

STATEMENT OF H.E. AMBASSADOR REZLAN ISHAR JENIE
THE HEAD OF INDONESIAN DELEGATION

AT THE 34TH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

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Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank you and the Government and people of Pakistan for hosting this 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and for the warm hospitality accorded to my delegation.

My Minister, H.E. Dr. Hassan Wirajuda, sends his regrets at not being able to personally join you here today. I am honoured to convey the points he would have made here if he had not been prevented by unforeseen circumstances that require his presence in Jakarta.

The theme of this Conference: *"Peace, Progress and Harmony,"* is appropriate. There is today a great shortage of peace, progress and harmony in the world, including the Islamic world.

Palestine, for instance, has seen little of peace and too much of conflict in six decades. Once again we condemn the aggression and oppression inflicted by Israel on the Palestinians. We call on the International community to prevail upon Israel to honour its international obligations.

We commend the Palestinian people for establishing a National Unity Government and for nurturing the peace process through consultations with their Israeli counterparts. We fervently hope that their initiatives will gain momentum, and strengthen the reconciliation process at the grassroots levels.

In relation to the Syrian Golan Height, we believe that the permanent solution to the issue is essential to the comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israel conflict. And this regard, we are deeply concern that the situation has not demonstrate any movement because of the persistent Israeli's occupation.

In Iraq, we are saddened by the spiral of violence and the deadly rift between Sunnis and Shiites. These have shattered the nation's tradition of religious tolerance and mutual respect.

We pray that the Government of Iraq will soon be able to bring the violence to an end. We welcome the various initiatives at addressing the crisis in Iraq.

We urge that these efforts be sustained and focus on the crucial need for a comprehensive process of dialogue, confidence-building and reconciliation involving all factions and sectors of Iraqi society. The process can be facilitated by Muslim nations.

In Lebanon, there has been some improvement in the security situation. But much remains to be done in the reconstruction of the nation's infrastructure that was devastated by the military aggression by Israel in 2006.

We appeal to the international community to sway Israel into respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. At the same time, we urge all parties in Lebanon to maintain unity as it is a fundamental element in the reconstruction. We also encourage other states in the region to support and foster the reconciliation process.

In Afghanistan, we welcome "the national unity programmes" of the Afghan Government to strengthen its national security. The programmes, which include participatory decision-making and inclusive political processes, are of critical importance to the achievement of sustainable peace of the country.

We in the OIC must also attend to a number of "*forgotten conflicts*" involving some of our member states, such as Sierra Leone and Somalia. More needs to be done to give peace a chance in both countries.

Whenever there is a persistent intrastate conflict in any of our member countries, the OIC should seek to exert influence and play contributing role toward attaining peace. We should therefore begin to define what that role should be.

Similarly, our Organization could also play contributive role in conflicts involving Muslim minorities in non-member States. In this regard, we already have an excellent track record. Indonesia has been privileged to mediate, in the name of the OIC, the peace process in southern Philippines. Let us look for opportunities to extend that track record.

Mr. Chairman,

There would be less conflict and more peace in this world if there were also more economic progress.

We in the OIC can do something about this. Our organization, consisting of 57 countries, spans three continents. We are blessed with vast natural resources and an aggregate market of more than one billion people.

We can translate this huge economic potential into a reality that is a blessing to the *Ummah*. We have the resources to accomplish this.

The question is whether we can summon the political will to engage in closer cooperation and take full advantage of our resources, our leverages and our huge market. And whether we can get out of the “business as usual” mode and be more proactive, resolute and action-oriented.

That is why we are so pleased that the Second World Islamic Economic Forum held here last November underlined this aspect in their recommendation.

At any rate, we need to continue our collaboration in various global forums to help rectify the imbalances in the world economic order. Let us indeed review our approaches to it and see how it can benefit us in relation to such issues as the Millennium Development Goals, development financing, economic liberalization and the preservation of environment.

Moreover, Mr. Chairman, we need to accelerate our efforts to reform our Organization so that we can effectively address the problems of the *Ummah*, and to cope with the new realities of the world.

We need to be more efficient in our work, among other through the streamlining of the agenda of the meeting and focusing on more action-oriented resolutions. And the 10-Year Plan of Action adopted in the Holy City of Mecca, in December 2005, serves to guide us well to meet the objective of forging Islamic solidarity.

Mr. Chairman,

One of our most worrisome problems is the prejudice being inflicted on Muslim minorities all over the world that leads to intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

This is largely because terrorists groups have managed to mislead much of the non-Islamic world into a perception of Islam as the inspiration to terrorism.

This, too, is a challenge we must address.

In this connection, we commend the initiative of the Conference to devote a separate discussion to this challenge during this session.

We know that terrorism springs from grievances due to such realities as foreign occupation, social injustice and poverty. Our response to terrorism should therefore be equally comprehensive.

To put it in brief, we must seek the redress of those grievances. We must work for peace and bring about economic progress. We must strive for good governance, social justice, equality and respect for human rights.

And we must also enlighten those who have been led to believe the worst of us.

One effective way to do this is to advocate, promote and engage in dialogue between and among faiths, cultures and civilizations. We should include all stakeholders, including religious and community leaders, civil society and the mass media in the process.

Through such dialogue, we affirm and prove that Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance. Moreover, we empower the voice of reasons whose voice would otherwise be drowned by the agitations of extremists.

We in Indonesia are striving to contribute to the growth of interfaith dialogue at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

Within the Islamic world there is also a great need to promote dialogue and cooperation among our communities—so that all of us will grow in consciousness of belonging to one Islam, regardless of whether we are Sunni or Shiite.

Let us contribute to the growth of a global culture of dialogue. That will make a world of harmony and a better world for the *Ummah* to live in.

Thank you.