



Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States Issue No.35 | Summer 2026

H.E. Sahiba Gafarova – Speaker of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan on

Parliaments and Economic Cooperation



This issue of “PUIC” Bulletin comes at a delicate time for the Islamic Ummah, as it faces mounting challenges and a growing need to unite efforts and strengthen joint parliamentary action, amidst a complex regional and international context that requires the representatives of the Ummah’s peoples to enhance the level of coordination and consultation, and to intensify initiatives aimed at upholding joint interests and defending just causes. In this issue, H.E. Mrs Sahiba Gafarova examines the mechanisms that Parliaments can adopt to promote economic cooperation among PUIC Member States.

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Baku Hosts the 20th Conference of the PUIC

The PUIC holds its 20th Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 24 and 25 June 2026, as part of the ongoing efforts to promote joint parliamentary cooperation. This Conference comes following two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee, the first was in Dakar, Senegal, on 1-2 September 2025, and the second in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 3-4 February 2026, during which preparations were made regarding the various agenda items, including the Standing Committees and subsidiary bodies, in addition to determining the themes of the session and reinforcing coordination among Member States.

Editorial

By | Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass,
PUIC Secretary General



At the outset, I would like to extend my greetings to you in this new issue of the ‘PUIC’ bulletin, which is an intellectual and media platform embodying the PUIC’s mission to enhance parliamentary communication and promote the values of dialogue, cooperation and solidarity. As we gather in Baku to continue our joint Islamic parliamentary work by convening the 20th Conf. of the PUIC, under the theme: “Fostering Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Development in the OIC Member States through Parliamentary Cooperation”, we are aware of our responsibilities at this critical juncture in the history of our Ummah. This theme reflects an ambitious vision to harness parliamentary diplomacy and joint legislative action to foster development, stimulate investment, and strengthen economic integration among OIC Member States. It also reflects our firm belief that effective parliamentary cooperation is a cornerstone for achieving comprehensive development that guarantees prosperity, dignity and justice for our people. As the world grapples with the escalating economic challenges, the importance of promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development in OIC Member States becomes increasingly evident as an indispensable strategic goal for building stronger and more diversified economies to ensure prosperity for present and future generations. To this end, parliamentary cooperation plays a pivotal role in supporting development efforts by aligning legislative approaches, exchanging expertise and best practices, creating legal frameworks conducive to investment, and boosting intra-OIC trade. It also fosters innovation and digital transformation, and promotes good governance, thereby contributing to building economies that are more ready to face modern challenges. Today, parliaments of the Islamic world are called to play an active role in drafting bold development policies that balance between economic growth, social justice and environmental sustainability, while paving the way for greater economic integration amongst Muslim countries.

The Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Born in 1955 in the town of Shamkir, Her Excellency Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova is regarded as one of the country's most prominent political and academic figures. Elected Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the 6th convocation on 10 March 2020 and of the 7th convocation on 23 September 2024. Graduated with first-class honours the Russian Language and Literature Faculty of the Azerbaijan Paedagogical Institute of Russian Language and Literature, and the English Philology Faculty of the Azerbaijan University of Languages. PhD Philology, Professor. Distinguished Teacher. Decorated with the 'Sharaf' Order and the Medal of Honour of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Was honoured with the 'Unity' Order and the Medal 'For Strengthening Parliamentary Co-operation' of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the 'Druzhba' Order of Russia, the State Order 'For the Contribution to Development of Co-operation' of Turkmenistan as well as the Honorary Diploma and Medal of the University of Warsaw. Honorary Professor of the L.N. Gumilev Eurasian National University of Kazakhstan

and the Belarusian State University. Authored various textbooks and educational manuals, monographs and dozens of scientific articles. Proficient in Turkish, English and Russian. Secondary school teacher in the town of Shamkir during 1978–1981.

During 1981–2020, a laboratory assistant, teacher, senior teacher, Associate Professor, Professor and Head of the European Languages Department as well as Prorector for International Relations (pro bono during 2010–2020) at the Baku Slavic University. Also, Dean of the Western Languages Faculty at the Western University during 2000–2004.

Worked at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan via the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Scholarship programme in 2006. Member of the New Azerbaijan Party. Member of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th convocations. Deputy Chairwoman of the Milli Majlis Family, Women's and Children's Affairs Committee in 2015–2020.

Member of the Delegation of Azerbaijan to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

during 2010–2020 and, within the same entity, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Racism and Xenophobia in 2012–2014, the Gender Equality Subcommittee in 2014–2015, Political Co-ordinator of the 'Women Free from Violence' Network and General Rapporteur on combatting violence against women in 2015–2017, and Chairwoman of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and Member of the PACE Bureau in 2016–2018. Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly in 2018–2020.

Head of the Delegations of Azerbaijan to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States, the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation currently.

Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation.

Married, with 2 children.



H.E. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, to the PUIC:

The PUIC is a platform for:

Sharing Experiences and Coordinating Legislation

In an interview with the “PUIC” Bulletin, The Speaker of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, addressed a number of key issues, such as promoting economic development, empowering young people in society, strengthening the role of women in parliamentary work, and artificial intelligence. Below is the full text of the interview:

▲PUIC: What is the role that parliaments can play in creating a legislative environment favourable to joint investment among Islamic States?

Parliaments play a fundamental role in fostering an enabling environment for economic cooperation and joint investment among Islamic States. Through their legislative, oversight, and

representative functions, parliaments contribute to establishing transparent, predictable, and investor-friendly legal frameworks that encourage cross-border economic partnerships.

In an increasingly interconnected global economy, closer economic integration among OIC Member States requires facilitation of trade and financial flows. National parliaments play a pivotal role by adopting legislation that promotes legal certainty, strengthens the rule of law, and enhances confidence among investors.

Equally important is parliamentary diplomacy. Platforms such as the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) provide valuable opportunities for dialogue, exchange of best practices, and coordination of legislative initiatives aimed at advancing economic cooperation. Through

sustained parliamentary engagement, Member States can contribute to reducing regulatory barriers, encouraging innovation, and supporting the development of regional value chains.

The Republic of Azerbaijan attaches great importance to strengthening economic cooperation within the Islamic world. Under the leadership of President H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan has pursued policies aimed at improving the business environment, enhancing connectivity, and promoting mutually beneficial partnerships. We believe that parliaments have a significant role to play in supporting these efforts by ensuring that legislative frameworks respond effectively to contemporary economic challenges and opportunities.

▲PUIC: What policies does the Parliament of Azerbaijan adopt to

empower young people in social life?

■ The Republic of Azerbaijan considers youth to be one of the principal driving forces of national development. Youth empowerment has long been among the strategic priorities of state policy, reflecting our conviction that investing in young people is an investment in the future of society.

The Parliament of Azerbaijan actively supports legislative initiatives aimed at expanding educational opportunities, encouraging civic engagement, promoting entrepreneurship, and facilitating the participation of young people in public life. Particular attention is devoted to creating conditions that enable young citizens to realize their potential, develop leadership skills, and contribute meaningfully to decision-making processes.

Azerbaijan has established a comprehensive institutional framework for youth development, including dedicated youth policies, support programs, and platforms for dialogue between public institutions and young people. The Milli Majlis regularly considers legislative measures related to education, employment, innovation, digital transformation, and social welfare, all of which directly contribute to improving opportunities for younger generations.

Furthermore, Azerbaijani youth actively participate in international initiatives, intercultural dialogue programs, volunteer movements, and parliamentary activities. These experiences help cultivate responsible citizenship, strengthen social cohesion, and promote a deeper understanding of global challenges. As parliamentarians, we recognize that empowering youth is not merely a social objective but a strategic necessity. We therefore remain committed to supporting policies that encourage the active participation of young people in shaping a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future.

▲ PUIC: In light of the successful experience of the Republic of Azerbaijan in promoting women's participation in political and social life, as exemplified by Your Excellency's long-standing leadership of the Azerbaijani Parliament, how do you think the role of women in parliamentary work could be further

enhanced in PUIC Member States?

■ The Republic of Azerbaijan has a long-standing tradition of promoting women's participation in political and public life. It is particularly noteworthy that in 1918, with the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Azerbaijani women were granted the right to vote and be elected, making Azerbaijan one of the first countries in the world—and the first in the Muslim East—to provide women with full electoral rights.

Today, the empowerment of women remains one of the key priorities of state policy in Azerbaijan. Significant progress has been achieved in increasing women's participation in decision-making processes, public administration, education, science, business, and parliamentary activities.

A special role in advancing this agenda belongs to the First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, whose extensive public, humanitarian, cultural, and social initiatives have made an invaluable contribution to promoting women's leadership, education, and active engagement in society. Through her example and dedicated efforts, many women and young girls have been encouraged to participate more actively in public and political life.

In our view, the role of women in parliamentary work across PUIC Member States can be further enhanced through several key measures. First, it is important to create greater opportunities for women's participation in political decision-making processes, including through leadership development programs, mentoring initiatives, and capacity-building activities for current and future women parliamentarians.

Second, parliaments should continue promoting legislative frameworks that ensure equal opportunities for women and men in political, economic, and social spheres. Equally important is the

■ **The PUIC provides valuable opportunities for dialogue, exchange of best practices, and coordination of legislative initiatives**

■ **Investing in women's leadership and ensuring their meaningful participation in parliamentary processes strengthens our democratic institutions and the social and economic development of our societies**

exchange of best practices among PUIC Member States regarding the advancement of women's representation in elected and appointed positions.

Third, strengthening parliamentary networks of women legislators and encouraging their active participation in international parliamentary platforms can contribute to sharing experiences, addressing common challenges, and developing coordinated approaches to gender-responsive policymaking.

The PUIC can play an important role in this regard by serving as a platform for dialogue, cooperation, and the dissemination of successful national experiences. By investing in women's leadership and ensuring their meaningful participation in parliamentary processes, we strengthen not only our democratic institutions but also the social and economic





development of our societies.

Azerbaijan remains committed to supporting initiatives aimed at advancing the role of women in parliamentary diplomacy and governance and stands ready to share its experience with fellow PUIC Member States.

▲ PUIC: How does the Parliament of Azerbaijan seek to integrate modern technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the development of legislative and oversight work?

■ Digital transformation is reshaping governance and parliamentary institutions worldwide. Recognizing these developments, the Parliament of Azerbaijan attaches considerable importance to the integration of modern technologies into legislative and oversight activities in order to enhance efficiency, transparency, accessibility, and institutional effectiveness.

The ongoing modernization of parliamentary procedures includes the wider use of digital platforms, electronic document management systems, and information technologies that facilitate legislative drafting, committee work, research, and communication with citizens. These tools help improve the quality and timeliness of parliamentary decision-making while strengthening public engagement.

Artificial Intelligence presents significant opportunities for parliaments in areas such as legal research, comparative legislative analysis, data processing, policy evaluation, and the management of large volumes of information. At the same time, the introduction of AI must be guided by principles of transparency, accountability, security, and respect for human oversight.

Azerbaijan has made substantial progress in advancing digital governance and innovation, and these achievements provide a strong foundation for the future application of emerging technologies within parliamentary institutions. The Parliament remains attentive to international best practices and evolving

technological developments that can support more informed and evidence-based policymaking.

As we move forward, it will be important for parliaments across the Islamic world to cooperate in addressing both the opportunities and challenges associated with artificial intelligence. Through dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and coordinated approaches, we can ensure that technological innovation serves the interests of our citizens and contributes to sustainable development, good governance, and stronger democratic institutions.





55th Executive Committee Meeting of the PUIC:

Towards Effective Parliamentary Action to Address Challenges and Promote International Justice

Upon the kind invitation of the Mauritanian National Assembly, the Executive Committee of the PUIC held its 55th meeting on 3-4 February 2026 in Nouakchott, capital of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The meeting was opened with a speech by the Speaker of the Mauritanian National Assembly, in which he underscored the strong bonds uniting the Islamic Ummah

and reflected on the magnitude of the challenges it faces, foremost among them are the developments in the Palestinian Cause and the tragic conditions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. He called for intensified parliamentary efforts in support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In the same vein, the PUIC Secretary General highlighted the importance of the meeting as a key

step in preparations for the upcoming Conference, reiterating the centrality of the Palestinian Cause and urging greater unity among Islamic parliaments in addressing current security, humanitarian, and political challenges.

As highlighted by the final report of the meeting, the interventions of participating delegations reflected a clear consensus on the centrality of the



Palestinian Cause. Delegations strongly condemned the grave and ongoing violations against the Palestinian people and called for urgent international action to halt the aggression, lift the blockade, and enable Palestinians to exercise their legitimate rights, foremost among them the establishment of an independent State with Al-Quds as its capital. Discussions also addressed other priority issues, including combating terrorism and extremism, particularly in the Sahel region, while emphasizing the need to tackle their root causes and strengthen regional and international coordination. The meeting further expressed solidarity with several Islamic States facing challenges to their security and stability. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Nouakchott Declaration, which reaffirmed the unity of the Islamic Ummah and the shared responsibility of its representatives to defend just causes, foremost among them the Palestinian

■ To read the full Declaration, scan the following QR code:



Cause. The Declaration renewed the call for a just and comprehensive solution grounded in international legitimacy, welcomed the growing international recognition of the State of Palestine, and highlighted the rising global popular support for its cause, calling for these developments to be harnessed in advancing shared human values.

Beyond political matters, the Declaration also addressed a range of strategic issues, including combating extremism, safeguarding the rights of Muslim minorities, countering Islamophobia, and promoting human rights in a manner that respects cultural and civilizational particularities. It further emphasized support for women's causes and environmental concerns, concluding with a call to leverage the Ummah's strengths to move from a position of being influenced to one of exerting influence, and to contribute to building a more balanced and just international order.

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 55th Executive Committee Meeting Meeting:

▶ **8 February 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Joseph Djogbénou as Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin.

▶ **9 February 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Tomás Djassi as Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau.

▶ **12 February 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Marlen Mamataliyev as Speaker of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic.

▶ **12 March 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh.

▶ **17 March 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Aboubakary Abdoulaye as Speaker of the Cameroonian Senate.

▶ **17 March 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Théodore Datouo as Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon.

▶ **25 May 2026:** Re-election of H.E. Mr Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf as Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran.

▶ **25 May 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Jacob Marksons Oboth as Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

▶ **26 May 2026:** Election of H.E. Mr Ousmane Sonko as Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal



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Algeria

In his speech delivered on 14 February 2026 at the closing ceremony of the first session of the Algerian-Mauritanian High-Level Parliamentary Committee, held in Algiers, the Speaker of the People's National Assembly of Algeria, H.E. Mr Brahim Boughali, affirmed that the session marked an important milestone in enhancing parliamentary cooperation and a significant step towards advancing the bilateral partnership to more integrated and effective levels. He praised the spirit of brotherhood and constructive dialogue that prevailed during the meetings, reflecting the depth of the historical relations between the two countries and their shared aspirations. He also noted that the outcomes of the session provide a practical basis for strengthening coordination and activating parliamentary diplomacy in support of economic and developmental cooperation.



Kingdom of Bahrain

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Mr Ahmed Bin Salman Almusalam, emphasised the Kingdom's wise diplomatic approach, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad Al Khalifa and in accordance with the directives of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in supporting the Palestinian Cause and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. He explained that Bahrain, through its non-permanent membership of the UNSC and its presidency of the APA, places the Palestinian Cause among its priorities, thereby helping to ensure the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the two-state solution. This came during his meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine on 28 January 2026, where they discussed strengthening bilateral relations. The Palestinian Ambassador, for his part, praised Bahrain's role and supportive stance.



Côte d'Ivoire

Following his election as Speaker of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Mr Patrick Achi delivered his first speech on 17 January 2026, expressing his deep sense of responsibility and the profound significance of his new role. He reaffirmed his commitment to serving the nation in a spirit of loyalty and discipline. He also praised the integrity and transparency of the legislative elections held on 27 December 2025, congratulating the elected members and highlighting the public's trust in democratic institutions. H.E. also commended his predecessor, H.E. Mr Adama Bictogo, and pledged to preserve the institutional advances made.

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Egypt

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Egypt, H.E. Mr Hisham Badawi, received a delegation of EU ambassadors accredited to Egypt on 11 February 2026. During the meeting, he affirmed Egypt's commitment to the principles of its comprehensive strategic partnership with the European Union, praising the positive developments in bilateral relations. He also expressed his hope to enhance dialogue and consultation on issues of mutual interest in light of regional and international challenges. H.E. highlighted the importance of the Egypt-EU Summit held in Brussels, considering it a pivotal milestone in the path of cooperation. Meanwhile, the ambassadors praised Egypt's standing and pivotal role, emphasising their commitment to developing parliamentary cooperation.



Indonesia

During her opening address at the parliamentary session held on 10 March 2026, the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, H.E. Mrs Puan Maharani, highlighted the escalating tensions in the West Asian region. She stressed that the world is witnessing geopolitical conflicts characterised by the use of military force, which reflects imbalances in the international system and competition among major powers. She also noted that these tensions highlight real challenges to global governance and a decline in respect for the sovereignty of States, and emphasised the importance of strengthening international law and the role of multilateral institutions in maintaining peace and stability. The HoR also expressed its support for diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring peace and stability, calling on the UN to take urgent action to protect civilians and prevent further escalation.



Iran

The Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, in a letter addressed to the Speakers of the Parliaments of Islamic States on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation and solidarity among Islamic States to address

joint challenges. H.E. stressed that reinforcing cooperation between Islamic countries, while avoiding foreign interference, is a key factor in addressing regional crises and consolidating security and stability. He also called for greater unity and solidarity among the peoples of the Islamic world, emphasising that shared will and Islamic solidarity are key to advancing development and peace and serving the interests of the Islamic ummah.



Iraq

The Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq, H.E. Mr Haibat Al-Halbousi, affirmed Iraq's solidarity with Lebanon in facing the present challenges, and its support for all measures that strengthen its security and stability. This came during a telephone call he held with the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, His Excellency Mr Nabih Berri, on 10 April 2026, during which discussions took place regarding developments in the region and regional and international efforts aimed at de-escalation and stabilisation, whilst emphasising the need for Lebanon to be included in any forthcoming ceasefire. H.E. Mr Al-Halbousi also condemned the continuing attacks on the Lebanese people, reiterating Iraq's support for Lebanon's unity and security.



Lebanon

On 9 March 2026, the National Assembly of Lebanon approved the extension of its term for two years, with 76 votes in favor, 41 against, and 4 abstentions, according to a statement from the media office of the Speaker of the Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Nabih Berri. This decision came as the country was experiencing exceptional circumstances, marked by mounting military attacks targeting large areas, particularly the South, the Bekaa, and the Beirut area, which caused significant human and material losses. These critical security developments justified postponing the legislative elections, thereby enabling constitutional institutions to continue functioning and respond to the current challenges.



Malaysia

In a major display of unity, the Malaysian Parliament witnessed, on March 2, 2026, an agreement between the



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ruling and opposition parties that reflected clear solidarity with Iran and a strong condemnation of the strikes carried out by Israel and the US. The session opened with a minute of silence in mourning for the victims of the aggression, including Iran's Supreme Leader and a number of other leaders and officials. During the session, the Malaysian Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Anwar Ibrahim emphasized that this unanimity reflects Malaysia's commitment to the principles of sovereignty and international justice, describing the targeting of leaders and civilian facilities as a flagrant violation of international law, and stressing the need for alertness in the face of geopolitical challenges and to counter any attempts that undermine national sovereignty and stability.



Mauritania

On April 1, 2026, MPs from the Mauritanian National Assembly organized a protest rally in front of the Parliament building in Nouakchott in condemnation of the law passed by the Israeli Knesset mandating the execution of Palestinian prisoners. The participating MPs condemned what they described as a "racist and inhumane law," considering it a dangerous escalation and a flagrant violation of international laws and norms. Deputies from various political parties affirmed the solidarity of the Mauritanian people and parliament with the Palestinian Cause and their rejection of all forms of aggression and violations. They also called on the international community to take urgent action to stop these practices and protect human rights in the Palestinian territories.



Sultanate of Oman

The Shura Council of Oman held, on 29 January 2026, an official meeting between H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Speaker of the Council, and H.E. Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The meeting emphasised the importance of enhancing bilateral relations in the economic, cultural, tourism, and legislative fields, with a focus on developing mutual investment. Discussions also addressed ways to enhance coordination and consultation between the two Councils to serve mutual interests, as well as exploring mechanisms to support legislative cooperation through the exchange of expertise and increased visits between the two sides.



Pakistan

On 12-17 February 2026, a parliamentary delegation from Pakistan, led by the Speaker of the National Assembly, H.E. Mr Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, made an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. The visit included meetings with the Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Councillors, during which they exchanged views on various bilateral and regional issues and emphasised the importance of promoting joint cooperation. The visit highlighted the deep and cordial relations between the two countries and their commitment to developing cooperation, particularly in the parliamentary sphere, thereby promoting mutual interests and supporting efforts towards peace and stability.



Qatar

During his participation in the meeting of the Group of Parliaments in Support of Palestine, held on the sidelines of the IPU Assembly, the Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, H.E. Mr Hassan bin Abdulla Al-Ghanim, reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to continuing its unwavering support for the Palestinian Cause and to strengthening its political and humanitarian efforts in support of the Palestinian people. H.E. Excellency also stressed the importance of unifying parliamentary stances and activating joint action to defend legitimate rights. He also warned of the gravity of developments in the Palestinian territories, criticising ongoing violations, and calling for a shift from speeches and statements to taking action that will strengthen the defence of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the implementation of international resolutions.



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

On 5 February 2026, a delegation from the Saudi-Egyptian Parliamentary Friendship Committee of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia visited the Egyptian House of Representatives. The delegation, headed by H.E. Dr Fahad Al-Takheefi, met with a number of parliamentary committee chairs, reviewed bilateral cooperation and ways to promote it in various fields, and discussed prospects for parliamentary

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and legislative cooperation. The delegation from the Saudi Shura Council also attended part of a session of the Egyptian House of Representatives, where they were welcomed by the Speaker, who emphasised his country's desire to strengthen parliamentary cooperation. The visit also included meetings with the General Secretariat and a tour of the Administrative Capital.



Senegal

Following the conclusion of the 17th Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments and Parliamentary Bodies, held in Lomé, Togo, on 10 April 2026, H.E. Mr Malick Ndiaye, Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal, was elected First Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie. This unanimous election marked Senegal's return to a prominent position within the executive body of this organisation, following an absence of more than 40 years from this post. The appointment is due to be formally approved at the next General Assembly in July 2026, paving the way for Senegal to potentially assume the presidency of the organisation in 2028.



Türkiye

On 14 April 2026, and ahead of the 152nd Assembly of the IPU, the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament,

H.E. Mr Numan Kurtulmuş, called for promoting dialogue and raising the voice of parliaments against injustice and conflict. During the opening of the Executive Committee meeting of the IPU, he emphasised the responsibility of parliaments to support peace, democracy and pluralism, and to draft visions that serve future generations. The meeting saw broad participation from parliamentarians to discuss a range of issues, including post-conflict peacebuilding, economic cooperation, the rights of parliamentarians, the Palestinian Cause and climate change, as well as the election of a new Secretary General of the IPU.



United Arab Emirates

From 14 to 19 April 2026, a delegation from the Federal National Council of the UAE participated in the meeting of the Committee on International Peace and Security, as part of the 152nd Assembly of the IPU, held in Istanbul. During the meeting, the Committee approved the amendments submitted by the UAE Parliamentary Group regarding a draft resolution on the role of parliaments in post-conflict management and building sustainable peace. The delegation warned of the dire consequences of conflicts where peace agreements are not implemented or adequately monitored, emphasising the importance of strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and regional cooperation to support mediation efforts, build institutional capacity and enhance resilience.

To see previous issues of the bulletin, refer to the PUIC's official website



Activities of the Secretary General

On the sidelines of the 152nd Assembly of the IPU

The Islamic Group Holds its Consultation Meeting in Istanbul

On 15 April 2026, the Islamic Group held its consultation meeting in Istanbul, on the sidelines of the IPU Assembly, with the participation of a number of Speakers of Parliament, parliamentary delegations and members of the Islamic Group. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr Abdürrahim Dusak, on behalf of the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, who welcomed the participants and delivered his opening remarks. The Secretary General of the PUIC, H.E. Mr Mouhamed Khouraichi Niass, then outlined the agenda and main themes to be discussed.

The meeting discussed the nomination of His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, Speaker of the Shura Council of Oman, for the Presidency



of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In accordance with the principle of geopolitical rotation and the customs of the IPU, the Islamic Group affirmed the Arab Group's right to assume the Presidency of the IPU in the coming term, calling on various geopolitical groups to recognize this entitlement during the nomination and voting procedures.

On another note, the meeting also discussed proposals relating to the urgent

item on the IPU's agenda, and after extensive deliberations, it was decided to endorse the proposal submitted by the Republic of Türkiye and the State of Qatar, which was supported by the Arab Group. It was also agreed to intensify consultations with various parliamentary delegations to mobilise the necessary support to secure the adoption of the proposal during the IPU meetings.

12 February 2026

In a statement issued on 12 February 2026, the Secretary General of the PUIC, H.E. Mr Mouhamed Khouraichi Niass, strongly condemned the ongoing colonial policies of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people, their land, and their holy sites. H.E. also denounced measures seeking to impose

a new status quo through the expansion of settlements, land seizures and the demolition of homes, stressing that the only way to counter these policies is to strengthen Islamic solidarity and support the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to establish their independent State with Al-Quds as its capital.



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21 May 2026

In a statement issued on 21 May 2026, the Secretary General of the PUIC, H.E. Mr Mouhamed Khouraichi Niass, strongly condemned the attack on the Islamic Centre in San Diego, California, USA, which resulted in a number of casualties. H.E. considered this attack to be a symptom

of growing hatred and incitement against Muslims, warning of the rise of Islamophobia and the threat it poses to coexistence and social peace. He also offered his sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the Muslim community in San Diego, expressing his solidarity with



them and calling for a stand against hate speech and the promotion of the values of tolerance and mutual respect.