

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. KHURSHID M. KASURI,
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

AT THE

**INAUGURAL SESSION OF
34TH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS**

ISLAMABAD (15-17 MAY 2007)

**FOREIGN MINISTER MR. KHURSHID M. KASURI'S OPENING
REMARKS AT 34th ICFM INAUGURAL SESSION, 15 MAY 2007**

**H.E. General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic
Republic of Pakistan,**

**H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the
OIC,**

**Distinguished Ministers of Foreign Affairs,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**As Chairman of the 34th ICFM, I welcome President
General Pervez Musharraf to this august gathering. I also
express our collective appreciation to Foreign Minister Mr.
Elmar Mammadyarov for Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the
ICFM this last year since the memorable 33rd ICFM at Baku.**

**2. I also welcome to Islamabad the distinguished
Ministers, and all other participants and guests at this
Conference and hope you will enjoy your stay in Pakistan, a
founding member of the OIC.**

**3. Pakistan, with its deep foundations resting on Islamic
principles and values, history and traditions, was
established as a homeland for its citizens where they could
flourish, free of any kind of discrimination. We always
cherish and value the support that was extended to us by a**

number of Islamic countries, their leaders and peoples during our struggle for independence under the leadership of our founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah,

4. The support which was extended to us led to our self-pledge that in turn, we would cultivate the closest possible relations with the entire Muslim world and support all its causes; particularly the right of self-determination and liberation from colonial and foreign domination. This remains a cornerstone of our foreign policy. The hosting of this Conference and similar sessions in Pakistan in the past, are an earnest of this sincere commitment to the Ummah. I feel greatly honoured and pleased to note that all 57 Member States of our Organization are represented in today's august session.

Distinguished Ministers and Honourable Secretary General,

6. My objective, as your Chairman, will be to try to ensure, with your support, that we avail of this opportunity to concentrate on how we can collectively address the challenges that we confront, including the revitalization and reform of the OIC. I would request that all agenda items finalized for our consideration at the Senior Officials' meeting are not reopened.

7. Considerable progress has been made in revising the Charter, which the Makkah Summit has tasked us to complete. Given the political will represented by your presence, this task should not be beyond us. My delegation stands ready to assist the process of consensus and will be guided by all of you.

8. I suggest that we may also give some thought to the structure of future ICFMs. In today's increasingly complex and globalized world with its many time demands, it may be more effective and enable more high-level participation, if the ICFM is held for one or two days only.

9. The Senior Officials would continue to meet for three days, but this would be just before the ICFM, with a break of one day between the SOM and the ICFM for preparing the draft decisions. This would permit our ICFM to focus on discussions on how our Organization can respond to evolving regional and international situations, in addition to the promotion of our collective objectives. I trust that my distinguished colleagues will give these ideas due consideration.

10. I now call on the distinguished Foreign Minister of Malaysia which represents the Chair of the OIC Summit, to present his address.