

To,
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament

06 November 2012

Subject: Reply to the Scottish Government Response *in re* Petition PE1435

Dear Sir,

Thank you for revisiting the decision made on 26 June 2012 and writing to the Scottish Government.

It is stated that I wrote a letter dated 09 March 2012 to Fiona Hyslop MSP on the matter of Scottish-Pakistan Youth Council, hereinafter referred to as Council. I received a reply from the Scottish Government dated 30 March 2012; reference number 2012/0009347 where it stated:

‘I would be grateful if you could send me further details for inclusion in briefing for the Cabinet Secretary’s consideration.’

I responded the same day with a *draft* constitution of the proposed council and further received a reply dated 25 May 2012 stating:

‘We are unable to endorse the Scotland-Pakistan Youth Council until it is established and up and running.’

the Scottish Government response reference number PE1435/B states:

‘Officials wrote to Mr. Nassar on a number of occasions to get clarification on how the Council would be operated, financed and who the members would be. Unfortunately, these questions have not yet been answered in full.’

Firstly, I am not sure if the Government has access to the documents I sent with my email dated 30 March 2012. The *draft* constitution did cover the details of Council operation and membership.

Secondly, I must apologize for not including the fiscal matters of the Council within the *draft* Constitution and therefore detail here that as the council should initially meet online and consider the possibility of offline meetings if something reasonable comes up.

I am pleased to see in the letter PE1435/B that the Scottish Government has welcomed the proposal and would endorse the Council once it’s established. Taking attention of the discussion of the Committee on 02 October 2012, I have considered self-help as the first option and will report to the Scottish Minister for External Affairs and International Development once we establish the Council. For the information of the Hon. Committee I attach herewith the draft Constitution.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Wajahat Nassar

CHARTER OF THE SCOTLAND- PAKISTAN YOUTH CONGRESS

Article I

NAME

The name of the youth body shall be the Scotland-Pakistan Youth Congress, hereinafter referred to as the Congress.

Article II

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Congress shall be:

- a) to promote youth involvement in issues of importance to the countries;
- b) to promote and strengthen youth self-reliance in both the countries;
- c) to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of bilateral issues;
- d) to promote active collaboration among youth in the socio-economic, cultural, technical and scientific fields;
- e) to strengthen youth cooperation between the two countries;

Article III

PRINCIPLES

The Congress shall work on all principles adopted by UN namely, cooperation based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non -interference in the internal affairs of other States and mutual benefit.

Article IV

ORGANS OF THE CONGRESS

1. Following shall constitute as the organs of the Congress:
 - The General Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the “Assembly”
 - The Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Executive Committee”
2. Board of Advisors, hereinafter referred to as the “Board of Advisors”
3. Any and all Sub Committees formed by the Congress
4. Election Commission

Article V

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to all young people of Scotland and Pakistan.
2. Gender equality shall be ensured in the representation.

Article VI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Composition of The General Assembly shall be as follows, each member shall have one vote each:
 - One representatives from each local authority of Scotland:
 - Representatives from each region of Pakistan
 - (a) Seven representatives from Balochistan
 - (b) Two members from FATA
 - (c) Two members from Federal Areas.
 - (d) Seven representatives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
 - (e) Seven representatives from Punjab
 - (f) Seven representatives from Sindh
 - One Advisory Board member
 - Observers, no more than 5.
 - All other delegations from any country may attend, but without a vote.
2. The General Assembly shall:
 - Adopt its' own rules of procedure.
 - Elect or dismiss its Chairperson.
 - Elect or dismiss its Deputy-Chairperson.
 - Approve the Congressional work plan.
 - Evaluate the work of the Executive Committee.
 - Take measures against members in breach of the Constitution.
3. The positions of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall be in addition to the 28 members that form the General Assembly. Nominations for these offices shall be collected separately.
4. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson position shall not be from the same country. The positions shall be rotated among the Countries, starting from the first region in alphabetical order from the first session of the General Assembly. At the last region of the Country, the other country shall be given the position.
5. The General Assembly shall be convened by a notice signed by the Chairperson and agenda sent to the members at least one month in before the meeting.
6. Members shall be invited to submit agenda items at least two months before the meeting.
7. A quorum shall be formed by two-third majority of the delegates.
8. All decisions shall at all times be by consensus.
9. Minutes of the meetings shall be accessible to all members after the General Assembly meeting.
10. There shall be an Annual General Meeting. Recommendations and Reports from the Annual Meeting shall be forwarded to the respective Governments.
11. The term of office for the members of the General Assembly shall be two years, during the last semester of which the Election Commission shall hold elections for the next term.

Article VII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The composition of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:
 - Executive Director
 - Deputy Executive Director
 - One National Coordinator for each Country.
 - One Regional Coordinators for each Region of the Country
2. The officers of the Executive Committee shall be:
 - General Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Liaison
3. No member of the Executive Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the General Assembly
4. The Director and Deputy Director position shall not be from the same country. The positions shall be rotated among the Countries, starting from the first region in alphabetical order from the first session of the Executive Committee. At the last region of the Country, the other country shall be given the position.
5. The Chairperson of the General Assembly shall not be from the same country as of the Executive Director. The same shall apply to the position of the deputies.
6. The positions of the Director, Deputy Director and all officials shall be in addition to the 13 Regional Coordinators and the Two National Coordinators. Nominations for these offices shall be collected separately.
7. The Executive Committee works at the pleasure of the General Assembly. The term of office for the members shall be two years, during the last semester of which the Election Commission shall hold elections for the next term.
8. Members of the Executive Committee may be removed in the General Assembly, provided that the person has been given an opportunity to represent. In case of removal on grounds of incompetence or otherwise misconduct as defined by both the countries, the position shall be open for nominations.
9. The Executive Committee shall also meet whenever the need arises, is called by the Chairperson, by a two-thirds majority of the executive members or by the respective Governments.
10. The Executive Committee shall also meet during the Annual Youth Congress and present its annual report to the General Assembly.

Article VIII

MEETINGS OF THE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

The Youth Representatives shall meet as and when required, but shall meet at least once in a year.

Article IX

NATIONAL COORDINATORS

1. National Coordinators shall be the representatives of two Countries and shall be responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the programmes.
2. They shall have the following terms of reference:
 - a) determination of the potential and the scope of regional cooperation in various thematic areas;
 - b) formulation of youth programmes;
 - c) implementation and coordination of youth programmes;
 - d) monitoring of progress in implementation.
3. The National Coordinators shall submit periodic reports to the Executive Committee.

Article IX

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

1. Regional Coordinators shall be the representatives of each regions within a country and shall be responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the programmes.
2. The Regional Coordinators shall work under the guidance of the National Coordinators and shall submit periodic reports to their National Coordinators.

Article X

STANDING COMMITTEE

1. The Standing Committee shall have the following functions:
 - a) Reporting on the thematic areas specific;
 - b) Developing plans and recommendations to solve the issues of utmost importance.
2. The Standing Committee shall meet as often as deemed necessary.
3. The Standing Committee shall submit periodic reports to the General Assembly and make reference to it as and when necessary for decisions on policy matters.
4. The Chairmanship of the Standing Committee shall rotate among the two countries in alphabetical order every one year.
5. All committees shall have two representatives from each of the state.
6. The positions of the Chairman shall be in addition to the representation from the two Member countries. Nominations for these offices shall be collected separately.
7. The Standing Committee shall also meet whenever the need arises, is called by the Chairperson, by a two-thirds majority of the executive members or by the respective Governments.
8. The Standing Committee shall present its annual report to the General Assembly during the Annual Youth Congress.

9. No member of a Standing Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee or the General Assembly.
10. A person may not be a member of more than one Standing Committee.

Article XI

ELECTIONS

1. An Election Commission shall be appointed by the Two Countries.
2. The composition of the Election Commission shall be as follows:
 - Chief Election Commissioner.
 - Four Assistants to Chief Election Commissioners (Youth Representative from each country) appointed.
3. Elections shall be held every 2 years and shall form the following sequence:
 - Full voting members
 - Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson – Intra-country nominations.
 - Executive Director and Deputy Director - Intra-country nominations.
 - Committees Chairperson (all the Sub Committees) - Intra-country nominations.
4. Election notice should be issued by the Election Commission at least 06 months before the expiry of the term of the current General Assembly.
 - The nominations period shall close after 1 month of the notice thus given
 - Members can nominate several candidates. Each nomination must be submitted in writing accompanied by the curriculum vitae and the manifesto of the candidate
 - The Election Commission shall announce the list of eligible candidates with their curriculum vitas and manifestos no later than two weeks after the nomination was closed.
 - Eligible Candidates shall be allowed campaigning which shall end a day before the elections during the Annual Congress Meeting.
 - During the Annual Meeting, a general caucus shall be held with the candidates.

Article XII

AMENDMENTS

1. The constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority of the members of the General Assembly present at the Congress.
2. Proposed amendments must be presented to the Executive Committee in writing at least 02 month before the Congress.

Article XIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Decisions at all levels shall be taken on the basis of unanimity.
2. Bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations.
3. The constitution shall become valid immediately following its adoption.

IN FAITH WHEREOF We Have Set Our Hands Hereunto. DONE

In _____ on this _____ Day Of _____ Of The
Year Two Thousand and Twelve.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE OF SCOTLAND (UNITED KINGDOM)

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