

Speech of the
Republic of Yemen Addressed to the 34th Ministerial Conference
of the OIC

By H.E. Dr. Abubaker Al-Qirbi
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Of the Republic of Yemen
Islam Abad, 15-17 May 2007

H.E. Mian Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri
Chairman of the Conference & Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Hignesses & Excellencies,

Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsan Oglu
Secretary General of the OIC,

Assalamu Alikum Wa Rahmatu Allahi Wabarakatuh

First of All, Allow me to present my utmost thanks and appreciation to H.E. President Pervez Musharraf for honoring our conference with his presence and for his most valuable speech, in which he touched on the current status, hopes and challenges facing the Islamic Nation.

I would like to seize this opportunity to express our deep thanks and gratitude to the Government and People of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm welcome, hospitality and

excellent preparations for this important meeting. Our meeting comes in a very critical time in which, our Islamic Nation faces serious challenges that needs to be dealt with in earnest and commitment to the OIC previous resolutions and vision for comprehensive reform of our organization.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

We meet today in this beautiful city to address the immense challenges which compels the Islamic Nation to mobilize its capabilities and come up with a collective Islamic effort which embodies its unity and binds its work to face the vicious attack targeting Islam and the whole Islamic Nation.

There is no doubt that the Islamic States have expressed their willingness to activate the OIC during the 32nd session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana'a in 2005, through establishing economic partnership and achieving comprehensive development. In addition to the creation of a contemporary renaissance project which was defined by the Ten-Year plan of action which was approved by the Islamic States Leaders in the Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah in December 2005. This plan of action was inaugurated during the 33rd session of the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference held in Azerbaijan last year. Therefore, we, as an organisation and member states, are obliged to start implementing the strategies and visions which have been approved, and to set mechanisms for its implementation esteeming from the goals and principles for reform which are considered as the most effective means to overcome the challenges of the 21st century.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

We live in a world in which the great and most influential powers are accusing Islam and Muslims of being terrorists. Thus, in order to confront the dangers and the threats resulting from such accusation, the Republic of Yemen recognizes the importance of devoting our ministerial meeting of the OIC to define an effective and efficient means to face the fierce attack against Islam and Muslims. There is no question that a moderate Islamic media strategy is important to correct the misconceptions on which other nations base their campaign against the noble values of Islam and tarnishing the image of Muslims by terrorism and extremism.

In this regard, we would like to repeat our call and draw your Excellencies attention to the seriousness of Islamic sects conflicts and its negative effect on the unity of the followers of the same religion, Shiite and Sunni Muslims. The only beneficiaries of such division are the enemies of Islam who use such conflicts to there advantage to attack Islam, therefore we need to enhance a serious dialogue between Muslim sects and develop ways to reread our Islamic history objectively within their jurisprudence framework, away from political considerations. It is also important to lay the proper foundations for this dialogue and the methodology to be used in reading history so as to reach common understanding and rapprochement that will reinforce mutual respect, preserve the unity of the nation and enable it to avoid sectarian conflicts.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

Developing solid economic relations among the OIC member states, establishing partnerships and consolidating a comprehensive development policy based on mutual interests and diversity of investment opportunities, and creating a common Islamic market are prerequisites for the renaissance and prosperity of our people. Therefore, we should give them the greatest attention while benefiting from the current tendency towards economic and industrial integration and investment opportunities. In this respect, we appreciate the innovative efforts exerted by COMCEC, the Islamic Bank for Development and Trade Development Centre to establish and reinforce economic relations among member states. However, such efforts need further support and commitment from the advanced Islamic economies to the less developed ones in the Islamic World to encourage economic integration between them undoubtedly which will enable them to face fierce global competition.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

The Palestinian cause has remained for long decades as the main concern of our organization and the centre of its members' attention due to the sacredness which the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque represents to one and a half billion Muslims who are outraged by the arrogance, violence and state terrorism exercised by the Israeli Government which ignores all principles of human rights and neglects all the peace agreements signed with the Palestinian Authority. This is regrettably happening under the indifferent eye of the international community, giving the impression that condemning the Israeli efforts to impose unilateral solutions as fait accompli in full disregard of all relevant international resolutions.

The 19th Arab summit held recently in Riyadh reaffirmed the Arab States determination to achieve a comprehensive and just peace and to end the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the Arab Peace Initiative, which calls for a fair settlement and lasting peace with Israel, in accordance with the UN resolutions, Madrid peace agreements, and the principles of the peace process. And also to call upon the Israeli government and Israeli people to accept this initiative and seize the opportunity to achieve peace and stability.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

The atrocities and killing of innocent people which Iraq is witnessing as a result of the presence of the occupation troops and sectarian conflict is painful experience to all of us in the Islamic world. Therefore, we call upon all Iraqi people from all sects and political backgrounds to exert their efforts in a comprehensive national reconciliation process which includes all Iraqis and integration and guarantee the inclusion of all political forces. In this respect, we stress that dialogue is the only solution for the Iraqi dilemma. All concerned parties should spare no effort in supporting the Iraqi Government to preserve Iraqis Arabic identity, sovereignty and unity. We call on all external influences to stop interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and inflaming the sectarian conflict, which jeopardizes security and stability of the whole region.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

Finally, we should not forget the difficult conditions that the Somali people are enduring greater suffering due to lack of security and stability. The Somali people require financial recourses necessary to assist in the reconstruction and

reconciliation process which is the guarantee for a stable Somalia. Furthermore, Somalia needs urgent support to finance the mobilization of the security forces to stabilize the country and pave the way for the withdrawal of the Ethiopian troops, as well as, to pave the way for a national dialogue for reconciliation.

In this regard, I would like to stress on the important role that Yemen has played in order to resolve the Somali disputes with objective of creating a secure and stable Somalia. The Republic of Yemen has also carried a heavy burden of receiving thousands of Somali refugees as a result of the war. Yemen has already called on the world community to assist Somalia and on the need to convene a "Donors Conference" to enable the reconstruction of Somalia and to assist the Transitional Government to fulfill its duties.

Finally I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary general Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsan Oglu for his efforts to reform the organization. I also extend my gratitude and appreciation to the leadership, government and people of Pakistan for the hospitality, and pray to Almighty Allah to bless our Islamic Nation.

Assalamu Alikum Wa Rahmatu Allahi Wabarakatuh