on the gender-sensitive budget and to social inclusion, the acquisition of IT and videoconferencing equipment to enable Members to work better. It should be noted that the new cooperation framework for sustainable development between Togo and the United Nations System covers the period 2023-2026 for an amount of 247 million dollars or approximately 150 billion CFA.



Türkiye

Parliamentary elections were held in Türkiye on 14 May 2023, alongside presidential elections, to elect all 600 members of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. The incoming members formed the 28th Parliament of Türkiye. According to results of the election, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) gained 268 seats, and its closest allies Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and New Welfare Party (YRP) 50 and five seats, respectively. This pledges 323 seats for the People’s Alliance in the 600-seat parliament. The main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) secured 169 seats, while its partner in the Nation Alliance, the İYİ (Good) Party, secured 43 seats in the parliament. That makes the Nation Alliance to have 212 seats in the parliament. The Green Left Party (YSP) won 61 seats, while the Worker’s Party of Türkiye (TİP) had four. It is worth mentioning that H.E. Prof. Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş has been elected as the new Speaker of the new Grand National Assembly of Türkiye



His Excellency Mr. Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council, affirmed that the UAE is building on its record of innovation in the field of climate, and that it has benefited from its natural and technological advantages as an energy hub to create an ecosystem of climate solutions, as it has so far invested \$50 billion in renewable energy in more than 70 countries, and has pledged to invest more than \$50 billion in clean energy projects at home and abroad over the next decade. His Excellency indicated during his participation on May 26, 2023, as a

guest of honor in the tenth session of the Nevsky Environment Conference, which was held in St. Petersburg in the Russian Federation, that the UAE is the first country in the region to sign and ratify the Paris Climate Agreement, and is committed to reducing emissions at the level of the economy, and the first in the region to announce the climate neutrality initiative by 2050.” His Excellency stressed that the UAE views climate action as an opportunity, and has based its ambition on climate progress to move forward and diversify its economy, and create knowledge, skills and jobs for youth, while contributing to developing practical solutions to a global problem that affects us all.

Islamic Group at IPU Meeting: Approving Proposal on “Criminalizing vilification of Religions”

On the sidelines of the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in Manama, Bahrain, the PUIC Member Parliaments held the consultation Meeting of the Islamic Group on 11 March, 2023, under the chairmanship of H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal bin Nasir Al Ma’awali, Speaker of A’Shura Council of the Sultanate of Oman.

Their Excellencies the Speakers of the Following Member Parliaments participated in the meeting: UAE, Qatar, Yemen, Palestine as well as the Deputy Speaker of the Algerian National People’s Assembly representing H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, Speaker of the Assembly. A number of the representatives of PUIC Parliaments also participated in the meeting. All attendees welcomed this important Parliamentary forum in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and praised the good organization and warm reception.

The meeting focused on supporting the Qatari proposal in the context of the emergency item of the IPU agenda, titled:

“Criminalizing vilification of religions and violation of houses of worship and sanctities, and propagation of hatred among peoples, as well as the call for enhancing the values of co-existence, tolerance and international peace and security”.

H.E. the Speaker of the Qatari Advisory Council gave an exhaustive explanation of the proposal.

Then interventions were made by their Excellencies, the Speaker of the UAE Federal National Council, the Speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, and the Speaker of the Palestine National Council, in which they praised the proposal for advocating peaceful coexistence and respect of the other.

The Meeting also listened to interventions from some delegations who all called for approving the proposal and including it in the IPU agenda items. H.E. Mr. Munzir Bouden, Deputy Speaker of the Algerian National People’s Assembly, conveyed to the meeting greetings of Mr. Ibrahim Boughali, President of the 17th PUIC Conference. He affirmed support of the Algerian Parliament for all initiatives of the Islamic Group and its resolutions. He called for adopting a unified stand on supporting the

proposal on the emergency item presented by the Qatari Advisory Council, considering it a compromise issue that brings together human values and peaceful coexistence and respect of the other.





Secretary General Calls Upon Ummah to Protect Sanctities of Al Quds

H.E. PUIC Secretary General expressed his strong condemnation of the aggression launched by the extremist government of the Zionist entity on Al Aqsa Mosque, the most recent of which has been the storming of the precincts of the Mosque by the Zionist Security Minister, and the meeting of the Prime Minister with members of his cabinet in a tunnel underneath Al- Aburaq Wall. All these practices are considered aggressions and provocations of the sentiments of Muslims, in East and West of the Globe, and failed attempts to fake the identity of occupied Al Quds which shall remain, with Al Aqsa Mosque in its heart, the eternal Capital of the Palestinian State and a holy city for all Muslims.

Participation of the Secretary-General in the Conference on Interfaith Dialogue



His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Khouraihi Niass, Secretary General of the PUIC participated the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue under the motto: Working Together for Our Common Future, which was held in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, 13-15 June 2023. The conference was organized by the Inter - Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco in cooperation with Religions for Peace and with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Muhammadiyah Association of Religious Scholars.

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Secretary General Participates in the 17th Assembly of PAM

HE. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi Niass, PUIC Secretary General participated in the 17th Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), which was held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on March 1 and 2, 2023, which hosted by the House of Councilors. It brought together more than 180 delegates from 25 member states and observers to the Parliament of the Mediterranean as well as from regional parliamentary assemblies, international organizations, economic institutions and academia. During the meeting, delegates reviewed geopolitical and security developments and threats arising from terrorist and criminal activities.



Secretary General Participates in the OIC Council of FM



HE. the PUIC Secretary General, Mr. Mouhamed Khouraihi Niass, participated in the proceedings of the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of

Islamic Cooperation in the city of Nouakchott, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on March 16-17, 2023. His Excellency stressed in his speech that the Palestinian cause is the central cause of the Islamic Ummah, and the OIC and the PUIC were not established, except for the Palestinian issue to be a priority for them. It is the duty of Islamic countries to support the Palestinian people in their resistance to the occupation and their steadfastness in the face of the injustice they are exposed to.