



**STATEMENT BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE MOHAMED
BOLKIAH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE
AT THE 34th SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS
ISLAMABAD, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
15 MAY 2007**

Mr. Chairman
Your Royal Highness
Your Excellencies
Secretary General

My thanks to President Musharraf for his address and to you, personally, Mr. Chairman, for the arrangements and all the hard work involved in hosting our meeting.

My thanks also to the people of Islamabad for their kind welcome. They have done a lot to support our organisation over the years. In fact, they have hosted us more often than any other capital city. So it is a pleasure to be here again.

At the same time, can I thank our colleagues from Azerbaijan. It is been very nice working with each other during the chairmanship in the past year.

My congratulations, lastly, to Pakistan on taking over from them. Your government has done this many times before, Mr. Chairman, and always very successfully. So, we have a lot of confidence in your leadership in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like just to sum up one or two feelings about the OIC's work over the coming year.

Firstly, as we all know, some of our members are facing some very serious problems indeed. This is especially so in the Middle East and one thing I certainly want to do here is to say that we stand with them as we have always done.

As well as this, I would like to say how much we appreciate all that our colleagues in Saudi Arabia, in Egypt and Jordan, and in Palestine are doing to try to open up fresh opportunities to secure justice and lasting peace.

They all need our support, our understanding and our encouragement and I want to assure them that Brunei

Darussalam offers this, in whatever way we can. I am also sure that our fellow members feel the same. We all want to help.

There is, however, obviously a limit to what any individual government can do on its own and this is where I feel that the OIC can be a very big help. I think it has a special role these days and a vital one.

To put it simply, I am referring to our Ten-Year Action Plan, including the revision of our Charter. If we set things up successfully, it will not only make the organisation much stronger but, in the long term, it will also do more for our people everywhere than anything we can do on our own. By this, I mean that it will give our people a lot of confidence in their future as Muslims in the modern world.

That makes it very important to us all. So, we thank the Secretary-General and his staff very much for their work. At the moment, we are very happy with progress.

As for the end result, we hope to see what we said at the Summit in Mecca;

“No conflict for our people between the modern world and their Islamic way of life”.

And what do we mean by that?

I see it, Mr. Chairman, as much more than just a list of projects and ideas on development. To me, it also sends a clear message to the rest of the world and I think it is a very good message, especially for the times we are all living in right now when many countries are asking exactly what the Muslim World stands for. I think our work gives an excellent answer.

It says that the OIC, and the people it represents, are a positive force for peaceful progress - in health and education; finance and economic affairs; science and technology; and every aspect of personal security.

So, to sum up, Mr. Chairman, what the OIC is doing at the moment, makes us extremely proud in Brunei Darussalam to be a member and I much appreciate the chance we have here to do whatever we can to assist in planning our common future.

Thank you.

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