



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI XARİCİ İŞLƏR NAZİRLİYİNİN JURNALI
JOURNAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

DIPLOMATIYA ALƏMI

world of diplomacy

15/2006



Xarici İşlər Nazirlərinin İslam Konfransının 33-cü Sessiyası

**33rd SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS**

**AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI XARİCİ İŞLƏR
NAZİRLİYİNİN JURNALI**

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
№ 15, 2006

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“World of Diplomacy” journal is published since 2002.

Registration № 1161, 14 January 2005
ISSN:1818-4898

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“Diplomatiya Aləmi” (“World of Diplomacy”) is a quarterly journal published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2002.

With its distinctive combination of researches on theoretical and practical issues of international relations, international law and history, focused particularly on the South Caucasus, the journal offers a unique opportunity to stay in touch with the latest developments and ideas in these areas.

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SPEECH OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ILHAM ALIYEV



**Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Dear ministers, heads of delegations,
Dear guests!
I cordially welcome all of you to Azerbaijan!**

We attach great importance to hosting in Azerbaijan the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. It is for the first time that such a high-profile meeting is being held in Azerbaijan. Certainly, we would like very much it for the discussions during the session, exchange of views to further improve our work, strengthen our contacts. I have no doubt that the decisions to be adopted, including Baku Declaration,

will make huge contribution to our work.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference strengthens its positions, potential of influence on processes throughout the world, which, certainly, very much pleases us. Our brotherly, friendly ties and solidarity further strengthens us. Our political relations are on a very high level. Along with bilateral relations, we successfully participate, on a multilateral basis, in various international events, projects of regional cooperation. Certainly, we would like very much to strengthen our relations comprehensively. First is economy. It is contemporary economic potential, which defines country's power and

influence. Our activity should be directed at mutual support, strengthening our economies. For this purpose, undoubtedly, it is necessary to further expand mutual trade links. I hope that today's meeting will give very important impetus to future endeavors in this area, and cooperation between the OIC member-states in all areas will become closer.

At the same time, at this session issues of concern to us will be discussed, and it is necessary that we state our position. In some cases, the processes in the world cause our concern. First of all, attempts of media in some countries, as well as by certain political players, to associate Islam with terrorism bother, frustrate, and anger us. We cannot let it happen. Islam cannot be associated with terrorism. Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance. Azerbaijan itself is a victim of terror. The Armenian terrorist organizations have committed against us over 30 acts of terrorism, as a result of which 2000 Azerbaijani citizens were killed. Nevertheless, we do not connect these terrorist organizations with any religion. It is wrong. The terrorism does not have either religious, or national affiliation. Therefore, it is necessary for us to protest against it more vehemently, to state our position. Besides, we should, using all tools of propaganda, express our attitude to this



negative and worrisome tendency and prevent it through our actions.

Another issue of concern for us is strengthening of the tendencies of hatred for Islam in some countries. Now we talk much about dialogue among civilizations, yet in reality we see the opposite. In numerous countries cases discrimination under religious pretext take place, people of Islamic faith are not treated properly, but we can in no way permit this religious discrimination to continue. Now we speak of globalization, dialogue between civilizations, and quickly incorporate democratic values. In such cases, we can under no conditions agree with the existence of religious, or national discrimination, or negative attitude towards any religion or its believers. I am convinced that as a result of common efforts of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Conference we will state our position on these issues. I hope our common efforts will clarify all the issues of concern and prevent them.

Today, we gathered in Azerbaijan. I have already noted that this is a landmark event for us. It is for the first time that such a prominent event is being held in Azerbaijan and I hope that you, at the same time, will use the opportunity to get acquainted with our country. Azerbaijan is an ancient country, a historical land. Yet, as an independent state, it is young. Only 15 years ago Azerbaijan restored its national independence and since then has been strengthening its positions in the international arena. Our independent policy serves interests of the Azerbaijani people. We participate in a number of regional and international projects and initiate them. There is political stability in Azerbaijan, as well as civil solidarity. We strengthen our econom-

ic potential at a very high rate and in terms of economic growth Azerbaijan is now among the leader states. Last year the GDP growth was 26 percent. In five months of this year it reached approximately 40 percent. Industrial growth is also very high. Numerous jobs have opened, and we fight poverty in a determined and expedient manner. In a word, Azerbaijan is a dynamically developing country and of

For years, as a result of Armenia's armed aggression, 20 percent of our territory has been occupied. Due to policy of ethnic cleansing by Armenia, over a million Azerbaijanis were ousted from the lands of their forefathers and became refugees and IDPs. As a result of the Armenian aggression, all buildings, all infrastructure in the occupied territories has been completely destroyed. Graves of our ancestors, mosques, historical monuments, all buildings have been razed to the ground by Armenians. This is unprecedented vandalism.

course, this opens new opportunities, new horizons for us. As a member of international community, Azerbaijan always proceeds from a very constructive position in the international organizations. At the United Nations, in other international organizations, we always support the OIC member states and this policy will continue.

I also would like to note that since re-gaining our independence we have always enjoyed support and assistance from the member-states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We value the efforts of the OIC member-states in international organizations in support of Azerbaijan on and, availing myself of the opportunity, I want to express my gratitude to all delegations.

Along with accomplishments, we, of course, have experienced social and economic problems, and we tackle them. But there are problems which we cannot solve single-

handedly. The greatest and most urgent one for us is settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. For years, as a result of Armenia's armed aggression, 20 percent of our territory has been occupied. Due to policy of ethnic cleansing by Armenia, over a million Azerbaijanis were ousted from the lands of their forefathers and became refugees and IDPs. As a result of the Armenian aggres-

sion, all buildings, all infrastructure in the occupied territories has been completely destroyed. Graves of our ancestors, mosques, historical monuments, all buildings have been razed to the ground by Armenians. This is unprecedented vandalism. This problem faced by Azerbaijan diminishes the cooperation opportunities in the region as a whole. We try and hope that we achieve settlement of this question peacefully, through negotiations. We adhere to peace talks. But we cannot agree with the existing situation. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is recognized by the entire world, except Armenia. The United Nations Security Council has adopted four resolutions on this question. In these resolutions, it is stated that the Armenian armed forces should unconditionally withdraw from the Azerbaijan lands. Yet those resolutions remain unimplemented. Documents by other authoritative internation-



Azerbaijan will never reconcile with the violation of its territorial integrity. The ongoing negotiations will lead to peaceful agreement only if the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is restored. I believe that we will achieve this. From the historical point of view, Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijani land, and the Armenians came there in early 19th century. From the legal point of view, Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is recognized, and Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan. From the political point of view, Azerbaijan's positions continue to strengthen, and support of the international organizations is very important for us.

al organizations have the same demands. Also the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Council of Europe, GUAM and others have stated their open and principled position on the issue. Unfortunately, those resolutions have no implementation mechanism. The issue of greatest concern to us is that even the most prominent organization in the world – the United Nations Organization - has no mechanism of effective implementation of decisions. Now, there are discussions on the United Nations reforms. I consider that the first reform should define implementation mechanisms for all decisions. If a decision has been adopted, it should be implemented. If a country does not abide by the decision, it must be subjected to appropriate measures. This will further improve work of the United Nations.

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Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan. From the political point of view, Azerbaijan's positions continue to strengthen, and support of the international organizations is very important for us. Also, the position of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its growing influence provide impetus to our policy. From the economic point of view, Azerbaijan is developing at a fast rate. We are just in the beginning of the process, and the future will be very successful. According to estimations, rapid economic development of Azerbaijan will make it a very rich country. All these factors give us ground to believe that we will achieve resolution of the issue, and I want to do it peacefully. Yet, at the same time, all other options should be on the agenda.

Taking the opportunity, I once again express deep gratitude to the Organization of the Islamic Conference for support of our just cause.

Of course, we must state our position on the processes underway in the region. Development is possible only under conditions of peace, stability, and security. If we regard positive examples, we'll see, wherever the conditions are provided, there is development. We live in this region. Therefore, the processes in region, undoubtedly, play a role in defining our policy.

At the same time, Azerbaijan's policy has certain impact on regional processes. In that case, we all should spend every effort that peace, security are established in the region, possible risks reduced. We should not allow new risks to emerge and solve all issues through negotiations. We adhere to this and, if implemented, this will reduce the risks in the region. We want this. We want our countries to develop, our peoples to live better, to increase their educational level. One of our problems is connected with education. Educating of our people, adding to the level of knowledge is an important issue and it defines the world's future. Knowledge, literacy, and application of new technologies – all these are important for us. Our solidarity, mutual support, will further simplify our work.

Dear guests, I once again would like to tell you that I am very pleased to see you visit Azerbaijan. For some of you it is the first trip to Azerbaijan, and a good opportunity to get acquainted with Azerbaijan. I am convinced that our contacts with the member-states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference will further strengthen. I reiterate that Azerbaijan has been a member of the world community for just 15 years. We must be known, present ourselves, and offer our potential to speed up the cooperation. Azerbaijan intends to strengthen its activity in the Organization of Islamic Conference. We consider that the Organization has a prominent role to play and we hope that this role will continue to increase. Our positions will be as strong as strong is the Organization.

I once again cordially welcome you all in Azerbaijan, and wish success to the session.

Thank you.

Baku, 19 June 2006



ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ELMAR MAMMADYAROV



**Dear Mr. President,
Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to welcome all distinguished delegates and guests at the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers convened in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Personal guidance of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev in the preparation of the Session and his participation today in the ICFM opening ceremony is a clear indication of the importance attached by Azerbaijan to the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Having the Ministerial Conference in Baku and holding the ICFM Chairmanship entrusted by you to Azerbaijan, confers great honor and responsibility on my country. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to all OIC Member States and to OIC Secretary General Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu for trust and confidence granted to the Republic of Azerbaijan to hold

such an important event.

Being part of the Islamic Ummah, my country is proud with its history, cultural and religious roots and is striving to contribute to a dialogue among nations and peo-

Being part of the Islamic Ummah, my country is proud with its history, cultural and religious roots and is striving to contribute to a dialogue among nations and peoples acting as a bridge between East and West.

ples acting as a bridge between East and West. I would like to assure you that Azerbaijan will do its utmost to inject more efficiency into the performance of the Organization, to mobilize OIC efforts in confronting threats and challenges facing the

Islamic Ummah, and to promote the role of the OIC in global affairs.

I would like to express deep gratitude to my colleague, Dr. Abubaker Aiqirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, who chaired the 32nd Session of ICFM. I highly appreciate the productive work of Yemen during the Chairmanship marked with contribution to the solution of the issues on the OIC agenda.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to warmly congratulate the newly elected Members of the Bureau of the 33rd ICFM Session: the United Arab Emirates, Cameroon and Palestine as Vice-Chairmen, and Yemen as Rapporteur of the Session.

In conclusion, let me express my conviction that the three days of the Conference will be rich with thought-provoking deliberations, and tangible results will be achieved

for the benefit of the Organization and the Islamic Ummah.

Thank you for your attention.

Baku, 19 June 2006

SPEECH OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC EKMELEDDİN İNSANOĞLU



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct honor for me to welcome you all to this 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. Allow me, at the outset, to say how much honored we are and grateful to the people and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this Conference, and for all the marks of hospitality as well as the gracious and warm welcome with which we met.

I would like to pay a special tribute and express my sincere thanks to H.E. Mr. İlham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, for his patronage, and for gracing our meeting by his personal presence. His keynote address will, surely, guide our deliberation.

We are happy to assemble in this beautiful city of Baku, a bastion of Islamic civilization, a shining beacon of Islam, and the capital city of Azerbaijan, a country which embraced Islam in its very early days and which remarkably contributed to enrich the Islamic civilization through its illustrious sons of eminent philosophers, scholars, thinkers, historians and poets like Nizami and Khaqani, Fuzuli, Bakhmanyar, Masud İbn Namdar and many others.

I would like to thank him, for his keen interest in the OIC and its work, for his personal visit to the headquarters of the OIC in Jeddah. We highly appreciate his hosting two OIC ministerial meetings in Baku this year.

Moreover I would like to recall the fond memory of the late President and the founding father of the Republic of Azerbaijan, late Heydar Aliyev, a great Islamic leader whom I had the honor of knowing closely and to appreciate his true and sincere dedication to the flourishing of Islamic civilization in the Caucasus region. May his soul rest in peace.

I recall with deep esteem the late Heydar Aliyev kind acceptance to patronage and to pronounce a keynote address delivered at the high level Academic Symposium on Islamic Civilization in Caucasus, organized jointly by the OIC subsidiary IRCICA and the Azerbaijan Academy of Science in 1998. In his speech the late President highlighted the prevalence, in the whole of Caucasia, of the principle of tolerance as a distinct feature of Islam. Azerbaijan was the starting

point from which Islam spread at the beginning of the 7th Century to the northern Caucasus and beyond.

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I wish also to thank our outgoing Chairman H.E. Dr. Abubaker Abdulla Alqirby, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen. We are grateful for his wise guidance and sincere dedication to Islamic causes. I am sincerely grateful to him for all the help and assistance he rendered to the General Secretariat in discharging its duties throughout a year full of work and achievements.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We meet in turbulent and troubled times. The Muslim world is in the vortex of a changing world and facing daunting challenges both externally and internally. These challenges flow from foreign intervention, from our economies, social and human underdevelopment, from our dependencies and vulnerability, and from our divisions and differences.



As an Ummah, we are going through a defining moment in history, we can both seize the moment and define history, or we can leave the moment define our destiny.

I think that we must turn the challenge we are facing into opportunity for the sake of our people, and we must keep alive the immutable message of Islam and its glorious legacy.

It is a good omen that the 33rd Session of the ICFM takes place at a very felicitous juncture of the history of the OIC. Coming after the Makkah Third Extraordinary Summit, which marked the course of the joint Islamic action, this session is the first occasion for us to ponder on how to chart our way towards the new horizons promised by Makkah Summit.

As we meet today we find ourselves overwhelmed, but proud and elated. Overwhelmed by the sense of historic responsibilities placed on us all by the Ten-Year Programme of Action, which awaits implementation. Satisfied and proud because we have finally managed to shift the focus of our endeavours from rhetoric and passing resolutions to actions and tangible deeds.

Indeed, the Ten-Year Programme of Action came to offer a timely and practical response to the often repeated ideas that reforms and regeneration of Muslim societies and States, can only come from within the authentic vision of Muslims themselves, and through their own efforts.

Allow me at this juncture to pay a rich tribute to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz for calling and for hosting the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit in Makkah Al-Mukarramah which proved through its Ten-Year Programme of Action, to be a decisive turning point in the history of the OIC.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the last twelve months, and even before Makkah Summit, I have committed myself to a mission of continuing reform at the level of General Secretariat, expanding the scope of the Organization's action, and diversifying its work in order to break loose from the vicious circle of the routine into larger scope dealing with vital and major Islamic issues. This has been made possible thanks to the introduction of a new practical reforms inspired by the new work ethics, new perspectives and goals we set to guide our various activities. We dedicated extra efforts to raise the performance and enhance services rendered to Member States, including updating the documents in terms of content, form and language to match the international standards. Similar efforts were made to rationalize the OIC recommendations and resolutions in terms of number as well as content and language.

Over the past year we have adopted innovative approaches in the way of conducting our work. We started with an initiative to enhance interaction with the Member States through holding meetings with their Permanent Representatives to the OIC, to debate certain emergency issues or matters of relevance to our work. So far, two such meetings took place. One at the level of Permanent Representatives, and the second at the level of Foreign Ministers.

We have also embarked on new initiatives by focusing on the general policies adopted by the Member States with a view to enlarge the scope of our implementation effort to a wider context, allowing for more in depth involvement to secure settlement of issues or confidence building, appeasing tension or defusing the crisis etc. We used these methods in issues

like Palestine, Iraq, the Philippine or Somalia. We had a sense of real satisfaction as we saw our efforts gained credibility and esteem, bore fruits, and met with welcome and encouragement from the parties concerned.

Similarly, we have made a point of playing an active role in the international arena, through an extensive contribution to international endeavors, at the highest levels. We have worked hard to make our voice heard in international fora and in the major political decision-making spheres. We have laid out bridges of communication with the international and local media and press circles so as to project the voice of the Islamic world to the Western societies in particular, and to the world public opinion in general.

As an illustration, we have managed the crisis of the blasphemous caricatures of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in such a manner as to have turned this rude act into an opportunity to draw the attention of the West to the truth about the Muslims' strong attachment to their faith, to their sanctities and to their culture. Yet, our objective was to prevent the recurrence of such defamatory acts and emphasize Islam's noble values, and the need to respect Muslim's feelings. In this regard and in cooperation with the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN), we issued the first-ever joint statement, which emphasized that "the mass media and printed publications have a moral responsibility to refrain from provocation or inciting hatred".

This work has been going on in tandem with the creation of the OIC Observatory on Islamophobia at the General Secretariat, which is mandated to monitor and document all activities indicating hatred of Islam around the world and, more particularly in Europe, with the aim of tackling this issue head on. The OIC



Observatory has started its interactive work.

We also started our drive against Islamophobia over a year ago when the latter began to spread around the Western world. We began by raising the issue at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva last year, where we were able to successfully coordinate with the Islamic Group there in obtaining a United Nations resolution providing for the respect of religion with particular reference to Islam. The same success was achieved at the levels of the United Nations General Assembly, and UNESCO.

In this context, just a few weeks ago, we held an unprecedented international conference at the Wilton Park Center in the United Kingdom on the theme of "Challenging Stereotypes in Europe and the Islamic World: Working Together for Constructive Policies and Partnerships". The Conference - which was attended by a large number of representatives of Western countries and international organizations as well as eminent Western and Muslim statesmen, academics, intellectuals, and scholars - sought to open a new era of political dialogue between Western governments and their Muslim counterparts by focusing on the role of the media in promoting dialogue and helping eliminate the root causes that fuel hatred and bigotry in both the West and the East.

We have engaged the European intergovernmental organizations such as the European Union, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and others, and opened with them lines of communications, particularly in the fields of mutual interests.

Similar contacts were established with the officials of some European States like the United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Austria,

Holland, Denmark etc. with a view to entering into dialogue focusing on issues concerning the Muslim causes. Moreover, we initiated contacts with "the councils of Muslim Ambassadors" in several world capitals to establish an interactive relationship with them, particularly in international decision-making centers, such as the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Moscow, and elsewhere, to ensure an adequate defense and closer follow-up of the causes of the Muslim Ummah.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the fact that only a short period of time has elapsed since the adoption of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, we at the General Secretariat have managed to achieve a marked progress in the area of implementation of the programme. We have developed a Roadmap to facilitate the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, and implemented a good deal of issues reserved to the General Secretariat. For example, the Programme requested the General Secretariat to set up an Executive body, composed of the Troikas of both the ICFM and the Summit. This was done, and the new "Executive Committee" met twice.

The General Secretariat was called upon to review the status of the Islamic Fiqh Academy in a bid to establish a mechanism of coordination in the field of religious rulings (Fatwa). A new Statute was drafted. An open-ended working group met on 11 June 2006 and finalized the draft of the new Statute of the new International Islamic Fiqh Academy which will be submitted to our meeting for approval.

Regarding the revision of the Charter, an Advisory High Level Panel has already met in Istanbul to

consider the revision of the Charter. The Panel mainly discussed the "new visions" which should guide the drafting, reviewed the present Charter, and introduced some preliminary amendments. A second meeting will be held later this year.

In the same manner, a similar meeting of a Committee comprising members of the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, experts from various OIC Member States and Philanthropists took place for the preparation of a full fledged study on ways and means to strengthen and develop the role of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

The Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a special fund within the IDB to help address and alleviate poverty and to provide job opportunities in the OIC Member States. To that end, I attended the 31st meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB which was held in Kuwait on 30-31 May 2006, and approved a decision to that effect. The Board called on member countries to announce financial contributions to the Fund and to extend technical and moral support to its establishment and operations. As a result of these decisions the IDB's authorized capital was increased to 30 billion Islamic Dinars.

We held a meeting at the General Secretariat headquarters in Jeddah with all the OIC Subsidiary Organs, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions, on 5 March 2006, to consider the implementation of the provisions of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, related to each one of them. After identifying the common policies on this issue, the institutions are now carrying out their respective implementations.

We are gratified to see that quite



a number of Member States have devoted considerable attention to the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action. Some of them have communicated to the General Secretariat the part of the Programme that has been integrated in their domestic economic or social plans for the purpose of implementation. We feel encouraged by this positive response and wish that other Member States will follow suit.

Pursuant to the decision taken by the last Summit Conference, an important OIC Ministerial Conference on the Problems of Refugees in the Muslim World is scheduled to be held in Islamabad in November this year in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). While I highly appreciate the offer by the Government of Pakistan to host this event, I would like to take this opportunity to strongly appeal to all Member States to generously contribute towards the budget of this conference.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As for Palestine, we welcomed the result of the Palestinian legislative elections, as an expression of the free will of the Palestinian people. I have called upon the new Government to deal realistically with the requirements of the prevailing international conditions.

Under the prevailing circumstances, disputes erupted between Palestinian factions over the ways of dealing with the crisis, and I have called on all the Palestinian parties to resort only to dialogue in settling Palestinian in-house problems, and undertook repeated contacts with the leadership in the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian new government, at the highest level, to bridge the gap and appease the

tension as well as alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people under siege.

We deplored Israel's continued withholding of the Palestinian tax and custom revenues in addition to the suspension of international aid, a fact which has contributed to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The recent declaration of the Israeli Premier on his intention to impose unilateral solution to the Palestinian question is totally rejected. I would like to reiterate the OIC's condemnation of the Israeli illegal practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, such as the extrajudicial killing of Palestinians, building settlements, the construction of the apartheid wall and the excavations underneath the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

As for the Iraqi question, we always condemn merciless killings and kidnappings as we rejected sectarian attacks and practices of violence and vandalism. We were pleased at the formation of the new Government. Such progress gives us cause for optimism that the security crisis is finding its way to resolution. That is why, the General Secretariat is preparing to set up an OIC Contact Group on Iraq, and look into the possibility of opening an OIC Office in Baghdad, in addition to organizing a personal visit to Iraq.

Regarding the occupied Azerbaijani territories, the OIC has already condemned – through its successive resolutions – the persistent occupation by Armenia of the Azerbaijani territories. We also called on Armenia to comply with the many resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on this illegitimate occupation. We denounced the elections conducted by the Armenian authorities in the Azerbaijani territories last June

and the continued settlement of Armenians in these territories. We have made an appeal for assistance to Azerbaijani displaced persons and intend to send an OIC delegation to visit them. I would like to urge Member States to generously assist the internally displaced persons and refugees in Azerbaijan.

In Somalia, we have been deeply concerned over the recent escalation of violence in the country, particularly in the capital Mogadishu. I would, therefore, like to strongly appeal to all Somalis, particularly the leaders of different factions, to exercise utmost restraint and a high sense of responsibility.

I had dispatched a high-level OIC fact-finding mission to Baidoa, the provisional capital of the Government. The Mission held meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Parliament and several Cabinet Ministers. I would urge everyone to support all efforts aiming at ending this fratricidal conflict to cope with the serious recent development in Somalia. I have recently dispatched another mission to Somalia to undertake political contact with the transitional government and with the Islamic Court Movement with a view to defining a practical role for the OIC in managing this crisis.

After multiple contacts with the Prime Minister and Ministers as well as with Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Hassan, the Leader of the Islamic Courts, the mission came to the conclusion that all concerned parties in the Somali conflict welcome the efforts of the OIC, and invite it to play a larger role in the much needed reconciliation efforts, and to complement the efforts already done by other regional organizations.

The mission sensed that the recent development in Somalia is conducive to lead the way to real settlement to that conflict.

For this to happen, an urgent



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financial and political support to the present government is needed as well as a greater effort to disarm and dismantling the local militia. In a bid to try to reach that end, we in the General Secretariat will persevere in our effort to arrive at such a result.

As for the issue of Kashmir, we have continued our support to the Kashmiri people and their just cause in conformity with the U.N. Security Council resolution. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir continues to convene its meetings alongside the OIC conferences, in order to keep the OIC focus on this dispute. We have also welcomed the defusing of tension in relations between Pakistan and India.

In the Sudan, we have pursued our efforts and good offices in order to end the crisis in Darfour region and combined this policy with supporting the efforts being made by the African Union (AU). A peaceful resolution to this dispute has now been achieved in Abuja and we hope that the parties concerned will follow the example of the Government in putting an end to this fraternal feud.

On Cyprus, the General Secretariat has been working, on developing a Plan of Action to help the Muslim Turkish Cypriot People overcome the difficulties they are suffering from, through initiatives designed to break their isolation. A high level delegation from the General Secretariat recently visited the island. In my report on

the Cypriot issue, I appealed for the need of adopting several measures to alleviate the suffering and put an end to the isolation imposed on the Muslim Turkish Cypriots in all economic, cultural, and social fields. We also welcomed the new Turkish initiative announced on 24 April 2006 on ending this isolation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As recommended by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit, with regard to the Muslim minorities, we have stepped up our efforts dealing with this important issue. We continued to champion the cause of Muslim minorities, and to defend their civil, cultural and political rights.

In Southern Thailand, and despite the OIC fact-finding mission which visited Thailand in June 2005, followed by exchanging letters between us and the Government of Thailand, the situation in that part of the country is a matter of serious concern. The root causes of the present unrest should be addressed in a way which takes into consideration the cultural, religious and the linguistic particularities of its population.

With regard to the Philippines, ten years have elapsed since the final peace agreement was signed by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front in 1996. Regrettably, this peace agreement did not bring real peace. Disagreement on the interpretations of some provisions of the agreement led to the resumption of hostilities.

The OIC being a full-fledge party

to the peace process was forced to act to contain the conflict, and save the peace process.

Despite that, we are now pleased for the working relationship we have developed with the Philippines regarding the conflict in the southern part of the country.

I opened lines of communications with the Government of the Philippines, and agreed to send an OIC fact-finding mission to evaluate the situation. I have contacted the President of the Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and appealed to her to consider the fragile health of Mr. Nur Misuari, and the necessity to treat him humanely. The President kindly responded positively and released Mr. Misuari from detention, and after a short stay in a hospital he was transferred to live in a house in the outskirts of Manila under official surveillance.

In this context, an OIC mission was recently dispatched to the Philippines from 17 to 24 May 2006 and managed to talk to the two parties concerned. Out of respect and consideration to this mission, an agreement on a limited suspension of military operation was reached between the two parties. The Government of the Philippines acceded to the mission's demand to extend the suspension of hostilities indefinitely.

The mission was received by the President in presence of her close advisers, and a joint communiqué was issued to the effect of holding a tripartite meeting in Jeddah, later this year, comprising the Government of the Philippines, the OIC, and the Moro National Liberation Front. The joint communiqué indicated the necessity of extending the suspension of military action to all the territories of Mindanao. The mission filed a report which I will circulate to you for your consideration.



On the other hand, we have always insisted that the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace should enjoy its full rights prescribed by international conventions. We would also like to reiterate our appeal to the Government of Greece to respect the rights and the specific identity and culture of the Muslim community there.

The plight of the Muslim minority of Arakan in the Republic of Myanmar is acute and disturbing. We, in this regard, call upon the Government of Myanmar to respect its international obligations under international law and various conventions, and uphold the principle of human rights.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The economic issues, and enhancing economic and trade relations between Member States were always highly present in our activities. We firmly believe that developing economic ties between the countries of the Muslim world is an indispensable ingredient to sustain Islamic solidarity. In this context, we were very pleased at the outstanding success of the First Round of Trade Negotiations among the Member States, which were organized under the Framework Agreement for the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States, and culminated in developing the Protocol on the Preferential Tariffs Scheme (PRETAS). I believe that its entry into force will immensely contribute to achieving the target of 20 per cent level of intra-OIC trade, as stipulated by the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action. I also welcome the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Second Round of Trade Negotiations. In this regard, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the tireless efforts exerted by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial

Cooperation (COMCEC) to achieve such a promising result. The same appreciations go to the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) for their effective collaboration in realizing this outcome.

By the same token, I would like to praise the efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for the new ideas they introduced for the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, and for revitalizing its performance to better serve the private sector.

We have also supported other Islamic initiatives within the framework of capacity-building projects that have started to yield concrete results. In this connection, I would like to voice my deep sense of appreciation to the Governments of Malaysia and Turkey for demonstrating solidarity with the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), particularly in Africa. I would like to mention the Malaysian initiative of Capacity Building Programme for Poverty Alleviation and the Turkish initiative, namely "African Development Strategy". These programmes aim at contributing to the socio-economic development in Africa and reducing poverty in LDCs.

On the other hand, the issue of developing the economic and social situation in the African countries is still one of our top priorities. We were keen to undertake concrete initiatives on this subject at several levels, including innovative economic initiatives jointly executed between raw-material producers in Africa, investors, and technical-assistance providers.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On the social level, contacts are being made with "ISESCO" as well as "UNICEF", with a view to implementing the Rabat Declaration on

the Rights of the Child in the Muslim World.

Efforts that we have been exerting in collaboration with the Member States concerned and the World Health Organization have succeeded in notably reducing the incidence of poliomyelitis and containing this scourge in four Member States. In this regard, I am pleased to pay tribute to the Muslim countries that have made generous donations in favor of the programme designed under the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. I would also like to praise the funding of the Islamic Development Bank for this purpose. I appeal to the Member States to hasten to make their generous donations for this noble cause so as to help completely eradicate polio by the end of next year.

We are also grateful to the Turkish Government for its kind initiative to host the First Islamic Conference on the Status of Women in the Muslim World, which was called for by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit.

As for cultural affairs, I must take this opportunity to renew my appreciation for the commendable effort undertaken by ISESCO in its vast and diverse fields of activities. I would also like to highly commend the efforts deployed by the Research Center for Islamic History, Art, and Culture (IRCICA) in documenting landmarks of Islamic heritage in Palestine and compiling a database on Islamic architectural sites by using the satellite Global Positioning System, in addition to studying the cultural implications of globalization.

Our efforts to secure financial support in favor of the Islamic Universities in Niger and Uganda have been successful. We have been able to obtain a Waqf endowment whose returns have been earmarked for the Islamic University of Niger by His Highness Dr. Sheikh



Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Governing Council of Sharja, State of the United Arab Emirates. I would like, at this happy occasion, to express OIC's sincere thanks and appreciation to this generous donation. In addition, the situation of the Islamic University of Uganda has been largely improved.

As far as the issue of Science and Technology is concerned, the OIC has now a clear mandate defined by the Ten-Year Programme of Action, with reasonable goals to be achieved by the Member States. High objectives to enhance the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) were also set, which would change the trend of Member States from being mere recipients of technology to innovators and original contributors to scientific knowledge. In this domain, the General Secretariat is working in close collaboration with COMSTECH and other relevant organs like IDB and ISESCO.

On the financial and administrative matters, major reforms were carried out for the first time. We have elaborated a new scale of Member States' mandatory contributions to the annual budget of the General Secretariat after a long stalemate. It was based on multiple factors such as gross national income, as well as a host of economic, social, and developmental considerations. The new scale was also guided by the UN scale system. We also managed to ensure rational estimation in the budget preparation on the basis of actual expenditures needed to implement the annual plan of the Organization's activities. We introduced new methods of management and accountancy, as well as new computerized accounting system which boosted efficiency, transparency and increased the sense of responsibilities.

Many measures were applied to

reduce expenditures. In health care and medical services, for example, the expenditure was reduced, while improving the services rendered. We also introduced a new computerized fixed assets inventory system, a computerized payroll programming system and a new attendance monitoring system to control absence to office working hours. Security measures improved drastically and a library is being installed. The marked improvement in the performance of the General Secretariat prompted many countries to pay their dues. The number of the Member States that regularly paid their mandatory contribution rose from 21 to 25, while the members that have never paid their contribution fell from 21 to 12. The number of the regular and irregular payers increased from 35 to 44.

The new tasks entrusted to the General Secretariat, and the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, naturally necessitated new expenditures. We did our best to reduce and limit these expenditures to the maximum possible, and asked for a nominal increase in the budget in the order of 10%. The Permanent Finance Committee at its Thirty-fourth Session held recently at the Headquarters of the OIC in Jeddah approved this increase. This will help us to embark on the implementation of the new task entrusted to us.

These highlights give but a glimpse of the efforts being made at the level of the General Secretariat. Detailed information can be found in the documents circulated to you. We hope to receive your feedback and comment, because it is only through such an interaction that we can ensure better performance.

Last but not least, I am duty bound to express my deep appreciation for the marks of care and support which we, in the General Secretariat, receive from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz. Latest

magnanimous gesture has been the generous donations of a vast land in the city of Jeddah to build a new headquarter for the OIC General Secretariat. Designs have already been made for the new headquarter, and two of them were chosen. We hope that building work will also start soon.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Malaysia, the current Chairman of the Islamic Summit, for its continued support and valuable assistance to the OIC General Secretariat and to the Islamic causes. Its care and generosity are exemplary and worth of all praise and appreciation. By the same token, I would like to say how indebted and thankful we are for the Kingdom Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan and Kuwait for their valuable voluntary contributions to the OIC.

In conclusion, and as we are living in this defining moment of the history of our Ummah, I would like once more, to reiterate my appeal for a real and dedicated effort to implement the Ten-Year Programme of Action.

This Programme is unique in the annals of the OIC. It is a rare occasion and major turning point in the domain of Joint Islamic Action that cannot be repeated in the foreseeable future, and should not be missed. This fact makes it all the more important to seize this exceptional chance to rejuvenate the energies of our Ummah, and to summon all our potentials to pave the way for an historic revival and renaissance, from which every State will be a winner. I pray Allah Almighty to crown our proceedings and actions with his guidance, and infinite grace and mercy.

Thank you for your attention.

Wassalam Alaykum

wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatuh

Baku, 19 June 2006



Agenda of the Thirty-Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmony of Rights, Freedoms and Justice)

Opening session:

1. Election of Chairman and other members of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Adoption of the Programme of Work.

(A) Political affairs:

4. The cause of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict:
 - a) Development of situation in Palestine and the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, comprising Al-Quds Funds and Bait Mal Al-Quds Agency.
 - b) The occupied Syrian Golan.
 - c) Israel's continued occupation of parts of Lebanon and detention of Lebanese citizens in its jails and detention camps.
 - d) The current situation of the peace process in the Middle East.
5. Islamic Office for the Boycott of Israel.
6. The situation in Iraq.
7. The situation in Afghanistan.
8. The situation in Somalia.
9. Rejection of American unilateral sanctions imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic.
10. The situation in Cyprus.
11. Solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan.
12. The Jammu and Kashmir dispute.
13. The peace process between India and Pakistan.
14. The aggression of the Republic of Armenia on the Republic of Azerbaijan.
15. The problem of refugees in the Muslim World.
16. The imposition of unilateral economic sanctions on Member States.
17. Combating international terrorism.
18. Security and solidarity among Member States.
19. Situation in Cote d'Ivoire.
20. Reform of the United Nations and expansion of UN Security Council's Membership.
21. The conference of 2005 on review of nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
22. Establishment of Nuclear-weapons-free zones in the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and South-East Asia.
23. Strengthening of the security of non-nuclear weapon states against the use of the threat of use nuclear weapons
24. Cooperation by the Islamic Republic of Iran with IAEA.
25. Support of coordination and consultation among Member States to adopt a unified stand of Muslim States in international fora.
26. Cooperation between the organization of the Islamic Conference, international and regional organizations and other groupings.
27. Creation of a mechanism for OIC-EU dialogue.
28. Sponsoring the children victims of tsunami.
29. The dangerous food deficit in Niger.
30. The OIC Ten-year Programme of Action to meet the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st century adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in December, 2005.
31. Manifestations, dimensions and mechanisms of confronting islamophobia.



(B) Organic, statutory and general questions:

32. Requests for accession to the OIC as observer.
33. Candidacies for international positions.
34. Updating the Cooperation Agreement between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States.
35. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the OIC and the office of the UN High representative for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island states
36. Application for affiliation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
37. The operationalization of the Executive Committee and adoption of its Rules of Procedure.

(C) Questions of Muslim communities and minorities:

38. The situation of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States.
39. The question of Muslims in Southern Philippines.
40. Turkish Muslim minority of Western Thrace, Greece.
41. The situation of the Muslim minority in Myanmar.

(D) Legal affairs:

42. The International Islamic Court of Justice.
43. Follow-up to the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.
44. Coordination among the Member States in the field of Human Rights.
45. The signing/ratification of (accession to) the agreements concluded in the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
46. Convening of a United Nations Conference to define terrorism and distinguish it from peoples' struggle for national liberation.
47. Follow-up to the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for combating international terrorism.
48. Legal issues on the Road map for the Implementation of the Ten-year Programme of Action.

(E) Information affairs:

49. Enhancing the role of information and communication in promoting the causes and image of Islam in the world through updating the mechanisms for implementing the Information Strategy of the Member States and the Islamic Information Plan.
50. Supporting the activities of specialized information institutions.
51. Contribution of the Member States to following up the results of the second phased of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis in 2005.

(F) Economic affairs:

52. Economic situation of the Member States.
53. Economic problems of the least developed and land-locked Member States.
54. Strengthening the multilateral trading system.
55. Supporting the reform of the International financial architecture.
56. Economic problems of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan heights and of the Lebanese citizens still living under Israeli occupation.
57. Economic and social losses for Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as a result of the Security Council resolution Nos. 748/92 and 883/93.
58. Economic assistance to the State of Palestine.
59. Economic assistance to the Republic of Lebanon.
60. Economic assistance to the people of Afghanistan.
61. Economic assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan.
62. Economic assistance to the Republic of Guinea.
63. Economic assistance to Member States stricken by drought and natural calamities.
64. Economic assistance to Member States affected by regional war, civil insurgency, or political crises.
65. Economic assistance to non-OIC countries and Muslim communities.



66. Economic assistance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.
67. The activities of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC).
68. Cooperation in the field of tourism.
69. Activities of the OIC Subsidiary Organs active in the economic and trade fields.
70. Activities of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
71. Activities of the OIC Affiliated Institutions active in the economic and trade fields (Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry).
72. Establishment of an Islamic Common Market.
73. Promotion of cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of OIC Countries.
74. Continuous assistance to the Sahelian Member States.
75. Cooperation in energizing trade and investment in cotton sector.
76. Capacity building for poverty alleviation in the OIC Member States.
77. The World Fund for Solidarity and Poverty Eradication.

(G) Science and technology:

78. Science and technology.
79. Activities of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH).
80. Activities of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT).
81. Environmental issues and the negative impact on the environment in Palestine and occupied arab territories.
82. The OIC Task Force for Vision 1441.
83. The OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action to meet the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah and the 21st century adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in December, 2005.

(H) Cultural, social and Islamic affairs:

84. General cultural matters including ways and means of implementing the cultural strategy of the Islamic World; cultural aspects of the phenomenon of globalization, the Universal Declaration on Dialogue among Civilizations, activating and supporting the Tunis Peace Forum and its activities, the Unified Hijri Calendar for the beginnings of Lunar Months, promoting Waqfs and their role in the development of the Islamic Societies and other similar subjects and the World Mosque Week.
85. Desecration of Islamic Sanctities and Values, to include such subjects as: the destruction of the Sacred Shrines, Mosques and Worship Houses in Iraq and Babri Mosque in India as well as the destruction of the Islamic Complex of Charar-e-Sharif Mosque in Kashmir and other Islamic Relics and Shrines in Azerbaijan and other similar subjects.
86. Resolutions on social matters, to include such subjects as: women, the child and youth.
 - a) Muslim women and their role in the development of the Islamic Society.
 - b) Child care and protection in the Islamic World.
 - c) Care of orphans and minors in Islamic States affected by wars and disaster.
 - d) Education and rehabilitation of Muslim Youth.
 - e) Cooperation on combating illegal production, abuse, processing and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances.
 - f) Cooperation among Member States in controlling epidemic diseases affecting man, fauna and the flora, and coordination among Member States to combat avian influenza.
 - j) International cooperation on eradication of polio in OIC Member States.
 - h) Environment, sustainable development and ways and means of resolving problems relating to environment and health.
87. Islamic Universities: to cover matters relating to the Islamic Universities in Niger, Uganda, Malaysia, Bangladesh; also the proposed new building project and support for Zeitouna University in Tunis; and the extension of assistance to the King Faisal University in N'djamena.
88. Islamic Cultural Institutions and Centers: Regional Institute for Islamic Studies and Research in Timbuktu (Mali); Regional Institute for Complementary Education (Rice) (Islamabad, Pakistan); Islamic Centre in Guinea-Bissau; and the Islamic Institute of Translation in Khartoum (Sudan). Project for the Establishment of a World Islamic Authority for the Holy Quran.



89. Palestinian affairs:
- Twinning of Palestinian universities, schools, kindergartens and hospitals with similar institutions in the Member States.
 - Teaching the subjects of History and Geography of Palestine.
 - Educational situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan.
 - Preservation of the Islamic character, human heritage, and to address the policy of judaization of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
 - Israeli aggressions against Islamic shrines in Al-Khaleel.
90. Activities of OIC organs and institutions involved in the cultural field:
- Subsidiary Organs:
 - The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture.
 - The Islamic Fiqh Academy.
 - Islamic Solidarity Fund and its Waqf.
 - Specialized Institutions:
 - Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
 - Islamic Committee of the International Crescent.
 - Affiliated Institutions:
 - Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation.
 - World Federation of Arab Islamic International Schools.
 - Islamic Conference Youth Forum.
91. Islamic Dawa Activities and Committee for Coordination of Joint Islamic Action:
- Dawa Activities and Coordination of Joint Islamic Action.
 - Strategy of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa and their Implementation Mechanisms.
 - Consideration of challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the twenty-first century.
 - Educating pilgrims on the rites of Haj.
 - Holding seminars to promote the cultural image of Islam.
92. The OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action to meet the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah and the 21st century adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in December, 2005.

(I) Administrative and financial affairs:

93. Report and Recommendation of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Permanent Finance Committee.
94. Budgets of the General Secretariat of the OIC and its Subsidiary Organs for the financial year 2006/2007.
95. Amendments of the Financial Regulations of the OIC.
96. New scale of Member States' mandatory contributions to the Budgets of the General Secretariat of the OIC and its Subsidiary Organs.
97. Final Report of the 6th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in charge of the restructuring of the OIC General Secretariat and the role assigned to it in facing up the Challenges of the New Millennium. Election of the Members of the Finance Control Organ.

(J) Session for Announcing Voluntary Contributions in favor of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

(K) Any other business.

(L) Date and venue of the 34th Session of the ICFM.

(M) Closing session:

Adoption of Final Reports, Resolutions and the Final Communiqué.



Resolution No. 9/33-P

The Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Thirty-Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmony of Rights, Freedoms, and Justice), held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 23-25 Jamadul Awwal 1427 A.H (19-21 June 2006),

Proceeding from the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

Gravely concerned over the aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan which has resulted in the occupation of about 20 percent of the territories of Azerbaijan;

Expressing its profound concern over continued occupation of significant part of the territories of Azerbaijan and illegal transfer of settlers of the Armenian nationality to those territories;

Deeply distressed over the plight of more than one million Azerbaijani displaced persons and refugees resulting from the Armenian aggression and over magnitude and severity of these humanitarian problems;

Reaffirming all previous relevant resolutions and, in particular, the resolution No. 21/10-P(IS), adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, from 20 to 21 Shaban, 1424H (16-17 October 2003);

Urging strict adherence to the Charter of the UN and full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

Welcoming all diplomatic and other efforts for the settlement of

the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan;

Reaffirming commitment by all Member States to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Noting also the destructive influence of the policy of aggression of the Republic of Armenia on the peace process within the OSCE framework;

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary General (Document No. OIC/ICFM-33/POL/SG-REP.7).

1. **Strongly condemns** the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

2. **Considers** the actions perpetrated against civilian Azerbaijani population in the occupied Azerbaijani territories as crimes against humanity.

3. **Strongly condemns** any looting and destruction of the archaeological, cultural and religious monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

4. **Strongly demands** the strict implementation of the United

Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, and the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azerbaijani territories including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and strongly urges Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

5. **Expresses its concern** that Armenia has not yet implemented demands contained in the above stated UN Security Council resolutions.

6. **Calls on** the UN Security Council to recognize the existence of aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan; to take the necessary steps under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure compliance with its resolutions; to condemn and reverse aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and decides to take coordinated action to this end at the United Nations.

7. **Urges all** States to refrain from providing any supplies of arms and military equipment to Armenia, in order to deprive the aggressor of any opportunity to escalate the conflict and to continue the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories. The territories of the Member States should not be used for transit of such supplies.

8. **Calls upon** Member States, as well as other members of the



international community, to use such effective political and economic measures as required in order to put an end to Armenian aggression and occupation of the Azerbaijani territories.

9. **Calls for** a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect for the principles of territorial integrity of states and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

10. **Decides** to instruct the Permanent Representatives of Member States at the United Nations in New York, while voting at the UN General Assembly, to give full support to the issue of territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

11. **Urges** Armenia and all Member States of the OSCE Minsk Group to engage constructively in the ongoing OSCE peace process on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the relevant OSCE decisions and documents, including those of the First Additional Meeting of the OSCE Council of 24 March 1992, OSCE Summits of 5-6 December 1994, 2-3 December 1996, 18-19 November, 1999, and refrain from any action that will make it more difficult to reach a peaceful solution.

12. **Expresses its full support** for the three principles of the settlement of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan contained in the statement of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office at the 1996 Lisbon OSCE Summit, namely the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, highest degree of self-rule of the Nagorno-Karabakh region

within Azerbaijan and guaranteed security for this region and its whole population.

13. **Stresses** that fait accompli may not serve as a basis for a settlement, and that neither the current situation within the occupied areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan, nor any actions, including arranging voting process, undertaken there to consolidate the status quo, may be recognized as legally valid.

14. **Demands** to cease and reverse immediately the transfer of settlers of the Armenian nationality to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which constitute a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and has a detrimental impact on the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict, and agrees to render its full support to the efforts of Azerbaijan undertaken to this end, including at the General Assembly of the United Nations, inter alia, through their respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York.

15. **Expresses** its support to the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group and consultations held at the level of the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia and its understanding that a step-by-step solution will help to ensure gradual elimination of the most serious consequences of the aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

16. **Requests** the Secretary General to communicate the principled and firm position of the OIC vis-à-vis the Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the current Chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

17. **Reaffirms** its total solidarity with and support for the efforts undertaken by the Government and people of Azerbaijan to defend their country.

18. **Calls** for enabling the displaced persons and refugees to return to their homes in safety, honor and dignity.

19. **Expresses its appreciation** to all Member States which have provided humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons and urges all the others to extend their contribution to these people.

20. **Expresses its concern** over the severity of humanitarian problems concerning the existence of more than one million displaced persons and refugees in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan and requests the OIC Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and other Islamic Institutions to render much needed financial and humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

21. **Considers** that Azerbaijan has the right for appropriate compensation with regard to damages it suffered as a result of the conflict and puts the responsibility for the adequate compensation of these damages on Armenia.

22. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



Resolution No. 10/33-E

Economic Assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Thirty-Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmony of Rights, Freedoms and Justice), held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 23 to 25 Jumada Al-Awwal 1427H (19-21 June 2006),

Recalling the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held at Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December, 2005;

Recalling Resolution No. 21/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 10/32-E adopted by the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Confirming full solidarity of the Member States of the OIC with the Government and people of Azerbaijan at this very critical time of the country's history;

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding this conflict;

Deploring the Armenia-backed aggressive separatism instigated in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, followed by aggression and occupation by Armenia of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories and resulted in violent displacement of almost one million Azerbaijani people from their homes, which, as such, resembles the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing;

Conscious of the fact that economic damage inflicted upon Azerbaijan in its territories currently by Armenia already exceeds USD 60 billion;

Welcoming and appreciating the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies, United Nations institutions and international organizations;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General:

1. **Appeals** to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic and humanitarian assistance with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Azerbaijani people.

2. **Calls upon** the international organizations to continue to grant humanitarian, financial assistance to Azerbaijan.

3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



Resolution No. 2/33-C on the Protection of Islamic Sanctities

(C) The Destruction and Desecration of Islamic Historical and Cultural Relics and Shrines in the Occupied Azerbaijan Territories Resulting from the Aggression of the Republic of Armenia Against the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Twenty-Ninth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural, and Social Affairs (ICECS), held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 11 to 13 Rabiul Thani 1427H (9–11 May 2006);

Recalling the resolutions adopted by Islamic Summit and other Islamic Conferences, in particular the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (ISC);

Affirming those objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) aimed at coordinating efforts to safeguard and preserve the Islamic heritage;

Emphasizing those pieces of Azerbaijani history, culture, archaeology, and ethnography remaining in the territories occupied by Armenia are an integral part of this heritage, and, therefore, must be protected;

Reaffirming United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions No. 822, 853, 874, and 884, which call on the Armenian forces to effect a full withdrawal from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories, including the Lachin and Shousha areas, immediately and without conditions; and strongly

urge Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Affirming that the utter and barbaric destruction of mosques and other Islamic Shrines in Azerbaijan, at the hands of Armenia, for ethnic cleansing is a crime against humanity;

Noting the tremendous losses inflicted by the Armenian aggressors on the Islamic heritage in the Azerbaijani territories occupied by the Republic of Armenia, including total or partial demolition of rare antiquities and places of Islamic civilization, history, and architecture, such as mosques, mausoleums, graves, archaeological excavations, museums, libraries, art exhibition halls, and government theatres and conservatories, besides the destruction and smuggling out of the country of large quantities of priceless treasures and millions of books and historic manuscripts;

Fully sharing the anguish of the government and people of Azerbaijan in this regard;

Having taken cognizance of the Report of the OIC Secretary-General on the subject:

1. **Strongly condemns** the barbaric acts committed by the Armenian aggressors in the Republic of Azerbaijan with the aim of working the total annihilation of the Islamic heritage in the occupied Azerbaijani territories;

2. **Vigorously demands** the strict and unconditional implementation by the Republic of Armenia of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 822, 853, 874, and 884.

3. **Reaffirms** its support of the

efforts deployed by Azerbaijan at regional and international levels and aimed at protecting and preserving Islamic cultural values and treasures in the territories occupied by Armenia.

4. **Asserts** that Azerbaijan is entitled to adequate compensation for the damages it has sustained and affirms the Republic of Armenia's responsibility to pay up full compensation for such damages.

5. **Requests** the relevant OIC subsidiary organs and specialized agencies to explore the possibility of drawing up a program to help rebuild the mosques, educational institutions, libraries, and museums in the Azerbaijani territories liberated from occupation with the help of OIC Member States.

6. **Thanks** the Secretary-General for transmitting the OIC Member States' position on this issue to the United Nations (UNO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and other international bodies, and for the coordination measures he has taken within the framework of OIC subsidiary, specialized, and affiliated organs. It also thanks those organs and organizations for their response, especially for the adoption by the IDB and ISESCO of programmes to implement projects aimed at protecting Islamic holy places in the Republic of Azerbaijan.



Report of the Secretary General of the OIC on the Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan (OIC/ICFM-33/POL/SG.REP.7)

1. This report covers the activities and developments since July 2005.

2. More than 15 years after the aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan, the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan remains unsolved and the occupation of significant parts of the territory of Azerbaijan continues, despite various efforts and negotiations that have taken place.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

3. At the outbreak of the conflict in 1988, more than 200,000 Azerbaijanis were expelled from Armenia and found refuge in Azerbaijan. Furthermore, in the course of aggression and occupation of Azerbaijani territories, the Armenian forces conducted a massive campaign of ethnic cleansing which forcibly displaced more than 800,000 Azerbaijanis from their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh and other regions of Azerbaijan. The OIC's Condemnation:

4. The OIC, through its various Resolutions, has condemned the aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan and its continued occupation of the Azerbaijan territories.

5. The OIC Resolutions urged the Armenia to comply with the UN Security Council Resolutions No.822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993 as a legal basis of the settlement of the conflict. The latest of the OIC Resolution was No.12/10- P(IS) adopted by the 10th Summit held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, October 2003 and 9/32-P adopted by the 32nd ICFM, held in Sana'a, Yemen, June 2005. Both these resolutions strongly demanded the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The resolutions condemned the looting and destruction of historical, cultural and religious heritage in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The

OIC also urged all States to refrain from providing and supplies of military arms and equipment to Armenia, in order to deprive the aggressor of any opportunity to escalate the conflict and to continue the occupation of Azerbaijani territories and stressed that the territory of the Member States should not be used for transit of such supplies.

6. As regard to the "elections" held by the Armenian side in the occupied territories on 19 June 2005 and the continuation of the transfer of Armenian settlers into the occupied territories, the OIC reiterated that these activities are illegal and against International Humanitarian Law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Cooperation between the OIC, UN and OSCE:

7. The OIC, in cooperation with the United Nations and the OSCE, will continue to support both sides in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict on the basis of norms and principles of international law, including those pertaining to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of States. In this context, I supported the talks between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia for which several round of meeting have taken place in the last three years. The last round of talks was held in France in February 2006.

Appeal to render assistances to IDPs:

8. In view of the importance of efforts to assist the Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs, I have requested all Member States, IDB, Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and the international community as well as the Humanitarian Organizations to provide urgent and generous assistance to these persons, who are still living in hard conditions.

Intention of OIC Delegation to visit the refugees and the IDPs:

9. The OIC General Secretariat is

considering the possibility to send its delegation to Azerbaijan with the primary objective of obtaining first-hand information on the condition of refugees and IDPs. For this purpose, the General Secretariat is coordinating with the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Riyadh to secure approval of this planned visit as well as its time frame.

The Secretary General's visit to Baku:

10. On the sidelines of the Conference on Islam and Youth, held in Baku from 1-2 March 2006, I held a meeting with H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Artur Rasizade, the Prime Minister and H.E. Elmar Mammadyarov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, during which we held very useful and fruitful talks. We discussed various international issues such as the situation in Iraq, the situation in Palestine after the elections, the Ten-Year Program of Action adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Mukarramah, efforts against Islamophobia, solidarity in Muslim World, the recent caricatures crisis, the forthcoming ICFM and other relevant issues.

11. On the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I highlighted that the OIC is exerting its utmost effort to support the settlement of the conflict on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan, as well as relevant UNSC resolutions and OSCE decisions. The Azerbaijani side stressed that it is very important that the solidarity between OIC Member States is expressed on this issue.

12. This report is submitted to the 33rd session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for its consideration and appropriate decision.

Baku Declaration



We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Heads of Delegation participating in the Thirty-Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmony of Rights, Freedoms and Justice), held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 23-25 Jumada Al-Awwal 1427H (June 19-21, 2006), having discussed the main issues facing the Islamic Ummah declare the following:

1. We reiterate our adherence to the purposes, objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and once again reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

2. We reiterate our devotion to the noble ideas of peace, humanism and tolerance to aptly respond to the challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. Recent deviances confronting Islam compel us to further unite around our values and display solidarity.

3. We support the continuation of reforms in the economic, social and cultural areas, as well as in the spheres of democratization, transparency and strengthening the role of civil society in the OIC Member States and consider it important to protect cultural, religious and racial diversity. This diversity must not be a source of conflict but rather a source of mutual enrichment and dialogue among religions and civilizations.

4. We express our deep concern over the growing tendency towards Islamophobia and call for concrete efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions by promoting tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion and belief. In this regard, we welcome the work of the OIC General Secretariat to establish the OIC Observatory aimed at monitoring manifestations of Islamophobia. Establishment of contacts between the relevant institutions of the OIC and the European Union in developing secondary school pro-

grammes on Islam has special relevance in this context. We invite all OIC Member States to organize programs such as announcing a year/month/week for commemoration of the prophet Mohammad (PBUH). We deem it also important to raise public awareness throughout the world on the tenets and values of Islam, including among the youth, and underline the crucial role of mass media in this regard. We therefore welcome the proposal of Azerbaijan to host an OIC Conference on the role of media in the development of tolerance and mutual understanding in 2007 in Baku.

5. Considering the importance of dialogue among civilizations and expansion of relations between the Islamic world and other cultures and civilizations, we address the international community and declare our commitment to broader contacts and exchanges and to the harmony of peace, freedom, rights and justice.

6. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and mani-



festations, express deep sympathy with and support for the countries that fell victims to terrorist attacks, and denounce any attempts to link terrorism with any religion, culture and people as this global scourge does not have any religious or national affiliation. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen cooperation in fighting and eliminating terrorism through, inter alia, exchange of information and strengthening capacity-building. In doing so, we should benefit from the experience of OIC Member States in fighting terrorism through, among other means, the promotion of national reconciliation policy in order to achieve peace.

7. At present the international community is facing new global threats and challenges which demand strengthening of international cooperation to jointly fight in a comprehensive and concerted manner against international terrorism, transnational crime, illicit weapons and drug trafficking and trafficking in persons. In this connection, we endorse the Report and the Declaration of the First Conference of Islamic countries Police Chiefs held in Isfahan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, from 15 to 17 May 2006. We support the establishment of the Conference of the Heads of Law-Enforcement Agencies of the OIC Member States and welcome the offer of Azerbaijan to host a meeting at the level of experts in Baku in preparation of the next Conference.

8. We reaffirm that speedy peaceful settlement of the Arab-

Israeli conflict is a principal objective of our Organization and the key problem for our Ummah. Protection of the rights of the Palestinian people, the establishment of the Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, liberation of all occupied Arab territories in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, return of all Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes and properties, implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and UN General Assembly resolution 194, are the basic conditions for the establishment of peace and security in the Middle East. We respect the outcome of the elections held in Palestine on the 25th of January 2006 and support the democratic steps taken by the Palestinian people to form their legitimate government. We reiterate our support to the Arab peace initiative adopted at the Beirut Arab Summit and the "Road Map" and "Land for peace" principle, and appeal to the U.S.A., the European Union and other donors to resume rendering assistance to the Palestinian people. We call upon the Quartet to speedily resume the peace process and not to recognize unilateral Israeli measures contradictory to the principles of the peace process.

9. We invite the Member States to join Al-Aqsa and Al-Quds Funds and extend existing partnership to finance projects that would strengthen the capabilities of the Palestinian economy as well as programmes to alleviate people's suffering through the implementation mechanisms which proved to be

efficient under the management of the Islamic Development Bank and provide voluntary donations to both Bait Mal Al-Quds and Al-Quds Funds.

10. We strongly support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. We request the Secretary-General to explore practical ways of ensuring a strengthened OIC role in promoting peace and stability in Iraq. We also affirm the need to put an end to terrorist armed actions in Iraq, to establish stability and security in this brotherly country, complete reconstruction work, and continue to render necessary economic, material and moral support to the government and people of Iraq. In this connection we welcome the Ninth meeting of the neighboring countries of Iraq to be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 8 to 10 July 2006.

11. Recognizing significant progress achieved recently in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan towards peace, democracy, human rights and nation-building, we remain committed to continued comprehensive assistance to the government and people of Afghanistan to reinforce the ongoing reconstruction process.

12. We reaffirm the basic and inalienable right of all Member States to develop research, production and the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with their respective legal obligations. We believe that all issues on IAEA safeguards and verification, including those of Iran, should be resolved within the IAEA framework as the competent authority



We once again strongly condemn the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and urge immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

for verification of respective IAEA safeguards obligations of Member States. Thus we express our conviction that the only way to resolve the Iran's nuclear issue is to resume negotiations without any preconditions and to enhance cooperation with the involvement of all relevant parties with the view to facilitate the Agency's work on resolving the outstanding issues.

13. We consider the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and reiterate our support for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East, in accordance with the relevant UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Pending the establishment of such a zone, we demand Israel's accession to the NPT without delay and prompt placement of all its nuclear facilities under IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards System.

14. We once again strongly condemn the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and urge immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. We consider the illegal transfer of Armenian population into the occupied Azerbaijani territories, illegal economic activities and exploitation of natural resources in the occupied territories detrimental to the peace process. We condemn the continued destruction of Azerbaijani cultural and historical monuments and demand from Armenia to compensate Azerbaijan in accordance

with international law for the material damage inflicted by Armenia. We express our deep concern over recent massive fires in the occupied territories and demand the occupying forces to take urgent measures to prevent ecological disaster. We appeal to international community to undertake all necessary measures for the peaceful resolution of the conflict. We urge the OIC Member States to support Azerbaijan on the issue of full restoration of its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

15. We express our support for the process of settlement of the Cyprus problem on the basis of political equality of the two parties, and reaffirm our solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters in Northern Cyprus. We appeal to the international community, including the OIC Member States to make all necessary efforts to put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots and to build cooperation in economic, cultural, scientific, technological and other fields.

16. We reaffirm support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their inalienable right to self-deter-

mination in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. We call for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people, and agree to provide all possible political and diplomatic support to the true representatives of

the Kashmiri people in their struggle against foreign occupation.

17. We commend the recent positive developments to achieve peace and national reconciliation in the Sudan with the participation of all Sudanese political forces, and we call on the OIC Member States and the international community to support the reconstruction of the Sudan in order to achieve prosperity and preserve its unity.

18. We commend the establishment of the all-inclusive Somali transitional federal institutions. We reiterate our commitment to Somalia's unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. We call on all Somali factions to be engaged in the national reconciliation efforts with the Somali transitional federal government.

19. We consider it important to intensify efforts on full implementation of the initiatives to establish common market and free trade zone in the Islamic countries and deem it necessary to encourage the development of trade between the OIC Member States. Noting the importance of multilateral negotiations with the World Trade Organization on trade liberalization, we also deem it important to hold consultations, with support of the OIC economic institutions, on review of the issues on agenda of the WTO negotiations.

We consider the illegal transfer of Armenian population into the occupied Azerbaijani territories, illegal economic activities and exploitation of natural resources in the occupied territories detrimental to the peace process.

20. We emphasize the importance of regional and inter-regional cooperation and encourage cooperation aimed at improvement of inter-regional connectivity, as well as exploitation and transportation of energy resources of the OIC Member States as an essential fac-



We condemn the continued destruction of Azerbaijani cultural and historical monuments and demand from Armenia to compensate Azerbaijan in accordance with international law for the material damage inflicted by Armenia. We express our deep concern over recent massive fires in the occupied territories and demand the occupying forces to take urgent measures to prevent ecological disaster.

tor for their social and economic development.

21. We note once again the problems and needs of the landlocked OIC Member States and consider it important to render necessary financial and technical assistance by the relevant Islamic financial institutions to these countries to improve their transit transport systems.

22. We decide to issue inventory of archaeological, historical, cultural and religious monuments in the OIC Member States related to Islamic heritage and investigate damage to them caused by acts of aggression, war or any other kind of violence under the auspices of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture.

23. We commend the efforts taken by the OIC and all its institutions in undertaking tasks assigned to them with regard to strengthening cooperation within the framework of the Ten Year Programme of Action.

24. While recalling the Ten Year Programme of Action and the decisions of the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference including the establishment of a Fund to fight poverty, we express heartfelt thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz for the generous donation of 1 billion US dollars to support the Fund.

25. We call for a comprehensive

reform of the UN Security Council in all its aspects, so as to make it more democratic, representative, transparent and accountable. We reaffirm our principled position on the adequate representation of the OIC Member States in any category of membership in an extended UN Security Council.

26. We call upon all OIC Member States to vote for resolutions submitted on behalf of the OIC at international fora, in particular at the United Nations.

27. We welcome the establishment of the OIC Group in Vienna with the purpose to discuss issues

We appeal to international community to undertake all necessary measures for the peaceful resolution of the conflict. We urge the OIC Member States to support Azerbaijan on the issue of full restoration of its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

of common interest for the OIC Member States. In order to foster contacts and coordination within the international organizations based in Vienna, we task the Administrative and Financial Committee and the OIC General Secretariat to study the issue of the establishment of the OIC Observer Mission in Vienna, as well as assess the role of the other existing OIC observer missions and to report on the matter to the next ICFM, and request the OIC General Secretariat to expedite the establishment of the OIC Observer Mission in Brussels.

28. For the improvement of the

process of political consultations and decision-making process in the OIC we invite Member States to consider the issue of establishing permanent missions of the Member States to the OIC Headquarters.

29. We express our sympathy with the government and people of Indonesia in connection with the recent devastating earthquake, and consider it important to render economic and humanitarian assistance to the OIC Member States affected by natural disasters, epidemics, economic crises, conflicts and refugee problems.

30. We express our thanks and gratitude to the OIC Secretary General and the staff of the Organization for their active role in accelerating the process of the reform of the General Secretariat, and for developing of a new culture of work which proved instrumental in effectively dealing with various issues such as the implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action. We also appreciate the role

played by the Secretary General in furthering the interests of the Muslim World through his high-level contacts with international and regional organizations, as well as with key Western states. This was manifested in his dealings with the issue of Islamophobia and the blasphemous cartoons.

31. We extend our deep appreciation to the government and people of brotherly Azerbaijan for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the 33rd ICFM.

Baku, 21 June 2006

Final Communiqué



lenges facing the Islamic World. He also referred to the most outstanding efforts exerted during Yemen's chairmanship of the 32nd ICFM and expressed his confidence that such positive efforts will continue in the forthcoming phase.

4. The inaugural session was addressed by H.E. Hamid Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, representing the Chair of the 10th Islamic Summit. He pointed out that Muslims are weak despite their considerable human, material and natural potentialities, and reiterated that it is important for Muslims to acquire state of the art sciences and technologies, including nuclear technology for peaceful purposes

5. Addressing the opening session, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, began by thanking H.E. Mr. İlham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, for hosting by the Republic of Azerbaijan of the 33rd session and for gracing the opening session of the meeting with his personal presence, which is a clear evidence of the interest he shows to OIC affairs. He then addressed the various initiatives and reforms introduced in the internal work of the General Secretariat, the relationships of the Organization with the world, the laying of bridges with international and regional organisations and some European countries. He urged the Member States to seize the opportunity of the meeting and the appropriate historic timing created by the Makkah Al-Mukarramah historic Summit and the Ten-Year Programme of Action, it adopted. He reviewed the details of the programme components achieved.

The Secretary General talked

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmonization of Rights, Freedoms and Justice), held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 23 to 25 Jumada I 1427H (19-21 June 2006).

2. The Conference listened to the speech of H.E. İlham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (text of the speech annexed).

3. The Conference was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. His Excellency Dr. Abu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qirabi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Yemen and Chairman of the 32nd ICFM delivered a speech in which he highlighted the on-going process of reform in the framework of the Ten-Year Programme of Action as well as the continuous efforts of the Secretary General. He expressed the hope that this Programme will push forward the Islamic Ummah. Then he referred to the major chal-



about the progress achieved with the West regarding Islamophobia in general and the issue of the caricatures and their developments in particular.

The Secretary General reviewed the actions undertaken by the General Secretariat in the major political issues, such as Palestine, Iraq, Somalia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, etc., in addition to the conditions of Muslim communities in non-member states, in particular Philippines and Thailand.

He addressed the economic issues, highlighting the importance of developing the trade volume among Member States. He said that it is possible to reach the volume proposed by the 3rd Extraordinary

mencement of executive works at the level of the OIC and affiliated institutions in the wake of the conclusion of the proceedings of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Extraordinary Islamic Summit. This he followed by presenting the documents of the Summit, including the Ten-Year Programme of Action to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He exhorted the Member States to implement this Programme in a spirit of Islamic brotherhood and project the necessary political will.

7. In response to the speech of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the representatives of the three geographic groups, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic

On the basis of the recommendation of the Senior Officials' Meeting, the Conference unanimously elected H.E. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as Chairman of the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Islamic Summit in Makkah Al-Mukarramah. He also tackled social, cultural issues and science and technology affairs and stressed the necessity to promote the issues of literacy, poverty reduction, and the eradication of infectious diseases, in order to enable Member States to be exporters of knowledge and not just mere importers of the new sciences. He underlined the achievements of the Secretariat General at the administrative and financial levels. He reiterated the call to Member States to give an active interest to the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action and not miss the historic opportunity available to the Islamic States to achieve their development and growth.

6. The Secretary General declared the launching of the Ten-Year Programme of Action by stating to the Conference the com-

Republic of Pakistan, for the Asian Group, the Foreign Minister of Guinea, for the African Group and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, for the Arab Group. They thanked Azerbaijan for hosting the Conference and stressed that the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action constitutes the appropriate means for the Islamic Ummah to confront the current challenges.

8. On the basis of the recommendation of the Senior Officials' Meeting, the Conference unanimously elected H.E. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as Chairman of the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. It approved the composition of the Bureau as follows: Republic of Cameroon, the State of Palestine and the United

Arab Emirates as Vice-Chairs, and the Republic of Yemen as Rapporteur.

9. The Conference adopted the report of the preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for the current session, held in Jeddah from 8 to 10 Rabi' I 1427H (6-8 May 2006). The Conference adopted the Draft Agenda and Work Program submitted to it by the SOM as well as the reports of the Islamic Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs and the Permanent Finance Committee.

10. After considering the reports of the Secretary-General and in light of the brilliant statements made and the constructive discussions that took place among the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, the Conference adopted a number of resolutions as follows:

11. The Conference reiterated that the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif is the central cause of the Islamic World and stressed the necessity of countering the perils of judaization to which the sacred city is subjected as a consequence of the policies and measures carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at isolating Al-Quds Al-Sharif from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories by building the racist Separation Wall, confiscating lands, demolishing homes and expanding colonies around the Holy City. The Conference invited the Member States to support and strengthen the steadfastness of Palestinian citizens in the occupied City of Al-Quds.

12. The Conference affirmed its full support and backing for the Palestinian people in strengthening their national unity and unifying their internal front; and expressed its support for the Palestinian national dialogue efforts and for its steadfastness in the face of the practices of Israeli occupation authorities.



13. The Conference commended the Palestinian legislative elections, which reaffirmed that the Palestinian people deserve their right to self-determination and to establish their independent State. It called upon the international community to respect the democratic choice made by the Palestinian people, and expressed full support for the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian national dialogue aimed at affirming the unity of the Palestinian rank and finding the effective ways and means of establishing the independent Palestinian State and achieving peace on the two States basis, pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Arab peace initiative and the roadmap.

14. The Conference condemned the Israeli measures imposed at the crossings in Gaza Strip and the West Bank in violation of the provisions of the international humanitarian law and the Agreement on Crossings reached under the aegis of the Quartet. The Conference condemned Israel for seizing the Palestinian National Authority's funds and warned against further imposition of such arbitrary measures which affect the various aspects of the daily lives of the Palestinian people.

15. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the role played by the Islamic States in supporting the Palestinian people, and called upon the Member States and the financial funds to provide more support to help the Palestinian people cope with the economic embargo imposed on them and avoid a humanitarian disaster in the occupied Palestinian territories.

16. The Conference also called upon the States and bodies that have stopped their assistance to the Palestinian people after the Palestinian legislative elections to review their positions and not to

punish the Palestinian people for their democratic choices. It also urged them to renew their assistance to the Palestinian people and their national authority.

17. The Conference reaffirmed the need to put an end to the Israeli occupation of all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the remaining occupied Lebanese territories.

18. The Conference affirmed the necessity of reaching a just resolution of the Palestinian question in all its aspects on the basis of international law and legality, and the agreed references, such as the relevant UN resolutions, the principle of land for peace, the impermissibility of occupying others' land by force, the Arab peace initiative, and the roadmap, so as to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their national independence and exercise their sovereignty over their State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

19. The Conference affirmed the illegality of the Israeli laws and practices in Eastern Al-Quds, aimed at annexing, judaizing and changing the demographic and geographic character of the city. It requested States and international institutions and bodies to abide by international resolutions on the City of Al-Quds as an integral part of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, and called on them not to participate in any meeting or activity that serves Israel's objectives in establishing its occupation and annexation of the Holy City.

20. The Conference reaffirmed the need to find a just solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the UN resolutions, particularly UN General Assembly resolution 194 (1948), and reiterated its rejection of all forms of resettlement.

21. The Conference called upon the QUARTET to resume serious work in order to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with the Roadmap and the Arab peace initiative; and affirmed its rejection of the partial solutions and the unilateral measures which Israel has taken or intends to take in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including the city of Al-Quds, in an attempt to anticipate the outcome of the negotiations on final settlement issues and the unilateral demarcation of Israel's borders, as these fulfill its expansionist designs and destroy any chances for the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State.

22. The Conference affirmed its condemnation of Israel for its continued colonization of Palestinian territories through all forms of settlement activity, and requested the UN Security Council to work toward their immediate ending and to remove the existing settlements in accordance with UNSC resolution 465 and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The Conference called upon the UN Security Council also to reinvigorate the International Supervisory and Monitoring Committee in order to prevent settlement in Al-Quds and the other occupied Arab territories in accordance with UNSC resolution 446.

23. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for its intention to build a housing settlement in the Old City of occupied Al-Quds. It made an urgent appeal to the UN Security Council and the Quartet to immediately act in order to dissuade Israel from executing its plans to judaize occupied Al-Quds and create realities on the ground which constitutes a flagrant violation of the international legitimacy and the Fourth Geneva



Conventions as well as the agreements signed with the Palestinian side.

24. The Conference called upon the Member States to commemorate the criminal attempt to burn down the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and to mark 21 August of every year as the Day of Islamic Solidarity with Al-Quds and Palestine.

25. The Conference requested the international community to counter the construction of the racist separation wall and its damaging impacts on the Palestinian people and on their land, waters and borders, and to stop the construction of the wall and remove the existing parts thereof. It invited all States of the world to impose punitive measures against the bodies and companies contributing to the construction of the wall and against settlers, settlement products and all those making profit from any settlement activity on the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds, in implementation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/15.

26. The Conference condemned Israel for the excavation works around and beneath the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and for willfully destroying cultural and heritage sites in Al Quds, Nablus and Al-Khaleel (Hebron), and commended the initiative of the Director General of UNESCO concerning the preservation of the historical heritage of the city of Al-Quds. In this regard, it resolved to coordinate between the OIC General Secretariat and UNESCO, and invited the Member States to support this initiative and help implement it.

27. The Conference strongly condemned the continuous threats against Islamic and Christian holy places, particularly the threats to storm and damage the blessed Al-

Aqsa Mosque, and held Israel, the "occupying power", fully responsible for the consequences of these aggressions, particularly as they happen under the eyes and protection of Israeli occupation forces. It condemned terrorism exercised by settler gangs against Palestinian civilians and peace activists coming from all parts of the world to show solidarity with the Palestinian people.

28. The Conference reiterated its firm support and backing for the Syrian Arab Republic's demand and right to regain all of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, on the basis of the peace process and UN resolutions, building on what has been accomplished in post-1991 Madrid Conference negotiations. It reaffirmed the previous Islamic resolutions which reject all the actions taken by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at changing the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, considering these actions null and void and a violation of international agreements and of the UN Charter and resolutions.

29. The Conference reaffirmed its support for Lebanon in its efforts to complete the liberation of its territories, and in its demands for the release of Lebanese prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons. It also demanded the UN Security Council to act toward preventing the repeated Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty in land, air and sea, and to force Israel to pay damages for all the losses incurred in the Lebanese territories as a result of its continuous aggressions against Lebanon. It supported Lebanon in its demands for the removal of the mines left behind by the Israeli occupation, as Israel is responsible for laying and removing these mines, and for the need to hand over full mine location maps. It also supported the inalien-

able rights of Lebanon to utilize its waters in accordance with international law. It condemned Israel's machinations on these waters, and held Israel responsible for any action that would infringe upon Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence and safety of its people and integrity of its territories.

30. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Ninth Conference of the Liaison Officers of Islamic Regional Offices of Boycott of Israel, which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah from 13 to 15 March 2005.

31. The Conference strongly affirmed its respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity. The Conference stressed the importance of international support for security and stability in Iraq, and welcomed the appointment of President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament, and the formation of a permanent national government in Iraq. It strongly condemned the terrorist acts that were carried out and continue to be carried out against the Iraqi people and the official and civil institutions in Iraq, and called for the necessary assistance to curb violence and dry out the sources of terrorism.

32. The Conference supported the Iraqi Government's efforts aimed at full control of all Iraqi resources for the betterment of the people's living conditions and the reconstruction of the State's institutions and national economy. It expressed its support for the government's efforts to control Iraq's borders and security so as to serve independence and security in Iraq and the entire region. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the OIC Contact Group on Iraq. It also affirmed the importance of opening an OIC coordination office in Baghdad.



33. The Conference expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots and, within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary General in his Report of 28 May 2004 and of the previous OIC resolutions, reiterated its decision to put an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. It strongly called on the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. Recalling the UN Plan aimed at establishing a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, the Conference acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Conference expressed its deep disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the UN plan. It called on the international community to exert pressure on the leadership of the Greek Cypriots to this end. Through a unanimously adopted resolution, the Conference once again urged the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and expand their relations in all fields; and encouraged the Member States to exchange high-level visits and business delegations, develop cultural relations and sports contacts with the Turkish Cypriot side. The Conference also urged the Member States to inform the Secretariat of the actions taken regarding the implementation of the OIC resolutions, in particular resolution 2-31/P.

34. The Conference reiterated its determination to restore and preserve Somalia's unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. While

welcoming Somali's legitimacy embodied in the establishment of the three state structures of legislature, executive and judiciary, which have gained the confidence of the Somali Provisional Parliament emanating from the Somali Reconciliation Conference held in Nairobi. It also called upon the international community to extend urgent financial support to the Somali Transitional Government so as to enable it to consolidate security and stability, complete national reconciliation and establish the remaining fundamental structures necessary for a central government. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Somalia, which was held in Baku on 20 June 2006. It requested the Secretary General to open an OIC office in Somalia in order to monitor the situation in the country and to assist the Government and people of Somalia to build peace and accelerate reconstruction. It urged Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the General Secretariat to enable it open the office.

35. The Conference reaffirmed its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and welcomed the decision of the Secretary General to appoint Ambassador Ezzat Kami Mufti as his Special Representative in Kashmir. It called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the ending of their continuous violations, and urged India to allow international human rights organizations to verify the conditions of human rights in India-occupied Kashmir.

36. The Conference expressed its strong support for the ongoing peace process between Pakistan

and India, which envisages a peaceful settlement of all disputes through the "Composite Dialogue" being pursued by the two countries. It appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the ongoing Composite Dialogue process with India, and called for the dialogue process to be purposeful and result-orientated, leading to a just and final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, thus, ensuring durable peace in the region. The Conference welcomed the Pakistani initiatives in the area of confidence-building aimed at alleviating the suffering of Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control. The measures included bus services between Muzaffarabad-Srinagar-Rwalcot-Pontch and the opening of the five crossing points along the LOC as well as reviving internal trade between the two parts of Kashmir on the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar Road.

37. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It also took note of the memorandum presented by the true representatives of the Kashmiri people to the Contact Group and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

38. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and expressed its support for the presidential elections which were held in October 2004 and September 2005, which led to the establishment of a standing Afghan government representing the totality of the Afghan people, seeking to achieve security, stability and comprehensive and sustainable development.

39. The Conference requested the Member States that have pledged donations to the



Assistance Fund for the Afghan People to provide more donations in order to strengthen the Fund's resources to help it achieve its noble humanitarian goals for which it was established.

40. The Conference appealed to the international community to speedily provide the assistance it pledged to Afghanistan during the Tokyo Donor Conference held in January 2002 and the Berlin Donor Conference held on 31 March 2004, as well as in the London Conference held on 31 January-1 February 2006.

41. The Conference emphasized its full solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in firmly establishing the foundations of peace and stability all over the country, to achieve national reconciliation, and to defend its sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity.

42. The Conference lauded the Sudanese Government and the SPLM for honoring their international commitments by signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. It requested all Member States to

of the Sudan. It also urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and financing institutions of Member States to contribute to the Fund. The Conference also called on Member States to provide urgent assistance to The Sudan in order to support its efforts aimed at addressing the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

43. The Conference commended the agreement that was signed in Abuja in May 2006 between the Government of the Republic of The Sudan and the military organizations in Darfur and asked all sides to work towards strengthening stability in Darfur. The Conference reaffirmed its support for Sudan in its position of the presence of international Peacekeeping Forces in Darfur.

44. The Conference reaffirmed that the security of any Muslim country concerns all Muslim countries. It totally rejected any attempt to wrongly interpret the provisions United Nations Charter in a way that contradict the principles of the

45. The Conference reiterated its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. The Conference supported Azerbaijan's efforts to build on the results of the meetings held within the framework of the Prague process on the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

46. The Conference reiterated its determination to support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan aimed at removing the obstacles to the peace process, which have led to illegal activities carried out by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, such as the transfer of settlers of Armenian nationality, practices of artificial geographic, cultural, and demographic alterations, illicit economic activity, and exploitation of natural resources in those occupied territories. The Conference urged all Member States to further strengthen their solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan and to extend their full support to its endeavors aimed at utilizing the potential of the United Nations, including through cooperation with relevant regional international organizations, to achieve soon the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

47. The Conference reaffirmed the need for total nuclear disarmament and for the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. It called on Member States to actively take part in all related international initiatives and conferences. It called on all Member States to ratify fair and non-discriminatory interna-

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support the efforts of the Sudanese government to achieve peace, stability and national reconciliation in Sudan. It appealed to the international community to honor its commitments in the Oslo Conference for Reconstruction of The Sudan with a view to firmly establishing the foundations of peace in the country. It called on the General Secretariat to speedily implement the resolution of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference on the establishment of a Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of war-stricken areas in the Republic

international law on the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity of states and the inadmissibility of the use or threat to use force in international relations. In reinforcing these principles, the Conference requested the General Secretariat to circulate the draft OIC Code on Promoting Dialogue, Cooperation and Confidence among Member States, preparatory to the convening of meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Security and Solidarity of Member States to prepare a code of conduct on these three issues.



tional conventions and to encourage the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. It strongly condemned Israel for developing nuclear weapons and persistently refusing to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency access to its nuclear facilities in violation of all international agreements on nuclear proliferation.

48. The Conference emphasized that the question of reform and expansion of the UN Security Council continues to be the primary preoccupation of the UN membership, including all OIC Member States. It, therefore, called on its Member States to actively and effectively take part in the UN reform process, in accordance with the relevant declarations and statements issued by the OIC.

It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. The Conference supported Azerbaijan's efforts to build on the results of the meetings held within the framework of the Prague process on the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

49. The Conference reiterated its support for a comprehensive overhaul of the Security Council, in order to make it more representative, transparent and accountable as well as to enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of its decisions.

50. The Conference highlighted that in the current era of regional blocks, the OIC is the largest institution after the United Nations, which brings together one-fifth of the world population. Keeping in view the significant demographic and political weight of the Muslim world, the reform of the Security Council also bears particular importance, not only from the perspective of increased efficiency, but also to ensure the representation of the main forms of civilization, including

the adequate representation of the Muslim world in any category of an expanded Security Council.

51. The Conference reiterated its rejection of unilateral economic measures and attempts to impose unilateral economic sanctions on Member States. It expressed solidarity with Member States that are affected by such unilateral sanctions and requested that they be lifted immediately.

52. The Conference welcomed the lifting of the unilateral sanction which had been imposed on Libya and reaffirmed Libya's right to reparations for the damages it sustained as a result of these sanctions. The Conference reaffirmed the previous positions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), deeply regretted, once again, the

verdict issued against the Libyan citizen Abdelbassit Al-Megrahi, and demanded his immediate release, since his conviction was based on political motives and has no legal justification, as was confirmed by United Nations observers as well as a number of international legal experts. In this respect, the Conference called on the International community and human rights organizations to exercise pressure on the governments concerned in order to ensure the release of the Libyan citizen.

53. The Conference encouraged the National Reconciliation Government of Cote d'Ivoire to continue the achievements recorded in the context of achieving peace and national reconciliation and

called on all parties in the conflict to participate in the peace process. It also invited Member States and Islamic financial institutions to provide assistance for the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire and decided to establish a Special Fund for this purpose as well as a contact group to be concerned with monitoring developments in the country.

54. The Conference, while reaffirming the inalienable rights of Member States, including Iran, without discrimination, to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as enshrined in the NPT and the Statute of the IAEA, called and supported firmly the peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues through negotiations, without preconditions. It expressed concern over the pressure being mounted on Iran and its potential consequences for peace and security in and outside the region.

55. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the major developmental and humanitarian activities of the OIC funds for Bosnia Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone in furtherance of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the Ummah. It urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the Funds and make good use of them when implementing their projects meant for the above-mentioned countries.

56. The Conference welcomed the Pakistani government's decision to host the Ministerial Conference on Refugees in the Muslim World which will be held in collaboration with the High Commission for Refugees. It urged Member States, humanitarian organizations and specialized institutions to contribute to cover the costs of the conference.

57. The Conference decided to make the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action



adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference a permanent item on the agenda of the Summit and Foreign Ministers' Conferences as well as those of COMCEC, COMIAC and COMSTECH. It called upon Member States to provide political, financial and moral support to implement the programme. It also invited the OIC institutions to continue coordination efforts in order to guarantee the effective and quick implementation of the Ten-Year Programme and emphasized the pivotal role of the OIC General Secretariat in implementing this Programme. It commended the continuous efforts being exerted by the General Secretariat in this regard.

58. The Conference also decided to constitute an Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group to study all aspects of the issue of OIC reform. It requested Member States and OIC institutions to appoint focal points for each of them in the area of implementing the Ten-Year Programme. It also requested the Secretary General to appoint a special coordinator for this purpose.

59. The Conference welcomed the results of the high-level meeting which discussed the amendment of the OIC Charter in such a way as to include new visions and objectives for its functioning, as well as the recommendation of the meeting to carry out some amendments on the text of the present Charter. It expressed its support to continuation of work in the near future to finalize this task.

60. The Conference adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee (OIC Troika).

61. The Conference welcomed the initiative by Malaysia to host the First OIC Anti-corruption and Enhancing Integrity Forum with the objective of combating corruption, promoting good gover-

nance, increasing transparency and accountability among Member States.

62. The Conference welcomed the decision of the IDB Board of Governors to raise its capital. It also welcomed the establishment by the Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors held in Kuwait from 30-31 May 2006 of a Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation, and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz for announcing a donation of USD 1 billion to the Fund. It also expressed appreciation to other Member States which have also pledged contributions to the Fund and called upon others to generously contribute to the Fund.

63. The Conference strongly condemned the publication of offensive, irresponsible and blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet (PBUH) in the print and electronic media of some Western countries and their republication under the pretext of the freedom of expression and press freedom. It stressed that the right to freedom of expression should be exercised with responsibility and in accordance with the law.

64. The Conference declared the Year 1427H as the "Year of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)" and recommended organizing cultural

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events which will enhance cultural and humanitarian bonds among human societies.

65. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the growing phenomenon of intolerance and discrimination against Muslim communities in non-Islamic countries, particularly in the West, including the promulgation and oppressive application of restrictive laws and other measures. It emphasized that all Islamophobic practices constitute an infringement of human dignity and contradict the provisions of the international human rights documents.

66. The Conference called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to formulate an internationally binding document to promote global respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.

67. The Conference stressed the need to find fair and just solutions to the problems facing Muslim minorities in the world, including in particular denying them the right to exercise their political, civil and cultural rights, the gross human rights violations which at times amount to ethnic cleansing, in addition to religious and sectarian segregation, socio-economic backwardness, and exclusion from effective political activity in their countries.

68. The Conference called on

Member States to support economic and social development trends, to encourage Islamic savings and



investment institutions, particularly in non-OIC Member States with Muslim minorities.

69. The Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary General in following up the conditions of Muslims in the southern provinces of Thailand, welcoming the cooperation of the Thai Government and requested him to continue monitoring the situation, and to closely work with the Thai Government in the framework of respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand, especially with regard to the progress made in addressing the roots of the problem in terms of the cultural and linguistic specificity of the province, and enabling them to take control of part of their natural resources in favor of the people of the province, and maintain cooperation and dialogue so as to reach a peaceful solution to the problem, achieve security, peace and stability, and meet the legitimate aspirations of the Muslim population of the province.

The Conference urged all Member States to further strengthen their solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan and to extend their full support to its endeavors aimed at utilizing the potential of the United Nations, including through cooperation with relevant regional international organizations, to achieve soon the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

70. The Conference called on the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to preserve the gains resulting from the signing of the Peace Agreement, to move forward to the full implementation of this Agreement, and to make steady efforts to make the people of Bangsamoro benefit from the advantages of the Peace Agreement, particularly

in Mindanao, with support from Member States, the IDB, and the ISF in order to achieve peace and comprehensive development in the region.

71. The Conference commended the Secretary-General's decision to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the Province of Muslim Mindanao in Southern Philippines from 18 to 24 May 2006, and the positive results of this field visit. It endorsed the recommendations of the mission's report annexed to the Secretary-General's report on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines, and called for the expeditious convening of the Tripartite Meeting between the OIC General Secretariat, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front in Jeddah in July 2006, with the purpose of evaluating the current status of the Peace Agreement signed in 1996, and with a view to removing the obstacles hindering the full implementation of the spirit and letter of the Agreement. The

Conference called on the Secretary General to appoint a special representative to follow up efforts to achieve peace in Southern Philippines in full cooperation with the parties concerned and to report to the forthcoming ICFM on the progress made in the peace efforts in Southern Philippines.

72. The Conference, while reiterating its commitment towards Muslims in non-OIC member

states, stressed that the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace in Greece is an integral part of the Islamic world. In this context, it called for the recognition of the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini, namely, Mr Mehmet Emin Aga and Mr Ibrahim Serif, respectively, as the official Muftis. It further invited Greece to allow the minority to elect the members of the administrative boards of their waqfs. The Conference also urged Greece to reinstate the citizenship rights of tens of thousands Turkish minority members.

73. The Conference urged the Government of Myanmar to stop the acts of banishment, forced emigration and displacement practiced against Arakan Muslims and its continuous attempt to obliterate their Islamic culture and identity. It requested the Government authorities to respect their international obligations in accordance with the relevant human rights instruments. The Conference requested the OIC Secretary-General to consider the possibility of dispatching a fact-finding mission to Myanmar in order to be acquainted with the conditions of Muslims of Arakan, to dispatch an OIC delegation to the neighboring countries of Myanmar, and to coordinate with the ASEAN countries in order to examine the issue and find ways and means of enhancing the conditions of Muslims in Myanmar.

74. The Conference emphasized the importance of following up the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, and stressed that human rights in Islam are global in nature, and must therefore be addressed by the international community objectively and indivisibly, without selectivity or discrimination. It also requested Member States at their earliest convenience to sign and ratify the draft Rights of the Child in Islam. Furthermore, it called upon



the Inter-governmental Group of Experts concerned and its sub-committee to continue their work soonest, particularly through holding regular meetings during the year 2006 in order to prepare the "Islamic Charter on Human Rights" and "the Covenant on the Rights of Women in Islam" and to consider the possibility of establishing an independent body to promote human rights in member States, as well as the "Islamic Covenant against Racial Discrimination".

75. The Conference called upon Member States to continue the ongoing positive coordination and cooperation among them in the field of human rights, especially in international fora, and to unify their positions in the work of the Human Rights Council on issues of concern to the Muslim world in general. It also commended the invaluable contribution of the Secretary-General in the field of human rights, and the efforts of the two OIC open-ended working groups concerned with human rights and humanitarian issues in the OIC offices in New York and Geneva.

76. The Conference emphasized that terrorism contradicts the teachings of Islam, which urge tolerance, mercy and non-violence. It also condemned any connection between terrorism, race, religion and culture. It renewed the call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the struggle of people to gain their national independence. It also called for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to affirm international consensus on developing a comprehensive strategy to combat this dangerous phenomenon.

77. The Conference invited the OIC Ministerial Committee on Combating International Terrorism,

comprised of 13 Members, headed by Malaysia, to convene a meeting as soon as possible in order to make the necessary recommendations with regard to fighting international terrorism, to engender the ideal understanding of Islam and its principles, and to coordinate the activities between the OIC and other international and regional organizations concerned with fighting terrorism.

78. The Conference commended the Secretary-General's actions in the field of media and his intensive activities and interest in this field, which has had positive impact on the standing of the Organization in the international arena through the adoption of outstanding positions.

79. The Conference requested the Secretary-General, through his various activities and visits, to highlight Member States' grave concern over the smear campaign waged by some international media to distort the image of Islam and Muslims and intensify hatred and enmity toward Islam in general.

80. The Conference called again on Member States to contribute, within their capabilities, to the resources of the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC) which is aimed at upgrading the media of countries in need of such modernization so that they could assume their role in promoting the causes of the Islamic Ummah by allocating funds to finance projects submitted by these media institutions.

81. The Conference reiterated its call to the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), during the forthcoming meeting of its permanent Council, to consider extending financial assistance to projects submitted by Member States under the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC).

82. The Conference requested

the Secretary-General to prepare a study to assess the current situation of the OIC system of the Islamic Information Action, particularly the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO), in line with the Ten-Year Programme of Action, adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Summit Conference. This study will be submitted to the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers.

83. The Conference called on Member States to pay their annual contributions and arrears to the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Organization's (ISBO) budgets to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities.

84. The Conference called upon all Member States to join efforts to benefit from the significant results of Phase II of the World Summit on Information Society, in order to contribute to the building of an equitable information society that meets the aspirations of the Muslim peoples and achieves a regional and international partnership to integrate the information society.

85. The Conference called upon Member States to urge and mobilize the different components of the international community i.e. governments, the private sector, the civil society at all national, regional and international levels in order to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the "Tunis Commitment" and "the Tunis Agenda" issued by the Tunisia Phase of the Summit with a view to bridging the digital divide between developed and developing States to support the process of development in Islamic States.

86. The Conference affirmed the pivotal role played by the private sector and civil society in formulating visions and developing practical resolutions in order to bridge the



digital divide, and urged all governmental and civil parties in Member States to contribute actively in defining the trends and themes of the Tunis Summit.

87. The Conference noted with appreciation the operationalization of the "Digital Solidarity Fund" on 14 March 2005 at the initiative of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information Affairs (COMIAC), which fund is designed to mobilize financial resources to bridge the huge digital divide between the North and the South; and requested Member States to support this initiative through voluntary contribution to the "Digital Solidarity Fund" in order to enable it to fulfill the mission for which it was established.

88. The Conference called on Member States to increase their share of world trade by enhancing their global competitiveness. It further underscored the fundamental importance of expanding intra-OIC trade.

89. The Conference called for speedy accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) underlining that no political consideration should impede this process. It rejected all attempts to include non-trade issues, such as labour and environmental standards, into the working programme of WTO, or to link such issues with trade deals. It also reiterated its appeal to the WTO to strengthen the development dimension in the various multilateral trade agreements through a wide range of measures, including the application of the provisions on special and preferential treatment for the developing countries and due consideration to the special needs of Least Developed Countries.

90. The Conference called on the international community to put an end to agricultural subsidies, which

are detrimental to producers in developing countries. It underlined the necessity of taking all possible measures within the OIC to support the least-developed cotton-producing countries in their legitimate demand for greater added value in the processing of this product. It also expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT) for successfully organizing the "2nd Experts Group Meeting on Enhancing Production Efficiency and International Competitiveness in OIC Cotton Producing Countries" from 28-30 March 2006 in Izmir, Republic of Turkey.

91. The Conference expressed its support for the initiatives taken to ensure promotion of Member States' basic products with a view to increasing the added value of these products as well as their producers' revenues.

92. The Conference stressed the importance of developing a coherent and strong international financial system with a view to addressing the fundamental weaknesses of the present financial system and stemming the possible repercussions of any future financial crisis.

93. The Conference commended the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) for its key role in strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among Member States. It also appreciated the commendable stewardship of H.E. Mr. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

94. The Conference appreciated the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Turkey in its capacity as the Chair of COMCEC to hold the high-level ministerial meeting focusing on promotion of intra-

OIC trade and investment, which was held concurrently with the 20th Session of COMCEC on 20-23 November 2004 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of COMCEC.

95. The Conference stressed the necessity of accelerating the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States. It took note, in this connection, of the approval by COMCEC of the six project proposals made by the Republic of Turkey as well as designation of some of the subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions of OIC to coordinate the work needed for implementation of these projects.

96. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the First Round of the Trade Negotiations under the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPSOIC) was concluded successfully, that the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPS-OIC (PRETAS), which includes specific targets and a time-frame for tariff reduction, was adopted by the 21st Session of the COMCEC and presented to the member countries for signing/ratification, and that the second round of trade negotiations will be launched in 2006.

97. The Conference emphasized that the Framework Agreement on the TPSOIC and the PRETAS are the basis for reaching the 20% intra-OIC trade target set by the Ten-Year Program of Action and for establishing a free trade area among the OIC Member States.

98. The Conference renewed its appeal to the international community to fully and expeditiously implement the Programme of Action for 2001-2010 adopted by the Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001. It also endorsed the Cotonou Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the



Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou, Benin in August 2002.

99. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the OIC General Secretariat convened, at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 6-7 March 2006, the Meeting of the open-ended OIC intergovernmental group of experts, which included representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, the IDB, the ICCI, the ICDT and the SESRTCIC, with the mandate to examine the ways and means of implementing the Programme of Action for 2001-2010 in respect of the Least Developed Countries within the OIC.

100. The Conference expressed appreciation of the Ten-Year Plan of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and invited the Member States and relevant institutions to support it. It called for establishing a number of institutions, such as the Federation of Businessmen, the World Zakat Authority, the Federation of Life Makers, in order to contribute to the implementation of this plan. The Conference also called for the adoption of an open visa for the movement of businessmen among the OIC Member States.

101. The Conference expressed concern over widespread poverty in the LDCs leading to their marginalization in the global economy. It further reaffirmed the common objective of Member States to eradicate poverty before the end of the next decade and the need to incorporate Micro Credit Programmes in the poverty eradication strategy.

102. The Conference renewed its call to the international community to significantly reduce the indebtedness of the African countries and secure fresh flow of substantial funds concessional to these countries, and welcomed the recent decision of the 8 industrialized countries to cancel USD 40 billion in

debt, most of which were owed by Least Developed African States.

103. The Conference called for effective implementation of the OIC/IDB/CILSS Programme for the Sahel and for assistance to be provided for the Inter-governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought control in the Sahel (CILSS).

104. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the debt relief initiative for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and called for its accelerated implementation in order to enable more eligible countries to benefit from the initiative and, in this connection, welcomed the decision adopted recently by the G8 at its 10-11 June 2005 meeting to write off the debt owed to the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank, the beneficiaries of which are mostly Least-Developed African countries.

105. The Conference welcomed Malaysia's initiative to establish a Capacity Building Programme aimed at poverty alleviation in less-developed and low-income countries and welcomed the launching of the Programme on 29th March, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, with four pilot projects identified for implementation in the first phase, each in Bangladesh, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Indonesia.

106. The Conference stressed the role of the private sector in stimulating intra-OIC economic and commercial cooperation and further emphasized the role of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the industrial development of Member States. It noted in this connection the progress made by the OIC Task Force on SMEs in working on a strategy for development of SMEs.

107. The Conference com-

mended the role of the Islamic Development Bank Group in supporting development programmes in Member States and invited the latter to make full use of the various services offered by the Group.

108. The Conference commended the role played by the subsidiary organs and the affiliated institutions of the OIC, active in economic and commercial fields, namely, the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association, and called on Member States to support their activities.

109. The Conference called for the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action for the Development and Promotion of Tourism in the OIC Member States, as adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2001, and endorsed by the Third Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Riyadh in October 2002. It also thanked the Republic of Senegal for hosting the Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, in Dakar from 28-30 March, 2005.

110. The Conference condemned the acts of demolition and destruction of Palestinian houses, institutions, facilities and lands causing severe losses to the Palestinian economy, expressed its deep concern over the disastrous economic repercussions of these ongoing aggressive practices of the Israeli government, and called for their immediate cessation. It also appealed for assistance to the Palestinian people to help them rebuild their national economy, to strengthen their national institutions, and to establish their independent state, with Al-Quds Al-



Sharif as its capital. It reiterated its commendation in this connection of the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to create two funds to support Palestine with a donation of USD250 million and called for financial support to these funds.

111. The Conference strongly condemned Israeli practices and their impacts on the environment in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories, and the occupied Lebanese territories, and stressed the need for cooperation and adoption of effective measures to protect the environment which is essential for the sustainable development of the Member States.

112. The Conference reaffirmed the need to share the know-how and expertise in the fields of science and technology among Member States and to harness them for peaceful purposes for the good of humanity and the socio-economic development of Member States. It welcomed the establishment of an International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance in Malaysia as a means to quality Islamic Finance Professionals to meet the needs in this field.

113. The Conference noted with appreciation the current programmes and activities of COMCEC aimed at advancing OIC Member States' capacity in science and technology.

114. The Conference took into consideration the strategy for Science and Technology Developments in Islamic countries and its implementation mechanisms as prepared by ISESCO in collaboration with COMSTECH and approved by the 9th Islamic Summit Conference.

115. The Conference commended COMSTECH, ISESCO and IUT for their efforts in the service of the Islamic Ummah and called for support for them.

116. The Conference praised the

activities of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Dhaka and urged it to continue its efforts to mobilize the human resources that the Member States need in the field of science and technology. It urged the Member States to lend financial assistance to Islamic University of Technology (IUT).

117. The Conference called upon the Member States to extend enhanced support to the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Bangladesh in order for it to contribute more towards capacity building of the OIC Member States through human resources development.

118. The Conference took into consideration the 1441 Hijri Vision, adopted by the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Malaysia from 16 to 18 October 2003. It adopted the resolution on the 1441 Hijri Vision on science and technology. It recognized the role of science and technology in the advancement of the Ummah and requested the Working Group to expedite the preparation of the strategic plan of action to implement the 1441 Vision with technical help from the IDB and other sources.

119. The Conference commended the report of the Second Meeting of the OIC Working Group on the 1441 Hijri Vision and urged all the Member States to lend full support to the letter and spirit of the 1441 Hijri Vision so as to make science and technology more established and entrenched in order to usher in an era of prosperity in the OIC countries.

120. The Conference urged the Member States on the need to bridge the gap between the OIC Member States and Islamic countries and industrialized countries.

121. The Conference called on the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic

Conference (OIC), the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) to continue to organize specialized symposia on protecting Islamic culture and heritage from the negative fallout of globalization.

122. The Conference applauded the efforts of the Islamic Group in UNESCO for its advocacy of Member States' interests, and urged this group to convene regular meetings at the level of ambassadors and experts with the aim of coordinating the positions of the Member States on issues of common interest to the Islamic world.

123. The Conference called on the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture (IRCICA) to continue to organize interactive sessions in order to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue through concrete and sustainable initiatives; and appealed to all Member States and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to provide all possible moral and financial support for the success of these dialogues.

124. The Conference welcomed the offer made by the Republic of Turkey during the preparatory proceedings for the 3rd Extraordinary Summit in Makkah, to host the 1st Conference of Ministers in-charge of Women's affairs, through which a plan of action could be worked out on the promotion of women's role in the development of Muslim societies and on providing them with more opportunities in public life. It also welcomed the offer made by the Pakistani Government



to host a Conference in 2007 in Islamabad for women leaders in the Islamic world.

125. The Conference endorsed the Rabat Declaration on issues of Children in the Islamic world adopted by the 1st Islamic Ministerial Conference on the Child, and urged all Member States to implement all the commitments included in the declaration.

126. The Conference urged that special programmes for the welfare of orphans and minors should be included in relief programmes provided for Islamic States affected by wars and natural disasters.

127. The Conference welcomed the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the meeting of Member States' Ministers of Health in Tehran on 23-24 September 2006, and requested all Member States to participate in the meeting.

128. The Conference directed an urgent appeal to the international community and Member States in the OIC, Islamic Charitable Organizations and the Islamic Development Bank to commit them within one year to providing additional financial resources to the international initiative for the eradication of Polio in order to tackle this disease in OIC countries in 2006/2007.

129. The Conference appealed to Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, and Islamic Philanthropic organizations and individuals to contribute to Waqfs of the Islamic Universities in Niger and Uganda and to assist the two universities by providing them with financial and material support to enable them meet the requirements of growing number of students; and also called for scholarships to empower needy students who cannot afford university fees.

130. The Conference recom-

mended that every kind of financial and academic support and assistance should be extended to Palestinian universities so that they can play their national and educational role.

131. The Conference appealed to Member States to support the efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organization to promote education in the Palestinian territories under its National Authority during the transitional period, and to provide it with all technical and financial means to develop curricula for all educational levels and meet its obligations.

132. The Conference called upon Member States to extend every necessary financial assistance to provide the funding required for the promotion of education in the occupied territories in general and in the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in particular, in view of the great difficulties facing education in the Holy City, on account of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, such as imposing its educational curricula and closing schools that reject its authority.

133. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for the construction of the separation wall, the so-called "Jerusalem Envelope" that seeks to isolate the City of Al-Quds by severing it from its Arab-Palestinian environment and Judaizing it through the obliteration of its historical, cultural and civilizational features.

134. The Conference commended the efforts taken by IRCICA to conduct a feasibility study to document and classify archaeological and historical Islamic sites and monuments in the Member States, and to build a data bank of these sites and monuments, and invites the Member States and the private sector to extend possible means for financing the project.

135. The Conference expressed

its thanks to the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for according importance to the Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA) and for bringing together an elite group of eminent scholars from inside and outside the Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA) in order to prepare a detailed study designed to develop the work of the Academy in implementation of the resolution of the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (ISC) held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah. It adopted the new Statute of the Fiqh Academy prepared by an open-ended Governmental Experts aimed at restructuring and developing the work of the Academy commensurate with the challenges faced by the Islamic world in the twenty-first century.

136. The Conference lauded the reports presented by ISESCO on its efforts to promote dialogue of cultures and civilizations, Arab, Islamic and European cooperation and cultural diversity, to implement and strengthen the mechanism of the Islamic World Cultural Strategy, and to highlight the Islamic view on cultural diversity and ways to deal with international changes, and appreciated its efforts and achievements in this regard.

137. The Conference urged the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified the Agreement on the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent to do so, as soon as possible, so as to enable the latter carry out its tasks and realize its noble objectives. It invited all Member States and Islamic institutions to extend material and moral support to the Committee so that it can implement its programmes.

138. The Conference hailed the future activities to be organized by the ISSF within its programs for 2006-2007, particularly the 2nd Session of the Islamic Conference



of Youth and Sports Ministers, and the acceptance of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2nd Islamic Solidarity Games in Tehran in 2009.

139. The Conference recommended that the General Secretariat, Islamic organizations and institutions, Islamic Solidarity Fund, and the Islamic Development Bank should support the Plans and Projects of the World Federation of Arab Islamic International Schools and extend to the Federation all possible assistance for their implementation.

140. The Conference invited the Member States to support the ICYF-DC and to encourage their youth organizations to actively participate in and contribute to the Forum's work aimed at intellectual development of and solidarity among the youth of the OIC countries.

141. The Conference took note of the steps taken by the Secretary General to convene the first meeting of the Committee of Experts to study the strengthening and promotion of the role of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

142. The Conference took note of the Secretary General's invitation to Member States to provide the donations they can during the 33rd ICFM in order to support the budget of the ISF and its Waqf to enable them discharge their duties.

143. The Conference took note of the re-election of the current members of the ISF Permanent Council pending the completion of the study on the strengthening and promotion of the role of the ISF.

144. The Conference noted with appreciation the financial and humanitarian support given by the Member States

to the victims of the tsunami disaster in all aspects, and appreciated highly the donation of USD500 million by the Islamic Development Bank for the reconstruction of the areas affected by the disaster. The Conference urged Islamic Member States and civil society institutions in the Muslim world to continue to provide relief to Muslim victims of natural disasters. It welcomed Malaysia's readiness to host a meeting to discuss the modalities for the establishment of an Islamic Rapid Response Relief Team.

145. The Conference approved the convening of a Donors' Conference to assist the Government and people of Niger in order to build strategic food reserve and encourage agriculture so that the recurring food shortages in the country will be eradicated. It welcomed the approval by the State of Qatar to host the Donors' Conference before the end of 2006 and appealed to all Member States and organizations to participate actively in the Donors' Conference. The Conference exhorted all the Member States and humanitarian and charitable institutions and organizations to quickly respond to the appeal made by the Republic of Niger and to dispatch relief assistance to this country as it is facing a serious humanitarian disaster due to the drought and famine which have claimed the lives of many citizens, particularly children and the elderly.

146. The Conference commended the role assumed by the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) in coordinating the different activities

of Islamic governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the positive results reached by the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) in building a common platform and a coherent vision of Islamic action in the service of Muslims all over the world and with the aim of protecting the heritage and radiant image of Islam.

147. The Conference affirmed the importance of incorporating the Strategy for Joint Islamic Action (JIA) in the field of Dawa among the national policies of Member States in the various educational, information, media, and Islamic Dawa fields as a guideline to inspire their action on Joint Islamic Action (JIA).

148. The Conference approved the report and recommendations of the 34th Session of the Permanent Finance Committee (PFC).

149. The Conference approved the following financial resolutions:

- a) The budget of the OIC General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs for the 2006/2007 financial year;
- b) The amendment of the Financial Regulations of the OIC;
- c) The new scale of Member States' contributions to the budget of the General Secretariat;
- d) The election of Member States of the Finance Control Organ.

150. The Conference adopted the financial report of the issued by the 6th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to Study



On behalf of all the participants, H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the OIC, addressed a cable of thanks to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his country's hosting of the Conference and for the facilities extended to the delegates, which highly contributed to the success of the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

the Restructuring of the OIC General Secretariat and its Role in Confronting the Challenges in the New Millennium.

151. The Conference highly appreciated the generosity of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud for his preparedness to build the new OIC General Secretariat, following the conclusion of the international competition for the building design.

152. The Conference resolved to confine the agenda of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, which is held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, to consultation and coordination of the positions of OIC Member States on matters that are of concern to the OIC and included in the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly. It also resolved that the conclusions of its proceedings should be drawn in the form of a communiqué agreed upon by the Foreign Ministers of Member States or their representatives.

153. The Conference approved the Draft Rules on Observer Status for Non-Governmental

Organizations and recommended that the concerned Intergovernmental Group of Experts continues its meetings in order to arrive at a consensus on the conditions for accession of States as Observers.

154. The Conference welcomed the accession to the OIC as affiliated institutions of the General Council for Islamic Banks, the Federation of Contractors of Islamic States, the Federation of Consultants of Islamic States and the Islamic World Science Academy.

155. The Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary General in strengthening cooperation between the OIC and other regional and international organizations and urged him to sign more cooperation agreements with these organizations, particularly with the United Nations organs and bodies.

156. The Conference welcomed with great satisfaction and expressed its deep appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan for their pledged donations of One Million US Dollars and Five Hundred Thousand US Dollars respectively to the budget of the General Secretariat of the OIC to

support its various activities.

157. The Conference took note of the report of the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund concerning the activities of the Fund. It highly valued the donations made by Member States to the Fund and its Waqf, notably the United Arab Emirates for its on-going generous donations of the Two Million US Dollars to the Fund. It called on all Member States to make annual donations to the Islamic Solidarity Fund and to contribute to the capital of the Fund's Waqf.

158. The Conference decided to hold the 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan at a date to be determined in coordination between the host country and the OIC General Secretariat.

159. On behalf of all the participants, H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the OIC, addressed a cable of thanks to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his country's hosting of the Conference and for the facilities extended to the delegates, which highly contributed to the success of the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

**Baku, Republic of
Azerbaijan
25 Jumada I 1427H
(21 June 2006)**



BILATERAL MEETINGS DURING THE SESSION









STATISTICS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE OIC MINISTERIAL MEETING



Participation category	Invited Delegations	Attended Delegations	Number of delegates	Delegations that did not attend
Member States	57	52	342	Benin Guinea-Bissau Suriname Togo Turkmenistan
Observer States	5	4	43	Central African Republic
Observer Muslim Communities	1	1	11	
Observer international and regional organizations	6	4	8	African Union United Nations
Subsidiary Organs	6	5	13	Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund
Islamic Universities established under the auspices of the OIC	2	2	2	
Specialized OIC Institutions	5	5	13	
Affiliated Institutions	6	6	15	
Islamic Foundations and Societies	8	4	7	League of Islamic Universities World Islamic Council for Da'wa and Relief International Islamic Charity Foundation Islamic Council of Europe
Guests	28	13	38	Council of American-Islamic Relations Democratic Republic of the Congo European Union IAEA International Peace Academy Kosovo OECD Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie Republic of South Africa Sanjak UNDP UNICEF WHO World Economic Forum World Tourism Organization
OIC General Secretariat	1	1	45	
OIC Technical Secretariat	1	1	51	
Total:	126	98	588	28

