

Speech
by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Uzbekistan H.E. Sh.Minovarov on the 34-rd Session of the Islamic
Conference of Foreign Ministers
(Islamabad, May 15-17, 2007)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Friends,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan allow me to sincerely thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the perfect organization of the summit and cordial hospitality and to express words of sincere respect to all participants of the Summit.

Taking this opportunity I would like to congratulate the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri with his election on the position of the Chairman of the 34-th Ministerial meeting.

Dear Participants of our meeting,

Uzbekistan notes with satisfaction the growing role of OIC in international policy and its transformation into a structure, capable to resolve concrete global scale tasks.

The Government of Uzbekistan fully supports the measures aimed at transformation of Organization into the structure that is able to meet the present-day requirements, at accomplishment of Organization's purposes and tasks as well as at unification and rallying of the Muslim countries.

We approve the initiatives of the OIC on unification and rallying of the Muslim countries in front of fundamental changes of modernity caused by new challenges and threats to the security, such as violence, terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

The tendency of growing in various countries of vices like islamofobia and intolerance towards the faithful followers of the Islam causes concern. In this regard we should mention the facts when terrorism is linked with Islam, publication of groundless and unfair materials in Western mass media, which hurt national and religious feelings of Muslims. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan His

Excellency Mr. I.A.Karimov while emphasizing that the idea and term of "terrorism" and "fundamentalism" existed at all times and in many countries, is standing against association of them with sacred Islam religion.

Undoubtedly, such intentions will undermine the efforts of international community aimed at strengthening of mutual trust and tolerance between representatives of different nations and religions.

A Muslim Ummah at the present stage has a difficult task - to find an antidote, put a barrier to the destructive forces, which we call the ideology of fanaticism. This ideology using sacred religious slogans grasps and poisons, first of all, the consciousness of our youth, creating zombies and transforming them into obedient tools. The educational work directed towards the extermination of illiteracy, explanation of the true values of Islam, development of cultural traditions and the historical heritage of the Muslim world must become the reliable protection from the theories contrary to Islam for the next generation.

It is possible and necessary to oppose the attacks on Islam by continuous and wide propagation of peaceful and creative essence of our sacred religion.

Dear participants of session,

We believe that in the issue of fighting against terrorism the application of the so-called "double-standards" policy is unacceptable. It serves as one of the tools for putting pressure upon the countries, which are adherent to an independent course of development.

In conditions where the international community experiences a new stage in establishing a new model of world order, the Muslim world became the target of the expansion policy of some Western countries, aspiring to impose their rules by using methods of force to approve their own standards of social-political development.

In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to the following statement of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov:

"Under the cover of fighting against terrorism and instituting democracy some leading countries of the world promote their strategic interests. The given strategy is realized not only without taking into consideration the way of life, traditions, customs, religious views and social conditions of Muslim countries, but also against them".

Uzbekistan notes that there is no universal formula of democracy in the world and fully supports the development of common position on blocking the efforts of forcibly propagation of western democracy values.

From this tribune I would like to express respect to the governments of all the member countries of OIC who have supported

the position of Uzbekistan within the framework of the United Nations Organization.

From ancient times our ancestors have adhered to Islam that is based on ideas of enlightenment, tolerance, equality and love of human being.

Nowadays under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov the stage-by-stage reforms are carried out in country's political, economic and social life.

Moreover, a special attention is paid to the cultural and enlightenment field as well as to studying the heritage of great scientists; thinkers and religious scholars lived in Maworounnahr. During the years of independence in our country more than 2 thousand mosques have been constructed and restored. In April 1999 in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A.Karimov the first Islamic University in Central Asia was established, the Khorazm Mamun Academy activity was restored, Tashkent High Mahad and more than 10 madrasahs and secondary educational institutions are functioning.

In Uzbekistan, where representatives of more than 130 nationalities live and 16 religious confessions function, the solidarity among nations and religious tolerance, which are the part of social stability, are being maintained.

It is known that the OIC Education, Science and Culture organization have announced Tashkent as the capital of Islam culture.

We accept this honorable status given to Uzbekistan's capital as a high appreciation of the great contribution of this land and its sons made to the Islamic civilization, as well as of the efforts undertaken by our Government in preserving of Islamic values and handing them over to the next generation.

The Republic of Uzbekistan highly assesses the efforts of the OIC Secretariat aimed at strengthening of the Muslim Ummah and is ready to further cooperate with the Organization in this sphere.

Dear participants of session,

Despite the efforts undertaken by the international community, a modern world has not become safer.

The Republic of Uzbekistan, being the initiator of the creation of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Central Asia, supports the efforts of the OIC in strengthening the multilateral regimes on the prohibition of unconventional types of weapons in the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia.

While the Muslim world has been shaken by various conflicts and Uzbekistan, as a constituent of Ummah, cannot be indifferent to death of innocent people due to restless situation in Afghanistan and Iraq and firmly believes that the prompt provision of stability in this states is necessary.

We are firmly convinced that the final settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq by the more active involvement of the OIC in this process could become the key prerequisite for the achievement of regional security and stability.

For a long time the Islamic world has been disturbed with the problem of Middle East settlement. Uzbekistan is firmly convinced that the peace negotiation process has no alternative. Only through constructive dialogue and consecutive implementation of appropriate resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, it will be possible to put an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people. Creation of an independent Palestinian state, as well as solution of the Karabakh problem, should become the logical end of long-term efforts by the Islamic Ummah towards the settlement of these conflicts.

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports the activity of OIC directed at developing of cooperation with international and regional organizations.

At the same time, we believe that paying additional attention to the expansion of the scales of trade-economic and investment relations in the framework of OIC will assist in further development of cooperation in these spheres among the member states.

Cooperation in this direction with the main financial institution of OIC – the Islamic Development Bank, attraction of the sources of this organization to the projects of national and regional importance and borrowing of credits will create convenient opportunities in developing of joint investment projects.

Mr. Chairman,

Summing up, I would like to express confidence that the Session will made an appropriate contribution in strengthening of security, stability, open new opportunities for mutually advantageous cooperation and resolving of the issues defined in Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.

Wassalamu alaykum wa rahmatullohi wa barakotuhu.