



Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States Issue No.32 | Spring 2025

Parliamentary Diplomacy, A Gateway to Cooperation



This issue of "PUIC" bulletin, commemorating the silver jubilee of the PUIC, features H.E. Mrs Puan Maharani, Speaker of DPR-RI, highlighting the pivotal role of parliamentary work in enhancing international relations and advancing parliamentary diplomacy. H.E. reviews the achievements of PUIC over the past 25 years, emphasising that parliamentary diplomacy is a key pillar of dialogue and cooperation between nations. H.E. also addresses key issues such as the Palestinian Cause and climate challenges.

Read the full interview on page 2

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Jakarta Hosts 19th PUIC Conference

The 19th Conference of the PUIC will be hosted by the Parliament of Indonesia in Jakarta on 14-15 May 2025. This meeting follows the 52nd Executive Committee Meeting, held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10-11 September 2024, during which the draft agendas for the Conference, the General Committee, the four standing committees, and the subsidiary organs, namely the Palestine Committee, the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians and the Meeting of the Secretaries General of PUIC Member Parliaments, were developed.

Editorial

By | Mouhamed
Khouriachi Niass,
Secretary General



This issue of the bulletin is published on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the PUIC, which was established following the 8th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, which decided to create an Islamic parliamentary organisation. This was materialised through the founding conference that established the PUIC on 17 June 1999 in Iran, Tehran, which also became the headquarters of the PUIC.

The journey of the PUIC has been full of hard work for the benefit of the Islamic Ummah, member parliaments spared no effort to achieve the objectives for which the PUIC was established, which were, first and foremost: Introducing and promoting the nobility of Islamic teachings and shedding light on the various virtues of Islamic civilisation and the scope of its universality and humanity.

Looking at the reports of the 20 conferences held by the PUIC so far, it is clear that our parliaments are committed to promoting the virtues of Islamic civilization, implementing the principle of Islamic Shura, as well as coordination, cooperation and dialogue between parliaments to address all issues of the Ummah, and continuously exchange experiences in a climate of understanding and convergence.

In coordination between the host parliament and the General Secretariat of the PUIC, a theme was selected for the conference that is linked to the PUIC silver jubilee, which emphasises good governance and strengthening institutions to enhance the resilience of PUIC members. I emphasise here, that parliamentary oversight remains the most important means of sound governance in our countries, which calls for greater attention to it. Moreover, the Palestinian cause remains the most important cause of our Ummah, particularly at times when the Zionist enemy is committing genocide against the Palestinian people and seeking to displace those who remained to other countries in a desperate attempt to liquidate this cause, a challenge met by a struggling people and a nation defending its holy places and a just cause. I congratulate all Speakers for the achievements attained during the past 25 years, wishing further progress and success.



H.E. Speaker of the Indonesian
Parliament to the PUIC:

Parliamentary diplomacy **Promotes** **Stability** and **Development**

Her Excellency Mrs Puan Maharani, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, in her interview with PUIC Bulletin, covered a number of key issues, including parliamentary diplomacy, the Palestinian cause, climate challenges, and other pivotal subjects. The following is the full text of the interview:

► **On the occasion of the PUIC Silver Jubilee, we would like to know your opinion on the achievements of the PUIC, and what are the prospects for the future of the PUIC?**

■ On this momentous occasion of the PUIC Silver Jubilee, we reflect with deep appreciation on how far our Union has come. Since its founding in 1999, the PUIC has become a strong and united voice for over 1.8 billion Muslims, building lasting bridges between 54 member parliaments and 25 observers across continents. It has championed justice—especially for

the Palestinian people—promoted Islamic values, empowered women parliamentarians, and institutionalized meaningful cooperation through dialogue and shared action. These achievements remind us of the PUIC's vital role as a platform for solidarity, representation, and parliamentary diplomacy in a rapidly changing world.

Today, as we gather in Jakarta to mark this 25-year milestone, the theme "Sound Governance and Strong Institutions as Pillars of Resilience" speaks directly to our collective journey. It is not military power or natural resources that determine a nation's strength, but the integrity of its governance and the trust built through capable, transparent institutions. The PUIC has shown that through shared knowledge, parliamentary capacity-building, and mutual respect, we can strengthen these pillars across the Islamic world and empower

our people through self-reliance and good governance.

Looking ahead, the future of the PUIC must be shaped by unity, adaptability, and a deep commitment to justice. We must continue to raise our collective voice for peace, uphold the rule of law, and strengthen inter-parliamentary partnerships—including across the Global South. Indonesia is proud to host this historic session and remains fully committed to the PUIC's mission. May this Silver Jubilee not only celebrate our past achievements but also renew our resolve to build a more resilient, inclusive, and united Islamic world—through the strength of our parliaments and the solidarity of our people.

► **Q: Indonesia, is one of the founding members of the PUIC as well as an active member in the OIC; as speaker of Indonesian House of Representatives, what do you think about the effectiveness of parliamentary**

diplomacy on strengthening relations between Islamic countries?

■ A: I would like to say that parliamentary diplomacy is pivotal in fostering stronger relations among Islamic countries. As one of the founding members of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) and an active participant in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Indonesia recognizes the profound impact of parliamentary diplomacy. Parliamentary diplomacy—as second track diplomacy—serves as a bridge, connecting nations through dialogue, collaboration, and mutual respect. It enhances communication, allowing us to address common challenges and seize opportunities for collective growth. By working together on legislative matters, we can harmonize our laws and policies, promoting stability and development in the respective OIC member states.

Moreover, parliamentary diplomacy facilitates cultural exchange, building trust and understanding among OIC member nations. Through these exchanges we can reduce misunderstandings and foster a sense of unity. In times of conflict, parliamentary diplomacy provides a platform for negotiation and resolution, helping to mitigate regional tensions and promote peace.

In conclusion, parliamentary diplomacy is a powerful tool for strengthening relations between Islamic countries. It is our duty to **continue leveraging this tool to build a future of peace, stability, and cooperation between Islamic countries.**

► Q: What measures can Islamic parliaments take in order to prevent further aggression against Israeli occupied lands in Palestine?

■ A: To address the issue of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and avoid further aggression, Islamic parliaments and organizations can take an active and strategic role by implementing a variety of

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diplomatic, political, economic, and social actions. Through PUIC, Islamic parliaments can collaborate to advocate for stronger resolutions at international organizations such as the IPU or United Nations, pushing member states to hold Israel accountable for violations of international law, especially UN resolutions on Palestine. We may advocate for Palestine's recognition as a sovereign state in the international community, encouraging countries to support Palestinian self-determination. Additionally, We can also issue strong and unified condemnations of Israeli actions, such as settlement development and military incursions, as well as help to keep worldwide focus on the subject. Further, we can also facilitate dialogue between Palestinian factions (e.g., Fatah and Hamas) to achieve greater unity in their political and diplomatic efforts. We can provide assistance to Palestinian political institutions to enhance their governance.

Islamic Parliaments can leverage media and global platforms to raise awareness about the situation in Palestine, countering the narratives that justify the occupation and promoting Palestinian rights. But the key is that we must speak in a unified voice. Islamic parliaments can also use their power inside the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to exert serious pressure for change. By urging OIC member states to rebalance their diplomatic and economic relations with Israel in exchange for demonstrable progress toward Palestinian independence, they can offer practical incentives for policy changes. In parallel, Islamic parliaments must work diligently to influence major global powers, particularly the United States and European Union, whose support has often enabled Israel's policies in Palestinian territories. By engaging directly with legislative bodies in these regions and fostering parliamentary diplomacy, Islamic lawmakers can build bridges of understanding that may eventually



lead to more balanced policies.

► **Q: Environmental crises are becoming a major challenge in Islamic countries. Which effective measures can Islamic Parliaments take for tackling these serious challenges?**

■ A: Indeed, environmental crises are major challenges in Islamic countries. The challenges, coupled with climate change's negative impact, have exacerbated the environmental risks further. OIC also estimates that over half of the OIC member countries are highly vulnerable to climate change due to inadequate mitigation and adaptive capacities. It will further impact our food system and other livelihood aspects if we cannot address these situations.

As parliament, we need to create more robust legislation that provides measures to preserve, conserve, and protect our environment and allocate more public spending in those sectors, ultimately addressing the negative impact of climate change. But we understand that this is not easy as many countries are grappling with ways to increase revenue so that we can deliver more public service to our citizens.

There is no one-size-fits-all in terms of what kind of measures are required. But I would strongly encourage us, as parliament, to focus on our roles as the legislative body, especially when it comes to adopting legislation—where we can prioritize any environment or climate sound legislation or allocate budgets to enhance the

government interventions to the said issues. Let us also not forget to provide a proper check and balance of what the executive has done so that we can evaluate what proper response is required. In terms of us, as the community of Islamic Parliaments, we can strengthen our dialogue as a way to share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices on the matters said. PUIC also has a role, for example, in providing bank data on best practices or relevant legislations from the OIC Member Countries' Parliaments. We cannot rely upon the old ways of the organization only by calling out to address or highlight the urgency of the issues. The PUIC Secretariat is the backbone of this immense work. PUIC Secretariat can develop more contributions on environmental issues through research, a legislation database on relevant matters, or cooperation in capacity building. Let us work our ways more than business as usual to protect the future of our environment and livelihood.

► **Q: The esteemed House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia will host the 19th session of the PUIC Conference; it is the second time your parliament is hosting the PUIC Conference. How do you evaluate the role of PUIC in bringing Islamic Parliaments closer together?**

■ A: PUIC plays a significant role in bringing Islamic parliaments closer together. Through communication, cooperation, and shared concerns, PUIC has established itself as an

important partner in strengthening member states' unity, solidarity, and collective action. It contributes to the political, social, and economic cohesiveness of OIC member states while increasing their worldwide presence and impact.

PUIC also assists member parliaments in advocating for their interests on a worldwide scale, particularly in situations affecting the Muslim world directly, such as Palestine. Further, PUIC strengthens Islamic parliaments' voice and influence in global decision-making processes. However, in order to continue to adapt to the development of global issues and make significant contributions to the numerous challenges faced by the OIC members, PUIC must constantly reform and upgrade its organizational governance to be more modern, accountable and effective. For instance, it is important to consider discussing new draft resolutions which are more current and in accordance with the context of the challenges faced by OIC countries today. Another example is the maximum use of technology to support information dissemination from the secretariat to member parliaments.

► **Q: Indonesia is one of the most successful Islamic countries in terms of economic growth. What is the role of Islamic Parliaments in strengthening cooperation and relations and how can they help governments in this field?**

■ A: Indonesia stands as a

remarkable example of an Islamic country that has successfully achieved sustainable economic growth while upholding democratic governance. As the largest Muslim-majority democracy, Indonesia's development trajectory demonstrates the vital role of inclusive policymaking, strategic economic planning, and international collaboration. Within this framework, Islamic parliaments, such as the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), play a critical role in fostering economic cooperation and strengthening relations among member states. Islamic parliaments serve as key platforms for intergovernmental economic dialogue and cooperation. Through parliamentary diplomacy, they can facilitate trade agreements, investment partnerships, and knowledge-sharing initiatives that benefit all member states. By fostering legislative alignment, these parliaments help create a more conducive environment for trade, reducing regulatory barriers and enhancing economic integration. For example, Indonesia has actively promoted trade with fellow OIC countries through preferential trade agreements, reducing tariffs and expanding market access. The Islamic parliament can further support these efforts by advocating for harmonized regulations, fair trade practices, and stronger economic ties through parliamentary resolutions and joint initiatives. In the meantime, Islamic finance and the halal industry represent two key sectors where Islamic parliaments can play a transformative role. With Indonesia being a global leader in Islamic finance, its parliamentary body has the capacity to champion policies that promote ethical and Shariah-compliant financial systems across the Islamic world. By collaborating with other Islamic parliaments, Indonesia can drive the development of robust financial instruments, such as sukuk (Islamic bonds), which can

■ Through joint legislative efforts, parliaments can boost green investments and technology transfer for shared benefits, while adhering to Islamic ethical values.

■ Call to action: Supporting Islamic Finance, Halal Industry, and Digital Economy

be leveraged for infrastructure development and sustainable investment. Similarly, the halal industry has immense potential for economic growth among OIC countries. Islamic parliaments can push for greater standardization, mutual recognition of halal certification, and enhanced trade facilitation mechanisms, ensuring that products and services from member states meet international standards and gain broader market access. Not to forget, with the rapid digital transformation of economies worldwide, Islamic parliaments must work together to ensure that member states are not left behind in the global shift towards a digital economy. Legislators can support initiatives that promote digital literacy, e-commerce, and financial technology (FinTech) solutions aligned with Islamic principles. Cooperation in this area can empower small and medium enterprises (SMEs), expand access to financial services, and drive innovation across industries. Additionally, Islamic parliaments have a responsibility to advocate for sustainable development policies, including climate resilience, food security, and energy cooperation. By engaging in joint legislative efforts, parliaments can push for green investments and technology transfer that benefit all member states while adhering to Islamic ethical values. The role of Islamic parliaments in strengthening economic cooperation and relations among member states is more crucial than ever. By promoting trade agreements, supporting Islamic finance and the halal industry, embracing the digital economy, and ensuring policy harmonization, these legislative bodies can significantly contribute to sustainable economic growth. As Indonesia continues to thrive economically, its parliamentary leadership within PUIC and other forums remains instrumental in shaping the future of Islamic economic collaboration and development.



Background of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia

Her Excellency Mrs. Puan Maharani is a distinguished political leader and a prominent figure in Indonesia's political landscape. On October 1 2024, Puan Maharani was elected as the Speaker the House of Representatives of The Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI) for the second time for the period of 2024 – 2029. Previously, she served the Speaker of the House from 2019 until 2024. She became the first Indonesian woman ever to hold the position of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. Prior to becoming Speaker of the House of Representatives, Puan Maharani was the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Indonesian Culture, serving

under President Joko Widodo's Working Cabinet for the period of 2014- 2019.

Through this designation, Puan Maharani became the first woman ever to hold the office of Coordinating Minister. The Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Indonesian Culture oversees Ministry of Religious Affairs; Ministry of Education and Culture; Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Social Affairs; Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantage Regions, and Transmigration; Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, and; Ministry of Youth and Sports. In 2020, she received an award of honor of

Bintang Mahaputera Adiprana from President Joko Widodo for her service as Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Cultural Affairs. Puan Maharani was awarded Doctor Honoris Causa (Dr. H.C.) on Cultural and Policies in Human Development by Diponegoro University, Semarang in February 2020 for her services in socio-cultural sector, humanitarian development policies and human welfare in Indonesia. In October 2022, Puan Maharani also received Honorary Ph.D in Political Science from Pukyong National University Busan, Korea for providing future development direction for Indonesia, and encouraging Indonesian women to participate in the global trend of gender equality.



Introduction to the :

House of Representatives of Indonesia

The history of the Indonesian Parliament begins during the Dutch East Indies era with the Volksraad (People Council), which operated from 1918 until 1942 when Japan invaded Indonesia. All members of the Volksraad were appointed by the Dutch East Indies Government. Following the Proclamation of Independence on August 17, 1945, the Transitional Provisions of the 1945 Constitution stipulated that: From now on, functions of the Indonesian Parliament according to the 1945 Constitution were temporarily exercised by the Central National Committee (KNP) or Central Indonesian National Committee (KNIP). The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI) assumed its present form after the first general election held under the New Order regime in 1971. Since 1999 Indonesia has had a multi-party system. In the two legislative elections since the fall of the New Order regime, DPR RI is an elected legislative with proportional system and parliamentary threshold. The current term, inaugurated on 1 October 2024, consist of 580 members of parliament from 8

political groupings (parties) for the period of 5 years.

Structure:

The Indonesian House of Representatives currently comprises eight factions, which are groups of members formed based on the composition of political parties that secured seats in the elections. These factions operate independently and are established to ensure the optimal and effective execution of the House's duties, responsibilities, and legislative functions. The members of the House, who come from these eight factions, represent a wide spectrum of political perspectives, contributing to a dynamic and democratic legislative process. Members are elected from multiple electoral districts, reflecting the diverse and expansive population of Indonesia. To support its legislative processes, the House is structured into specialized bodies, allowing for in-depth discussions and efficient legislative work.

Roles:

The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) is responsible for drafting, deliberating, and enacting legislation that serves as the

foundation for national policies. As the legislative branch of government, the DPR plays a crucial role in shaping laws that address key areas such as governance, economic development, social welfare, and national security.

In addition to its lawmaking function, the DPR serves as a primary oversight body, ensuring executive accountability through regular plenary sessions, committee hearings, inquiries, and policy debates. This oversight mechanism allows the DPR to monitor government programs, budget allocations, and policy implementations, ensuring they align with national priorities and the best interests of the people. Furthermore, the DPR actively contributes to economic, social, and cultural development by guiding policies that promote sustainable growth, social equity, and cultural preservation. Through its legislative initiatives and oversight responsibilities, the DPR ensures that policy decisions are transparent, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of Indonesia's diverse population, supporting the nation's long-term development goals.

PUIC Silver Jubilee:

Firmly Rooted in the Spirit of Brotherhood and Solidarity in Islam

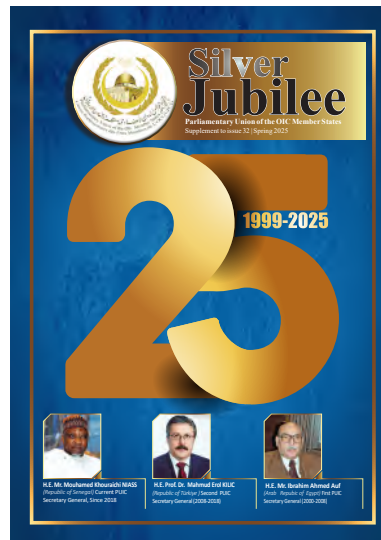
The 8th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Tehran, Iran, on 9-11 December 1997, decided to establish a Union bringing together all Parliaments of the OIC Member States to enable the legislative bodies to be represented, as is the case with the representation of the executive bodies in the OIC. The Founding Conference of the PUIC was held in Tehran on 15-17 June 1999 and resolved to have its headquarters in Tehran, Iran. Thus, 17 June 1999 became the anniversary of the establishment of the PUIC. This year, we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the PUIC, which currently comprises 54 member parliaments, 24 observer bodies and organisations, and consists of three groups: The Arab Group (21 parliaments), the Asian Group (15 parliaments), and the African Group (18 parliaments).

The PUIC has also organised 20 conferences, the most recent of which was in Abidjan in March 2024. The presidency of the PUIC was held by (15) parliaments: Iran (3 times), Türkiye (3 times), Morocco (2 times), whereas each of the following countries' parliaments has held the presidency one time: Senegal, Egypt, Uganda, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Sudan, Sudan, Iraq, Mali, Burkina Faso, Algeria, and Côte d'Ivoire.

The General Secretariat of the PUIC was chaired by (3) Secretaries General, they are:

■ H.E. Mr Ibrahim Auf of Egypt, elected from the Arab Group, whose term extended from May 2000 to 30 April 2008.

With this
issue comes
a supplement
featuring
photos and
graphs of major
PUIC meetings
since its
creation



■ H.E. Mr. Mahmud Erol Kilic from Türkiye, elected from the Asian Group, whose term of office extended from 1 May 2008 to 31 July 2018.

■ H.E. Mr Mouhammed Khourachi Niass from Senegal, elected from the African Group, whose term began on 1 August 2018 and was renewed twice by the PUIC Conference, with his mandate ending in August 2028.

Objectives:

The PUIC aims to achieve the following objectives:

■ Raise awareness of the nobility of Islamic teachings and work to promote them.

■ Promote and support the application of the Islamic principle of 'Shura' (Consultation) in all OIC Member States, taking into account the constitution and circumstances of each Member State.

■ Provide a framework for achieving comprehensive cooperation among the parliaments of the OIC Member States in international fora and organisations.

■ Promote meetings and dialogue among the parliaments of OIC Member States and among their respective deputies, exchange parliamentary experiences, discuss economic, cultural, social and political issues of concern, address the serious challenges facing them, counter the attempts to impose cultural, political and economic influence on them, and adopt appropriate recommendations and resolutions on such issues.

■ Strengthen communication, cooperation and coordination with

other parliamentary, governmental and non-governmental organisations in order to achieve common goals.

■ Affirm that nothing in the Statute authorises the PUIC and its organs to intervene in affairs that are within the internal jurisdiction of a State and all matters related to those affairs in accordance with the Charter of the OIC and the Charter of the UN.

PUIC Organs:

1- The Conference:

The Conference is the highest organ of the PUIC, which convenes once a year, and can meet in emergency sessions at the request of one of the members, upon the support of the majority of the members. It is also the organ that adopts the final resolutions after the PUIC's bodies examine them. In addition, the PUIC's legal character is represented by the President of the Conference and their respective representative.

2- Presidential Troika:

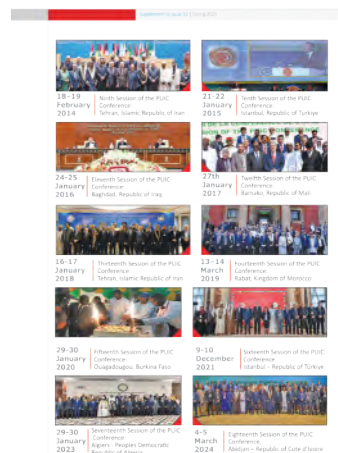
The Presidential Troika consists of the current President of the Conference as well as the former and incoming Presidents. This troika can make proposals to the Conference on what it deems conducive to achieving the objectives of the PUIC, and it can also carry out communications with international bodies to illustrate the stances of the PUIC.

3- General Committee:

It meets before the Conference to examine all matters referred to it by the PUIC's organs, and decides on financial affairs, especially studying and approving the draft annual budget of the PUIC, auditing the accounts of the previous financial year, and appointing external auditors to audit the PUIC's accounts.

4- Executive Committee:

It examines applications to join the PUIC from parliaments and observers, prepares draft agendas for all PUIC bodies, and performs other tasks assigned to it by the General Committee or the Conference.



5-Standing Committees:

Specialised

The PUIC has four specialised committees, namely The SSC on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations, the Committee on Minorities and Muslim Communities, which is subsidiary to the Political Affairs Committee, the Committee on Economic and Environmental Affairs, the Committee on Human Rights, Women and Family, and the Committee on Cultural and Legal Affairs and Dialogue of Civilisations and Religions. They prepare draft resolutions related to their respective competences, which are referred to the General Committee and then to the Conference.

6-Subsidiary Organs:

- Permanent Committee on Palestine.
 - Conference of Women Parliamentarians.
 - Association of Secretaries-General of Member Parliaments.
- The Conference established these three organs in view of the importance of each of them in terms of their respective specialisations, and each of them also has a list of procedures that defines its objectives and how it works.

7-General Secretariat:

The General Secretariat, whose HQ is located in Tehran, Iran, is headed by the Secretary General. It is in charge of maintaining communication between PUIC members and between the PUIC and other regional and international organisations. It prepares all resolutions, reports, and recommendations examined by the Conference, takes measures to ensure the implementation of the resolutions, and handles the financial and administrative affairs of the PUIC.

The G.S also runs the PUIC's website, prepares the biannual bulletin, and maintains the archives of the conferences and meetings held since the establishment of the PUIC.



Article by:

Traoré Maimouna Toure
President of the PUIC
National Group – National
Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire

The Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) commemorates its silver jubilee this year, honouring 25 years of commitment to inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation in the Islamic world. The PUIC was founded in 1999 under the aegis of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and has always stood out as an essential parliamentary organisation

PUIC Silver Jubilee: 25 years of Islamic Parliamentary Cooperation

for strengthening solidarity among its members and promoting joint initiatives to meet global challenges. Over the years, the organisation has led countless initiatives to promote the values of peace, justice and sustainable development, by facilitating the exchange of legislative experiences and promoting parliamentary diplomacy as an essential tool for tackling shared challenges. Today, on the occasion of this anniversary, the Member States reaffirm their commitment to continuing this mission of ever-stronger cooperation. This jubilee is therefore an opportunity to review the progress that has been made and to outline the prospects for a future marked by greater solidarity between the parliaments of the Islamic world.

PUIC Executive Committee Members Examine in the 52nd Meeting:

Critical Challenges in Islamic World

The Executive Committee of the PUIC held its 52nd meeting on 10 September 2024, at the headquarters of the Moroccan Parliament in Rabat. The Rabat Declaration was adopted, which was as follows:



Rabat Declaration

The members of the Executive Committee, recalling all the previous decisions made by the Committee, and the stand taken by the PUIC with regard to the various issues facing the Islamic world, as has been endorsed during ordinary and extraordinary sessions;

1) Draw attention to the critical stage and circumstances that the Islamic Ummah and its central cause, to wit, the Palestinian cause, are going through, and sense the magnitude of the responsibility assumed by Islamic parliaments and Islamic action organizations, as seen in the mobilization of such support as would end the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Lebanese territories;

2) Strongly condemn the killings perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as well as in the West Bank. They likewise strongly condemn the practices of extremist settlers who tamper with the properties of Palestinian citizens in the West Bank, burning and destroying homes and uprooting dwellers, in desperate attempts to displace

the Palestinian people.

Call on the international community to act in order to stop the aggression immediately, lift the siege on the Palestinian territories, enable the people of Gaza to have ready access to food and medicine, and provide international protection for the Palestinian people.

3) Call on multilateral parliamentary organizations and national parliaments in various countries across the world to work together to compel the Israeli occupation to stop its aggression against the Palestinian people, and to immediately initiate a prisoner-exchange operation between the two parties, bearing in mind that the freedom of Palestinian prisoners, including those who have spent decades in occupation prisons, notably parliamentarians, should be set high on the agenda of negotiations for the sake of a just settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Call on international organizations to pressure the occupation authorities and get them to stop the torture inflicted on Palestinian detainees and prisoners.

4) Believe that the cessation of

the Israeli aggression should pave the way for a final and just settlement of the Palestinian issue, enabling the Palestinian people to establish their independent state.

5) Warn against any breach of the status-quo in Al-Quds As-Sharif, recalling the status of the sacred sites in the eyes of the Islamic Ummah.

6) Condemn the terrorist acts targeting some countries in the Sahel and reiterate their support for these countries in their fight against terrorism. Call for the provision of all necessary support needed by these countries in order to eradicate terrorist and separatist groups which target peaceable populations and legitimate institutions;

7) Draw attention to the situation of a number of Muslim minorities and communities and to the multiple forms of stigmatization to which they are subjected. Renew their call for the necessity of respecting the beliefs of these minorities, as well as their religious and cultural rights and values.

8) Reiterate their exhortation to intensify economic cooperation among Member States, to capitalize on the potentials and resources of Islamic nations in order to transmute them into wealth, to invest in education, and to acquire technologies, particularly those of an environmentally sustainable nature. Encourage investment in human resources and the adoption of legislation conducive to women's participation in the management of public affairs and their presence in executive and representative decision-making positions.

PUIC Parliament Speakers Update

The past few months marked the election and re-election of some Speakers of Member Parliaments. The following is an update of Parliamentary leadership situation:

- ▶ **28 July, 2024**, Election of H.E. Mrs. Elisa Spiropali, as Speaker of the Parliament (Kuvendi) of the Republic of Albania,
- ▶ **2 Sep. 2024**, Re-election of H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, as Speaker of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
- ▶ **23 Sep. 2024**, Re-election of H.E. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, as Speaker of the National Assembly (Milli Mejlis) of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
- ▶ **01 Oct 2024**, Re-election of H. E. Mrs. Puan Maharani, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia,
- ▶ **12 Oct 2024**, Election of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ould Errachid, as Speaker of the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco,
- ▶ **31 October, 2024**, Election of H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Al-Mashhadani, as Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq,
- ▶ **2 December 2024**, Election of H.E. Mr. Malick Ndiaye, as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal,
- ▶ **13 January 2025**, Election of H.E. Mrs. Margarida Adamugy Talapa, as Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique,
- ▶ **04 Feb 2025**, Election of H.E. Mr. Ali Kolotou Tchaïmi, as Speaker of the National Assembly of Tchad,
- ▶ **18 March 2025**, Re-election of H.E Mr. Djibril Cavayé Yeguie, as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Cameroon,
- ▶ **18 March 2025**, Re-election of H.E. Mr. Marcel Niat Njifenji, as Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Cameroon
- ▶ **19 March 2025**, Election of H.E. Mr. Fayzali Idizoda, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Tajikistan
- ▶ **2 April, 2025**, Election of H.E. Mr. Barry Moussa Barqué as Chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Togo.
- ▶ **4 April, 2025**, Re-election of H.E. Mr. Abdou Moustadrouine as President of the Parliament of the Comoros.
- ▶ **11 April, 2025**, Re-election of H.E Mr. Rustam Emomali as President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Tajikistan.



Parliamentary News



Algeria

On 23 January 2025, the two houses of the Algerian Parliament, the Council of the Nation, chaired by H.E. Mr Salah Goudjil, and the People's National Assembly, chaired by H.E. Mr Brahim Boughali, issued a statement condemning in the strongest terms the European Parliament's resolution, considering it a blatant form of interference in Algeria's internal affairs and an unacceptable attempt to undermine its sovereignty and image. The Parliament affirmed its categorical rejection of the utilisation of human rights issues as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of countries, stressing that Algeria is steadily moving forward in building a state of law and respecting freedoms in accordance with its constitution and national legislation.



Kingdom of Bahrain

H.E Mr. Jamal Mohamed Fakhro, First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council of Bahrain, emphasized during his participation in the 19th session of the Parliamentary Track of the UN Internet Governance Forum 2024, held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 16-18 December 2024, the importance of integrating modern international laws to protect societies from the misuse of technology. H.E. highlighted the need for international cooperation to harness technological advancement and ensure its use in the service of peoples. He also stressed the importance of issuing a universal declaration from the UN to protect societal values from digital transformations, calling on parliaments to develop legislative policies to face the rapid technological development.



Cote d'Ivoire

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Mr Adama Bictogo, participated in the UN Parliamentary Hearing organised by the IPU in collaboration with the UN in New York on 13 February 2025. In his speech, H.E. stressed the role of parliaments in ensuring transparency and effectiveness of development policies, outlining the initiatives of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, including aligning the budget with the 2030 Agenda, monitoring the fulfilment of government commitments, and assessing the impact of public policies. H.E. also called for sustainable financing for development and enhanced international cooperation.



Egypt

During his meeting with the delegation of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats group of the European Parliament on 16 February 2025, H.E the Speaker of the

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Egyptian Parliament, Mr Hanafy Gibaly, reaffirmed his country's categorical rejection of the forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza, stressing Egypt's commitment to a just political solution to the Palestinian cause. H.E. also highlighted the Egyptian initiative to reconstruct the Gaza Strip without the need to displace its population, in conjunction with efforts to maintain the ceasefire in coordination with regional and international partners, thus laying the groundwork for the restoration of the political settlement process and preserving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Meanwhile, the head of the European delegation also stressed her rejection of the forced displacement of Palestinians and the need to find a settlement that guarantees the establishment of a Palestinian state.

| **Gabon**

The Speaker of Gabon's National Transitional Council, H.E. Mr Jean-François Ndongou, presented on 8 October 2024, the final report on the new draft constitution to the President of the Transition, General Brice Oligui Nguema. The draft comes as a follow-up to the recommendations of the inclusive national dialogue, which included more than 800 proposals from the people and 801 amendments submitted by parliamentarians. The draft addresses key reforms including separation of powers, enhancing judicial autonomy, expanding fundamental rights and freedoms, and discussing conflict resolution mechanisms and the role of civil society.

| **Indonesia**

Her Excellency Mrs Puan Maharani, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, affirmed in a statement made on 10 December 2024, that the House is ready to comply with the government's decision to relocate the capital to Nusantara in East Kalimantan Province, scheduled for 2028. Her Excellency explained that all decisions related to the new capital are within the jurisdiction of the government, and the House is committed to implementing them. H.E. the Speaker expressed her support for the government's vision in this regard, emphasising the House's readiness to implement any decision in accordance with the national interest.

| **Malaysia**

The Chairman of the Palestine Caucus in the Malaysian House of Representatives, Mr Syed Ibrahim Syed

Noh, condemned the recent statements of the US President regarding the US taking control of Gaza and deporting its residents, describing these statements as irresponsible and a dangerous setback to the international system, as they undermine the principles of sovereignty, human rights and international law. He stressed the need to reject this proposal, which blatantly violates international humanitarian law and disregards human dignity, and called on all countries to uphold the principles of justice, equality and respect for the sovereignty of states, including the State of Palestine.

| **Iran**

During his participation in the 15th session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly held in Baku on 17-21 February 2025, H.E. Mr Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, condemned any plan aimed at forcibly displacing Palestinians, stressing the categorical rejection of such attempts which represent a blatant violation of the rights of the Palestinian people. H.E. criticised the US President's statements on Gaza, describing them as colonialist and reflecting US ambitions in Palestine. H.E. also considered this step as a project to further entrench the apartheid system and serve Israeli interests at the expense of legitimate Palestinian rights. The Iranian parliament speaker also stressed that the future of Palestine is determined by the Palestinian people only, calling on Asian countries and parliaments to take firm stances to support the Palestinian cause.

| **Lebanon**

H.E. the Speaker of the Lebanese National Assembly, Mr Nabih Berry, condemned in a statement on 11 February 2025, the call by the head of the Israeli occupation government to establish a Palestinian state on the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, describing the proposal as a blatant aggression against the Kingdom's sovereignty and an extension of Israel's expansionist policies that threaten the stability and unity of Arab countries. H.E. stressed that this proposal reveals the true intentions of the occupation to liquidate the Palestinian cause and deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right of return and the establishment of their independent state with Al-Quds as its capital. H.E. stressed that the Palestinian cause is not merely a "real estate" issue as the US President is trying to portray it, but rather an Arab national security issue whose repercussions extend to Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



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Kingdom of Morocco

On 19 February 2025, the Moroccan House of Representatives hosted the second edition of the Moroccan UN Model International Conference under the theme “Building Lasting Peace: Reconciliation, Transitional Justice, and Peace Promotion”, with the participation of 300 local and foreign students. In his opening speech, H.E. Mr Rachid Talbi El Alami, Speaker of the House of Representatives, stressed the importance of youth awareness of global issues, highlighting the challenges of artificial intelligence, climate change, and the rise of extremism, while the Conference Chair, Ms. Sophia Abahaj, highlighted the importance of dialogue and negotiation in achieving innovative solutions. The conference aimed to enhance participants’ skills in diplomacy and negotiation by simulating international organisations such as the UN and the League of Arab States.



Sultanate of Oman

During his speech at the opening of the 7th Conference of the Arab Parliament and Heads of Arab Councils and Parliaments, the Deputy Speaker of the Omani Shura Council, H.E. Sheikh Taher bin Mabkhout Al Junaibi, stressed that the achievement of security and stability in the region requires enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, warning of the danger of displacing Palestinians and seizing their lands, which cannot be considered an option for peace but rather an obstacle to it. H.E. stressed the importance of Arab unity in facing the current challenges and the need to confront all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause, stressing that the continued occupation, settlement and Judaisation constitute a threat to global security and peace and that Israel’s crimes pose a threat that must be addressed at the regional and international level.



Pakistan

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, H.E. Mr Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on the occasion of World Children’s Day, celebrated on 20 November, called for collective responsibility to protect children’s rights and ensure their safety. H.E. emphasised that education, health care and proper upbringing are essential for children’s growth and prosperity. He also noted that the Parliament has established the “Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights” to reinforce these rights. H.E. emphasised the importance of providing a safe and supportive environment for children that enables

them to realise their ambitions. He also called on all stakeholders, including educational institutions, civil society and parents, to work together to ensure a better future for children and protect them from any abuses.



Qatar

The General Secretariat of the Shura Council in Qatar organised, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a workshop titled “Transformations in the Work of Gulf Legislative Councils under Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges” on 25 September 2024. The workshop, which was attended by secretaries-general and members of GCC legislative councils and experts in AI and cybersecurity, addressed how AI can be used to support legislative work. The Secretary General of the Shura Council, H.E Mr Nayef bin Mohammed Al Mahmoud, stressed the importance of this technology to increase the efficiency of legislative performance and improve it, while warning of potential risks such as data manipulation and cybercrime. The workshop also discussed the role of legislation in ensuring the responsible use of AI, and featured presentations and interventions from experts on the impact of AI on privacy and the importance of laws to regulate its use in legislative councils.



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Shura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has undergone a new restructuring that reflects the leadership’s vision to promote institutional development and reform, as per a Royal Decree by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz regarding the restructuring of the Council. The new council, which continues to be chaired by H.E Mr Abdullah Al Sheikh, has 150 members, with a notable presence of 30 women MPs. The move comes in the context of the Kingdom’s efforts to enhance Saudi women’s participation in political life and enable them to contribute to the overall development process. This action also reflects the Kingdom’s commitment to reforms aimed at supporting the role of women in leadership positions, in line with Vision 2030.



Senegal

On 28 February 2025, the National Assembly of Senegal organised a training seminar for parliamentary deputies to enhance their skills in evaluating public policies. The seminar was guided by several national and international experts and focused on providing deputies with the necessary knowledge on methods



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and practices of evaluating public policies, based on local and international experiences. It discussed effective tools and foundations for analysing and monitoring the effectiveness of the implemented public policies. The seminar also provided MPs with the opportunity to discuss parliamentary practices in the field of evaluation, which enabled them to integrate these skills into their duties related to monitoring and following up on government activities.



Tunisia

During the participation of H.E Mr Anouar Marzouki, Deputy Speaker of the Tunisian Parliament, in the Seventh Conference of the Arab Parliament, held at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo on 22 February 2025, H.E delivered a speech in which he highlighted the importance of the conference's initiative to issue an 'Arab Parliamentary Document to support the resilience of the Palestinian people', stressing that the Palestinian cause remains the central cause of the Arab Ummah in light of the attempts of liquidation and systematic displacement it has been subjected to. H.E also highlighted the danger of the schemes targeting the rights of Palestinians, especially their right of return, and the need to confront these schemes by all possible means. He also reiterated Tunisia's categorical rejection of attempts to displace the population of Gaza, stressing its unwavering support for the rights of the Palestinian people and its rejection of any interventions that affect the sovereignty of Arab states.



Türkiye

The Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, H.E. Mr Numan Kurtulmuş, held a meeting on Sunday 13 October 2024

with the President of the Federal National Council of the UAE, H.E. Mr Saqr Ghobash, on the sidelines of the 149th General Assembly of the IPU in Geneva. The meeting focused on the Palestinian cause, with talks centred on stopping the genocide, providing urgent aid, ensuring a ceasefire, and seeking to establish an independent Palestinian state. H.E. also praised Mr Ghobash's participation in the Great March in Support of Palestine held in Istanbul, calling for joint action to ensure peace in the region.



United Arab Emirates

During his speech at the 7th Conference of the Arab Parliament, held on 22 February 2025 at the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo, H.E Mr Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council of the UAE, affirmed that the Palestinian cause has been a key pillar of the UAE's policy since its establishment, as the UAE has opposed attempts to deny Palestinian rights and provided more than 40% of all the international humanitarian aid received by Palestinians. In addition, H.E reiterated the UAE's rejection of the forced displacement of Palestinians, stressed the need for the reconstruction of Gaza to be accompanied by a two-state solution, and warned against projects that aim to liquidate the Palestinian cause in the name of resettlement. H.E. pointed out that the UAE submitted a draft resolution to grant Palestine full membership in the UN, which received the support of 143 countries. He also emphasised support for the Hashemite custodianship of the Holy Places of Al Quds and rejected any attempts to displace the population of Gaza.

PUIC Consultation Meeting in Tashkent



On the side-lines of the 150th Assembly of the IPU meeting in Tashkent (5 April 2025), the PUIC Consultation Meeting was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Adama Bictogo, Speaker of the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire and Sessional President of the PUIC. Following a discussion of the upcoming conference to be held in Jakarta, at the invitation of the Indonesian Parliament, the meeting proceeded to discuss the issues at hand. The participating delegations discussed various issues and agreed to draft a joint proposal on the emergency items in coordination with the Arab and African groups. Subsequently, the proposal submitted by these three groups was approved by PUIC members.

Activities of the Secretary General

We publish on this page (3) examples of the Secretary General's activities contained in his detailed report to the Conference in the previous period:

14 November 2024

The Secretary General of the PUIC, H.E. Mr Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, and H.E. Mr Vladimir Voronkov, Under-secretary of the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism, signed an MoU to enhance parliamentary cooperation in combating terrorism and extremism. The Secretary General stressed the importance of this step in promoting security legislation and inter-parliamentary dialogue, noting the PUIC's commitment to the values of international cooperation. In turn, Mr Voronkov praised the PUIC's role in the Inter-Parliamentary Coordination Mechanism for Combating Terrorism, stressing that the MoU will contribute to the development of comprehensive legislation to combat this menace.



22 February 2025

The Secretary General of the PUIC, H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, visited the Republic of Indonesia from 19 to 22 February 2025. The visit, attended by a delegation from the General Secretariat, was part of the preparations for the 19th PUIC Conference. On 22 February 2025, the MoU was signed in Jakarta by the Secretary General and Dr Indra Iskandar, Secretary General of the Indonesian House of Representatives.



Editorial Board

Editor in Chief:
Mohamed El Hafed Maham

Executive Editor:
Moncef Saber

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

Tel: +9821 22418860-1-2
Fax: +9821 22418858-59

Email: g.s@puic.org
Site: www.puic.org

18 March 2025

In a statement issued by the Secretary General of the PUIC on 18 March 2025, H.E. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass condemned the resumption of the Zionist aggression on Gaza, describing it as a continuation of the genocide and brutal war targeting the defenceless Palestinian people. The statement stressed that the violent escalation resulted in dozens of martyrs and wounded, as the occupation continues its siege on Gaza, blocking crossings and preventing the arrival of food, medicine and all the necessities of life. H.E expressed his strong condemnation of this blatant breach of all international norms and laws, calling on the Islamic Ummah to take urgent action to stop the aggression, stressing that supporting Gaza is a responsibility for all.