

OIC/SUMMIT-11/2008/FC/Final

**FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ
OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF
THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
(*SESSION OF THE MUSLIM
UMMAH IN THE 21st CENTURY*)**

DAKAR — REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL
6-7 RABIUL AWWAL 1429 H
(13-14 MARCH 2008)

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1. In response to the kind invitation of H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Session of the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century, was convened in Dakar, capital of the Republic of Senegal, on 6-7 Rabiul Awwal 1429 H.(13-14 March 2008).
2. The session was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting held on 8-9 March 2008, which was followed by the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting on 11-12 March 2008.
3. The President of the Senate of Malaysia delivered the message of H.E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference. The statement indicated that Malaysia's priority was to revitalize the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC system, to make it more efficient and stressed the role of the OIC in contributing more effectively to achieve international peace and security. It highlighted the initiatives undertaken by Malaysia during its Chairmanship of the Islamic Summit Conference, in particular, initiating the Capacity Building Programme for OIC countries, the establishment of the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIFE), establishing the Strategic Partnership between the Muslim world and the west, and bridging the gap of misunderstanding and mistrust, as well as strengthening of the role of the OIC in international fora and combating extremism and Islamophobia.
4. The Conference unanimously elected H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, as Chairman of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference. The other members of its Bureau were unanimously

elected as follows: The State of Palestine, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Republic of Turkey, as Vice-Chairmen respectively, and Malaysia as Rapporteur of the Conference.

5. H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference, delivered a speech in which he started by welcoming their Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, the Kings and Heads of State and Government, and thanked them for the trust they placed in His Excellency by electing him Chairman of the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference. He affirmed that this Summit was not just Senegal's Summit but also Africa's Summit. He emphasized that the rekindling of the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century will be achieved through a revitalized Organization, endowed with institutional capacities and human and financial resources commensurate with our ambitions. He stressed that the process of the review of the OIC Charter satisfied this requirement and that it was only through this urgent reform that the Organization would meet the aspirations of the Ummah.
6. In his statement, H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), emphasized the worsening situation in Gaza due to the continuing Israeli aggression against Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He expressed grave concern over the present threats to Al-Quds because of the judaization of the city and the ongoing excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque. He emphasized that there will be no final peace without resolving the issues of Al-Quds and refugees and strongly rejected unilateral solutions and a State with provisional borders.
7. Addresses were then delivered by Their Excellencies the President of Djibouti on behalf of the Arab Group, the Chief Adviser (Prime Minister) of Bangladesh, on behalf of the Asian Group, and the President of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the African Group. They expressed their congratulations to H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, on his election as Chairman of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference. They conveyed their appreciation to His Excellency for hosting the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference and to the government and people of Senegal for their warm welcome and generous hospitality. They also commended the excellent arrangements made by the Senegalese authorities to ensure the success of the proceedings of the Conference. They also expressed appreciation to H.E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit

Conference, for his effective and able leadership of the Organization since 2003.

8. His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Head of the Saudi delegation, said that his country considered the Dakar Summit as an important development as it comes after the adoption of the Ten-Year Programme of Action (POA) by the leaders of the Muslim Ummah during the 3rd Extraordinary Session held in Mecca Al-Mukarramah in December 2005. He emphasized the need to implement all aspects of this programme. He highlighted Saudi Arabia's contribution in helping to resolve a number of conflicts in the Muslim world.
9. In his general report on major activities of the Organization, H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the OIC, expressed thanks and gratitude to H.E. President Maitre Abdoulaye WADE as well as to the Government and people of the Republic of Senegal for the tremendous efforts deployed to ensure the smooth running of the Summit proceedings and its successful outcome. He paid tribute to H.E. Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi of Malaysia, Chairman of the Tenth Summit, for his wise steering of the affairs of the Chairmanship during his tenure. He expressed high esteem and thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz for his Government's continued support and for granting a spacious piece of land in Jeddah for the construction of the new OIC Headquarters building. He highlighted the work achieved during the last few years to implement the reforms based on the concept of a new work ethic, and on new perspectives, goals, and vision. He emphasized that ignorance about Islam and also premeditated and historically entrenched animosity on the part of a minority in the West, as well as the failure to disseminate the true values of Islam are the reasons lying behind the increasing wave of Islamophobia.
10. Their Excellencies Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and Alpha Omar Konare, outgoing Chairman of the African Union, delivered addresses in which they commended the cooperation and coordination between their respective organizations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, stressing the importance of further developing the mechanisms of joint action within the context of the international community's

endeavors to reenergize the role of regional organizations in the field of preventive diplomacy and in spreading international peace and security.

11. The Secretary-General of the World Muslim League (WML), Dr. Abdullah Bin Abdul Mohsin Al-Turki, delivered a statement in which he highlighted the League's activities in various fields, including alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people and countering hostile campaigns against Islam and Muslims.
12. The Conference adopted the Report, Agenda, and Work Program of the Preparatory Ministerial Conference held on 11-12 March 2008.
13. The Conference adopted the motto "The Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century" for its current session.
14. The Conference considered the opening statements of the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the President of the Republic of Senegal, H.RH. Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the OIC Secretary General, as official documents of the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.
15. The Conference noted with appreciation the report of H.E. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference, on the activities performed during his Chairmanship of the OIC. It also took note with satisfaction of the Reports submitted by the Chairs of the Standing Committees, His Majesty King Mohamed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), H.E. Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), and H.E. Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH).
16. The Conference took note, with appreciation, of the reports submitted by the OIC Secretary-General covering all the activities and measures he had taken in the implementation of the Organization's resolutions as well as the latest developments on issues before the Conference.

17. The Conference reiterated its firm commitment to the purposes, objectives, and principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the service of the causes of Islam and Muslims in a spirit of genuine solidarity. It once again reaffirmed its adherence to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

18. The Conference reaffirmed the central character of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the whole Muslim Ummah. It affirmed the Arab and Islamic identity of occupied East Jerusalem and the need to defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places. The Conference also reiterated its strong condemnation of Israel, the occupying power, for its persistent aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places in and around Al-Quds Al-Sharif, for its illegal excavations beneath Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque, and for all such illegal and provocative measures carried out by it with the intention of altering the Holy City's legal status and demographic composition and character, in particular Israel's illegal colonization practices, including, inter alia, its settlement activities and its construction of the Wall in and around the City in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
19. The Conference renewed its appreciation of the efforts and initiatives of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, in support of the just Palestinian cause, and appreciated His Majesty's intensive contacts with influential international powers, particularly the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, in order to urge and compel Israel to adhere to all relevant international resolutions. It also commended the effective role of Bayt Mal Al-Quds to preserve the unique spiritual identity of Al-Quds, safeguard its Islamic holy sites and its civilizational, cultural, and human heritage, and to support its concrete, field programmes and plans in the housing, social, educational, and health areas.
20. The Conference commended the Jordanian role in preserving the Islamic holy sites and Hashemite architecture and in protecting them from plans that aim at altering the status quo in East Jerusalem and safeguarding its historical and civilizational character. It also commended the role His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein in projecting the cause of Jerusalem at international fora.

21. The Conference condemned the ongoing and intensifying Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people through which Israel, the occupying power, continues to commit grave human rights violations and war crimes, including the killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians, including children, women, and the elderly, by use of excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force, as well as the continued practice of extrajudicial executions, the wanton and widespread destruction of Palestinian homes, properties, infrastructure, agricultural lands and other sources of livelihood, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of women and children. It also expressed grave concern over the most recent Israeli military incursions and assaults in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have left in their wake hundreds of Palestinian victims and which constitute gross human rights violations and exacerbate the already dire humanitarian conditions there.
22. The Conference expressed grave concern about the deteriorating socio-economic conditions and the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, in particular due to Israel's continuing illegal closure, siege, and blockade and other illegal measures against the Palestinian people there. It was alarmed by the rising poverty, unemployment, and hunger, as well as by the declining health status among the Palestinian civilian population, including widespread malnutrition and anemia among children, due to Israel's deliberate obstruction of access to adequate food, medical supplies, and health care and reduction of fuel and electricity supplies. It determined that such collective punishment of the civilian population by Israel is tantamount to a grave breach of international humanitarian law and that the occupying power should be held accountable for such war crimes. It thus called upon the international community to pressure Israel, the occupying power, to immediately cease its siege and collective punishment of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip by lifting the siege and opening all of Gaza's border crossings to allow for the movement of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip, including unfettered access for humanitarian aid and personnel and movement of sick persons requiring medical treatment outside of Gaza. The Conference emphasized the significant role played by both the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt in order to ensure the provision of such assistance through their untiring diplomatic efforts.

23. The Conference called once again for urgent efforts by the Quartet and the entire international community, including the Security Council, to address the current political and humanitarian crisis. It also called for efforts to support the peace process, the resumed bilateral negotiations between the two sides and the full implementation of the Road Map towards ending the occupation of the Palestinian Territory that was occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and thus realizing the two-State solution, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and the terms of reference and principles of the Middle East peace process. It welcomed the revival of the peace process and took note of the recent convening of two important international conferences, held respectively in Annapolis in November 2007 and in Paris in December 2007, and called for building on the momentum of the Annapolis Conference and its ensuing understandings, until a final settlement is reached before the end of year 2008, and the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian State. The Conference further called for serious efforts to be exerted by all parties concerned in order to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as well as to the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole. In this regard, it also reaffirmed the importance of the decisions of the Arab Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in March 2007, especially the need to reinvigorate the Arab Peace Initiative adopted in Beirut, Lebanon, in March 2002.
24. The Conference expressed concern over the continuing differences between the Palestinian political factions. It reiterated the demand that the situation that exists on the ground in the Gaza Strip be restored to that which existed prior to the events of June 2007, to allow for the restoration of the legitimate authority's role in the Gaza Strip and for the preservation of its territorial integrity and safeguarding of the Palestinian people's unity. In this connection, it stressed the need for national dialogue among Palestinians in order to achieve national reconciliation and restore unity in order to serve the Palestinian people's higher national interests. It reaffirmed its full support for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian Authority, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, and reaffirmed its support for all democratically-elected Palestinian institutions.
25. The Conference reiterated its appreciation and support for the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt to alleviate the Palestinian people's suffering and to find a way out of the current humanitarian crisis. It also expressed its support for the call made by Egyptian President Mohammed Hosni

Mubarak for the Palestinian factions to swiftly end their differences and resume the national dialogue on foundations that secure Palestinian national unity and serve the Palestinian people's higher interests in a way that is conducive to the reinstatement of the legitimate authority's role in the Gaza Strip as soon as possible.

26. The Conference commends Sudan for hosting two thousand Palestinian refugees who had been stranded on the Iraqi-Syrian-Iraqi-Jordanian borders, thus emphasizing the spirit of Islamic solidarity.
27. The Conference called on Israel to effect a full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan up to the June 4th 1967 borders in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242/1967 and No. 338/1973; the land for peace formula; the Madrid Peace Conference terms of reference; and the Arab Peace Initiative, which was adopted by the Arab Summit held in Beirut on 28 March 2002 and reaffirmed by the Arab Summit held in Riyadh in March 2007.
28. The Conference reiterated its support for the Arab Initiative to resolve the crisis in Lebanon and called upon the Lebanese political leaders to elect the consensual candidate in due course and to agree on bases for the formation of a national unity government as soon as possible in order to avoid the consequences of the failure to elect a president for Lebanon such as to prevent divisions and put the country back on the track of unity, peace, and stability.
29. The Conference strongly condemned the brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 2006 and the associated crimes that require legal prosecution. It held Israel fully responsible for the human losses and physical damages that Lebanon incurred. The Conference highly praised Lebanon's steadfastness and valiant resistance to the Israeli aggression in 2006 and called for a permanent ceasefire and for exerting pressure on Israel to end its aggressions against and violations of the Lebanese sovereignty and of Resolution No. 1701. The Conference commended the patriotic role that the Lebanese Army was undertaking in South Lebanon and in all of Lebanon's territories.
30. The Conference affirmed its support for the efforts of the Lebanese Government and Army to combat terrorism, particularly to eradicate the

“Fatah Al-Islam” terrorist group; and, emphasizing the need to support the Lebanese position rejecting any kind of resettlement, the Conference called for support for the Lebanese Government’s efforts to reconstruct Nahr Al-Barid Camp and to ensure the return of its displaced population.

31. The Conference called for the finalization of the necessary procedures for the establishment of the International Tribunal, after its adoption by the United Nations Security Council, to reveal the truth on the assassination of President Rafik Al-Hariri and his convoy, and called for providing the necessary conditions for the early commencement of the Tribunal away from any revenge or politicization such as to ensure justice and the protection of the Lebanese people from aggressions, and to reinforce security in Lebanon.
32. The Conference condemned the decisions of the US administration to impose unilateral economic sanctions on Syria; rejected the so-called Syria Accountability Act and considered it null and void and a flagrant breach of the principles of international law, the resolutions and Charter of the United Nations, and the resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); as well as a blatant prejudice in Israel’s favor. The Conference also affirmed its solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic; appreciated its position in support of favoring the language of dialogue and diplomacy in international relations in order to resolve differences; and called on the United States of America to reconsider this Act at the earliest opportunity and to rescind all decisions taken in this regard.

Political Issues

33. The conference emphasized its full solidarity with the government and the people of The Sudan, expressed its support of the efforts for national reconciliation, peace, and lasting stability in the Republic of The Sudan, full respect of the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of The Sudan, and called upon the international community to further support these efforts to reconstruct, development the country, and meet the humanitarian needs of its people, including Darfur.
34. The Conference welcomed the positive developments in relation to Darfur, particularly the deployment of the AU-UN Hybrid Force and the start of peace talks in Libya on 27 October 2007. The conference urged the

participation of all the rebel groups in these decisive and final talks and called upon the international community to take the necessary punitive measures against individuals or groups that refuse to participate in these talks or in any way undermine the peace process.

35. The Conference welcomed the ongoing efforts to hold an international conference on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Darfur under the umbrella of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). It called for the active participation of Member States and the donor Community in this conference.
36. The Conference welcomed the signing of the Agreement between The Sudan and Chad alongside the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar and congratulated H.E. President Maitre Abdoulaye WADE on accomplishing this achievement aimed at restoring peace and harmony between these two brotherly peoples.
37. The Conference reaffirmed its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and unity of Somalia, consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It called upon OIC Member States to consider providing troops and other forms of assistance for the future deployment of the UN Peacekeeping Forces in Somalia in order to support peace and stability in the country. In the meantime, the Conference called upon the international community to provide logistical, financial, technical, and other forms of support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). It expressed Support for the reconciliation efforts of the transitional federal government through the special representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Ahmadou Ould-Abdallah and called on the Somali government and opposition as well as the international community to support the ongoing reconciliation process in order to bring lasting peace and security to Somalia. The Conference strongly condemned all terrorist activities in Somalia, including the rising trend of suicide attacks and targeted assassinations.
38. The Conference commended the peace agreement concluded between President Laurent Gbagabo and Kikbafuri Soro in Ouagadougou, under the patronage of the President of Burkina Faso, Mr. Blaise Compaore. It requested the Member States, the OIC General Secretariat, and Muslim financial institutions to provide financial, material, and logistic support for

organizing the general elections in Cote d'Ivoire. It called on the OIC Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to organize a donors' conference to assist in the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire.

39. The Conference renewed its full solidarity with the authorities and people of Guinea Bissau and expressed its support for the efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation and lasting peace and stability. It also called on the international community to provide more support for those efforts to contribute to the reconstruction and development of the country and to meet the basic needs of the people of Guinea Bissau.
40. The Conference welcomed the establishment of representative political institutions, a free media, building of security sector institutions, improvements in the health and education sectors, and human rights in Afghanistan. It expressed its support of the efforts of the People and Government of Afghanistan to combat terrorism and the drugs problem and achieve security, stability, and comprehensive and sustainable development.
41. The Conference appreciated the assistance of Member States to Afghanistan and requested for more generous donations for the development of this country through the established Assistance Fund for the Afghan People; and appealed to the international community to rapidly provide the assistance it pledged to Afghanistan during the Tokyo 2002, Berlin 2004, and London 2006 Donor Conferences.
42. The Conference welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the 34th ICFM (15-17 May 2007 in Islamabad) to hold an International Conference of the Ulema and Muslim Scholars in Kabul in order to discuss the noble principles of Islam and its role in the fight against Terrorism under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
43. The conference expressed strong support for the continuation of the Ankara Process initiated by Turkey in April 2007 aimed at contributing to the development of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations through mutual trust and cooperation.
44. The Conference expressed deep appreciation to countries, in particular the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting a

large number of Afghans and acknowledged the onerous burden they have shouldered in this regard.

45. The Conference called on the international community and relevant UN agencies for the provision of enhanced assistance to the Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their voluntary, safe, and honorable return and sustainable reintegration in their society of origin so as to contribute to the stability of Afghanistan.
46. The Conference strongly condemned the terrorist and criminal activities committed by Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and other extremist groups, including the rising trend of suicide attacks against the Afghan people.
47. The Conference reaffirmed its strong support for the National Government of the Union of Comoros in all its endeavors to restore national unity in accordance with the constitution and urged the leaders of Island of Anjuan to end their rebellion in order to pave the way for lasting peace, progress, and development.
48. The Conference strongly reiterated that Iraq's sovereignty, political independence, national unity, and territorial integrity must be respected by all; stressed the Iraqi people's right to freely determine their political future, as well as to full control over their natural resources; and noted that Iraq now has a democratically elected Government, formed in accordance with the provisions of its constitution. The Conference welcomed the Iraqi Government's decision to rescind the law on eradicating the Baath party, and replace it with the accountability and justice law, as well as the general amnesty announced on 13 February 2008, which the Conference considered as a practical step. It further welcomed the extension of the UN mission in Iraq as stipulated in the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1770 (2007), as well as the start of the official implementation of the International Pact with Iraq on 3rd May 2007 in Sharm El-Sheikh, which is part of the regional and international continuing support for Iraq's development.
49. The Conference stressed the principle of non-interference in Iraqi domestic affairs and welcomed Iraq's declaration to establish good relations with the neighboring countries, its announcement of the steps adopted in this regard on the basis of mutual respect, and its declared commitment to abide by existing conventions and agreements, particularly those relating to internationally recognized borders.

50. The Conference strongly condemned the terrorist acts carried out in the past or still being carried out against Iraqi citizens, Iraqi officials, and Arab and other diplomats, or against sacred shrines or religious institutions, and called for the provision of support in order to end the violence and eliminate the causes of terrorism. The Conference also underlined the need for all parties, including multinational forces, to respect the civil and religious rights of the Iraqi people and to safeguard Iraq's religious sites and cultural and historical heritage.
51. The Conference called for expeditious steps to open the OIC Coordination Office in Baghdad and welcomed the Iraqi government's allocation of a building to that effect, and the General Secretariat's intention to send a delegation in the near future, at a mutually agreed date, to include officials from the General Secretariat and all subsidiary organs in order to undertake negotiations with the Iraqi institutions concerned, examine ways to consolidate cooperation between the two parties, and evolve a conception of a comprehensive plan of action in this regard.
52. The Conference called upon all Member States to re-open their Embassies in Iraq as this would help restore normalcy in this Member State.
53. The Conference strongly condemned the killing of Kuwaiti war-prisoners and nationals of other countries at the hands of the former regime in Iraq. It also condemned the former Iraqi regime's cover-up of these crimes for over ten years, which is considered a violation of international humanitarian law. It called for the prosecution of the perpetrators of those crimes against humanity and invited the UN High-level Coordinator and all parties concerned to continue their cooperation with the international Red Cross Committee in order to uncover the fate of the missing Kuwaiti citizens.
54. The Conference welcomed initiatives by OIC Member States in contributing to national reconciliation, including the holding of the "International Conference of Muslim leaders for Reconciliation in Iraq", as a second-track approach, by Indonesia in Bogor on 3-4 April 2007, which helped build mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance among different segments of Iraqi society.
55. The Conference welcomed the lifting of the unilateral sanctions which were imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and recognized Libya's right to compensation for the damages suffered as a

result of those sanctions. It reaffirmed the OIC's previous positions, reiterating its deep deploration of the ruling against the Libyan citizen Abdul Basit Al-Megrahi and calling for his immediate release, as his condemnation was based on political motives and had no legal justification, as was affirmed by United Nations Observers and a number of International legal experts. In this connection, the Conference called on the International community and Human Rights organizations to put pressure on the governments concerned in order to ensure his release.

56. The Summit Conference reaffirmed its support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. It called for the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the OIC Mission led by the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. It called for the respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the withdrawal of security forces from Indian occupied Kashmir. It urged India to allow the visit of an OIC fact-finding mission to the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as other international human rights organizations in order to verify human rights conditions in Indian-occupied Kashmir.
57. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It took note of the Memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote the just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.
58. The Conference appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the ongoing Composite Dialogue with India and the flexibility shown by Pakistan in moving forward towards the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute through sincerity, flexibility and courage. It called on India to positively reciprocate in order to arrive at a just and final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as the core issue of their conflict. The Conference commended Pakistan for its continuing efforts to create and sustain an enabling environment for the Composite Dialogue with India.
59. The Conference expressed deep sympathy with the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have suffered great human, material, social, economic, and environmental losses as a result of the disastrous earthquake of October 8,

2005. It expressed gratitude for the contributions made by the international community, especially the OIC Member States, for relief and rehabilitation of the earthquake victims and encouraged them to continue to provide necessary assistance in future. It appealed to the Member States and Muslim institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in OIC countries.

60. The Conference condemned the demolition of Babri Mosque in India by the Hindu extremists and the destruction of the Islamic Complex at Charar-e-Sharif in the Indian Occupied Kashmir. It called on the Government of India to ensure the safety of Muslims and their holy sites and to take immediate steps to implement its solemn commitment to reconstruct the Babri Mosque on its original site.
61. The Conference reiterated its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the norms and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. It condemned Armenia and demanded that it stop these activities, as well as the continued destruction of Azerbaijani cultural and historical heritage, including Islamic monuments. The Conference urged all Member States to further strengthen their solidarity with Azerbaijan and to extend their full support of its endeavors to achieve soon the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The OIC Member States agreed to extend strong and unswerving support of the draft resolution introduced by Azerbaijan in the current session of the UNGA, entitled "The Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan", in line with the previous resolutions adopted on the matter within the OIC.
62. The Conference expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people and, within the context of the call made by the then UN Secretary-General in his report of 28 May 2004, as reaffirmed by the UN Secretary-General in his reports of 4 June 2007 (S/2007/328) and 3 December 2007 (S/2007/699) and of previous OIC resolutions, reiterated its decision to put an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. It strongly called on the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. Recalling the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan aimed at establishing a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new

bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, the Conference acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Conference expressed its deep disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the UN plan. The Conference firmly supported the position of the Turkish Cypriot side for continuing to be committed to the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of the good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General and on the basis of the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan. Through a unanimously adopted resolution, the Conference once again requested the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and expand their relations in all fields; and encouraged the Member States to exchange high level visits and business delegations and develop cultural relations and sports contacts with the Turkish Cypriot side. The Conference also urged the Member States to inform the Secretariat of the action taken regarding the implementation of the OIC resolutions, in particular Resolution No. 2-31/P.

63. The Conference noted the declaration of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo, on February 17, 2008. Recalling the continued interest of the OIC regarding Muslims in the Balkans, it expressed its solidarity with the Kosovar People.
64. The Conference reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States to preserve the unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders as a home to different ethnic, cultural, and religious groups living in harmony together.
65. The Conference welcomed the progress of Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in finalizing the process of the CICA institutionalization; in launching the implementation of the Confidence Building Measures in its Member States; as well as in expanding the CICA membership. It called on the OIC Asian Member States to energize the process of joining this Conference.
66. The Conference welcomed the development of interaction with the Organization on Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Europe in the context of the upcoming Chairmanship of the OSCE by the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2010.

67. The Conference reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States in all fields to the visions and mandates of the Ten-Year POA, as a blueprint document to prepare the Muslim world to meet the challenges of the 21st century in solidarity in action.
68. The Conference underlined the pivotal role of the OIC General Secretariat in coordinating the implementation of the Ten-Year POA and appreciated the progress achieved so far through the action taken by the OIC General Secretariat, Subsidiary Organs and Specialized and Affiliated Institutions under the coordination of the General Secretariat.
69. The Conference, by emphasizing the need for and the importance of strengthening coordination and consultation and adopting a unified stand by Muslim States at international fora, in relation to their common causes and interests, appreciated the activities of the OIC Groups in New York, Geneva, UNESCO, Washington, Vienna, and Brussels, and requested them to continue to coordinate the positions of Muslim States regularly, prior to and during all meetings of the UN Security Council, sessions of the General Assembly and other agencies of the UN system, as well as other relevant international meetings, in accordance with the pertinent OIC resolutions. It also called upon all Member States to vote in favor of all resolutions submitted on behalf of the OIC and abide by those on which the OIC has a common position in international organizations and conferences, on matters pertaining to the objectives and principles of the OIC, and on matters affecting the interests of the OIC and its Member States. The conference invited the OIC groups in various countries to continue their consultations and asked the relevant experts group to develop rules for promoting and institutionalizing the consultation and coordination of the positions of the OIC Groups in capitals of Non-OIC States and international fora, and submit its recommendations to the next session of the ICFM for appropriate decision thereon.
70. The Conference welcomed with satisfaction the progress made on opening the OIC Office in Brussels and thanked the EU and Belgium authorities for their support in this regard. It expressed the hope that the Office will contribute to fostering dialogue and consultations on regular basis between the two institutions and reinforce the programme of cooperation between the EU and OIC Member States to address issues of common interest and promoting better understanding and rapprochement between communities from both sides.

71. The Conference, by emphasizing the importance of establishing, maintaining, and strengthening close relations between the OIC and international and regional organizations and groupings and affirming that a policy-oriented and effective cooperation between them would contribute positively to the realization of their respective objectives, requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to further improve the OIC cooperation with international and regional organizations and groupings and conduct a study on the subject for submission to Member States so as to take necessary measures, accordingly. It also urged the various organs of the OIC System, to take effective measures in order to broaden the scope of their cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and groupings.
72. The Conference expressed full support and appreciation to the Secretary-General to continue with his ongoing efforts and laudable initiatives, to enhance the profile of the OIC in the international arena by engaging with all stakeholders, including national governments and international organizations, particularly, the UN and its agencies, the African Union, the League of Arab States, ASEAN, the EU, OAS, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, WHO, WTO, and ECO, in order to promote the General Secretariat as an effective partner in promoting international peace, security, and development as has been highlighted in the Ten-Year POA and also to engage with them to devise and implement specific programs and projects within the priorities of the Ten-Year POA in line with the adopted resolutions of the organization.
73. The Conference reaffirmed its decision that any reform proposal which neglects the adequate representation of the Muslim Ummah in any category of membership in an expanded UN Security Council (UNSC) will not be acceptable to the Muslim world. The Conference requested the OIC open-ended Contact Group on UN Reform and Expansion of the Security Council at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to continue to closely coordinate the positions of the OIC Member States in order to promote the comprehensive reforms of the Security Council and to ensure the equitable representation of the OIC countries in any category of the enlarged Security Council in proportion to their membership of the United Nations. The Conference reaffirmed that efforts at restructuring the Security Council should not be subjected to any artificial deadline, and that a decision on this issue should be made by consensus.

74. The Conference, by rejecting the interventionist tendencies and unilateral preemptive action in international relations as a real threat to the world community, stressed that the UNSC should act in full transparency and accountability and expressed grave concern over the policies which have prevented this body from performing its main duty based on justice and thus undermined its credibility. It stressed that the UNSC should be accountable for its unlawful decisions as well as its repeated failures with regard to issues related to the Muslim Ummah.

Issues of Muslim Minorities and Communities

75. The Conference renewed its support for and endorsement of the Secretary-General's efforts, initiatives, and good offices in the search of just solutions to the causes of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States, whether politically, culturally, or economically, in implementation of the Islamic Conferences' resolutions and the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca Al-Mukarramah in December 2005. The Conference commended the Secretary-General's efforts, particularly in dealing with the issues of Muslims in Southern Philippines, Southern Thailand, the Republic of Myanmar, and Western Thrace in Greece, as well as the issues of Muslims in the Balkans, the Caucasus, India, and elsewhere, all within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of the States to which these Muslims belong. The Conference also stressed that the current challenges call for the adoption of the principles of dialogue and cooperation, and the duty to respect the cultures and customs of all peoples, away from violence, coercion, and exclusion.
76. The Conference expressed deep concern over the conditions of the Muslim Minority in India, in particular the plight of Gujarat riots' victims. It invited the General Secretariat to monitor the situation of Muslims in India and to collect further information on the challenges and difficulties they are facing on the political, social, and economic levels.
77. The Conference expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace; called on Greece once again to take all necessary measures to ensure the respect of the rights and identity of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace under the bilateral and international treaties and to recognize the elected Muftis of Xanthi and

Komotini as the official Muftis; and also called on Greece to allow elections for the administrative councils of Islamic Waqfs by the Turkish Muslim Minority to take place.

78. The Conference welcomed the positive outcome achieved in the first and second rounds of the Tripartite Meeting between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), respectively, held in Jeddah, KSA, in November 2007, and in Istanbul, Turkey, in February 2008; and stressed the need for them to preserve those gains. The Conference commended all the members of the OIC Peace Committee for Southern Philippines including Indonesia as its Chair and Saudi Arabia as the Vice-Chair, for facilitating the process towards achieving these agreements, and invited the Secretary-General to continue his good offices so as to help the two parties to reach a joint formulation of possible proposals to fully implement the Peace Agreement (PA).
79. The Conference paid tribute to the Secretary-General's sustained efforts in monitoring the situation of Muslims in the southern provinces of Thailand. It expressed its full satisfaction at the positive results of the official visit he paid to the Kingdom of Thailand in May 2007, and invited him to expand the scope of cooperation between the OIC and the Kingdom of Thailand, and extend assistance to Muslims in the southern provinces of Thailand, in consultation with the Government of Thailand, in order to achieve security and stability within the framework of full respect of Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
80. The Conference welcomed the signing of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (CAPWFZ) dated 8 September 2006 in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan.
81. The Conference underscored that arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation issues can be best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal and non-discriminatory regimes. In this context, the Conference reaffirmed the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.
82. The Conference called upon all states, including those members of the Conference on Disarmament, particularly the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS), to work urgently toward a multilaterally negotiated legally binding

instrument to assure unconditionally Non-Nuclear Weapons States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and to explore all additional means to provide effective assurances to Non-Nuclear Weapons States in the global or regional context. It urged the Conference on Disarmament to give utmost priority, from amongst all issues on its agenda, to the early commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

83. The Conference reaffirmed the inalienable rights of Member States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as enshrined in the NPT and the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Conference urged and strongly supported firmly that Iran's nuclear issue should be settled exclusively by peaceful means and through negotiation without preconditions, within the framework of the IAEA, and in accordance with the NPT and the Statute of the IAEA. The Conference expressed its concern over the pressures being mounted on Iran and the potential consequences thereof for peace and security in and outside the region. The Conference also welcomed the work-plan agreed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA, which resulted in resolving all remaining outstanding issues, as provided for in the latest report of the Director-General of the Agency on the Nuclear Program of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in this context, reaffirmed that the safeguarded implementation in Iran should be conducted in a routine manner.
84. The Conference reaffirmed the inalienable right of all states to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It encouraged cooperation among the OIC Member States on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the auspices of the IAEA.
85. The Conference expressed its growing concern over the tragedies provoked by armed conflicts in Africa which cause the loss of thousands of African lives, particularly children and women, and engender great burdens which further undermine the African economies. The Conference called upon the international community to effectively help curb the devastating impacts of armed conflicts and eliminate their causes. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the damaging repercussions of the abundance of and illegal trafficking in light weapons in Africa in view of the human disasters these weapons bring about, in addition to their role in fuelling armed conflicts and terrorism. The Conference called for abidance by the relevant international treaties, and for strengthening international and regional cooperation in this field.

86. Bearing in mind the need for redressing the asymmetries in the levels of security arising from military imbalances at regional and sub-regional levels, the Conference recognized the need for enhancing regional security and stability by settling unresolved disputes and establishing an equitable and verifiable balance of armaments at the lowest level.
87. The Conference recognized the right of self-defense of Member States in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. It stressed that initiatives and proposals in the field of conventional arms, including the movement of arms, should be addressed in conjunction with the question of maintaining international peace and security, reducing regional and international tensions, preventing and resolving conflicts and disputes, building and enhancing confidence, and promoting disarmament, as well as social and economic development. It underlined that any international initiative on conventional arms trade should not impinge upon the right of each state to security and the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of people under colonial or foreign domination and obligations of states to respect that right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.
88. Underscoring the need to evolve a new and balanced consensus in the area of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, and related security matters as a means to promoting international and regional peace and security, the Conference proposed the convening of a Special Session of the General Assembly as soon as possible.
89. The Conference called on Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and place all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the IAEA. It reaffirmed the importance of establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East as soon as possible for the sake of preserving peace and security in the region. The Conference reaffirmed its support for the Arab Initiative submitted to the Security Council in 2003 in this regard.
90. The Conference expressed its support for the efforts of the Arab Group in Vienna to place on the agenda of the 52nd General Conference of the IAEA an agenda item entitled: "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities and Threats, and exert efforts to adopt a resolution thereon in the General Conference of the IAEA under the same title.

91. The OIC Member States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) reaffirmed that full, universal, non-discriminatory, and effective implementation of CWC would contribute to enhancing international peace and security. They stressed the important role of the organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) as the sole international, competent body to verify compliance in accordance with the provisions of the CWC. They paid tribute to the chemical weapons victims, and considered the establishment of an international support network to provide special care and assistance on a voluntary basis to them as an urgent humanitarian need. They also emphasized that the intransigent policy of the Zionist regime, with its clandestine chemical weapons program and capability, is the main challenge for the universality of the Convention and the most dangerous threat to regional and international peace and security.

Counter-Terrorism

92. The Conference took note of those OIC Member States who joined the global initiative for combating nuclear terrorism, which is aimed at establishing close international cooperation in the area of combating international terrorism, held in Rabat, on 30-31 October 2006.
93. The Conference emphasized that terrorism completely contradicts the peaceful nature of the teachings of Islam, which urged tolerance, mercy, and non-violence. It also condemned any connection between terrorism and any race, religion, and culture. It renewed the call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the legitimate struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. It also called for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on terrorism.
94. The Conference emphasized that terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace, security, and stability. It does not have any justification and should be condemned unreservedly. Terrorism has no particular religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality, or geographic region. In this regard, any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, especially with Islam, would serve the interests of terrorists. It is not possible to combat terrorism

effectively without international solidarity and cooperation. The international community should therefore agree to a common and consistent approach in identifying, defining, condemning, isolating, and punishing all terrorists and their supports. Due to the transnational nature of terrorism, the efforts to combat it should be carried out on a global scale. The United Nations is the main forum to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation. Full compliance with the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions and international conventions on combating terrorism is vitally important. Moreover, the conference rejected politically motivated attempts to unjustly associate Islam or any Muslim country with terrorism.

95. The Conference took note of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called for a review mechanism to provide a comprehensive strategy which duly takes into account the root causes of terrorism and draws a distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right of self-determination by people under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination. The Conference recognized that foreign occupation, state terrorism, political, and economic injustice, and denial of the right of self-determination to people are the main root causes of terrorism. The Conference recognized that a time-structured approach, envisaging short-, medium-, and long-term objectives, to the implementation of the strategy could best accommodate the contentious issues related to the strategy.
96. The Conference also reaffirmed its determination to make every effort to reach an agreement and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, including by resolving the outstanding issues related to the legal definition of terrorism and scope of acts covered by the convention, so that it can serve as an effected instrument to counter terrorism.
97. The Conference reiterated its support and endorsement of the proposal of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, to set up an International Counter-Terrorism Center (Riyadh, February 2005), stating that the eradication of terrorism will only ever be possible through a coordinated international effort and cooperation. It invited the United Nations to create the Center in order to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise and coordination between States to closely monitor and control the movement of terrorist organizations and elements.

98. The Conference expressed its thanks and appreciation to H.E. Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, for having graciously adopted under his eminent patronage the "International Conference on Terrorism: Dimensions, Threats, and Counter-Measures", which was held in Tunis on 15-17 November 2007 and was organized in conjunction with the United Nations, the OIC, and ISESCO. The Conference also welcomed with appreciation the initiative of H.E. Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, which called for the convening of an international conference under UN auspices in order to evolve an international strategy for combating terrorism, remedy its causes, and elaborate a Code of Ethics in this connection drawing on the Final Declaration adopted by the Tunis Conference.
99. The Conference, while reaffirming the resolve of Member States to contribute actively towards a world order based on peace, justice, and equality, stressing the inherent right of Member States to self-defense, in accordance with Article (51) of the UN Charter as well as their right, individually and collectively, to maintain their national security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and reaffirming the importance of promoting confidence, cooperation, and solidarity among the Member States, expressed its deep concern at the continued threats to the security of Member States, and reaffirmed their determination to vigorously oppose foreign domination, threat, aggression, alien occupation, coercion, intimidation, and pressure against all Member States. It approved the Principles and Guidelines for the Promotion of Dialogue, Cooperation, and Confidence among the OIC Member States and called on all Member States to observe the provisions of this document in their international relations. The Conference reiterated that the security of each Muslim country is the concern of all Muslim countries and expressed its firm determination to strengthen the security of Member States through cooperation and solidarity among them, in accordance with the OIC and UN Charters. It further rejected categorically any attempt to misinterpret the provisions of the UN Charter, in contradiction to the principles of international law, concerning the sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of States, non-use of force or threat of use of force in international relations, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and reaffirmed that respect for these principles is an essential prerequisite for the security of all, including Muslim States.

Humanitarian Issues

100. The Conference recalled the need to pursue the process of the convening, in cooperation with the UNHCR, of the OIC Ministerial Conference on the situation of Refugees in the Muslim Countries.
101. The Conference invited the OIC General Secretariat to pursue its humanitarian activities in Member States upon their request and to give increasing attention to protecting the most vulnerable social groups; and expressed satisfaction with the humanitarian activities undertaken so far.
102. The Conference called upon all Member States to channel some of their humanitarian assistance under the OIC umbrella in order to demonstrate the spirit of solidarity and enhance joint Islamic action; and endorsed the convening of a special pledging session for OIC humanitarian initiatives during Heads of State Summits or Ministerial Conferences.
103. The Conference, being aware of the importance of emergency humanitarian assistance in times of natural disasters and other crises and conscious of the fact that effective humanitarian response may be better achieved, including through a working cooperation of states and humanitarian non-governmental organizations, urged the international community to act in solidarity and partnership in the field of humanitarian assistance, through a sustainable and collective strategy aimed at building a safer world, saving human lives, and protecting the environment.
104. The Conference welcomed H.E. President Abdoulaye WADE's initiative to hold the first conference of humanitarian and charity organizations in Saly Portudal from 7 to 9 March 2008. It commended the measures taken and the proposals contained in the Final Communiqué on boosting humanitarian action and institutionalizing partnership relations between the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and humanitarian and charity organizations. It also called for sustained efforts to organize humanitarian and charity action under the umbrella of the OIC and mandated the Secretary-General to enhance the OIC's humanitarian role and achieve the objectives defined under the Ten-Year Programme of Action.

Human Rights and Legal Affairs

105. The Conference emphasized that it was important to follow up and coordinate work in the area of human rights in Islam among Member States, and affirmed that these rights, by nature, are universal. It stressed that it was important for the international community to treat questions of human rights objectively and as indivisible. It called for drafting the “Islamic Covenant on Human Rights” and the “Covenant on Women’s Right in Islam”, and for finalizing the drafting of the “Islamic Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination”. It emphasized that the possibility of establishing an independent body to promote human rights in Member States should continue to be considered so that, upon establishment, the body can supervise the drafting of the covenants. The Conference welcomed the proposal to establish the post of the OIC High Commissioner on Human Rights and instructed the General Secretariat to prepare the draft terms of reference and financial implications and present them to the next ICFM.

106. The Conference stressed its support of the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly that seeks to promote and consolidate human rights and defend fundamental freedoms. It called upon all Muslim States to seize the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in order to present and highlight the concept of human rights from a Muslim perspective. It urged Member States to take initiatives within the UN system, following the example of the Moroccan initiative relating to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2007.

107. The Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary-General through his visit to Geneva, Switzerland, in the period from 12 to 15 March 2007, his address to the meeting of the Human Rights Council, and his intense consultations with the officials and representatives of various countries and international organizations on human rights issues. It commended the valuable efforts of the OIC Open-ended Working Group on human rights and humanitarian matters at the United Nations Office in Geneva to protect the interests of the Muslim countries. It called on Member States to pursue coordination positively and cooperation among themselves in the area of human rights, particularly at international forums, and to unite their positions at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on issues

of concern to the Muslim world as a whole, while taking into account the specificities of each Member State.

108. The Conference recognized the need for an institutionalized cooperation among the judiciaries of the Member States, including inter alia, their constant consultations at the regional and international levels and fora, with a view to coordinating their common positions and achieving common interests, particularly in the process of progressive development and codification of international law. By welcoming the convening of the First Conference of the Heads of the Judiciary of Muslim Countries, in Tehran, on 4-6 December, 2007, the Conference took note of its recommendations to establish the Cooperative of Cooperation of the Judiciaries of the Muslim Countries in Tehran and entrusting an Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Legal Experts with formulating and finalizing its Statute for submission to the next Conference of the Heads of the Judiciary of the Muslim Countries, for consideration and adoption; and invited all Member States to actively participate in this process.
109. The Conference endorsed the Report and Declaration of the First Conference of Muslim Countries' Police Chiefs held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 15 to 17 May 2006. The Conference took note of the convening of the meeting of experts on 22-23 October 2007 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in preparation for the next OIC Conference of the Heads of Law-Enforcement Agencies, and expressed its support for the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to hold this conference in the first half of 2009 in Baku.
110. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General in the process of amending the Charter, in implementation of the decision contained in the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005.
111. The Conference exhorted Member States, as a matter of urgency, to sign and ratify the conventions concluded within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; commended the efforts of the Secretary-General in the area of cooperation between the OIC and other regional and international organizations; and encouraged him to sign more cooperation agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with them, with the approval of the ICFM.

112. The Conference, by recalling the prominent place of Man in Islam as Allah's vicegerent on earth and hence the paramount importance attached by Muslim thought to the promotion of human rights, and expressing its deep concern over attempts to exploit the issue of Human Rights to discredit the principles and provisions of Islamic Sharia and to interfere in the affairs of Muslim States, emphasized that human rights should be addressed on an objective and indivisible basis, without selectivity or discrimination. It further reaffirmed the right of States to adhere to their religious, social, and cultural specificities, and called for abstaining from using the universality of human rights as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of States and undermining their national sovereignty. It also endorsed the right of every State to express reservations on international instruments on Human Rights, as part of their sovereign rights; and called upon Member States to continue their active coordination and cooperation in the field of human rights particularly in the relevant international fora to face any attempt to use human rights as a means of political pressure on any Member State. It called for adopting a unified position among Member States vis-à-vis campaigns and draft resolutions that target OIC Member States in those fields.
113. The Conference further expressed its deep concern over the recurrent and misguided association of Islam with violations of human rights, and expressed deep concern over any activities that use them to attack OIC Member States for political purposes. It emphasized the need to face the growing attempts to create a new form of hegemony of the one culture, through which the industrialized countries seek to impose their values, opinions, and lifestyles on developing countries, to the detriment, and at the expense of effacing cultural identities, and in this regard, it welcomed the establishment of "the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity" in Tehran.
114. The Conference also appreciated the activities of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) on the follow-up of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and its sub-committee and called upon them to continue their activities in developing "the Islamic Charter on Human Rights" and the Islamic Covenants on human rights issues in accordance with Resolution No. 60/27-P; and requested the Member States to ratify the Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam as soon as possible.

Economic Issues

115. The Conference emphasized the need to make optimal use of the Muslim world's economic, human, and natural resources to promote trade and economic cooperation among Member States.
116. The Conference highlighted the significance of increasing the share of the global trade between Member States as well as with other nations. The Conference, therefore, recognized the importance of developing infrastructure, establishment of trade linkages, and networking in financial services, shipping, and aviation among Member States, as well as creating an enabling environment for this purpose.
117. The Conference welcomed the decision to form a special committee of the States concerned, the OIC Member States, the IDB, and the OIC with the aim of launching the executive steps of an important developmental project, namely the railway line project to link Dakar and Port Sudan.
118. The Conference, taking into consideration the growing interdependence of national economies and significance of energy flow, reiterated the importance of cooperation for the diversification of energy sources and transport routes, and called for better dialogue between consumer and exporter countries.
119. The Conference stressed the role of the private sector in providing impetus to intra-OIC economic, commercial, and trade relations, and to that effect invited Member States to encourage representatives of their respective private sector to assume a pro-active and inter-active role.
120. The Conference expressed its conviction that the achievement of a higher level of economic and commercial cooperation among Member States would provide the necessary basis for a gradual progression towards greater economic integration leading to the ultimate objective of an Islamic Common Market.
121. The Conference called upon the developed countries to implement further liberalization of trade through increased access to their markets for the products and services of developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Conference encouraged Member States to ensure enhanced

market accessibility for the products of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the OIC.

122. The Conference noted the lack of progress in the Doha Development Rounds of the WTO and reiterated its appeal to the WTO to make the development dimension central and integral to all WTO process and conclude the Development Rounds at the earliest.
123. The Conference expressed its concern over widespread poverty in the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, leading to their further marginalization in the global economy. It further reaffirmed the common objective of Member States of eradicating poverty by the end of the next decade as well as the need to incorporate micro-credit programme in the strategy of poverty eradication.
124. The Conference, being aware of the fact that it is the collective responsibility of the international community to commit itself to the goals of eradicating poverty, providing food security, and preventing hunger; achieving economic growth; and promoting sustainable development, and noting with concern that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) face special difficulties in responding to the major challenges of globalization to ensure that it becomes a positive force for all, commended the governments of the LDCs in their efforts to strengthen their policies for developing their productive capacities, to improve governance, together with their macro-economic performances, and for their achievements through structural reforms, trade liberalization, and privatization.
125. The Conference reiterated the need for open, equitable, rule-based, predictable, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems that benefit all countries in the pursuit of sustainable development, particularly the LDCs. It strongly urged the international community to assist and support the LDCs in order to promote economic growth and sustainable development, to build and enhance human and institutional capacities, and eradicate poverty.
126. The Conference reiterated its support and encouragement of national and regional initiatives in the field of human development, such as the Moroccan Initiative for Human Development, aimed at combating poverty and vulnerability and enhancing the social and living standards of most

disadvantaged groups within the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

127. The Conference welcomed the successful conclusion of the first and second rounds of the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPSOIC), trade negotiations which produced the Protocol on Preferential Tariffs Scheme (PRETAS) and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin to be operationalized by 1st January 2009 and expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting this round. It also encouraged the Member States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the TPSOIC Framework Agreement, PRETAS, and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience in 2008.
128. The Conference welcomed the signing of the Protocol on the Preferential Tariffs Scheme (PRETAS) by eleven Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Member States, namely Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates, and welcomed its ratification by Jordan, Malaysia, and Pakistan.
129. The Conference recognized the need for special efforts to tackle poverty in many OIC Least Developed Member Countries, particularly in Africa, and to address issues related to food security, water and sanitation, basic health, and education, as well as infrastructure and clean environment.
130. The Conference paid tribute to donor OIC Member States for their contribution to the development efforts of the less developed Member States and exhorted them, within the spirit of the Ten-Year Programme of Action, to take the necessary measures for the debt relief of African countries, in order to help them tackle the serious problems relating to economic development, competitiveness, and sustainable development.
131. The Conference lauded Malaysia's initiative to establish a Capacity-Building Programme aimed at poverty alleviation in less-developed and low-income countries and welcomed the launching of the Programme on 29 March 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, with four pilot projects being implemented in the first phase, each in Bangladesh, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Indonesia.
132. The Conference took note of the report submitted by H.E. President Abdullah GÜL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the

Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC), commended COMCEC for its key role in strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, especially its role in enhancing intra-OIC trade, which showed a significant increase in recent years; appreciated the commendable stewardship of H.E. Abdullah GÜL, the President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC; and, in this regard, approved the COMCEC initiatives and activities contained in its progress reports on enhancing its activities and modes of operation, including establishing cooperation with relevant international organizations.

133. The Conference welcomed capacity enhancement programme developed by various OIC member countries and OIC Cotton Plan of Action adopted by COMCEC and also the holding of the First OIC Forum on Enhancement and Promotion of Trade and Investment in Cotton Sector, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 12-13 November 2007, and called upon the member countries to support the OIC Cotton Plan of Action and deepen cooperation in this important sub-sector.
134. The Conference welcomed the annual convening of the World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF), which evolved from the OIC Business Forum, with the aim to strengthen business collaboration among Muslim Businessmen throughout the world where ideas and business opportunities could be exchanged. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the 3rd annual WIEF held from 27 to 29 May 2007 in Kuala Lumpur and urged Member States to participate in the forthcoming Fourth WIEF which will be held in Kuwait from 29 April to 1 May 2008.
135. The Conference commended the major role undertaken by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to reinforce Economic and Trade Cooperation among Member States. Furthermore, it welcomed the plans of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and supported it as the principal representative of the private sector in OIC Member States with regard to values, Halal, and quality control. The Conference, likewise, expressed its appreciation for the pioneering leadership of the Chamber's Chairman. Furthermore, the Conference underlined the urgent need for the speedy implementation of the Chamber's Plan of Action to consolidate economic and trade cooperation among Member States. It urged all Muslim governments to facilitate the procedures for activating its mechanisms.

136. The Conference commended Malaysia for hosting, in collaboration with ICCI and IDB, the International Zakat Conference in Kuala Lumpur on 28 November 2006 and welcomed its outcomes.
137. The Conference extended thanks to the Member States which have announced contributions to the resources of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), with special appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, for his generous pledge of USD 1 billion, to the State of Kuwait for its pledge of USD 300 million, to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for its pledge of USD 100 million, the State of Qatar for its pledge of USD 50 million, to Algeria for its pledge of USD 50 million, and to the other countries that have pledged respective contributions, and urged all the Member States which have not yet contributed to the Fund to do so, in order to meet the target of USD 10 billion by the end of 2009 and at least USD 6.0 billion by the end of 2008 so that the Fund can implement its programmes.
138. The Conference welcomed the setting up of a Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA) as yet another fundamental step in implementing the mandates of the Ten-Year POA; expressed its appreciation for the laudable efforts and crucial role of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in this regard; and thanked the Government of the Republic of Senegal for hosting the Ministerial Meeting on the SPDA, held in Dakar, on 22-23 January 2008.
139. The Conference applauded the IDB pivotal role in financing development projects in Africa and invited the Chairman of the 11th Session of the OIC Summit, in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat, the IDB, and representatives of African OIC Member States, in order to ensure coordination with a view to achieving effective implementation of the IDB Special Programme for the Development of Africa, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca Al-Mukarramah in December 2005, and adopt appropriate measures to drum up maximum support and mobilize more funds for the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development.
140. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the Governments of Cameroon and Burkina Faso to organize sub-regional fora for Central and West Africa on the implementation of the Special Programme for the Development of

Africa (SPDA) and invited the OIC, and its institutions and Member States to extend their support for the success of the meeting.

141. The Conference welcomed the outcome of the First OIC Anti-Corruption and Enhancing Integrity Forum held on 28-30 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur and the follow-up Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Task Force held from 9 to 11 January 2007 also in Kuala Lumpur, which, inter alia, examined adequate mechanisms to increase cooperation among Member States in order to combat elements of corruption, promote good governance, and increase transparency and accountability among Member States.
142. The Conference, by recalling the provisions of international law, according to which no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political, or any other type of measures in order to coerce another State to surrender the exercise of its sovereign rights and bearing in mind the relevant OIC, UN, and WTO resolutions, which reject unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as they are unjust and oppressive and constitute a blatant violation of international law, and call for their immediate revocation, expressed its deep concern over the imposition of unilateral economic measures on some OIC Member States. By condemning and rejecting all types of unilateral coercive measures, the Conference considered them as null and void and declared its strong solidarity with the targeted Member States. It called on the States imposing unilateral economic sanctions to repeal all existing measures immediately and called upon all Member States to consider the adoption of administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counter the extraterritorial application of unilateral coercive measures. The Conference further invited the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) on Unilateral Economic Sanctions to hold a meeting in 2008 in order to elaborate adequate means to counter them and to formulate a Model Law for submission to the next session of the ICFM for consideration and appropriate decision thereon.
143. The Conference expressed its concern over the negative impact of economic sanctions in the field of human rights, development, trade, and investment, as they are major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and by recalling common Article (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which stipulates, inter alia, that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence, urged all States to refrain from adopting or implementing

economic and financial sanctions, since they are in contradiction with the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development. It also reaffirmed that economic and financial measures should not be used as tools for political coercion.

144. The Conference underscored the special needs of the LDC Member States towards implementing the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action with respect to the poverty alleviation programme and called on the General Secretariat to coordinate its efforts with the relevant OIC and international institutions with a view to achieving the objectives of the Programme in this domain, with particular reference to the need to ensure additional support for development and poverty alleviation in the LDC Member States.
145. The Conference welcomed the launching of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) in Dakar, Senegal, on 29-30 May 2007, as a major step of high importance within the implementation of the mandate and vision of the Ten-Year POA in alleviating poverty in the Member States in conformity with the mechanism adopted by the IDB Board of Governors.
146. The Conference welcomed the granting to the IDB of observer status at the United Nations in recognition of its support of developing countries.
147. The Conference expressed deep concern over the socio-economic crisis brought about by the fifteen-year long suspension of cooperation by the Republic of Togo's traditional partners and by the natural disasters that struck the northern and south-eastern parts of the country. The Conference invited the Member States and the IDB through the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development to extend economic and financial assistance to this country.
148. The Conference, while emphasizing the need to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, considered the establishment of the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States and the creation of economic regional groupings among them, as a positive step towards the realization of an Islamic Common Market and requested COMCEC to coordinate the relevant efforts of OIC institutions and centers.

Science and Technology

149. The Conference urged the international community to address issues pertaining to the ecology, which is of vital importance to the survival of mankind, and stressed the need for cooperation and adoption of effective measures to protect the environment, which is essential for the sustainable development of Member States.
150. The Conference welcomed the adoption of the Bali Plan of Action at the UN Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, and the decision to launch a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective, and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change up to and beyond 2012, provided that this process shall be conducted by an Ad-Hoc Working Group (AWG) on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, that shall complete its work in 2009. The conference also hoped that the Ad-Hoc Working Group under the Kyoto Protocol also would complete its work on time based on its mandate.
151. The Conference expressed optimism that the AWG, in the course of the next two years, will, as appropriate, consider, among others, deeper and comprehensive cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases by the advanced industrialized countries and reach an agreement, before the Conference of Parties, COP 15, meeting in Copenhagen in 2009, upholding the principle of “common and differentiated responsibility”.
152. The Conference recognized the critical importance of technology transfers and financing to support the adaptation efforts of the most vulnerable group of countries, including that of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the low-lying coastal countries.
153. The Conference encouraged the Member States to consider working together, to the maximum extent possible, in future negotiations on climate change issues, taking into account the special needs of the most vulnerable group of countries.
154. Following the adoption of Vision 1441 during the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, the Conference welcomed the establishment of the OIC Task

Force on Vision 1441 consisting of the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), the Islamic Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), and the Representative of the OIC Summit Chairman. In this regard, the Conference commended the report of the Fourth Meeting of the OIC Working Group on Vision 1441 in Science and Technology, which is chaired by Malaysia, and called upon the OIC Member States and all OIC institutions to give full support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action to implement Vision 1441 as well as support towards the full implementation of the Early Harvest Programme.

155. The Conference urged all OIC Member States and the relevant OIC institutions, to cooperate and collaborate on expediting the implementation of Mega and Early Harvest Projects for common interests, joint design, joint manufacturing and common marketing of specific commercialized products.
156. The Conference welcomed the initiative to undertake the project on preparing an Atlas of Muslim World Innovation in collaboration with DEMOS and Nature, in order to look into the relationships between science, innovation, faith, culture, and politics; identify new opportunities for collaboration between scientists, policymakers, and companies in the Muslim world and the West; and create new networks for the exchange of ideas, policies, and good practices, both within the Muslim world, and between the Muslim world and the West; and requested the IDB to consider providing financial support for this project.
157. The Conference applauded the activities of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Gazipur, Dhaka, and urged it to continue its efforts to mobilize the human resources required by the Member States in the field of science and technology. The Conference further urged Member States and other financial institutions to extend voluntarily financial assistance to the students and to the University.
158. The Conference commended the measures taken by the Board of Trustees of the Islamic University of Niger (IUN) for the development of the university; extended its thanks to the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) for its continued support of the University; and urged the Member States to donate and

support the University and its projects, in particular, the Girl Students Colleges Compound and the University Waqf Project in Niamey.

159. The Conference extended its thanks to H.R.H. Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz for his donation of USD 1 million for the University Waqf in Niamey and also extended its thanks to His Highness Sheikh Doctor Sultan Ibn Mohammed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Governor of Sharjah, for dedicating all the proceeds of one building in Sharjah as a Waqf for the benefit of the Islamic University in Niger (IUN).
160. The Conference commended the measures taken by the Board of Trustees of the Islamic University of Uganda (IUU) for its sustained efforts for the development of quality education and registered its thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generosity in donating USD 8.5 million for the establishment of King Fahd Plaza in Kampala as a Waqf. The Conference also thanked H.E. the President of Uganda for allocation of a plot of prime land on which the Plaza was built and for the additional 10 acres recently granted to the University as a second Waqf.
161. The Conference thanked the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) for granting USD 4.0 million in order to acquire new premises in Kampala dedicated for Girls' Campus and urged Member States and OIC affiliated institutions, in particular the IDB, to extend funding for the second Waqf project.
162. The Conference supported the strengthening of the COMSTECH Secretariat to implement the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences, Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and Islamic Conferences of Ministers of Science, Technology, and Higher Education on matters related to Science and Technology, as well as the decisions and recommendations adopted by COMSTECH. The Conference appealed to the Member States of COMSTECH Secretariat and institutions concerned to provide financial support for COMSTECH's programmes and activities by prompt and generous voluntary contributions.
163. The Conference recalled the Vision for the Muslim world to rededicate itself to mastering science and technology in order to face the challenges of the new global economy and stressed the need for cooperation and coordination among all OIC Member States, the OIC institutions, and the

OIC General Secretariat so as to fully implement the OIC Vision 1441 on Science and Technology and the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action.

164. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Senegal to host science and technology events on the sidelines of the 11th OIC Summit Conference, particularly in organizing the Forum of Science, Technology, and Innovation in Africa in preparation for the Panel on Knowledge Sharing in the Muslim Ummah and took cognizance of the recommendations adopted by the Forum.
165. The Conference urged the Joint Committee of the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to continue its coordination in consultation with the Member States to make the necessary contacts so as to draw maximum benefits from the World Health Organization and other relevant institutions and to draw up a draft programme for combating diseases and epidemics, to be financed through the special fund to be created within the IDB.
166. The Conference called upon the OIC Member States and the international community to further take note of ecological problems of the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Range and to extend technological, financial, and other voluntary support in order to resolve these ecological disasters.
167. The Conference welcomed the Tunis Declaration on International Solidarity and the Fight against Climate Change, adopted by the Conference on International Solidarity to develop strategies for combating climate change in Africa and the Mediterranean region held in Tunis from 18 to 20 November 2007. The Conference demanded that combating climate change and adaptation thereto be placed high on the list of priorities of the international community, national authorities, and civil society, and stressed the need to strengthen south-south and north-south cooperation, while facilitating the transfer of information, expertise, and exchanges, and to develop and strengthen mechanisms for more effective cooperation with a view to enhancing the integration of African States and their adaptation to climate changes and to mobilize all the necessary financial resources in order to develop an alleviation and adaptation strategy in parallel with the appropriate working plans.
168. The Conference, in recalling the resolutions of the Organization, emphasized the importance of cooperation among Member States in

controlling sexually-transmitted diseases and in particular HIV/AIDS. It affirmed the importance of observing noble Islamic teachings and values, in particular the central character of the family in Islam as the building block of society and as a decisive and crucial factor in preventing and combating of these diseases. In this context, the Conference called upon the Member States to explore ways and means of identifying possible joint strategies and modalities thereof towards combating such diseases.

169. The Conference expressed its appreciation to Malaysia for hosting the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in Kuala Lumpur from 12 to 15 June 2007, which focused on issues relating to vaccines for preventable diseases and production in OIC Member Countries in line with the Ten-Year POA.

Information and the Media

170. The Conference took note of the progress achieved on the restructuring process of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Organization (ISBO), whose name has been changed into the Islamic Broadcasting Union (ISBU). The Conference also took note of the appointment of a new Director-General of IINA in order to manage the agency and supervise its restructuring process in coordination with the General Secretariat. It also expressed its gratitude to the IDB for consenting to fund the restructuring studies of IINA and ISBU.
171. The Conference commended the decision by H.E. President Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), to set up a National Permanent Secretariat for COMIAC in Dakar, which will contribute to fostering the role of the media in Member States in order to present the true image, diversity, and pluralism of the Muslim world, safeguard the values and interests of the Ummah, and interact effectively with the international mass media. It called on OIC Member States, subsidiary, specialized, and affiliated institutions to render moral and financial support to COMIAC's National Permanent Secretariat in order to enable it to carry out its programmes and activities properly.
172. The Conference welcomed the vision and efforts of H.E Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, which led to the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) on 14 March 2005 and urged OIC

Member States, which have yet to join the global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) to do so, contribute to its financing, and to apply the "1% digital solidarity principle". It requested each OIC Member State to establish a national board for digital solidarity so as to monitor implementation of the Tunis Declaration on the Information Society.

173. The Conference, in commending the active participation of the Member States in the World Summit on the Information Society and taking note of the follow-up activities of the Summit at international, regional, and national levels, reaffirmed that in order to transform the digital divide to digital opportunities, these activities should secure the prerequisite imperative of universal, inclusive, and non-discriminatory access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), information, and knowledge, and should result in supporting national efforts to develop countries in the area of building, enhancing and strengthening capacities to facilitate their genuine involvement in all aspects of the information society and knowledge economy. It encouraged the Member States to contribute actively to ensuring that the Information Society is founded on, and stimulates respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions, and ethical values; underlined the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) that governance of the Internet constitutes a core issue of the Information Society agenda and that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance; and invited the Member States to maximize their participation in decisions regarding Internet governance to reflect their interests in related processes.

Dawa Affairs

174. The Conference paid tribute to the role played by the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the Field of Dawa (CCJIA) in coordinating the activities of governmental and non-governmental Muslim organizations and institutions. It welcomed the recommendation adopted by the 15th Session of CCJIA, which was held in Cairo from 30 January to 1 February 2008, to entrust a task force to be formed from Muslim organizations and institutions operating under the banner of CCJIA with developing adequate modalities to streamline their participation in the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action (POA).

175. The Conference stressed the importance of incorporating the Islamic Joint Action Strategy in the Field of Dawa within the national policies adopted by the Member States in education, upbringing, information, Islamic Dawa, and other fields, as a source of inspiration to guide them in the area of joint Islamic action.

Cultural and Social Affairs

176. The Conference expressed its deep concern at the systematically negative stereotyping of Muslims, Islam, and other divine religions and, by denouncing categorically the overall surge in intolerance and discrimination against Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries, in particular in the West, affirmed the firm determination of Member States to combat Islamophobia, which constitutes an affront to human dignity and runs counter to international human rights instruments. It strongly condemned the publication of offensive caricatures of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), as well as all the inappropriate remarks made about Islam and Prophet Mohamed (PBUH), under the pretext of freedom of expression and the press, and stressed the need to prevent the abuse of freedom of expression and the press for insulting Islam and other divine religions, calling upon Member States, to take all appropriate measures to consider all acts, whatever they may be, which defame Islam as heinous acts that require punishment. In this regard, the Conference called for enhanced dialogue activities to combat Islamophobia as already conducted by a number of OIC Member States, such as the initiatives implemented by Indonesia in the annual Inter-media Dialogue, since 2006 in conjunction with the Government of Norway, and the Regional Interfaith Youth Camp for the Asia-Pacific Region in 2008.
177. The Conference strongly condemned the publication of offensive, provocative, irresponsible, and blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet Mohamed (Peace Be Upon Him) in the media of some western countries. The Conference authorized the Secretary-General to constitute a Group of Experts to develop the draft of a legally-binding international instrument to promote respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent discrimination and instigation of hatred vis-à-vis the followers of any religion.

178. The Conference emphasized its strong support of the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco calling for developing an international charter that defines appropriate standards and rules for exercising the right of freedom of expression and opinion, and the obligation to respect religions symbols and sanctities as well as spiritual values and beliefs.
179. The Conference congratulated Malaysia's initiative to host two events in 2006 and 2007 in Kuala Lumpur with the objective of promoting religion and tolerance between Muslims and non-Muslims, namely the Conference on "Who Speaks for Islam/Who Speaks for the West", 10-11 February 2006, and the Forum on "Islam and the West: Bridging the Gap", on 15 June 2007, in line with the Putrajaya Declaration of the 10th OIC Summit as well as the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, which stressed the need for the OIC and other international organizations to engage in high-level dialogue in order to promote cooperation and understanding among different cultures and religions and ethnic groups from all over the world. The Conference also paid special tribute to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, for the timely and important initiative on "Islam Hadhari" (Civilizational Islam). It also encouraged Member States to organize similar events in their respective countries. The Conference welcomed the convening of the OIC Conference on the Role of Media in the Development of Tolerance and Mutual Understanding held on 26-28 April 2007, in Baku, Azerbaijan, and expressed its support for follow-up action to that end.
180. The Conference, by recognizing the need to further institutionalize cooperation among Member States to effectively combat Islamophobia, requested for the preparation of a draft comprehensive strategy to combat Islamophobia for submission to the ICFM for consideration and adoption. It welcomed and endorsed in this regard the elements prepared by the OIC Group in New York for a strategy to combat Islamophobia, envisaging a series of specific actions by the OIC at the international and national levels. It further emphasized the need to develop legally-binding international instrument to prevent intolerance, discrimination, prejudice, and hatred on the grounds of religion and defamation of religions and to promote and ensure the respect of all religions; and, in this regard, encouraged the OIC Group in Geneva, in order to pave the way for developing such an instrument, to develop principles and ideas for inclusion in a draft universal declaration to promote understanding and tolerance between different

religions, prevent defamation of all religions, and ensure their respect, to be formulated and submitted in future to the UN Human Rights Council for consideration and adoption.

181. The Conference commended the OIC Ambassadorial Groups in New York and Geneva for providing the OIC Strategy to combat Islamophobia and urged the Observatory to incorporate the same in the recommendations of its report.
182. The Conference invited the urgent attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the OIC Statement on Islamophobia adopted in New York on 29 February 2008 forwarded to him by the Chair of the OIC Group in New York on the grave concerns of the Muslim Ummah at the growing intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, insults of Islam, and cases of Islamophobia. It also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take immediate action as called for in the concluding paragraph of the said OIC statement.
183. The Conference expressed its grave concern and anxiety at the threat to Muslim cultural values and principles and discrimination and stereotyping of Muslims caused by the growing wave of Islamophobia. It noted that as a result, Muslims have become victims of manifestations of prejudice and hatred. The Summit strongly condemned the continuing publication of insulting caricatures and cartoons of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and expressed grave concern over the initiatives undertaken by certain radical politicians of European countries against building minarets in mosques and making documentary film defiling the Holy Quran. It also encouraged the OIC Member States to be pro-active in discouraging future activities tarnishing the image of Islam. The Conference commended, with appreciation, the initiative of State of the United Arab Emirates launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, to build a museum of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) in order to educate the world about his life and lasting achievements, and to disseminate Islam's message of peace, compassion, and tolerance to all peoples of the world. The Conference commends the Muslim World League (WML) for the establishment of an International Centre for Advocacy and Awareness of the Noble Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the creation of a global fund to this effect. It called upon Muslim States and organizations to cooperate with the League in this endeavor.

184. The Conference strongly condemned the republication of the blasphemous cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by several Danish newspapers, which it considered an outright abuse of the sanctity of freedom of expression by insulting and making a mockery of the most sacred symbols to more than 1.3 billion Muslims of the world and called on the Danish Government to condemn the republication of the cartoons and to take appropriate action against those involved in accordance with national laws and international instruments that prohibit the defamation of religious beliefs of others and provocative publications that can incite violence and unrest in society. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at the timely actions undertaken by the Observatory at the General Secretariat and the Secretary-General personally through diplomatic contacts and demarches and requested him to continue with his efforts to seek the cooperation of the international community to counter Islamophobia. The Conference congratulated the OIC Observatory under the leadership of the Secretary-General on producing its report on Islamophobia. It considered the report well-documented and that it has effectively highlighted and increased awareness on the dangerous implications of Islamophobia and encouraged the Observatory to continue with its dedicated action in countering the phenomenon. The Conference welcomed the proposal to establish the post of Special Representative of the OIC Secretary-General on Dialogue among Civilizations and instructed the General Secretariat to prepare necessary draft documents and present them to the next session of the ICFM.
185. The Conference commended the OIC Secretary-General for his on-going efforts in interacting with the media to highlight the deep concerns of the OIC and the Member States over the media campaigns against the religion of Islam and Muslims and urged him to seize all opportunities and to use all possible means to correct the misconceptions created by some foreign media.
186. The Conference welcomed the initiative of Azerbaijan to organize in cooperation with ISESCO and UNESCO the International Forum on "Expanding the role of women in cross-cultural dialogue" to be held in Baku, on 10-11 June 2008. The Conference also invited Member States to actively participate in this Forum.
187. The Conference expressed its deep appreciation to the Great Jamahiriya for hosting the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Culture under the motto

“Renewing the Cultural policies of the Muslim world”, which was held in Tripoli, in the Great Jamahiriya, on 23/11/2007; and expressed its satisfaction with the provisions of the Final Communiqué of the Conference and with the resolutions adopted by it within the context of Tripoli’s commitments to renew the cultural policies of the Muslim world in implementation of the provisions of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action.

188. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in collaboration with ISESCO, on the convening of the International Conference on the Role of Education, Science, Culture, and Communication in consolidation of Islamic solidarity, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 20 to 21 February 2008, which decided on the need to develop the OIC strategy in this regard, with the active involvement of experts and scholars from Member States.
189. The Conference welcomed the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Second OIC Ministerial Conference on Women to be held during the last ten days of November 2008.
190. The Conference highly praised the Secretary-General and the General Secretariat for pursuing the Social and Cultural agenda of the OIC. It expressed great satisfaction on the successful outcome of the First Islamic Ministerial Conference on “Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States”, held in Istanbul on 20-21 November 2006 and commended the Republic of Turkey for the convening of this important Conference as a way forward to increase the status of women among OIC Member States. It also expressed its satisfaction at the various programmes undertaken for the development of youth and children, including health, education, health care, and youth and cultural exchanges, and congratulated the OIC Subsidiary, Specialized, and Affiliated bodies, in particular ISESCO, IRCICA, ICYF-DC, ISF, and the Islamic Sports Solidarity Federation (ISSF), for the remarkable work and contribution in helping the pace of implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action.
191. As mandated by the First Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 20-21 November 2006, the Conference commended Malaysia for hosting the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) on the participation of Women at the Decision-Making Level in the OIC Member States, which was convened in Kuala Lumpur on 21-22 January 2008. To address the issues

and challenges facing OIC Member States in enhancing the status of women, particularly at the decision-making level, the IGGE adopted the Kuala Lumpur Recommendations for the Enhancement of Women's Participation at the Decision-Making Level in OIC Member States.

192. The Conference welcomed the convening of the third OIC Conference on "Women's Role in Development" in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
193. The Conference noted that women and children are the most vulnerable members of the societies during conflicts and wars as well as occupation period and decided to proclaim October the 1st (the Anniversary of the martyrdom of Mohammed Al-Durrah in Palestine) as the day of Islamic solidarity with women and children victims of wars and occupation in the Muslim world.
194. The Conference, being conscious of the need to build bridges between societies, to promote dialogue and understanding, and to forge the collective political will to combat intolerance and extremism, welcomed the Alliance of Civilizations initiative launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2005 under the co-sponsorship of the Prime Minister of Spain and Turkey. It called on all countries and international organizations to support the initiative by participating in its implementation process in order to encourage greater cross-cultural understanding and to foster a climate of mutual respect. The Conference further reiterated the wish of OIC countries to contribute to understanding and dialogue among different cultures of the world.
195. The Conference welcomed Kazakhstan's initiative to host the Forum of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Muslim and Western Countries under the motto "Common World: Progress Through Diversity" as part of Kazakhstan's National Strategy within the framework of the Alliances of Civilizations and of Kazakhstan's contribution to this global movement and urged the OIC Member States to actively participate in the said process.
196. The Conference appreciated the UN General Assembly resolution regarding the announcement of year 2010 as the Year of the International Rapprochement of Cultures, which seeks to promote religious and cultural concord, harmony, and cooperation, reinforcing respect for each individual culture or religion, and the need to protect holy places in pursuance of international treaties.

197. The Conference also took cognizance of the role of religious institutions, in particular the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) and those active in the field of Proximity between the Muslim Schools of Thought, as well as religious schools, universities, and research centers, in consolidating Islamic unity; and emphasized the need for all Muslims to be awake, alert, and vigilant enough to understand that any dispute among the followers of different Islamic Schools of Thought harms the whole of the Muslim Ummah and jeopardizes its unity. It condemned the sectarian violence between followers of Islamic Schools of Thought in any part of the Muslim world and affirmed that the lives, property, honor, and reputation of Muslims are sacrosanct and that the inviolability of all Muslim houses of worship has to be respected.

Administrative and Financial Affairs

198. The Conference urged Member States to pay their contributions regularly in order to enable the Organization to fulfil the mandate and responsibilities entrusted to it by the Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Islamic Summit Conference.
199. The Conference, in recalling the resolutions on the budget of the General Secretariat for the year 2008 adopted by the 36th Session of the Permanent Finance Committee of the OIC (PFC), reaffirmed that in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the OIC, ensuring timely payment of the mandatory contributions by Member States, and avoiding arrears in contributions, possible increases in the budget level shall be proposed in a predictable, gradual, logical, and well-justified manner, within five-year intervals.
200. The Conference requested the next Permanent Finance Committee (PFC) meeting, to include in its agenda an item on "Examining the Existing Rules of Procedure of the PFC" on the basis of the latter's report.

Organic and Statutory Matters

201. The Conference unanimously decided to adopt the Amended OIC Charter and commended the working groups which worked on the Review of the Charter as well as the Secretary-General's major contributions and

sustained efforts in this process. It also exhorted the Member States to urgently ratify the Charter as soon as possible within a maximum period of six months of its adoption.

202. The Conference unanimously decided to renew the mandate of the Secretary-General in accordance with Article XVI of the Amended OIC Charter.
203. The Conference unanimously welcomed the offer made by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in 2011 at a date to be determined in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.
204. The Conference took note and welcomed the offers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Turkey to host the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in 2014.
205. The Conference and all OIC Member States expressed their appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz—may Allah protect him—for the kind and generous donation of a large piece of land located in the best and most beautiful corniche area of the city of Jeddah for the building of the new Headquarters of the OIC, as well as for his promise that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would assume all the financial expenses pertaining to the construction of the new Headquarters as a new civilizational façade of the Organization in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, land of divine revelation and the Qiblah of all Muslims.
206. At the close of the pledging session, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced its donation of USD 30 million in favor of the OIC and its Subsidiary Organs; the State of Kuwait its donation of USD 3 million; the State of Qatar its donation of USD 1 million to be shared equally between the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and the OIC General Secretariat; Pakistan its donation of USD 100,000 in favor of the ISF; Gabon its donation of USD 100,000 in favor of the ISF; Cameroon its donation of USD 2 million in favor of the ISF; Benin its donation of USD 2.3 million in favor of the ISF; and Senegal its donation of USD 500,000 in support of the activities of the OIC General Secretariat and Subsidiary Organs.

207. The Conference decided to rationalize its resolutions and final communiqué.
208. The Head of Delegation of Algeria delivered a speech on behalf of all participants in the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in which he expressed thanks to H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended by His Excellency and the Government and people of the Republic of Senegal to all participants in the Conference and for the sagacity and open-mindedness with which His Excellency steered the proceedings of the meeting, which led to the unanimous adoption of the Conference's decisions and addressing the urgent causes of the Muslim Ummah with all due wisdom, determination, and effectiveness.
209. H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, and Chairman of the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference delivered the closing speech in which he thanked all participants who accepted the invitation to attend the Conference and commended the spirit of cooperation and brotherhood that characterized the proceedings of the Conference.
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