



Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States

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H.E. Mohamed Bamba Meguett Speaker of National Assembly of Mauritania:

## There can be no **Peace** or **Stability** without enabling the Palestinians to exercise their **Legitimate Rights**



This issue of “PUIC” Bulletin is published at a pivotal moment for the Islamic Ummah, following the agreement on a ceasefire in Gaza after nearly two years of severe humanitarian suffering endured by the Palestinian people in the Strip. In this context, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bamba Meguett, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritania, addresses in this issue the longstanding and unwavering stance in favor of the Palestinian cause, underscoring the importance of strengthening unity among OIC Member States and enhancing joint parliamentary coordination in defense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

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### Mauritania Hosts 55<sup>th</sup> PUIC Executive Committee

The National Assembly of Mauritania hosts on 3-4 February 2026 the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott, pursuant to the decision of the 19<sup>th</sup> PUIC Conference, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 14 and 15 May 2025. During this meeting, the draft agendas for each of the four Standing Committees will be elaborated, in addition to the agendas of subsidiary organs, namely the Palestine Committee, the Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians, and the meeting of the Secretaries General of the PUIC Member Parliaments. This meeting also aims to set the agenda of the meeting of the General Committee as well as the agenda of the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the PUIC and set its date.

### Editorial

By Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass,  
PUIC Secretary General



Indeed, the issue of migration, migrants, displacement and displaced persons is at the forefront of the concerns of many of the States of PUIC Member Parliament, and is receiving increasing international attention in view of the conflicts, wars and strifes in the world, the alarming climate change affecting our planet, the spread of terrorism, the economic crises in some countries, as well as the violations of human rights.

To address the issue of migration and related issues, several legislations have been issued at the international level, most notably the Global Compact for Migration, the establishment of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and numerous international meetings and conferences have been held to contribute to finding solutions and establishing mechanisms to deal with this question, which is intertwined with human dignity. While the current priority is to provide relief to millions of distressed people, who have been forced by circumstances to suffer homelessness, hunger, disease and all kinds of insecurity, the desired aim is to create a favourable environment for the sustainable return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons to their homelands, and to transform forced migration into safe, controlled and orderly migration, as stipulated in the Marrakech Accord of 2018. The Conferences of the PUIC have paid a great deal of attention to the question of migration and migrants. A few weeks ago, the PUIC organised a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee on the subject of migration and migrants, and through the documents it issued, it contributed significantly to this cause. There is no doubt that many Muslim peoples suffer from the problems of migration and displacement, but the harshest suffering experienced by a people in the modern era is that of the people of Palestine, whom the Zionist and colonialist powers joined forces to occupy their country and displace them from it, beginning from 1948 to this day.

# National Assembly of Mauritania



## ■ Overview of the National Assembly of Mauritania

The National Assembly of Mauritania is the country's sole legislative chamber since the abolition of the Senate in 2017. It consists of 176 deputies elected for a five-year term. The last legislative elections were held in May 2023, resulting in the election of H.E. Mr Mohamed Bamba Ould Meguett as Speaker of the National Assembly on 19 June of the same year.

## ■ Organisation and functioning of the Assembly:

The National Assembly holds two

ordinary sessions every year and can be convened in extraordinary sessions when needed. Its work is based on the rules of procedure, which defines its organs and mechanisms, including the Assembly's bureau, its presidency, and its administrative and technical bodies. The Assembly operates according to the principles of deliberation and transparency, as draft laws are discussed in the specialised committees before being presented to the plenary sessions for approval.

## ■ Missions:

The National Assembly is responsible for enacting laws on political,

economic and social life, monitoring the work of the government through accountability and interrogation mechanisms, ratifying international agreements, and adopting public finance laws. It also voices the aspirations of citizens and contributes to the promotion of democratic institutions and the consolidation of the rule of law.

## ■ Committees of the Assembly:

The National Assembly has five specialised standing committees that examined draft laws and submit detailed reports on them. They are as follows:

- Economic Affairs Committee.
- Finance Committee.
- Foreign Relations Committee.
- Justice, Interior and Defence Committee.
- Committee on Islamic Guidance, Human Resources, Social and Cultural Affairs.

The aim of these committees is to ensure an in-depth and objective study of the issues presented, thus contributing to improving the quality of legislation and empowering parliamentary oversight.







# The Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritania

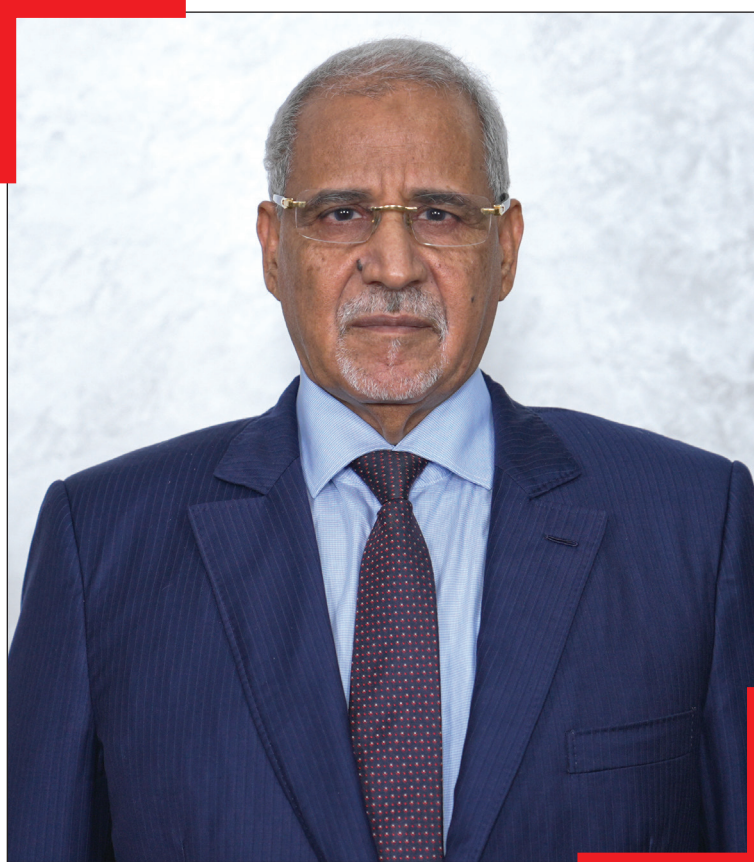
**H**.E. Mr Mohamed Bamba Ould Meguett is a prominent national figure in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, known for his dedication and commitment to promoting the values of good governance and democratic practice in his country.

Born in 1957 in the city of Aleg in southern Mauritania, he was educated in national and foreign institutions, allowing him to gain extensive experience in the fields of organisation, discipline and institutional work. H.E. enrolled in the service of the National Army at an early age, where he rose through the ranks, reaching the highest rank of General. He held several senior military and political positions, including Director General of National Security, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and founding member of the Military Council for Justice and Democracy, which ruled Mauritania from 2005 to 2007. He

was also a member of the ruling High Council of State from 2008 to 2009.

In May 2023, He was elected as a deputy for Al-Insaf Party, before being elected Speaker of the National Assembly. Since assuming the Presidency of the Parliament, he worked to consolidate the principles of transparency and good governance. He strengthened the role of the legislative institution in supporting national reforms and consolidating parliamentary cooperation with international partners. His term as a Speaker is characterised by supporting legislative and oversight work, seeking to improve the performance of the parliament in line with the aspirations of the people, as well as his active involvement in parliamentary diplomacy by strengthening cooperation with regional and international bodies.





**H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bamba Meguett, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritania, to the PUIC:**

## **There can be no Peace or Stability without Enabling the Palestinians to Exercise their Legitimate Rights**

**I**n an interview with 'PUIC' Bulletin, The Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritania, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bamba Meguett, addressed a number of key issues, including economic development in the Islamic world, the Palestinian cause, and enhancing cooperation between PUIC Member States. Below is the full text of the interview:

**■ To what extent can cooperation and economic integration among Islamic States be strengthened through the activation of intra-OIC economic cooperation agreements? And what is the role of parliaments in facilitating this?**

I would like to begin by commending the leading role of the Bulletin issued by the PUIC, and express my sincere wishes for its continued excellence as it now publishes its 34th issue. In the

same context, I am pleased to warmly welcome the convening of the upcoming 55th meeting of the PUIC's Executive Committee in Nouakchott. Regarding the question on ways to enhance cooperation and economic integration among Islamic States through the activation of intra-OIC cooperation agreements, the first point that comes to mind is the diversity of economic capabilities across the Islamic world, countries which, collectively, constitute some of the largest economies in the world. Despite major global economic challenges, such as slow global growth, continued inflation, and renewed trade tensions, global economic outlook reports point to promising opportunities for Islamic countries. Therefore, it is essential to harmonize economic laws and regulations, leading to the unification, or at least the approximation, of trade, customs, and tax systems among the various Member

States, and to work on eliminating all obstacles and legal inconsistencies hindering the implementation of joint agreements.

In this regard, activating joint committees and follow-up mechanisms is crucial through the creation of specialized committees tasked with monitoring and periodic evaluation, thereby enabling us to assess results effectively. To ensure genuine economic integration among Islamic States, the following points must be considered:

**1) Developing** cross-border infrastructure through enhanced regional transport networks (roads, railways, ports, airports), improving electrical interconnection and energy exchange, and strengthening digital infrastructure to ensure the smooth flow of data and services.

**2) Activating** mechanisms for joint financing and investment by launching



common investment funds to finance regional integration projects, as well as offering unified tax and customs incentives for joint investments.

**3) Strengthening** the role of the private sector by involving business federations in drafting and implementing joint agreements among OIC Member States, establishing joint business councils for follow-up, and supporting the free movement of goods, services, and capital.

**4) Sharing** expertise and successful experiences particularly in scientific research, digital economy, and the green economy, often referred to as the “wealth of the future”, including regional energy-grid projects in solar and wind power, joint agricultural ventures, and the creation of a regional food reserve.

**5) Activating** bilateral and regional economic cooperation and trade agreements, with special emphasis on enhancing the effectiveness of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, the General Agreement for Economic and Technical Cooperation among OIC Member States, the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States, and the Makkah Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement.

In doing so, we lay a solid foundation for genuine cooperation and constructive economic integration, one that benefits people and endures.

As for the role of parliaments in facilitating such a renaissance, it is well known that parliaments in modern States play a pivotal role in supporting economic cooperation and enhancing regional and international integration, not only as legislative and oversight bodies, but also as influential authorities whose role is no less important than that of governments and regional institutions. Economic integration requires legislative and regulatory convergence among countries in areas such as investment, transport, taxation, and trade. In this context, parliaments

can amend existing laws or enact new legislation that promotes harmonization and facilitates cooperation and economic integration among Islamic States. Parliamentary committees may also follow up on joint economic projects. It is therefore incumbent upon Islamic parliaments to enact effective laws on good governance and anti-corruption, measures that encourage cooperation among our nations and deepen mutual trust. Parliaments should also organize

hearings with the private sector and experts, and involve civil society in monitoring the implementation of regional economic agreements. The more effective a parliament is in addressing these areas, the greater the ability of our Islamic countries to benefit from the economic opportunities available in the field of cooperation and integration.

**■ The Palestinian Cause stands as the central priority for the PUIC. How do you envision the PUIC’s role, in the current circumstances, in finding a just solution to this cause?**

Indeed, the Palestinian cause is the primary cause of the PUIC, as it must be. It is the first and foremost concern weighing on the hearts of more than two billion Muslims across the world. Today, this just cause faces malicious schemes aimed at liquidating it through forced displacement and the obstruction of the return of Palestinian refugees who were coerced, by sheer force, into abandoning their homeland. The continuation of the Israeli occupying power in committing genocidal war crimes in Gaza and the West Bank, even after the conclusion of the ceasefire agreement in Sharm El-Sheikh, brokered by American, Arab, and Islamic efforts, and which was intended to create conditions for calm and to immediately open the path for humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts, confirms that this rogue entity does not seek de-escalation. On the contrary, it exploits international agreements to entrench its occupation and expand its colonial settlements, in a cunning attempt to systematically erase the Palestinian Cause. Such a situation requires broad and urgent action to reach a just, comprehensive, and final solution to this noble cause. There can be no peace, no security, and no stability in

■ Any calls for the forcible displacement of the Palestinian people represent a war crime and a flagrant violation of international law

■ Strengthening the sharing of legislative and oversight experience among parliamentarians is an effective means of enhancing institutional performance and reinforcing the practice of democracy



the Middle East or the world unless the Palestinian people are empowered to exercise their legitimate right over their land.

This obliges the PUIC to continue its mobilization and strong support in pursuit of a just solution founded on the restoration of the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate rights, foremost among them the right to self-determination, the end of the occupation, the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital, the guarantee of the right of return for Palestinian refugees in accordance with UNGA Res.194, and the release of Palestinian prisoners from the occupation's jails in line with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. This solution must also be inseparable from an unequivocal rejection of any form of forced displacement of the Palestinian people, whether inside their homeland or beyond it. Any call or initiative in this regard must be deemed a war crime, a crime against humanity, and a flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law. We must also urge the UNSC to assume its responsibilities and enforce its resolutions, particularly Res. 2334, which rejected all forms of

settlement activity, demanded its immediate cessation in the OPTs, including the city of Al-Quds, recognized it as an occupied Palestinian city, and nullified any Israeli claim of sovereignty over it. At the same time, we must call upon the UN to activate the international protection mechanism for the Palestinian people and to reaffirm that the military logic underpinning the Israeli barbarity and excessive use of force will bring neither security, stability, nor peace to anyone. In this context, I can only express profound admiration and salute the free people of the world who stood as one across all continents, denouncing the Israeli war of genocide and starvation in Gaza, and raising high the Palestinian flag in every forum in support of this just cause. I must also note with appreciation, the sweeping wave of solidarity witnessed in Mauritania in support of the brotherly Palestinian people during the Israeli genocidal war in Gaza. This included demonstrations, marches, sit-ins, and nationwide donation campaigns. At the forefront of these courageous and steadfast efforts were Mauritanian parliamentarians of all ages, backgrounds, and political affiliations.

■ **How can the exchange of legislative and oversight expertise among the parliaments of Member States be strengthened in a manner that contributes to institutional development and reinforces democratic practices?**

Strengthening the exchange of legislative and oversight expertise among parliamentarians is not merely a symbolic form of cooperation, it is a genuine lever for enhancing the institutional performance of parliaments, promoting transparency and accountability, and improving the quality of legislation and policies, thereby reinforcing democratic practice. This exchange can be enhanced by organizing joint training programs and workshops for parliamentarians aimed at sharing expertise and knowledge, as well as establishing regional parliamentary networks to promote communication and exchange visits, enabling members to benefit from successful experiences in other countries. Additionally, convening conferences and meetings on various shared legislative and oversight issues would enrich this cooperation. Through these mechanisms, institutional performance is reinforced, and democratic practices are further consolidated.



Article by :

H.E. Dr. Khalil Al-Nahwi

MP., Head of the delegation

of the Islamic Parliament

of Mauritania to the PUIC

**A**t the Second Pledge of al-‘Aqabah, amid an exceptionally precarious security situation in which no Muslim could feel safe, neither for his life nor his property, the Prophet PBUH laid the foundation stone for a representative electoral system, commanding the pilgrims of the Ansar to choose their Representatives.

The truthful and trustworthy Prophet, he who “does he speak of his own whims, for it is only a revelation sent down to him” [Al-Najm: 3–4], could have resorted to the logic of “State of Emergency,” all the more so while enjoying a lofty representational status that entitled him to monopolize the representation of the believers, “The Prophet has a stronger affinity to the believers than they do themselves” [Al-Ahzab: 6]. He could have said: I am unlike any of you; I am divinely supported in the exclusive conveyance of God’s message. Yet, he did not. And when a woman delegate came to him, in the presence of his Companions, asking what the daughters of Adam and Eve have before the Lord of men and women, the delegate was exercising a representative function that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, acknowledged.

**To the Representatives of the Peoples  
of the Ummah...**

## Is There a Way to Activate the Levers of Power?

When the Prophet said, as the people stood on the threshold of the Badr test, “Offer me your counsel, O people,” he was announcing a foundational function of the representative system. And although he was the obeyed commander, capable of issuing firm commands based on what the Lord revealed to him, he did not.

And when Al-Hubab asked, “Is this a position in which God has commanded you to stay, such that we may not advance nor retreat, or is it opinion, strategy, and planning?”, consultation came as an upward initiative that did not wait for a request or permission, and the Prophet sanctioned this initiative.

And when his Companions advised him to march out to Uhud, though he disliked it, their consultation was also upward in nature; and he could have, as one who commands and forbids by God’s will, refrained from acting upon it, yet he acted in order to entrench the legitimacy of initiating consultation and acting upon it, lest anyone around him, or those who would come after him, imagine that he was above it.

And when the Prophet said to his Companions, “You are more knowledgeable about your worldly affairs,” he was expanding the domain of human judgement in worldly matters. And when the first Caliph rose to address the people, saying, “O people, I have been appointed over you, though I am not the best among you. If I do well, help me, if I deviate, correct me... Obey me as long as I obey God and His Messenger, but if I disobey God and His

Messenger, then you owe me no obedience,” he was laying, after the cessation of revelation, the foundations of popular oversight over the actions of the ruler. This is a function repeatedly affirmed by the Prophet himself, for he accepted the principle of accountability and even defended it, he who was the trustworthy, truthful Messenger whose obedience God linked to faith:

“But no! By your Lord, they will never be ‘true’ believers until they accept you ‘O Prophet’ as the judge in their disputes, and find no resistance within themselves against your decision and submit wholeheartedly.” [Al-Nisa’: 65] Between those definitive texts and those historical “events” and their numerous counterparts in the Prophetic and Rashidun eras, emerged the foundations of a representative system that legitimized groups’ selection of representatives for themselves, and established the obligation, or rather the imposition, upon the ruler to empower those “elected” / advisors to perform their duties, chief among them the right to initiate consultation and to take the initiative in it without being asked or requested.

God prescribed Shura even upon the best of His Prophets, the one enriched by divine revelation. And if it were conceivable for Shura to be waived for any ruler due to sound judgment or strength of authority, then it would have been more fitting to be waived for the infallible Prophet guided by revelation. Yet God addressed him saying:

“It is out of Allah’s mercy that you ‘O



Prophet` have been lenient with them. Had you been cruel or hard-hearted, they would have certainly abandoned you. So pardon them, ask Allah's forgiveness for them, and consult with them in `conducting` matters. Once you make a decision, put your trust in Allah. Surely Allah loves those who trust in Him." [Al-Imran: 159]

Thus, no one after him may disable this function, which God placed for the believers alongside two central pillars: prayer, which is pure devotion relating to the body and heart, and Zakah (Almsgiving), which is an act of worship relating to wealth and extending benefit to people. It is as though the placement of Shura between these two obligations signals that Shura is an act of worship with both devotional dimensions: a right owed to God and a right owed to God's servants. And this affirms its obligatory nature:

"Those who respond to their Lord, establish prayer, conduct their affairs by mutual consultation, and spend from what We have provided for them" [Al-Shura: 38]

The Qur'an has also related to us two models of consultation:

- The Balqis model, based on "She said, «O chiefs! Advise me in this matter of mine, for I would never make any decision without you. »" [al-Naml: 32]

- And the other, a deceptive model that was in truth a disguised tyranny whose mask soon fell, for Pharaoh said to his council: "Pharaoh said to the chiefs around him, "He is indeed a skilled magician, who seeks to drive you from your land by his magic. So what do you propose?" [al-Shu'ara': 34-35]. The Pharaoh issued his judgment beforehand, nullifying the purpose of consultation. He then said: "I am telling you only what I believe, and I am leading you only to the way of guidance". [Ghafir: 29], and even went beyond that by saying: "I am your Lord Most High."

These are guiding markers by which we attempt to ground aspects of contemporary democratic practice, now embodied in what are called

Parliaments, Peoples' Assemblies, National Assemblies, Councils of the Ummah, Shura Councils, Houses of Representatives, Senates, and the like. More than that, we also seek to remind ourselves of the deep historical rootedness of the representative system and its core functions in the history of the Islamic Ummah.

It is true that we copied and adopted democratic systems thinking others preceded us, and perhaps they did in form and some applications. But in essence, they are, as the Arabic proverb goes, "our goods have been returned to us". We were centuries ahead of the emergence of the Bill of Rights (1689), Locke's Two Treatises of Government (1690), Montesquieu's Spirit of the Laws (1748), and Rousseau's Social Contract (1762).

And the ancientness of our electoral and consultative heritage imposes upon us a doubled responsibility to perform our representative functions in the best manner.

These systems and practices, for us and for others, are humble human conventions. In them, peoples and nations stand nearly equal regardless of religious or cultural classification. At that level we share with others an obligatory portion of universal human values. Yet we possess distinctions that should grant us a higher degree of motivation, effectiveness, and capacity to influence.

We are distinct in our belonging to the Islamic Ummah which is unique in having a divine frame of reference for its representative systems (despite their various forms and labels) and in their functions and practices. A Muslim representative (regardless of his functional title) is, like his counterparts worldwide, a delegate of his people, accountable to them, employed by them. But he is, or ought to be, accountable before his Creator at a higher level, worshipping God through the fulfillment of his representative duties, following the example of the Prophet and the first generation of the Ummah's leaders,

advisors, and decision-making councils. The representative performs a civic and political function on one hand, and on the other, simultaneously, a devotional function whose neglect he fears and whose proper performance he hopes will earn divine reward.

Another level of distinction is that the representatives of the Ummah, collectively, at the level of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, constitute a formidable moral, quantitative, and political force, as they represent the voices of one-quarter of humanity, belonging to a geographical expanse that covers roughly one-quarter of the earth's landmass. Moreover, the Islamic world occupies a strategic central position between Asia, Africa, and Europe, with a growing demographic presence across the remaining continents. Furthermore, it overlooks the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, the Mediterranean Sea, and contains within it major strategic waterways such as the Gulf, the Suez Canal, Bab al-Mandeb, Gibraltar, and the Strait of Hormuz. Six OIC States are among the world's 20 largest by area; eight are among the 20 most populous; three are among the world's 29 largest economies; eleven are among the top 20 oil producers; twelve among the top 20 gas producers; and eight among the top 20 gold-producing nations. Even militarily, seven are within the top 26 global powers, five of which surpass the Zionist state according to these indices.

By another measure, the PUIC is effectively the world's second-largest parliamentary bloc after the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

With this combination of attributes, divine reference, social contract, and modern civic organization, universal human values, quantitative and qualitative weight, and the distinguishing features of the Islamic Ummah, it becomes evident that the representatives of the Ummah possess levers of power which, if wisely utilized, could grant us significant capacity to





reform our condition and influence our vast human environment. The question is: Is there a way to that?

Certainly, this question must first and especially be posed to the executive authorities, the makers of political decisions. Yet it is also a question directed to legislative chambers, consultative councils, and similar institutions, even in non-parliamentary systems, insofar as these bodies possess the capacity to represent their peoples, and indeed represent the Ummah.

The world has undergone major changes in recent years, and is poised to witness more transformations, perhaps tumultuous ones. The “Al-Aqsa Flood” launched by the resistance, and the ensuing flood of blood and destruction unleashed by the Zionist war machine, have contributed to a major shift in global public opinion, especially in the West. Western public mobilization became impactful in governmental political dynamics, prompting several States to recognize the State of Palestine. Parliamentary and political voices in the West openly affirmed the Palestinian people’s right to life. Maritime solidarity flotillas departed from various Western countries in support of our cause. The election of the first Muslim mayor of New York, years after London elected its first Muslim mayor, and the rise of nearly 40 Muslims in the November 2025 U.S. elections, were among the indicators of these new shifts. We now possess an additional external lever of power made possible by this unprecedented global moral awakening. And it has become essential to invest this lever in activating and enhancing the impact of our other internal strengths.

Representative bodies, individually, at the level of each State of the Ummah, can fulfill their functions with fewer constraints than those binding the executive authorities. Governments have their logic and calculations; it is important that they find beside them legislative bodies and consultative councils that carry the logic of the peoples in its clarity and purity, helping create

balance and alleviating governments, especially from external pressures, that may drive them away from “the logic of the street” and its pulse. We must strive to generate this internal transformation, not necessarily through the logic of adversarial opposition, which often leads to conflict and confrontation, but through the logic of sincere counsel, free of deceit or injustice. The contemporary copied and imported model of democracy placed us within a rigid binary cage, leading us to believe that there is no path to political action outside it: Either opposition, seeing everything through black lenses, perceiving only absolute evil, or unconditional support, seeing government actions through rose-colored lenses, perceiving only absolute good. Yet the original edition of our representative/Shura-based system in our history and culture offers us a different pair of lenses, ones that grant us the ability to discern colors and nuances. Carrying such lenses may be difficult for those unaccustomed to them, but with a little effort and patience we can learn to use them, and help those around us understand that viewing through them is better than viewing through any other, and that by means of these lenses we perform our duty with greater integrity and a higher sense of responsibility, something far more beneficial and lasting for political decision-makers.

This applies at the level of every House or Council, and indeed every representative of the people. But on the collective level that transcends borders, parliaments, acting together, can achieve a greater success in serving the Ummah and supporting its causes, foremost among them is the Palestinian cause and the issues of Muslim minorities. They can also adopt more effective approaches in combating Islamophobia, dispelling the suspicions cast upon the noble religion, and deterring the forces that persist in deriding and desecrating the sacred.

Our parliaments, acting collectively through the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, in solidarity among themselves, and through the investment

of the internal and external sources of strength, both inherent and contextual, which we have alluded to, will be able to make the voice of the Ummah heard, assert its inviolability, and contribute to reclaiming its rights through the power of persuasion in dialogue with other regional and international parliamentary blocs, with the parliaments of dominant major powers, and even with societal forces that shape opinion and partially hold the reins of decision-making such as active organizations and bodies in the political, media, economic, and cultural spheres. And while we must employ, in our dialogue with others, especially in the West, the shared foundational values, the historical truths, and the lived, tangible evidences, it is equally our duty and our right to employ in this dialogue the logic of pure interest, mutual interest, to make others understand that their interests with a two-billion-strong Ummah, with all that it possesses in advantages, particularities, resources, and capacities, are far greater than their interests with any other State, regardless of its power, let alone with the Zionist entity, which has proven in its very inception, throughout its history, and in its present practices that it stands in opposition not merely to the Muhammadan Ummah but to humanity itself, for it stands in opposition to all universal human values.

In general, our parliaments are collectively called upon today, by the compelling voice of painful realities and of promising opportunities, to be among the makers of global transformation, to push the nations of the Ummah to move from the realm of mere reaction and passive influence to the realm of action and meaningful impact, so that they may safeguard their existence and dignity, and contribute to building a new world order that is more just and fair than the one that has wounded the Ummah deeply, in both the distant and the recent past, and is on the verge of wounding it even more if we remain lagging behind, clinging to the idol of fragmentation and weakness, God forbid.



**54<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of the PUIC:**

## Promoting Joint Action to Protect the Islamic Ummah

**T**he Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States held its 54th meeting of the Executive Committee on 1 and 2 September 2025, corresponding to 8 and 9 Rabiul Awwal 1447H, in Dakar, Senegal, under the chairmanship of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal, and with the participation of the majority of the members of the Committee.

As per the Final Report issued at the conclusion of the meeting, participants began their deliberations by expressing their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Senegal, its leadership, people, and parliament, for the warm hospitality extended and for providing all the means necessary for the success of the meeting. They also underscored the role of the PUIC as a unifying parliamentary platform that articulates the common stances of Islamic countries and strengthens

coordination and solidarity in addressing regional and international challenges.

The participants reaffirmed the centrality of the Palestinian cause as the core priority of the Islamic Ummah. They condemned the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, resulting in heavy civilian casualties and widespread destruction. They called for an immediate ceasefire, the opening of crossings for the delivery of humanitarian aid, and an end to all attempts at forced displacement, stressing that Al-Quds Al-Sharif is a red line that must not be violated.

The report also expressed the Committee's solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran following the Israeli aggression that targeted it in June 2025, and strongly

condemned Israel's ongoing attacks on brotherly countries in the region, including Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, in blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Regarding other regional issues, the report highlighted the deep concern expressed by members of the Executive Committee over the deteriorating situation in the African Sahel, resulting from the spread of terrorist groups that threaten the security and stability of the region and hinder its development. The participants stressed that combating terrorism requires concerted efforts based on strengthening international solidarity, supporting the countries of the region, and addressing root causes linked to poverty, marginalization, and the protection of youth from extremism. The meeting also addressed global





environmental challenges, calling for the acceleration of ratifying international agreements on climate change, and supporting governmental efforts to implement policies aimed at protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development.

The meeting concluded with the issuance of the Dakar Declaration, which clearly reflected the principled and steadfast stances of the Executive Committee of the PUIC, and which was unanimously adopted by the participants. The Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of member parliaments to the principles and objectives upon which the PUIC was founded, namely supporting the unity of the Islamic Ummah, strengthening joint parliamentary action, and promoting solidarity among Member States in confronting various political, economic, social, and environmental challenges.

The Declaration also reaffirmed the centrality of the Palestinian cause as the core issue of the Islamic Ummah, and condemned the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which has resulted in

■ **Combating terrorism requires concerted efforts based on strengthening international solidarity, supporting the countries of the region, and addressing root causes linked to poverty, marginalization, and the protection of youth from extremism.**

widespread destruction and severe humanitarian suffering. It further called for an immediate ceasefire and the opening of crossings to allow the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Declaration emphasized that the city of Al-Quds constitutes a red line that must not be crossed, with the Al-Aqsa Mosque at its heart, which is the first Qibla and third holiest site in Islam.

The declaration also addressed issues of regional security and international cooperation, expressing solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran following the Israeli aggression against it, condemning Israel's repeated attacks on brotherly States in the region, calling for support to the Sahel countries in Africa in confronting terrorism and promoting development, as well as the need to provide assistance to Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States and help address the difficulties they face as a result of discrimination, oppression or persecution. The declaration also emphasised the importance of addressing climate change and intensifying efforts to achieve sustainable development.



Meeting of the Political Committee in Ouagadougou Reaffirms:

## Solidarity With African Sahel States

In implementation of the recommendations issued by the PUIC's meetings related to reinforcing the role of its specialized committees, and in response to the kind invitation from the Transitional National Assembly of Burkina Faso, the meeting of the Political Affairs and Foreign Relations Committee was held on January 13 and 14, 2026 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This meeting, which was held to study the draft document on migrants and refugees prepared by the PUIC General Secretariat, was an important step for strengthening parliamentary consultation and coordinating positions on the issue of migrants and refugees, which constitutes a top priority in the Islamic world.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Secretary General of the PUIC, H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, delivered a speech in which he stressed the great importance of this meeting, stressing the centrality of the refugee issue, in light of the conflicts and humanitarian crises in several regions. H.E. called for defending the rights of

refugees, especially in conflict zones, and renewed full solidarity with the Palestinian Cause, the central cause of the Islamic Ummah.

Subsequently, the Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Ousmane Bougouma, gave an opening speech, highlighting the role of his country in receiving and protecting refugees and noting that terrorism and insecurity are one of the main causes of forced migration and asylum. He also called for strengthening solidarity and cooperation among OIC Member States to face shared challenges.

The interventions of the participating delegations focused on the humanitarian aspects of migration and asylum, the Palestinian Cause, and the situation of Sudanese refugees, in addition to the economic and environmental challenges and other factors that cause migration. Participants also emphasised on the importance of adopting comprehensive and balanced approaches in managing migration cases.

The meeting also discussed the

document of migrants and refugees prepared by the General Secretariat of the PUIC, where a number of amendments were proposed in preparation for its presentation to the Conference for its official adoption. At the Conclusion of the works, the Ouagadougou Declaration was adopted, which stressed the need to coordinate humanitarian work directed at migrants, support the migration origin countries, and provide special support to the Sahel countries, while decelerating full solidarity with them. The declaration also reiterated the centrality of the Palestinian cause and the need to pay attention to Palestinian refugees, the call for reconciliation in Sudan and an end to the atrocities committed there, as well as the strengthening of economic cooperation among Member States and the increase in the volume of intra-OIC trade. The Declaration praised the role of the PUIC's General Secretariat in organizing this meeting, while calling for more similar meetings to be held in support of the joint parliamentary action.





## New Elections and Re-elections of Speakers of PUIC Member Parliaments:

**Below is an update on the state of chairmanship of the PUIC's Member Parliaments since the 54<sup>th</sup> EXC Meeting:**

▶ **23 September 2025:** Election of H.E. Mr. Niko Peleshi as Spaker of the Parliament of Albania.

▶ **18 October 2025:** Election of H.E. Mr. Essam El-Din Ahmed Mohamed Farid as Speaker of the Senate of Egypt.

▶ **28 October 2025:** Election of H.E. Mr. Komi Selom Klassou as Speaker of the National Assembly of Togo.

▶ **17 November 2025:** Election of H.E. Mr. Michel Onanga Ndiaye as Speaker of the National Assembly of Gabon.

▶ **17 December 2025:** Re-election of H.E. Mr. Nurlanbek Turgunbek Uulu as Speaker of the Supreme Council of Kyrgyzstan.

▶ **24 December 2025:** Election of H.E. Mrs. Huguette Nyana Ekoume as Speaker of the Senate of Gabon.

▶ **30 December 2025:** Election of H.E. Mr Haibat Al-Halbousi as Speaker of the House of Representatives of Iraq.

▶ **12 January 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr. Hisham Badawi as Speaker of the House of Representatives of Egypt.

▶ **17 January 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr. Patrick Achi as Speaker of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire.



## Parliamentary News



### Azerbaijan

During her speech at the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliaments held on 29-31 July 2025 in Geneva, H.E. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, stressed that women face difficult situations amid growing conflicts, wars and humanitarian crises, as they are exposed to violence, displacement, and loss of security, education and care. H.E. referred to Azerbaijan's bitter experience in the 1990s, where women constituted a large percentage of refugees and displaced persons. She also highlighted her country's achievements in promoting women's rights and their participation in the reconstruction of liberated territories, stressing that the involvement of women is a key pillar for achieving peace and sustainable development.



### Chad

During the opening of the second ordinary session of the National Assembly of Chad on 1 September 2025, the Speaker of the National Assembly, H.E. Mr. Ali Kolotou Tchaïmi, announced that the Constitution of the Fifth Republic of December 2023 will undergo a revision, with

special focus on Article 77 related to the functions of the President of the Republic. This article, which concerns the powers of the President of the Republic, has raised debates and varying interpretations that have been manifested within the Parliament, H.E. noted. He also added that the Constitutional Council, the Supreme Court and a large number of political forces and civil society have called for its amendment, in light of the ongoing discussions about the powers of the Presidency of the Republic.



### Coted'Ivoire

The Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Mr Adama Bictogo, during the opening session of the second regular session of the Assembly held on 1 October 2025, underlined the need for the UN to play its full role in preventing conflicts and maintaining international peace and security. H.E. noted that the profound global shifts, accompanied by the escalation of conflicts and the reshaping of geopolitical balances, dictate the need to promote the values of peace and solidarity among peoples. He also renewed the commitment of the National Assembly to respect international law and dialogue, and continue its efforts to protect the environment and achieve stability and sustainable development.



## → Parliamentary News



### Indonesia

On Friday, 3 October 2025, Chairman of the International Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Mr. Mardani Ali Sera, strongly condemned the Zionist entity's interception of the Sumud flotilla heading to Gaza, which was carrying humanitarian aid including medicines, food, and volunteers. He stressed that this act is a flagrant violation of international law and humanitarian principles, calling on the UNSC and international organisations to take urgent action to ensure unimpeded delivery of aid to Gaza. He also praised the international volunteers participating in this humanitarian mission, stressing that this solidarity reflects a growing awareness of the necessity to end the suffering of Palestinians.



### Iran

In his speech before the Parliament session held on Sunday, 12 October 2025, the Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, H.E. Mr Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, affirmed his country's full support for all initiatives aimed at stopping war crimes and genocide in Gaza. He emphasised the need to meet the urgent needs of the Palestinians, which include a permanent cessation of aggression, ending the occupation, lifting the siege, opening the crossings, and ensuring access to food and medical supplies, and called on international governments and courts to prosecute the leaders of the Zionist entity, stressing that the credibility of these institutions is at stake, and noting that the Palestinian people, despite great sacrifices, have imposed their will on the criminal entity and became a symbol of resilience.



### Malaysia

The Speaker of the Malaysian House of Representatives, H.E. Mr Johari Abdul, strongly condemned the interception of the Sumud Flotilla by the Israeli occupation authorities and preventing it from reaching Gaza, expressing his deep solidarity with Malaysian citizens and all activists participating in this humanitarian mission. This came in a statement issued on "X" on 2 October 2025. H.E. described the detainment of the participants as a flagrant violation of international law and a grave offence to human values and global conscience, calling for the immediate release of all detainees and ensuring the

delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.



### Mauritania

The Speaker of the Mauritanian National Assembly, H.E. Mr Mohamed Bamba Meguett, received on 2 September 2025 at his office in Nouakchott, Mr Jihad Madi, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants. The meeting covered the efforts made by Mauritania in the field of human rights and the protection of the rights of migrants. The Speaker explained that Mauritania implements its national laws on migration in line with international human rights conventions, emphasising the commitment to protect migrants and respect their rights and dignity, adding that the State's visionary policy has been supported and commended by international partners as well as civil society and human rights organisations.



### Nigeria

The Deputy Speaker of the Nigerian House of Representatives, Hon. Mr. Benjamin Kalu, speaking at the meeting of the Constitutional Review Committee on 11 October 2025, reaffirmed the House's commitment to drafting a modern constitution that reflects the aspirations of the people and promotes national development. He explained that the Parliament aims to draft a constitution that empowers local governments to deliver basic services, promotes electoral justice, ensures the full participation of women in public life, and enhances accountability at all levels. He added that the committee sought the help of legal experts and academics to provide the necessary legal advice, adding that the House is working in a spirit of unity and national responsibility to consolidate an effective democracy and ensure a more prosperous future.



### Sultanate of Oman

On Tuesday 7 October 2025, the Shura Council of Oman participated in the first Legislative Parliamentary Forum, organised by the Federal National Council of the UAE, as part of the Joint Gulf Forum for Gulf Legislative Councils. The forum addressed several important issues, notably



## Parliamentary News



the legislative role of the GCC parliaments in the governance of AI. The Chair of the Legislative and Legal Committee of the Shura Council, H.E. Dr Ahmed bin Ali Al Saadi, submitted a paper on behalf of Oman entitled: 'The Legislative Role of GCC Legislative Councils in the Governance of AI Reality: Challenges and Future Prospects', in which he showcased national efforts in developing and updating existing legislation as well as Omans's efforts in enhancing Gulf cooperation in this field.



### Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

On 8 October 2025, H.E. Dr Abdullah Al Sheikh, Speaker of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia, led an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at the invitation of the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly. During the visit, H.E. highlighted the strong strategic relations between the two countries and their constant development thanks to the support and patronage of their leaderships. He also expressed his aspiration for the visit to open new horizons for parliamentary cooperation and coordination of stances in regional and international fora. H.E. also conducted an official talks session with the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, during which they reviewed means of consolidating bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various fields.



### Senegal

The President of the National Assembly of Senegal, H.E. Mr Malick Ndiaye, participated in the Annual Conference of African Speakers of Parliaments held in Johannesburg from 28 to 30 September 2025, during which he called for strengthening the role of parliaments in building African integration. He stressed that African parliaments must become a real driving force for continental integration by harmonising national legislations with AU agreements and activating followup and accountability mechanisms to ensure their implementation. He also stressed the importance of legislative harmonisation to activate the Continental Free Trade Area and promote a culture of oversight and accountability, noting that parliaments are "the bridge between the aspirations of peoples and the commitments of states."



### Tunisia

In a statement issued on 3 October 2025, the Assembly of People's Representatives of Tunisia condemned the blatant aggression launched by the Zionist entity on the vessels of the Sumud Flotilla in international waters, which was, according to the statement, on a humanitarian and peaceful mission to break the blockade imposed on Gaza. The Assembly condemned the arrest of hundreds of participants in the flotilla from Tunisia and other nationalities, including MP Mr Mohamed Ali, considering these acts as a blatant challenge to the international community, and calling on parliaments and international bodies to take urgent action to ensure the safety of the detainees, support the Palestinian cause and end the aggression on Gaza.



### Türkiye

The Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, H.E. Mr Numan Kurtulmuş, condemned the Israeli attacks on Middle Eastern countries, considering them as a warning bell that exposes Israel's hostile approach and its disregard for the sovereignty of any State. He stated that the attacks on Qatar, Yemen and other countries prove Israel's hostility to the entire region. This came in a speech delivered during a meeting of the Solidarity, Fraternity and Democracy Committee in the Turkish Parliament on 11/09/2025, where he expressed hope for the establishment of a region where peace and brotherhood prevail, and where ethnic, sectarian and political differences between peoples are not causes of conflict but rather means of integration and inclusion.



### Uganda

The Parliament of Uganda announced on 26 September 2025 the launch of the "e-Parliament" project as part of its strategic plan (2025/2026 - 2029/2030), aimed at enhancing its legislative, oversight, and representative capacities. In her speech, the Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Mrs Anita Among, emphasised the legislative institution's commitment to digital transformation and building a citizen-centric, efficient and transparent parliament. The Institutional Planning Department explained that the project includes investing in modern IT, developing human resources and improving cybersecurity protocols.

## Activities of the Secretary General

### 19 October 2025

The consultative meeting of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) was convened in Geneva on 19 October 2025, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Azzouz Nasri, Speaker of the Council of

the Nation of Algeria. The meeting was characterised by a broad participation of esteemed Speakers, Deputy Speakers, and delegates of the Member Parliaments. The PUIC Secretary General presented a brief report

on the emergency items scheduled for submission to the 151st Assembly of the IPU. Participants reviewed these proposals and examined the repercussions of the Israeli aggression on the Strip.



### 19 October 2025

On the sidelines of the 151st Assembly of the IPU, an MoU was signed on 19 October 2025 in Geneva between the PUIC and the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan

concerning the 20th Session of the PUIC Conference and its related meetings. The signing took place as part of the preparatory arrangements for the Conference, which will be hosted by the Azerbaijani

Parliament. The MoU was signed on behalf of the PUIC by the Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, and on behalf of the Azerbaijani side by H.E. Mr. Farid Hajiye, Secretary General of the National Assembly.



Secretary General of the National Assembly.

### 19 October 2025

On the sidelines of the 151st Assembly of the IPU as well, another MoU was also signed on 19 October 2025 in Geneva between the PUIC and the Asian-African Parliamentary Council. The MoU was

signed on behalf of the PUIC by the Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, and on behalf of the Asian-African Council by H.E. Mr. Saud Al-Hujailan, Vice-President of the Council.



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### 10-12 November 2025

The Secretary General of the PUIC, H.E. Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass, participated in the Interparliamentary Speakers Conference held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, from 10 to 12 November 2025. The Conference, held under the theme "Peace, Security, and

Development", emphasized the close interconnection between peace and sustainable development. On the sidelines, H.E. the Secretary General held meetings with several parliamentary leaders to discuss improving relations between their parliaments and the PUIC.

