

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Speech
of
H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud,

Minister of the State for Foreign Affairs
and Member of the Cabinet of the State of Qatar

At

The 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign
Ministers

Islamabad - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
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In The Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
(Praises be to Allah, and Peace be Upon the Messenger of Allah
and all his relatives and companions)

**Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman,
Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Your Excellency Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished audience,**

Assalamu Alaikom Wa Rahmatu Allah Wa Barakatu,

At the outset, I have the pleasure to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of the friendly Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the generous hospitality and warm reception accorded to us. We equally appreciate the diligent efforts exerted in the preparations and organization of this conference. We are quite confident that the Chairmanship, of the 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, represented in H. E. brother Khurshid Mahmoud Kasuri, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will spare no effort to achieve our aspired-for goals aimed at consolidating solidarity amongst our nations and achieving further political and economic accomplishments that are likely to enhance the standing of the Islamic World.

I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to H.E. brother Elmar MammadiYarov, Foreign Minister of the friendly Republic of Azerbaijan, for his valuable and efforts and contributions during his chairmanship period of the previous Session. Thanks are also extended to my brother his Excellency Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, for his incessant and outstanding efforts to reform the organization, for his policy of interacting with the event in question, his follow up of the implementation of adopted resolutions and decisions as well as for enabling the Organization to optimally deliver its message and achieve its lofty objectives.

Honourable President Pervez Musharraf, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has underlined in his eloquent and articulate speech the challenges faced by our Islamic Ummah. He aptly expressed the sources of our concern under the present circumstances, which our Islamic world is passing through. It is incumbent upon us that we deal with such circumstances in the spirit of solidarity and joint collective action with a view to averting or at least mitigating the damages that might beset the interests of our Islamic Ummah.

Distinguished audience,

The State of Qatar has always been striving at all the regional and international levels to realize international peace and security as well as to achieve and enhance international cooperation in the field of development. Unfortunately, all the efforts exerted to that effect were foiled by the bitter reality of the exacerbating conditions in the Middle East region.

In this context, we reiterate the need to respect the Palestinian will which was expressed in the recent democratic elections. We also underscore the need to adhere to the peace road, bearing in mind that peace would never be achieved without the establishment of a Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. We welcome the formation of the Palestinian national unity government, following the Makkah Accord between Fatah and Hamas movements. We hope that it will contribute to the unity of ranks and word among the Palestinian brethren in a manner that realizes the aspirations of the brotherly Palestinian people and preserves their unity. We also call on the international community and the Quartet to deal positively with this government, provide it with the necessary support and lift the blockade imposed on the Palestinian people. We assert, at the same time, the need to abide by the precepts of the Road Map plan, to implement the relevant agreements and resolutions of international legitimacy as well as Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since June 1967, in

order for just and comprehensive peace to prevail in the region and to positively respond with the Arab Peace Initiative, endorsed in the Arab Summit meeting convened in Beirut in 2002 and which was reiterated in the recent Arab Summit Conference held in Riyadh.

Distinguished audience,

The State of Qatar has paid considerable attention to the situation in Iraq. It took part in the Ministerial Meeting at Sharm Al Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt early this month with a view to launching the International Compact with Iraq, which represents an opportunity to coordinate and balance the Iraqi Government's implementation of its strategic priorities and commitments, on the one hand, and the international community's pledges, on the other, and contributes to eliminate fears and doubts about the future of conditions in the fraternal Iraq. The State of Qatar calls for continued and intensified efforts for the formation of Iraq that is democratic and committed to its unity and to its Arab and Islamic identity. The State of Qatar will spare no efforts to act together with other partners to see a stable and prosperous Iraq in which all Iraqis stand together with its different factions and sects to achieve peace and build the future.

The State of Qatar calls upon the international community to stand with the Government of Sudan and reject any intervention in its internal affairs or violate its unity and national sovereignty on all its territories, and to support the comprehensive peace agreement and Darfur Agreement, and calls upon donor states to provide assistance to the Sudanese people with regard to humanitarian issues and reconstruction. It also lauds the recent agreement between Sudan and the United Nations on the heavy package of support to the African Union's troops in Darfur by the United Nations and also lauds the Sudanese Government's efforts for peace and stability all over Sudan, especially in the Darfur region and direction of its

capabilities towards development of resources and realization of prosperity for the brotherly Sudanese people.

Distinguished audience,

The State of Qatar strongly appeals to all Somali parties to put an end to hostilities, act sincerely to achieve stability in the country and realize genuine and comprehensive national reconciliation . In addition, the international community is called upon to respect Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and hopes that the interim federal government will be able to build the State's institutions and control security situation in the country, a mission which requires material and political backing and necessitates our cooperation with the Somali government to ensure resources that make Somalia once again an active United Nations' Member.

Distinguished audience,

An international donors conference is to be held in Doha on June 12 and 13 with the aim to build a strategic food reserve and enhance sustainable food security for Niger in accordance with the Islamic ministerial conference resolution endorsed in the previous Azerbaijan Session, which was organized by the General Secretariat, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and African cooperation and integration in Niger and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar.

The three organizers of the conference agreed to present three basic financing programs: a program to replenish the national food security reserve; an environmental program to rationalize the use of rainwater resources and a program to enhance food security through the development of irrigation systems.

A joint invitation was addressed by the General Secretariat, the government of Niger and the government of Qatar to the potential donors in the international community, the Islamic world, the civil society organizations and the charitable

associations to participate in this conference and donate generously for this humanitarian project.

Distinguished audience,

Terrorism was and still is one of the most serious challenges we are facing, as its criminal hands have extended to our Islamic countries aiming to destabilize them. Our countries have emphasized more than once that they reject all forms of terrorism. We once again express our categorical denunciation of this phenomenon and consider it alien to our culture and our lofty religious values that criminalize killing and calls for peace, human interaction and honoring human life. At the same time, we reject double standards which are used to deal with this phenomenon; and refuse to associate terrorism with any particular religion or culture.

The shared cultural legacy of our nation gives us a huge responsibility to work harder to safeguard the best interests of our countries and protect these countries against disintegration. It entails that we focus our efforts in improving the social conditions of our peoples; rally all the available resources to achieve sustainable development; and uphold democratic practices through giving the chance for the peoples to participate in public affairs, economic development and social cohesion activities as a means of upholding security and sustainable stability in our Muslim countries. This legacy also requires us to opt to positive interaction with and confirm our contribution in the international civilization; and in a world that has no place for weak.

Beseeching Almighty Allah to bless us all with success and prosperity, I thank you very much for listening.

Wa-salamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu