

Final Communique Of The 13th Islamic Summit Of The Heads Of State/Government Of The OIC Member States

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1. The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held their Summit (13th Islamic Summit titled 'Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace') in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. The Summit Conference was chaired by H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey.
2. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for its competent Chairmanship of the 12th Islamic Summit and wise leadership for the OIC.
3. The Conference emphasized the centrality of the cause of Palestine and Al Quds Sharif for the Muslim Ummah. It reaffirmed its principled support for the right of the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state on the territory occupied since June 1967, with Al Quds Sharif as its capital. It also reaffirmed the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in accordance with International Law and Resolution 194 (III) adopted by the UN General Assembly on 11/12/ 1948.
4. The Conference reaffirmed the need for the early convening of an International Peace Conference to set mechanisms to provide international protection for the Palestinian people and to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 including East Jerusalem, in implementation of the relevant UN Resolutions and the Arab peace initiative. Therefore, the Conference called for continued action to seek the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the Israeli occupation within a timetable for its implementation, and reaffirmed the full support for the efforts of the State of Palestine to accede to international treaties and organizations with a view to consolidating the legal personality of the State of Palestine at the international level.
5. The Conference commended the efforts deployed by His Majesty King Mohamed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee to protect the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Al-Quds Ash-Shareef in the face of the measures being taken by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at Judaizing the holy city. It also lauded the role of the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Agency of the Al-Quds Committee through the execution of development projects and activities for the inhabitants of the holy city and support for their steadfastness. It called on Member States to increase support for the Agency to enable it continue its work.
6. The Conference also underlined the need for the Ministerial Contact Group on Al Quds Al Sharif, under the chairmanship of the Kingdom of Morocco whose monarch chairs the Al- Quds Committee to continue its efforts and actions to contact influential international parties and to deliver the OIC message and demands regarding the city of al-Quds al-Sharif. It, therefore, reiterated the adoption of the Strategic Plan on the Development of al-Quds al-Sharif, and called on all Member States to provide financial resources necessary for its implementation.

7. The Conference commended the efforts of His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein (King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) in protecting the city of Al Quds and its Holy Sites, in the context of the Hashemite custodianship over the Muslim and Christian Holy Sites in Jerusalem. It further commends the efforts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in confronting the Israeli violations on the Holy Sites, in particular Al Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram al-Sharif, and the Israeli attempts to change the status character of the Holy City and its identity. It reaffirms its rejection of all Israeli attempts to undermine the Hashemite custodianship. The meeting welcomed the important agreement signed between His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein (King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) the custodian of the Holy Sites in city of Al Quds and President Mahmoud Abbas (President of the State of Palestine) in Amman on 31st March 2013, which reaffirms the historic Hashemite custodianship over the Holy Sites in the city of Al Quds and aims to protect Al Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram al-Sharif, Holy sites, and provide it with the possible legal protection.

8. The Conference commended the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the Extraordinary Summit on Palestine in Jakarta on 6-7 March 2016. The Conference reiterated support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to realize an independent State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital as reflected through the adoption of the outcome documents of the Summit, namely the Jakarta Declaration and OIC Resolution.

9. The Conference thanked the Republic of Senegal for its continued action in favor of the Palestinian cause and reaffirmed its support for all the actions it takes as chair of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

10. The Conference welcomed the membership of Turkey in OIC Al-Quds Committee.

11. The Conference reiterated its support for Lebanon in completing the liberation of all its territories from Israeli occupation through all legitimate means; it emphasized the need for Israel's withdrawal from Shebaa Farms, Kfarchouba Hills and the Lebanese part of Al Ghajar. It called for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2016); it strongly condemned the continuing Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty by land, sea and air, including espionage networks planted in Lebanon. It expressed its support for Lebanon in its right to utilize its petroleum and gas resources in the exclusive economic zone. It underscored the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their nation and to reject any form of settlement.

12. The Conference welcomed the ongoing dialogue between Lebanese political parties to overcome the differences, reduce political tension, advance national conciliation and coexistence, in respect, follow up and implementation of the decisions of the national dialogue adopted by the dialogue table of the Parliament and the national dialogue body in the republican palace in Ba'bada. It applauded the sacrifices made by the Lebanese army in the war against terrorist and ex-communicating organizations. It urged Member States to provide every support to boost the army's capacity and enable them to

discharge the duties entrusted to them being a pillar for ensuring, security, stability and national peace in Lebanon. It commended the ongoing support provided by Arab and Islamic countries, at the forefront of which is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

13. The Conference expressed its appreciation for Lebanon's efforts on the issue of displaced Syrians by hosting them despite limited capabilities. It emphasized the need to support and assist Lebanon in this area, to share the burden and numbers with it and stop the increase of those burdens and numbers. It stressed that this presence can only be temporary given that it is a structural and existential threat to Lebanon and that all efforts possible must be made to secure their return to their homes as soon as possible. It emphasized the need to preserve the unique Lebanese and pluralistic formula based on equality between Muslims and Christians, coexistence, inter-religious dialogue and acceptance of others, and to hold presidential elections in accordance with the constitution and in implementation of the principle of rotation of power as dictated by the nature of the democratic system.

14. The Conference strongly condemned the Israeli policy rejecting compliance with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) on the Occupied Golan Heights and its policy of annexation and construction of colonial settlements, confiscation of territories, diversion of water sources and imposition of Israeli citizenship on Syrian nationals. It demanded full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace and the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut on 28 March 2002.

15. The Conference reiterated the need to compel Israel to comply forthwith with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War dated 12 August 1949 and to apply those provisions to Syrian detainees in the occupied Golan. It also called for Israel's release of all Syrian detainees who are natives of the occupied Golan, some of whom have been detained for more than 25 years.

16. The Conference reiterated its principled position on condemnation of the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, reaffirmed that acquisition of territory by use of force is inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and urged for strict implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) and for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Conference called for the resolution of the conflict on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally-recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Conference also expressed its grave concern by the continuing arms supply to the aggressor, unlawful actions aimed at changing the demographic, cultural and physical character of the occupied territories, including by destruction and misappropriation of cultural heritage and sacred sites, illegal economic and other activities and interference with the public and private property rights in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of

Azerbaijan. In that regard, the Conference urged Member States to take effective measures, including through national legislation, that would prevent any arms supply to the aggressor from or via their territories, any activities by any natural and legal persons operating on their territories against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, including the participation in or facilitation any unlawful activity in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as well as any action which would help maintain the occupation. The Conference reaffirmed its principled support for the efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including within the UN General Assembly, aimed at restoring its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

17. The Conference condemned in the strongest terms the continuous attacks carried out by the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a result of which civilian population suffered, mosques have been attacked, praying people died and social and economic infrastructure have been destroyed. The Conference supported Azerbaijan's efforts in defeating these attacks and defending its peaceful population. The Conference stressed the necessity to further increase pressure on Armenia by political, economic and other coercive means in order to bring the aggressor in compliance with the OIC demands and decisions. The Conference decided to establish a Contact Group on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan within the OIC at the level of Foreign Ministers and to convene its first meeting on the margins of Istanbul Summit.

18. The Conference reaffirmed its strong support for the Afghan National Unity Government established following the Presidential elections in 2014, and urged the OIC Member States and the international community to continue their assistance and support to the people and Government of Afghanistan in their efforts to fight terrorism, counter the drug trafficking, achieve security, stability, as well as comprehensive and sustainable development.

19. The Conference welcomed and supported Afghan-led and Afghan-owned Peace and Reconciliation efforts for reaching lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. The Conference further supported the efforts and initiatives of the Secretary General including the convening of an International Ulema Conference in order for the OIC to assume a more active role in national reconciliation process as well as in helping restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan.

20. The Conference also reiterated the importance of enhanced regional cooperation for ensuring sustained peace and stability in Afghanistan and beyond and in this context commend the progress made by the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process since its inception, which proved to be a useful platform to address the challenges which Afghanistan and the region face, with a spirit of responsibility and ownership. The Conference welcomed in this regard the establishment in January 2016 of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group of Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States of America on the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned Peace and Reconciliation Process with a view to achieving lasting peace and security in Afghanistan and the region.

21. The Conference reaffirmed its principled support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the realization of their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It further reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir is the core dispute between Pakistan and India and its resolution is indispensable for bringing peace in South Asia.

22. The Conference called on India to implement numerous UN resolutions on Kashmir which declare that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir would be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. It further reminded the international community of its obligation to ensure implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir and fulfill the promise made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir 68 year ago.

23. The Conference affirmed its support to the wide-spread indigenous movement of the people of the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) for their right to self-determination. It urged that freedom struggle must not be equated with terrorism.

24. The Conference expressed concern at the indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed in IOK by Indian security forces which have resulted in killing thousands of innocent and unarmed civilians as well as injuring hundreds of others including women, children and elderly, most recently the killing of a 22 year old woman, Ms. Shaista Hameed in Pulwama on 14 February 2016.

25. The Conference welcomed the establishment of a standing mechanism by the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) for monitoring the human rights situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Conference called upon India to allow the OIC Fact Finding Mission and the international human rights groups and humanitarian organizations to visit IOK. 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 to the Contact Group at its recent meeting.

26. The Conference called on the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) to undertake activities to protect holy sites in Kashmir and preserve cultural rights and Islamic heritage. The Conference appealed to the Member States and Muslim institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in deferent universities and institutions in OIC countries.

27. The Conference reaffirmed all previous support resolutions of the Islamic Conferences on the question of Cyprus which express firm support for the rightful cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots and its solidarity with the constituent Turkish Cypriot State. It also expressed its support to the UN comprehensive settlement negotiations in Cyprus which was resumed on 11 February 2014 based on the Joint Declaration adopted by the two leaders which envisaged a federation composed of two constituent states of equal status. The Conference, while further expressing its solidarity with the constituent

Turkish Cypriot State and its appreciation for their constructive efforts to attain a just and mutually acceptable settlement, called upon all Member States to strengthen effective solidarity with the Muslim Turkish Cypriots, closely associating with them, and with a view to helping them materially and politically to overcome the inhuman isolation which has been imposed upon them, to increase and expand their relations in all fields.

28. The Conference reaffirmed its solidarity with the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It called upon all political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to join their forces together in expediting the reform process towards building a better future of the country and its people. It called upon all Member States to intensify their cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina particularly to intensify their economic ties with the country for the well-being and prosperity of the country and its people.

29. The Conference reiterated OIC's support and cooperation towards Kosovo and its people and recalled the Resolution No. 18/42-POL adopted by the 42nd CFM in Kuwait which called upon Member States to consider recognizing the independence of Kosovo in accordance with their free sovereign right and their respective national legislations. The Conference also called upon Member States to support Kosovo in different international Fora.

30. The Conference stressed the need for the cooperative relations between Islamic States and the Islamic Republic of Iran to be based on the principle of good-neighborliness, non-interference in their domestic affairs, respect for their independence and territorial sovereignty, resolving differences by peaceful means in accordance with the OIC and the UN charters and the principles of international law, and refraining from the use or threat of force.

31. The Conference condemned the aggressions against the missions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and Mashhad in Iran, which constitute a flagrant violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and international law which guarantees the inviolability of diplomatic missions.

32. The Conference rejected Iran's inflammatory statements on the execution of judicial decisions against the perpetrators of terrorist crimes in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, considering those statements a blatant interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a contravention of the United Nations Charter, the OIC Charter and of all international covenants.

33. The Conference deplored Iran's interference in the internal affairs of the States of the region and other Member States including Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, and Somalia, and its continued support for terrorism.

34. The Conference underscored the need to shun the sectarian and denominational agenda as it carries destructive impacts and serious repercussions for Member States' security and stability and for international peace and security. It stressed the importance

of reinforcing relations of good neighborliness among the Member States for the good interest of peoples, consistent with the OIC Charter.

35. The Conference noted with satisfaction the progress made since the signing on 15 May and 20 July 2015 of the Algiers Peace Agreement for peace and reconciliation in Mali as a good basis for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to the conflict in north Mali and pledged the determination of the OIC as one of its guarantors to actively support the Malian parties in the critical implementation phase. It called on the parties to engage constructively in this process by respecting the ceasefire and the Government by adopting various political, social and economic measures to build confidence, in order to isolate the terrorist groups, organized criminal gangs and other enemies of peace. The Conference warned spoilers to desist from their negative activities or face severe sanctions.

36. The Conference requested the Member States and OIC financial institutions particularly the IDB to contribute to implementation of the agreement and to the long-term development of north Mali. It also called on them to massively extend the necessary assistance for the socio-economic development and reconstruction of the northern regions. It tasked the Secretary General to initiate necessary actions that may lead to the creation of the Trust Fund as decided by the 12th Islamic Summit. It further endorsed the outcomes of the Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Mali held on the sideline of the Summit.

37. The Conference noted with satisfaction the steady progress being made by Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) under President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud and reiterated its full support for the peace building endeavors of the FGS including its outreach efforts with the region in order to achieve comprehensive national reconciliation to lay the basis for durable peace in Somalia and implement all the outstanding tasks towards achieving the goals of “Vision 2016” and beyond. The Conference commended the endeavors of the Secretary General to contribute to national reconciliation in Somalia, and welcomed the transformation of the OIC Humanitarian Office into a development office.

38. The Conference strongly condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism perpetrated by the remnants of the Al-Shabaab militants who continue to seek to destabilize the country and the region and emphasized that such heinous acts of criminality negate the well-known Islamic values of moderation and the protection of the sanctity of human life. The Conference called on the militants to heed reason and abandon violence by joining the peace building and reconciliation process.

39. The Conference recalled the Six-Pillar Plan of the FGS and expressed its full support to the Plan which seeks to address the current challenges facing the country. It urged the Member States and the international community to continue to provide in a coordinated and sustained manner their full support for the implementation of the Plan consistent with the obligations of both the international community and Somalia in the reconstruction process.

40. The Conference welcomed Somalia's remarkable transformation in the areas of security, and federal state building processes, and the latest decision on the election model for 2016 elections reached as a result of the Somali-led nation-wide and inclusive consultation process. It underlined the importance of setting a political road map for universal suffrage by 2020.

41. The Conference commended highly the consent of the State of Kuwait to host a donors' conference to support the education sector of the Federal Republic of Somalia. It affirmed the importance of supporting and upgrading this sector aimed at guaranteeing security and promoting development and re-construction in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

42. The Conference also commended the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 6th Somalia High-level Partnership Forum on 23-24 February 2016 in Istanbul and urged Member States to support Somalia more actively in the international fora and increase their assistance to Somalia in order to enhance the humanitarian situation, security, stability and economic recovery in the country.

43. The Conference urged Member States which have not done so to open embassies in Somalia to help strengthen bilateral ties between Somalia and Member States, and called on them to be more active in the international fora regarding Somalia's future.

44. The Conference commended the overall engagement of the OIC, the endeavors of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General, countries in the region as well as the larger international community since the outbreak of the conflict in the Central African Republic CAR and expressed satisfaction with the progress made in peace building and national reconciliation. It welcomed the successful conclusion of the political transition and reaffirmed the determination of the OIC to continue to support the new authorities address the challenges of sustainable development in the country.

45. The Conference reviewed the situation in Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea and expressed satisfaction for the successful elections which have consolidated stability, democracy and good governance. It also congratulated Burkina Faso for the successful conclusion of the political transition and the restoration of constitutional order.

46. The Conference further expressed its full solidarity with Lake Chad Basin countries of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroun and Chad which continue to face grave security challenges and vicious insurgency arising from the violent Boko Haram extremism and terrorism. It appealed to all the Member States and larger international community to bring all the necessary assistance to these countries through the Multinational Joint Task Force to defeat and eradicate the menace of terrorism as well as contribute to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation prevailing in the region. In this context, it welcomed the recent donors' conference held on 01 February 2016 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

47. The Conference welcomed the decision of the Government of the Islamic Republic of the Gambia to officially make its country an Islamic State/Republic. It therefore invited the Arab League to advance Arab cooperation with the Islamic Republic of the Gambia in the framework of Arab-African cooperation and Islamic solidarity.

48. The Conference welcomed the role of His Highness Emir of the State of Qatar in resolving the conflict between the Republic of Djibouti and Eritrea which recently led to the release of four Djiboutian prisoners after 8 years of incarceration during which Eritrea had denied holding them. The Conference supported the continued mediation by His Highness Emir of the State of Qatar to resolve the border dispute between the two countries through a just and peaceful solution based on respect for the principle of good neighbourliness, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Djibouti, and the sanctity of the internationally recognized borders. The Conference praised the role of the Republic of Djibouti since the outbreak of the conflict committed to the resolution by peaceful means.

49. The Conference expressed serious concern over the ongoing violence and bloodshed in the Syrian Arab Republic, and stressed the need to preserve Syria's unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It reaffirmed its support for a political settlement of the conflict based on the Geneva Communiqué and supported the political process under the auspices of the UN, with a view to implementing a Syrian-led and Syrian owned political transition that would allow building a new Syrian State based on a pluralist, non-sectarian, democratic and civilian system where the principles of equality before the law, rule of law and respect for human rights prevail.

50. The Conference also appreciated and welcomed national contribution by OIC Member States in resolving the crisis in Syria and in restoring peace in this country.

51. The Conference welcomed the unanimous adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2254 on Syria endorsing an international roadmap for a peace process in Syria. Adoption of the resolution showed the global unity on a conflict that has claimed almost 300,000 lives. The Conference stressed the need to implement this resolution.

52. The Conference expressed its hope that the negotiations of the Syrian parties starting on 13 April 2016 in Geneva would lead to constructive and positive outcomes that will help in resolving the Syrian crisis as soon as possible. It commended in this regard the efforts of the United Nations envoy Staffan de Mistura in encouraging political dialogue between the Syrian government and opposition.

53. The Conference reiterated its appreciation to the neighboring countries notably Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey for generously hosting of Syrian refugees, and commended also other friendly States for the support extended to these refugees.

54. The Conference called on the international community and OIC Member States to support Syrian refugees and countries hosting them as soon as possible, and to develop resettlement programmes for Syrian refugees in order to alleviate their plights and that of the hosting States.

55. The conference commended the sincere efforts by the State of Kuwait to host three international donor conferences to support the humanitarian situation in Syria in 2013, 2014, and 2015, and its effective participation in chairing the 4th donor conference held recently in the British capital, London, on 4th February 2016 in partnership with United Kingdom, the Republic of Germany, Kingdom of Norway, and United Nations in response to the serious humanitarian crisis facing the innocent brotherly Syrians. It expressed deep gratitude to all states, organizations and donor institutions which pledged to donate funds in excess of USD 11 billion to achieve the desired objectives of this conference, and invited states and others organizations to contribute to providing assistance to the Syrian People.

56. The Conference congratulated His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on having been named Humanitarian Leader by the UN Secretary General in September 2014 in recognition of the significant role that His Highness is playing in the humanitarian domain.

57. The Conference welcomed the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2259 on Libya outlining the transitional task of Libyan authorities.

58. The Conference welcomed the signature on 17 December 2015 of the Libyan Political Agreement of Skhirat, Morocco to form a Government of National Accord consisting of the Presidency Council and Cabinet supported by other institutions of state. It also welcomed formation of the Presidency Council and Government of National Accord.

59. The Conference requested OIC Member States to work with the Libyan authorities and UNSMIL to develop a coordinated package of support to build the capacity of the Government of National Accord, in line with Libyan priorities and in response to requests for assistance.

60. The Conference stressed the importance of peaceful democratic transition and the adoption of a new constitution that guarantees freedoms, the rule of law, smooth transfer of power through full participation of all the components of the Libyan people and the building of a new democratic Libya.

61. The Conference further called on all countries to refrain from interfering into the internal affairs of Libya, including the supply of arms to armed groups in violation of Security Council resolutions, using mass media to incite to violence and attempts to undermine the political process.

62. The Conference stressed its objection to any military intervention in Libya, for its dire consequences on this country and the region. It also stressed that any military action directed to combat terrorism should be upon the request of the Government of National Accord, in conformity with the provisions of the UN Charter, in the light of potential repercussions on Libya and the security and stability of neighboring states, and the region in general.

63. The Conference commended the mechanism of Libya's neighboring countries and its contribution to the agreement reached in Skhirat, Morocco, and its support for the Libyan parties to engage in political dialogue and consensus. The Conference commended the 8th session of the meeting of neighbouring states convened and hosted by Tunisia on 21 and 22 March 2016 and its outcomes supporting the political resolution track in Libya.

64. The Conference welcomed the arrival in the capital Tripoli of the Presidential Council of the National Accord Government, as an important step in the implementation of the provisions of the political agreement, and called on the Parliament, as the sole legislative body, to honor its obligations as per the political agreement to allow Libyan officials to assume their responsibilities in administering the country's affairs and engaging with the new Government as the only legitimate government of the Libyan people, and support its efforts in combating terrorism

65. The Conference welcomed the steps made in Tunisia on the democratic transition process, especially the adoption of a new consensual constitution and the success in the organization of presidential and legislative elections, and reiterated support for Tunisia at this stage of its history.

66. The Conference congratulated Tunisia, represented by the National Dialogue Quartet, for the winning of the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize and hailed the role of the Quartet in supporting dialogue and harmony between political parties which enabled Tunisia to achieve peaceful transfer of power.

67. The Conference recalled the resolution 42/42-P on crimes perpetrated by the terrorist entity D'aesh and expressed its full support to the Iraqi Government in its efforts to eradicate this terrorist group and restore the territories it occupies. It called upon Member States to contribute to the rehabilitation of the liberated areas. It also called upon the Secretary General to continue his efforts and convene Makkah-II Conference in order to promote the National reconciliation in Iraq.

68. The Conference reaffirmed Iraq's role in countering DAESH and in bringing lasting peace and stability to the region. In this regard, the Conference expressed its support to Iraq in its efforts to achieve political unity, stability, and security.

69. The Conference condemned the criminal act perpetrated by DAESH terrorist gangs of using chemical weapons (mustard gas) against the civilian citizens in Tazet town in Kirkuk province, Iraq, as a crime against humanity.

70. The Conference recalled the Ministerial Statement issued by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on the "Qatari hostages in the Republic of Iraq" which condemned the action and described it as a terrorist act and flagrant violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 2133 (2014). It requested the Government of Iraq to assume its responsibilities, release the hostages and

bring the perpetrators to justice. It also emphasized its full solidarity with the Government of the State of Qatar in all the measures it takes in this regard. It requested the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Statement.

71. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the situation in Fallujah as a result of Daesh control. The OIC called on the Iraqi Government to take necessary measures and give due attention to the serious humanitarian situation in Al Anbar Province, especially the conditions of the inhabitants of Falluja, and to work earnestly for providing safe corridors to the besieged population. The Conference also called upon the Member States and humanitarian NGOs to support the Iraqi Government for its efforts providing urgent necessary assistance to relieve the civilians inside the city.

72. The Conference reiterated continued support for the constitutional legitimacy in Yemen represented by H.E. President Abdu Rabuh Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, and for his national efforts to achieve security, political and economic stability in Yemen and to resume of the political process towards a political solution based on the full implementation of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementation mechanism and the outputs of the Yemeni national Dialogue Conference, and consistent with international legitimacy resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015).

73. The Conference emphasized commitment to relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council, particularly resolution 2201 (2015), which support constitutional legitimacy in Yemen, condemn and sanction those hindering or undermining the political process, and Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) which called, under Chapter VII, on the Houthis to withdraw their forces from all areas they have seized, and decided to ban supply of weapons to them; as well as the relevant resolutions adopted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, and the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf.

74. The Conference reiterated support to the outcome of the ministerial-level extraordinary Conference at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah under the chairmanship of H.E. Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, which Chaired the 42nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, on Tuesday 16 June 2015 (29 Shaaban 1436 H.) upon the request of the Republic of Yemen.

75. The Conference expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the State of Kuwait for accepting to host the conference of Yemeni parties on 18 April 2016 under the auspices of the United Nations. It commended in this regard the efforts of the Envoy of the UN Secretary General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad and the continuous efforts of the State of Kuwait in support of the humanitarian situation in Yemen and the push to achieve security and stability in this country.

76. The Conference welcomed the OIC ongoing efforts to convene a conference to provide humanitarian and development assistance to Yemen as soon as possible with a view to mobilizing the needed emergency resources to address the critical situation in

Yemen and the requisites of the next phase in coordination with the Yemeni Government and regional and international partners including Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Centre for Humanitarian Action and Relief, and the UN and its humanitarian and development organs.

77. The Conference reiterated the support of Member States for the Sudan in its efforts to confront its economic and financial difficulties, and called on the international community to write off Sudan's external debts. It further rejected the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on Sudan, which negatively affected the development and prosperity of the people of the Sudan. In this regard, it called for an immediate lifting of those unjustified sanctions, and appealed to Member States and OIC financial institutions to contribute to providing all forms of support and assistance to the Sudan to enable it overcome the critical economic situation. It also called for removing the Sudan from the US list of terrorism-sponsoring States.

78. The Conference reiterated its full solidarity with the Sudan for the maintenance of security, stability, respect for its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity; expressed its total rejection of all forms of foreign interference in Sudan's affairs, especially the decision of the International Criminal Court of 04/03/2009, and its allegations against H.E. President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir and called for the Court's decision to be permanently rescinded.

79. The Conference reaffirmed its full support for the Sudan and respect for its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It supported strongly the National Dialogue Process as well as other political and economic reforms initiated by the Government of the Sudan, as a crucial step towards fostering peace, stability and development. In this regard, it encouraged all the Sudanese parties, including armed movements, to participate in the said process. It reiterated its support to the Doha Peace Process on Darfur aiming at establishing peace, security and development of the Darfur region.

80. The Conference urged the Sudan and South Sudan to maintain good neighbourliness and seek to resolve peacefully all outstanding issues between them through dialogue and negotiation. In this context, the Conference welcomed the Sudan's recent decision to open its borders with South Sudan.

81. The Conference commended the steps taken in implementation of Darfur Peace Agreement signed on July 14, 2011 between the Government of the Sudan and Liberation and Justice Movement in Doha-Qatar. It called upon the non-signatory rebel and holdout groups to the Doha Agreement to join the process. It further called upon the OIC General Secretariat and Member States to follow up the implementation of the outcome of the International Donors Conference for the reconstruction and peace building in Darfur. It expressed satisfaction that referendum on Darfur's administrative status held on April 11-13, 2016 in a peaceful manner.

82. The Conference called for renewed efforts to end continued discrimination and denial of political, economic and civil rights of the Rohingya Muslim community mainly in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. It called upon the new Government of Myanmar to take

necessary measures to protect the basic rights of the Rohingya Muslim community including their basic right to citizenship. It also called upon the Government of Myanmar to allow easy access (in cooperation with all related parties) to humanitarian assistance towards the Rohingya Muslim community. It further called upon international community to continue working with the Government of Myanmar for protecting minorities in its territories. The Conference expressed support for the Secretary General's work plan, and the efforts of his Special Envoy for Myanmar and continued engagement of the OIC Ministerial Contact Group on Myanmar for resolving the problem. It welcomed ASEAN Member States' firm commitment to help resolve this issue and expressed hope that with the new Government, the situation will improve. The Conference called upon the new Government to launch a comprehensive reconciliation process that includes all components of the Rohingya community including those who lost their nationality and all internally displaced people and refugees as well as others in irregular situations in or outside Myanmar.

83. The Conference called upon the Government of Myanmar to restore the citizenship of Rohingya Muslims, deprived of their nationality, with all associated rights and allow and facilitate their return home, in safety and dignity of all internally-displaced Rohingyas and those Rohingyas who are forced into irregular movement outside the country.

84. The Conference welcomed with appreciation the Government of the Islamic Republic of the Gambia's show of the support and Islamic solidarity as manifested by the latter's decision to be the first country to publically and officially open its doors for the Rohingya Muslim refugees.

85. The Conference recognized the democratization process of Myanmar and appealed to Member States that maintain political and diplomatic relations and share economic interests with the Government of Myanmar to encourage the Government of Myanmar to grant the rights of the Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State.

86. The Conference expressed grave disappointment that the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) Bill was not passed by the Philippines Congress despite the assurances of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) in this regard. The Conference recognized the efforts of the GPH, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Malaysia in the Southern Philippines' peace process despite the non-passage of the Bill. It strongly urged the GPH and the MILF to preserve its gains, particularly the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and uphold the implementation of the CAB in the next administration.

87. The Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary General during his official visit to the Philippines from 17-20 April 2015 to urge the President and congressional leaders to ensure the passage of an undiluted BBL. The Conference also commended the efforts made by the negotiating panels of the GPH and the MILF on 10-11 February 2016 in Kuala Lumpur to continue with the peace process whilst recognizing that the non-

passage of the BBL has adversely affected the timeline of establishing the Bangsamoro entity. The Conference called for the immediate re-filing of this legislation by the next administration and passed by the next Congress.

88. The Conference urged the GPH and the MILF to agree on a clear timeline for the resumption of the implementation of the CAB in the next administration to avoid prolonged uncertainties and tension on the ground. The Conference appealed for both Parties not to open any opportunity for extremist groups to strengthen their foothold in the Southern Philippines. The Conference urged GPH to implement developing programmes despite the non-passage of the BBL which is the key to the implementation of the CAB and peace in Southern Philippines.

89. The Conference called upon the Secretary General to continue to exert his efforts to find common grounds between the Parties to the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro and the 1996 Agreement on the implementation of the 1976 Peace Agreement and develop a mechanism to ensure that the gains of these agreements are preserved and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro are fully implemented with the end goal of integrating the gains achieved in these peace agreements into a new law.

90. The Conference welcomed the results of the Fifth and final session of the Tripartite Review Process which took place at Ministerial Level in Jeddah on 25-26 January 2016 with the participation of the members of the OIC Peace Committee for Southern Philippines (PCSP), the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front which moved towards a conclusion of the Tripartite Review Process through identifying the obstacles and agreeing on modalities to push forward the full implementation of 1996 Final Peace Agreement. The Conference also welcomed the activation of the Tripartite Implementation Monitoring Committee (TIMC) to monitor the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement. The Conference acknowledged the role of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, in facilitating the peace process culminating in the signing of the Final Peace Agreement on 2 September 1996.

91. The Conference commended the efforts of Turkey as the Chair of the Independent Decommissioning Body, which has been established in line with the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro as part of the normalization process as well as contributing to the socio-economic development of the region.

92. The Conference urged the leaders of both the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to consolidate their coordination and cooperation through the Bangsamoro Coordination Forum (BCF) and to engage other stakeholders in order to close ranks and strengthen and consolidate their cooperation and unity and maintain their peaceful struggle for the common cause to ensure that a comprehensive peace can be established in the Southern Philippines. In this regard, the Conference called on the Secretary General to facilitate these efforts without delay.

93. The Conference commended Malaysia and the Secretary General's initiatives to support the peace process in the Southern Philippines and encouraged them to continue facilitating and engaging the GPH and the MILF with full support from Member States.

94. The Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary General during his visit to the Kingdom of Thailand and for following up the situation of Muslims in Southern Thailand. The Conference welcomed the formation of a group of representatives of the Muslim community in the South and the decision of the Government to continue the peace dialogue with the group under Malaysian facilitation. The Conference called upon the group of representatives of the Muslim community in the South to include all stakeholders, and to work for the common good to ensure a peace process can be effectively realized in the South, as well as the realization of peace, harmony and territorial integrity of the country. The Conference encouraged the Government to grant the group of representatives of the Muslim community in the South the required recognition and called upon the Government to provide guarantee of safety in travelling to and from Thailand to members of the dialogue team and protection from detention and prosecution during their engagement in the peace process.

95. The Conference reiterated concerns regarding the situation in Southern Thailand and expressed the hope that the Thai Government will make constructive steps for the implementation of their commitments included in the 2007 OIC-Thai Joint Statement reiterated in 2012.

96. The Conference expressed support for the cause of the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim population of Dodecanese, and called on Greece to take all necessary measures to ensure the respect of the rights of the Muslim minority and their identity and culture.

97. The Conference followed closely and underlined the importance of the continuing repatriation process of Ahıska Turks who were forced to leave their homeland in 1944. It welcomed the adoption of the "Strategy for the Repatriation of Meskhetians" by the Georgian Government in 2014 and urged for further adoption of a comprehensive action plan with a view to facilitating the return of the Ahıska Turks and their integration into Georgian society.

98. The Conference expressed interest in the situation of the Crimean Muslim Tatars in the light of the recent developments in the Peninsula, stressed the need to address appropriately the status, safety and security of the Crimean Tatars and guarantee them effective access to their religious, cultural, educational and property rights; underscored the importance of ensuring the safety and security, encouraged the Secretary General to conduct the needed contacts and studies on the situation of Crimean Tatars following the recent developments, requested the Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of this matter and to submit a report thereon to the 44th Session of the CFM.

99. The Conference welcomed the growing cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and various international and regional organizations including the United Nations and welcomed the efforts put together by the OIC General Secretariat to strengthen relations with different regional and international organizations.

100. The Conference reiterated its principled position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motives, justifications, and source; affirmed that combating terrorism is the responsibility of all Member States and the international community; and underscored the need to adopt a comprehensive Islamic strategy to combat terrorism and extremism and for the OIC to play an effective role in international efforts to combat terrorism, in the framework of constructive cooperation with States and international and regional organizations and initiatives.

101. The Conference encouraged all States to continue working for a consensual finalization and adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Conference also believed that it is important to continue working to consolidate international efforts to combat terrorism. The Conference also took note of the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan on unified counter-terrorism coalition under the auspices of the UN.

102. The Conference expressed support for the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all Member States to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It expressed, in this regard, its backing of the Islamic military coalition to combat terrorism and invited interested Member States to join it.

103. The Conference reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to the UN Secretary General's Plan to prevent violent extremism. It stressed in this regard Member States' rejection of extremism, violence, sectarianism and factionalism because of their destructive impacts and dangerous repercussions on the security and stability of Member States and on international peace and security. The Conference also reaffirmed the importance of addressing the causes of violent extremism in a comprehensive manner.

104. The Conference unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism committed by whomsoever and wherever, and expressed determination of Member States to remain united in the fight against terrorism.

105. The Conference condemned Hizbollah for conducting terrorist activities in Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait and Yemen and for supporting terrorist movements and groups undermining the security and stability of OIC Member States.

106. The Conference stressed that the fight against terrorism is a major priority for all Member States, and reiterated its resolve to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts through increased international solidarity and cooperation, in full recognition of the UN's central role, and in accordance with UN Charter and obligations under international law.

107. The Conference recalled Resolution No. 41/42-POL on Combating Terrorism and Extremism adopted by the 42nd CFM and welcomed the outcome of the OIC Executive Committee at the Ministerial Level on Combating International Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Muslim World held in Jeddah on 15 February 2015 as well as the outcome of the Ministerial brainstorming session in Kuwait in May 2015. It called upon OIC Secretary General to continue his efforts to fully implement the results of these Conferences.

108. The Conference requested the Secretary General to continue the ongoing debate on countering terrorism, cross-border crime, and modalities to address extremist and sectarian discourse by convening conferences, symposia and workshops in cooperation with OIC Member States and its various institutions and partners, with the participation of political, religious and traditional leaders, psychologists and sociologists, etc. and to hold conferences to review educational curricula in this regard. It welcomed the holding of the UN-led Forum “Religions for Peace” on 6 May 2016 in New York.

109. The Conference condemned the terrorist operations which targeted Ben Guerdane city in the Republic of Tunisia. It affirmed Islamic countries’ solidarity with and support for the Republic of Tunisia in its efforts to address this scourge.

110. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Indonesia to establish an OIC Contact Group on Peace and Conflict Resolution as proposed at the 42nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers on Joint Vision to Strengthen Tolerance and Reject Terrorism held in Kuwait on 27-28 May 2015, in accordance with the mandate to be determined by the CFM. The Conference also requested the establishment of this Contact Group be concluded in an expeditious manner.

111. The Conference welcomed the Kingdom of Bahrain’s hosting, in November 2015, of a workshop on charitable donations and combating the financing of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the findings included in the Joint Declaration on the need to undertake an objective and thorough assessment in the sector of non-profit organizations, to identify danger points such as to pre-empt any risks involving those organizations being used for terrorist goals, and to try and entice them towards the official financial sector in order to guard against the danger of being pushed to resorting to other non-official financial channels.

112. The Conference appreciated the efforts of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) under the co-chairmanship of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Kingdom of Netherlands in bringing in effective and coordinated responses to the threat of terrorism on the basis of the rule of law and human rights and in accordance with the United Nations legal framework. The Conference called on the Member States to participate in the work of the GCTF.

113. The Conference welcomed the Initiative to launch a process of Islamic rapprochement by the joint declaration of the President of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, dated 13 April 2016. The Conference decided to launch the process of Islamic rapprochement as a

new paradigm of relations in the Muslim world through demonstration of goodwill and constructive approach for peaceful resolution of disputes, for respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of each other and friendly relations between the Member States of the OIC, and for strengthening unity of the Islamic Ummah. The Conference requested the Secretary General to present, in consultation with Member States, and if needed, by establishing a working group, a comprehensive plan of action on the process of Islamic rapprochement to the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers for its consideration.

114. The Conference noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Ten year Program of Action (2005-2015) which provided the Islamic Ummah with a forward looking blueprint with a view to enhancing Joint Islamic Action in various domains and reiterated its commitment to working together for a better tomorrow and enhancing the well-being of our peoples. It also affirmed commitment to address the shortcomings in the previous decade and to introduce the necessary improvements for the effective implementation of the new OIC Program of Action: 2016-2025.

115. The Conference adopted the OIC-2025: Program of Action for the next decade and called upon the Member States, the OIC organs and institutions, international partners as well as other stakeholders to undertake all necessary measures for its effective implementation.

116. The Conference welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with 17 goals and 169 targets. It committed to their successful implementation within the stipulated time frame, taking into consideration the role of national authorities and significance of international cooperation.

117. The Conference commended the progressive increase in intra-OIC trade from 18.64% in 2013 to 19.33% in 2014 occasioned by the implementation of trade financing and trade promotion initiatives. While taking note of the entry into force of the OIC Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC), its Protocol and Rules of Origin, it underscored the need for earlier completion of necessary formalities for the activation of the trade facilitation mechanism. It also called for increased actions in the manufacturing and services sectors. In this regard, the Conference welcomed the establishment of OIC City of Tourism Award and recognized its relevance to promote intra-OIC cooperation in tourism services' sector.

118. The Conference welcomed the establishment of Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, as a new specialized institution of the Organization, and looked forward to its active role in increasing intra-OIC cooperation in this important sector. In this regard, the Conference noted with satisfaction the implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection, notably its relevant joint actions in the domain of occupational safety and health; legal protection for employees; and social security protection for workers. For the purposes of food self-sufficiency and security of the Muslim world, the Conference supported the need for possible joint venture agro-projects, under commercial as well as Government arrangements within OIC mechanism, for production

of cereal grains and development of food reserves and food banks in order to cater for the vulnerable segments of the population of the Muslim world, with related distribution arrangements. These arrangements could serve the purposes of humanitarian assistance to famine-stricken communities, displaced people and refugees in dire need of relief as well as for Member States suffering serious and chronic food deficit.

119. Considering the strategic importance of this initiative, the Conference called on OIC Member States to accede to the IOFS statute, including its early ratification to ensure the operationalization of the Organization. It also called on OIC Member States to actively participate, at a high-level, in the inaugural session of IOFS General Assembly, which will be held in Astana on 28 April 2016.

120. The Conference welcomed the results of the 3rd Islamic Conference of Labor Ministers held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 28 – 30 October 2015 which highlighted OIC collaboration in reducing unemployment among OIC Member States through increasing capacity building, skill recognition and transparency in labor market and labor capacity information, as well as the need to further strengthen the implementation of occupational safety and health of the workers and to promote fair, safe and orderly labor migration through relevant national laws and regulations.

121. The Conference affirmed its support for the State of Qatar in countering the political and media campaigns it is facing with regard to workers' rights and took note of the efforts of the State of Qatar on the improvement of workers conditions and the paramount importance it attaches to them, ensuring their rights in full, consistent with its national laws.

122. The Conference condemned the malicious campaigns to which several of the OIC Member States are subjected and reaffirmed its solidarity with these States and its rejection of the continuation of the campaigns.

123. The Conference commended the actions by Member States leading to the progressive increase in the Authorized Capital of IDB which currently stands at 100 billion Islamic Dinars, the full payment of its Subscribe Capital of 50 billion Islamic Dinars, and the innovative resource mobilization mechanism introduced by the IDB Group.

124. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the numerous contributions by Member States to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and commended the various interventions under the Fund, which have reached US\$ 562 million cumulatively. However, in order to increase the impact of ISFD interventions on scaling-up micro-finance support, vocational training and food security; improving social and economic services to vulnerable segments in Member States; as well as attaining its target capital of US\$ 10 billion, the Conference called on Member States to redeem their pledges and announce new commitments, including allocation of Waqf (endowment project) in favor of ISFD. The Conference also called for the participation of private

sector foundations and high net-worth individuals in OIC Member States in the Fund. Accordingly, it renewed its commitment to mobilize intra-OIC investment through support for Islamic financial products and Islamic social finance.

125. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA), which has effectively contributed to social and physical infrastructure development in 22 countries, while supporting ongoing initiative to elaborate a successor programme with emphasis on cross-border and regional projects. Similarly, the Conference welcomed the implementation of OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia (OIC-PACCA), which has demonstrated its potentials in fostering active cooperation with OIC Member States in Central Asia. In this regard, the Conference commended the elaboration of Special Program for Central Asia (SPCA) by IDB Group and called for its timely implementation. Accordingly, the Conference reiterated the need for the implementation of these regional programmes within a comprehensive OIC infrastructure development policy in order to realize the vision of an integrated OIC economic community.

126. The Conference welcomed the remarkable proposal of H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, regarding the announcement of the “Islamic Infrastructural Integration” Initiative, aimed at the advancement of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, regional integration, connectivity and cooperation among the OIC Member States, and called on the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank Group and OIC organs and institutions to demonstrate solidarity, provide committed support and develop a comprehensive Strategic Program/ Road Map for the next decade on the practical implementation and resource mobilization for the above Initiative.

127. The Conference underscored the role of private sector in implementing the OIC General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation, particularly in the domain of trade and investment, infrastructure development, public-private partnership and social entrepreneurship, and urged Member States to encourage their private sector establishments to collaborate more effectively with the relevant OIC institutions. It welcomed the signing of this agreement by the Republic of Kazakhstan in November 2015 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.

128. The Conference accordingly emphasized the significance of SME promotion policies in attaining sustainable economic growth as well as fighting unemployment and poverty.

129. The Conference attached great importance to multi-modal connectivity to further advance economic cooperation among OIC Member States. In this regard, it noted the recent developments on execution of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project and encouraged OIC project owners and stakeholders to continue their efforts towards mobilizing technical and funding support for the successful implementation of this integrative project.

130. The Conference commended the role of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the realization of OIC objectives in the economic domain.

131. The Conference expressed its profound appreciation for the successful implementation of the COMCEC revised statute and strategy adopted at the 4th Extraordinary Summit. It called on Member States to enhance the implementation of the revised COMCEC statute and strategy, in close coordination and cooperation with the General Secretariat and in accordance with the OIC Charter, and requested Member States to continue to actively participate in the work of the COMCEC under the chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey.

132. The Conference stressed that the media, including the social media, is the most effective tool for spreading information and shaping public opinion. The Conference recognized the decisive role it can assume in projecting the bright image of Islam and Member States to the outside world and achieving the objectives of Islamic solidarity; and emphasized the centrality of these media in the just and objective issues concerning the Muslim world.

133. The Conference called for investment in the development of media infrastructure, improving the professional capacities of media workers, facilitating easy access by the public to information, enhancing OIC media institutions and deepening coordination among them to advance Joint Islamic Action in all fields. It emphasized strengthening the public diplomacy of the OIC through the mass media.

134. The Conference expressed appreciation for the national actions and strategies, bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Member States, ongoing OIC programs and activities and concerted efforts by the General Secretariat, COMSTECH, STIO, IDB, ISESCO, ICCI, SESRIC and IAS and called upon all the stakeholders to continue their efforts to bring scientific perspectives to bear on national and international issues.

135. The Conference emphasized the need for the Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to redouble their efforts to pursue the objectives and targets of the Vision 1441 H for Science and Technology and to work towards reducing the glaring scientific knowledge gap between OIC Member States and the developed world. In this regard, the Conference stressed the need for continuing activities and programs for strengthening of R&D as part of institutional framework for Science, Technology and Innovation, national strategies for science and technology, conducting STI Foresight studies, encouraging private sector participation in R&D, promoting emerging technologies; such as nanotechnology and biotechnology, and the enhancement of quality education.

136. The Conference acknowledged the need for developing knowledge-based society and therefore, support research and technology for development in the Member States. For that purpose, it encouraged expansion and intensification of R&D activities in the institutions and centers of excellence including in the OIC subsidiary and affiliated ones in the Member States. It also encouraged the OIC institutions to facilitate and support

R&D in focused areas and support business incubation based on innovation and R&D successes; and underscored the need for initiatives under OIC to preserve, compile and foster traditional knowledge of the member states and their diverse communities.

137. The Conference noted, with appreciation, the launching of the final report of the Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation project during the 7th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Rabat on 18-19 December 2014 and encouraged the Member States to benefit from the findings and recommendations of the project for the strengthening of STI in OIC member states. It called for early finalization and operationalization of a project proposal for the COMSTECH Science Report programme, which will succeed the Atlas project in accordance with the relevant resolutions.

138. The Conference welcomed Tunisia's hosting of the Islamic Conference of Education Ministers, in cooperation with the ISESCO, in October 2016 and invited Member States to cooperate with the host country to ensure the success of the Conference.

139. The Conference welcomed the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host the OIC Summit on Science and Technology in 2017 in coordination with COMSTECH Secretariat and OIC General Secretariat.

140. The Conference commended the increasing interest of the Member States in the 'OIC Educational Programme: Solidarity through Academia in the Muslim World' being pursued by the General Secretariat. It expressed appreciation for the public and private sector universities in the member states which have offered scholarships under the Programme. It invited Member States to generously support the initiative and actively participate in the Educational Exchange Programme which also involves faculty exchange, short term student exchanges, research collaboration and vocational training.

141. The Conference welcomed the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Islamic Conferences of Higher Education and Scientific Research, including the 7th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Rabat, 18-19 December 2014) and welcomed the adoption of Terms of Reference (TOR) of the High-Level Quality and Accreditation Committee on the implementation of the document on Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in the OIC Member States.

142. The Conference called upon all Member States to continue their efforts for quality education that promotes creativity, innovation and research and development and in this regard promote collaboration, academic interaction and exchange of knowledge between their academic institutions.

143. The Conference expressed support for the efforts by the OIC universities - the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Bangladesh, the Islamic University in Niger (IUN), the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) and the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), for the development of quality education, human resources and

physical infrastructure. It acknowledged the challenges facing the two universities in Africa and encourages voluntary financial assistance to these universities by Member States and other financial institutions.

144. The Conference commended the Government of Bangladesh for taking up the initiative of allowing female students in the IUT and commended approval of the first phase of the female dormitory project (four out of ten storeys) at its own funding contribution. It also expressed support for the second phase of the project and expansion of the academic scope of the University and upgrade its R&D and other facilities.

145. The Conference welcomed the adoption of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014 – 2023 (SHPA) by the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held in October 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia, which provided a framework for more collaborative efforts and international cooperation for addressing various health challenges facing the OIC Member States. It called upon all Member States to take the necessary measures to implement the SHPA. The Conference expressed hope that the implementation of the SHPA will facilitate progress towards the attainment of SDGs.

146. The Conference urged the OIC General Secretariat to further strengthen its cooperation with the WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and other international partners in areas such as immunization against infectious diseases, controlling epidemics, promoting self-reliance in the supply and production of medicines and vaccines, mother and child health protection, and developing inter-sectoral collaboration in health protection. The Conference took note of the contribution being made by the Global Fund in eradication of diseases and in health systems strengthening. It encouraged member states to extend financial support to the Global Fund for effective coverage of its health related activities. Considering the recent devastating effects of the Ebola Globally, affecting particularly some Member States of the OIC, and the fact that the disease still has the potential to resurface again, the Conference called for joint Islamic solidarity in the fight against Ebola and urged OIC Member States to support other Ebola affected Member States.

147. The Conference commended Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, the three most affected countries of the deadly Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the Mono River Basin in West Africa and the international community for resilience and efforts in eradicating the scourge, and expressed strong support for the joint post-Ebola Recovery Strategy to put the three countries on track for their socio-economic revival and called upon those countries that continue to impose travel restrictions on nationals of those countries to ease such embargoes which are deemed to be discriminatory.

148. The Conference reaffirmed that preserving the wellbeing and physical health of children is a duty of every parent and society as prescribed by Islam. It, therefore, appealed to the religious scholars and leaders to support the polio eradication campaign and encourage people to respond positively to it.

149. The Conference noted, with concern, the sharp rise in the burden of cancer among OIC member states and the fact that it is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. It welcomed the Special Session on First Ladies' Leadership on Cancer Control in Member

States demonstrating strong leadership of First Ladies to showcase and discuss their individual involvement in the fight against cancer. The Special Session created and enhanced awareness on the increasing cancer burden in OIC Member States and ways to expand access to effective cancer prevention, diagnostics, treatment and care; and to identify ways and means through which First Ladies can further enhance their leadership role in effectively addressing the disease and saving lives.

150. The Conference welcomed the significant improvement in health care coverage and services in the OIC Member States leading to declining trends in child mortality rates from a higher base rate of 125 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 66 per 1000 live births by 2013. However, it expressed concern over the fact that about 130000 women died from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth in 2013, corresponding to 44% of world total maternal deaths. The Conference called on all OIC Member States to take appropriate measures to reduce the maternal mortality and child under five mortality.

151. The Meeting took note of the outbreak of Zika virus in some countries and urges the Member States for closer coordination with other international health organizations and stakeholders to develop an effective surveillance and response mechanism to contain the spread of Zika virus.

152. The Meeting took note of the Global Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) endorsed by 68th World Health Assembly in May 2015 and requests the Member States to effectively address the problem by strengthening their national public health and veterinary systems, and develop policies and programs in light of Islamic jurisprudence for combating the antimicrobial resistance.

153. The Conference welcomed Islamic Republic of Pakistan's nomination of Dr. Sania Nishtar for the position of the Director General, World Health Organization.

154. The Conference acknowledged that challenges of environmental degradation and climate change have global consequences and significantly impact on the OIC Member States. Climate change poses a threat to the lives and livelihoods of billions of people and affects the development aspirations of developing countries.

155. The Conference welcomed the Paris Agreement and underscored the need for robust global cooperation in climate change action, especially for countries vulnerable to adverse consequences of climate change, including adequate financing and transfer of technology, capacity-building support from developed to the developing countries under the UN Convention on Climate Change.

156. The Conference welcomed the hosting by the Kingdom of Morocco of the 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) from 7-18 November 2016 in the city of Marrakech. It emphasized the importance of the Summit regarding the follow-up and implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Paris Conference and the continuation of addressing global environmental challenges.

157. The Conference particularly recognized the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by the LDCs and Small-Island Developing States (SIDS) on account of climate change. It underscored the need for robust global cooperation, particularly robust financing, development and transfer of technology, and capacity support from developed to the developing countries under relevant international conventions, including the UN Convention on Climate Change; and called for operationalization and disbursement of climate financing the soonest to benefit the countries vulnerable to climate change.

158. The Conference welcomed the recommendations of the 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Environment which was held in Rabat, on 8-9 October 2015, in cooperation between ISESCO and General President of Meteorology and Environment Protection (PME) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the OIC General Secretariat. The Conferenceinter-alia adopted an Islamic Declaration on Environment Protection and Sustainable Developmentand environmental governance for environmental sustainability in the Islamic World.

159. The Conference invited the COMSTECH in coordination with the General Secretariat, IDB and other relevant institutions to expedite the finalization and operationalization of the OIC Green Technology Blue Print. It called on all OIC Member States to participate at the international specialized exhibition “Astana EXPO-2017 dedicated to “Future Energy”, which will give an excellent opportunity for scientific and technological, as well as political and cultural cooperation to achieve the goals of sustainability and energy efficiency.

160. The Conference recognized the critical role of the OIC in promoting cooperation among Member States on water-related issues and its ability to bring together expertise from diverse countries with unique water characteristics under the framework of the OIC Water Vision. It further welcomed identifications of opportunities for concerted action and laying out roadmap for promoting collaboration, including exchange of best practices, capacity building and knowledge sharing, among Member States in all aspects of water, establishing a database of Water experts in the OIC region who could be called upon to provide onsite training and any other technical support to Member States.

161. The Conference welcomed the OIC Ministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for water to be held on 17-19 May 2016 in Istanbul and expressed its appreciation for the work undertaken under OIC ‘Water Vision’.

162. The Conference stressed the importance of sustainable development for the Member States. Itacknowledged the importance of integrated water resources management, including "water-energy-food nexus approach", for supporting and strengthening the political dialogue and cooperation among OIC Member States. Access to affordable and clean energy in developing countries is crucial for achieving sustainable development.

163. The Conference stressed that culture must be used as a leverage for a sustainable and inclusive development, along with the Islamic values, and the most important action is to mainstream culture as a strategic tool for achieving OIC goals; Therefore, it

commended the efforts of the OIC Secretary General for his initiatives aiming at promotion and defending unified position on issues of common interest, including the dialogue among civilizations and religions; promoting interfaith harmony, tolerance and non-discrimination; to safeguard historic and Islamic character of the holy places as well as Islamic cultural and civilizational heritages.

164. The Conference expressed appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of the Gambia for hosting the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) on 4th – 6th December 2013 in Banjul, and welcomed the outcome of the conference, which included inter alia, considerations and decisions on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the domain of Tourism between the OIC member states as well as its recommendations, and the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism and the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts, as well as the proposed establishment of the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries. The Conference, therefore called on OIC Member States to implement these decisions in order to promote the Islamic culture, traditions and values within the Muslim Ummah and beyond in order to safeguard Islamic Civilization for the future generations of the Ummah.

165. The Conference appreciated the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic to host the first and unique in its kind, World Nomads Games which took place from 8 to 14 September, 2014 and calls on Member States to accede to the participation and conduct of the Games on a regular basis that would be a real contribution to the cultural and sporting integration of member countries. In addition, the Conference have taken note that the Second World Nomads Games will be held from 3 to 9 September 2016 in Kyrgyzstan on the shores of mountain Lake Issyk-Kul.

166. The Conference called on all Member States to challenge the exacerbation of anti-Muslim sentiments which intensified stereotypes, generalizations about Muslims as well as collective punishment on all Muslims, by issuing clear statements that the Muslim World does not condone the violent acts of marginal, misguided individuals claiming to speak or act in the name of Islam, and to encourage Muslim community members living in western societies to track and monitor anti-Muslim incidents in all strata of the society.

167. The Conference encouraged all Member States and their civil society to step up their counter-Islamophobic measures by promoting dialogue with the international community at both multilateral and bilateral levels, and to engage with the West in order to build a political will and commitment to entering into a higher level of serious dialogue in order to generate reconciliation between faiths, cultures and civilizations.

168. The Conference called on all Member States to increase the role of religious and community leaders to curb tendencies of extremism and Islamophobia by promoting the ideals of tolerance, moderation, mutual respect and peaceful co-existence, and to strengthen existing mechanisms for intra-Islam dialogue in order to help avoiding misperceptions and promote better understanding and mutual respect, and to speed-up

the implementation of the proposal made by the Late King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz during the 4th Extraordinary Summit, held in Makkah in 2012, to establish a centre for dialogue among Islamic schools of thought to reach a common understanding. The Conference welcomed the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions which aims to foster a culture of tolerance and mutual respect, as opposed to the ideology of hatred and extremism.

169. The Conference encouraged all Member States to promote inter-faith and inter-religious dialogues within the OIC Member States to raise awareness about religious interpretations and beliefs, and open space for further discussion about Islam and faith and to initiate relevant projects at the level of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. In this regard, the Conference welcomed and commended the Government of the State of Qatar and its partners for regularly organizing an international interfaith dialogue conference which aims to promote and defend the image of Islam and the Muslim Ummah. The Conference also welcomed the periodic hosting of the conference of Ulemas of East Africa organized annually by the Republic of Djibouti for scholars of East Africa with the aim of promoting moderation and fighting terrorism and misleading ideas offensive to Islam.

170. The Conference welcomed the award of the Inter-religious and Inter-civilizational Coexistence Organisation's prize to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain in appreciation of His Majesty's contributions and role in promoting purposeful inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, mutual respect among peoples and communities, confidence building, understanding and rejection of hatred. It expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures conference in the period from 5 – 7 May 2014 and welcomed the outcome of the conference contained in the "Bahrain Declaration."

171. The Conference welcomed the declaration of the Marrakech Conference on the Rights of Religious Minorities in the Islamic World, which was held in Marrakech, the Kingdom of Morocco on 25-27 January 2016 and which advocate disseminating awareness on the rights of religious minorities in the Islamic societies, refraining from using religion to justify any detracting from the rights of religious minorities in the Islamic countries, addressing the past memory shocks resulting from mutual selective happenings and the oblivion of the centuries of mutual coexistence on the same soil, and building bridges of mutual confidence away from injustice, exclusion, and violence.

172. The Conference encouraged the Member States with ethnic diversity to consider establishing intra-state bodies responsible for cementing social peace, reversing social exclusion, and deterring its potential impact on cohesion, by conscious and proactive efforts to bring about mentality change to secure the intra social tolerance, security and harmony.

173. The Conference encouraged all Member States to work with the media to promote the understanding of responsible use of freedom of speech, to hold the media accountable for perpetuating hate speech and extremism, and to speed up the

implementation of the OIC Media Strategy in Countering Islamophobia, adopted at the Ninth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM), held in Libreville, Gabonese Republic, in April 2012.

174. The Conference took note of the offer of the Islamic Republic of Gambia to host the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM), and called upon OIC Secretary General to conduct consultations on the venue of the said session.

175. The Conference expressed deep concern over the rise of attacks targeting mosques and other properties belonging to Muslims. The Conference also observed that the recent migrant flow from the Middle East to Europe has further exacerbated xenophobic and Islamophobic tendencies in European countries. Xenophobic acts and sentiments are further fuelled by populist rhetoric of the far-right political parties for the sake of short-sighted political interests. Discriminatory discourse sows the seeds of division within societies and undermines the Muslims' sense of belonging to and their trust in the society they live in. The conference underscored the importance of not using Islamophobic and xenophobic tendencies in the society as a tool for popular policies. It also maintained that media and politicians play an important role to direct the societies in a responsible manner on this issue. In this regard, the Conference welcomed the establishment of a Contact Group for Muslims in Europe.

176. The Conference encouraged all Member States to make further efforts to effectively implement of the Action Plan contained in Res. 16/18 of the Human Rights Council without double standards and to provide equal protection to all targeted groups and individuals under relevant anti-discrimination provisions dealing with incitement to hatred and discrimination in different countries.

177. The Conference expressed its renewed determination to tackle and address, through joint Islamic action, the recent upsurge in xenophobic attacks, violent extremism, inequality, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the factors giving rise to their resurgence. In this regard, the Conference supports efforts to galvanize the international community towards re-engaging with the ongoing discourse on the negative historic legacies of trans-Atlantic slave trade slavery, colonialism and looting of cultural heritage and artifacts and the related issues of restitution, reparations and atonement for these wrongs, including the need for an agreement on strategies for achieving them.

178. The Conference further mandated the OIC, its relevant Organs and its Groups in New York and Geneva to support the convening an international conference to comprehensively discuss the issue of the slave trade, slavery, colonialism, restitution and reparations. Such a conference shall also discuss measures and strategies to address the lasting negative impact of these historic wrongs. Thus, the Conference called upon other stakeholders including other member states of the United Nations, the Caribbean Community, the African Diaspora and relevant CSOs to advance this agenda from where it was left at the Durban Conference of 2001 and its follow-up review meetings.

179. The Conference strongly condemned the crimes committed against tangible and intangible cultural heritage in all its forms in Syria, Iraq, Mali, Libya, and in other Member States, and invited ISESCO and IRCICA, in coordination with Member States and all relevant partners at different levels, to strengthen the cooperation with competent institutions in order to monitor the situation of cultural, civilizational and religious heritages in the Muslim World, and take part in countering acts of destruction and vandalism against such heritage, as well as jointly organize an international seminar on “Islamic Action to Protect Cultural Heritage” at the earliest convenience.

180. The Conference welcomed the efforts and initiatives of the State of Qatar in support of the UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee and the UNESCO's programme for the protection of cultural and natural heritage in emergency situations. It also welcomed the State of Qatar's nomination of Dr. Hamad Ben Abdelaziz Al-Kouari to the position of UNESCO Director General.

181. The Conference applauded the Egyptian role in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in particular with respect to agreeing on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the UNESCO Strategy for the Protection of Cultural heritage. In this respect, the Conference welcomed decision of the Arab Republic of Egypt to present a candidate for the position of Director-General of UNESCO.

182. The Conference welcomed Lebanon's nomination of Ms. Vera Khoury to assume the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

183. The Conference welcomed the establishment by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Programme for the care of Cultural Heritage, the establishment by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage of a center for architectural heritage to preserve and rehabilitate national heritage, the recent change of the name of the "Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities" to become the "Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage" to be inclusive of all aspects and components of heritage, the decision to preserve Islamic heritage sites, and the adoption of the Monuments, Museums and Architectural Heritage System and regulations.

184. The Conference commended the efforts of the Republic of Senegal to reenergize COMIAC, and encourages it to create programmes and activities in the domain of media and information, and those geared towards upholding the profile of Islamic culture and identity, intercultural and inter-civilizational dialogue, as well as increasing OIC visibility globally, by COMIAC through cooperation with relevant OIC institutions and international partners.

185. The Conference called on the General Secretariat to take measures, in cooperation with Member States in order to support cinematographic production and promote cooperation in the cultural domain, including through holding an OIC film festival, with a view to reinforcing cultural relations among Member States.

186. The Conference welcomed the efforts and initiatives, in the field of preservation of family values, taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which, together with the Islamic Group, sponsored a resolution on "family protection" during the 29th session of the Human Rights Council. The Conference also welcomed its contribution to the adoption of the ministerial resolution on strengthening the marriage and family institution and the preservation of their Islamic values. The Conference further welcomed the readiness of the Kingdom to host the first session of a specialized conference on this topic in 2016, and called upon OIC Member States and relevant Organs to cooperate with the General Secretariat and the host country, for the success of the conference.

187. The Conference welcomed the ministerial resolution on preserving the welfare and social security of the elderly people with special needs in the Islamic world, adopted by the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait (May 27-28, 2015), and the preparedness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the first session of the Conference during 2016. The Conference also called upon OIC Member States and relevant Organs in collaboration with the Secretariat and the host country to make efforts for the success of the conference.

188. The Conference underlined the importance of building capacity of the youth and enhancing their role in the overall development and the promotion of peace and security in Muslim societies. The Conference also welcomed the training and rehabilitation programs and activities undertaken by the OIC Subsidiary Organs and Affiliated Institutions and the civil society organizations in this regard. It further called upon Member States and OIC Institutions to promote, coordination and cooperation to support the activities and projects of these organizations, and to work for launching an international Islamic Youth Forum.

189. The Conference underlined importance of youth development and capacity building and of enhancing youth role in the overall development and the promotion of peace and security in Muslim societies. The Conference also welcomed the recommendations delivered by the 1st OIC Pre-Summit Youth Event (12-13 April 2016, Istanbul) organized by the OIC General Secretariat and ICYF-DC within the programme of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference and called upon the Member States and the OIC Subsidiary Organs, Affiliated Institutions and the civil society organizations to support implementation of these Recommendations via relevant development, capacity building, training and rehabilitation programs and activities. It further called upon the Member States and the OIC Institutions to promote coordination and cooperation to support the activities and projects of these organizations, in particular towards holding "The OIC Youth Capital Programme" on an annual basis and organizing an International Muslim Youth Forum in Africa in 2017.

190. The Conference welcomed the initiative of his Royal Highness Prince Al-Hussein Ibn Abdullah II Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on youth, peace and security launched at the Security Council during His Highness' presidency of the Session in April 2015. It also commended His Highness' patronage of the Global Forum for Youth, Peace and Security held in Amman in August 2015, and the historic resolution of the Security Council no, 2250 on youth, peace and security adopted on 9 December 2015.

191. The Conference condemned the biased Western media campaign against the State of Qatar doubting its entitlement to organize the 2022 World Cup tournament and the insistence of some western media to spread and disseminate erroneous and biased information aimed at belittling its right to organize the tournament despite the success of Qatar's bid in an absolutely fair and transparent completion. The Conference reiterated that the hosting of the 2022 World Cup by Qatar – a Member State of the OIC – is an achievement and gain for OIC States and a right for peoples of the Muslim world. The Conference called on joint Islamic action institutions and the media in the Member States to support the State of Qatar in refuting the media's falsehood methods and incitements by some western media in this regard.

192. The Conference commended the role of non-governmental organizations active in the field of family, women, children, youth, the protection of the elderly and people with special needs in the Member States. The Conference also called on the OIC General Secretariat to take all necessary measures to promote coordination and joint action with these organizations to serve the OIC objectives.

193. The Conference commended the role of the OIC Secretary-General for his tireless efforts aimed at promoting the advancement and empowerment of women and the welfare of the family in the OIC Member States, strengthening the status of children and safeguarding their rights, and enhancing the role of youth in promoting citizenship and the well-being and social security of the elderly and people with special needs and maintaining security.

194. The Conference called upon Member States, which have not yet done so, to expedite the process of the ratification of the Statute of the Organization of Women's Development in OIC Member States, so that the statute may enter into force, and the Organization may become operational. It called on Member States to expedite the signing and ratification of the Covenant of the Rights of the Child in Islam.

195. The Conference welcomed and commended the Government of the Islamic Republic of the Gambia's recent decision to ban the practice of female genital mutilation and called upon other OIC Member States which have not done so to take a similar action.

196. The Conference welcomed the convening of the 6th Islamic Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States, in Turkey in 2016 and called upon the General Secretariat and the host country to hold at the Conference a special session of Women's Forum to address the contemporary challenges facing Muslim women and make recommendations for their solution.

197. The Conference entrusted the General Secretariat with the task of developing a strategy for the OIC in the field of childcare and well-being in the Muslim world, which takes into account, inter-alia, the health, psychological and educational conditions of children and mothers in areas of conflict, and the issue of child marriage and violence against children. It also called on the relevant organs of the Organization (ISESCO), the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, SESCRIC and the Islamic Development Bank), in coordination with the General Secretariat to take the necessary measures in this regard.

198. The Conference called on all Member States to expedite the signature/ratification of the Charter and the different agreements and urged again the Member States which have not ratified the Statutes of the International Islamic Court of Justice to finalize the ratification procedures to enable the Court to discharge its missions.

199. The Conference called on all OIC Member States to abide by the resolutions adopted by the OIC previously, which called on them to vote for resolution presented in the name of the OIC in international fora, especially the UN. The Conference insisted that failure to vote for those resolutions and announcement of positions different from those agreed on is contrary to the unanimity imposed by the duty of Islamic solidarity among Member States. The Conference also entrusted the General Secretariat with the follow-up of the pattern of OIC Member States' voting on resolutions concerning issues of importance to the OIC in international Fora. The Conference, taking into account the principles of fair and equitable geographic representation in the selection process of new members of the UN Security Council, called upon all OIC Members to support the first-time candidacy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for a non-permanent seat in the UNSC for 2017-2018, and the candidacy of Kuwait to non-permanent membership of the UNSC for the period 2018-2019.

200. The Conference called on the Secretary General to study the rules and mechanisms regulating the work of the various sectoral Ministerial Conferences in order to enhance the effectiveness of their work and the appropriate criteria to regulate the relations of the affiliated organs with the OIC in order to enhance coordination and harmony.

201. The Conference welcomed the establishment of cooperation between OIC and the Council of Turkic Speaking States with a view to creating a legal relation in the future.

202. The Conference took note of resolution No: 8/40 adopted at the 40th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers which appreciated Turkey's offer to host an OIC Center for Police Cooperation and Coordination, and decided to operationalize the OIC Center for Police Cooperation and Coordination as an OIC specialized institution based in Istanbul, Turkey. It also requested the Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of this decision in cooperation with the Republic of Turkey and the other OIC members and submit a report thereon to the 43rd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

203. The Conference commended the initiative of Algeria which led to the establishment of a unit at the level of the General Secretariat for election observation, and calls on Member States to contribute to the fund for the financing of the activities of the OIC in the field of election observation".

204. The Conference requested the OIC General Secretariat to intensify its humanitarian activities and to pay particular attention to the protection and support of the most vulnerable people. It welcomed the active humanitarian efforts undertaken by the OIC despite its very limited financial resources and calls upon Member States to channel a portion of their generous humanitarian assistance through the OIC in order to demonstrate the spirit of solidarity and enhance joint Islamic action.

205. The Conference welcomed the convening of the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit which will be hosted by Turkey on 23-24 May 2016 in İstanbul and called upon all Member States to participate actively and at the highest level possible in this important Summit to the Islamic world. It expressed its appreciation for the proactive role played by the OIC in the process of preparations of this Summit that should contribute in formulating a vision for humanitarian action for the years to come, ensure the protection and access to the most vulnerable in accordance to International Humanitarian Law, develop resilience and local capacities to tackle national and regional humanitarian needs, and reform the global humanitarian system to enable it to cope with the exponential increase in humanitarian needs.

206. The Conference decided to grant OIC Consultative Status to the following humanitarian non-governmental organizations: (Takaful for Child Welfare and the Islamic Medical Association (Lebanon), Charitable Society for Social Welfare (Yemen), Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (Azerbaijan), the Turkish Religious Foundation (Turkey) and the Global Health Foundation (Sudan)), which have met the requirements for obtaining the consultative status, as long as they are not included in the lists of terrorist organizations in any of the Member States.

207. The Conference expressed deep concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria and the increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons. It reiterated its appreciation to the countries hosting significant numbers of Syrian refugees and in particular Member States which have hosted refugees and those that have generously contributed to alleviating their plight.

208. The Conference expressed deep interest in addressing the humanitarian situation in Yemen and commended, in this regard, the major humanitarian role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Member States through their humanitarian efforts and programmes to address the humanitarian situation in Yemen. It called on UN agencies and organs working in the humanitarian field to exert more serious efforts to secure humanitarian needs to the Yemeni people. The Conference requested the Secretary General to hold an international conference to mobilize the needed resources in order to provide humanitarian and development aids to Yemen and provide the resources required for reconstruction; and called on Member States to contribute generously to the alleviation of the plight of the Yemeni people.

209. The Conference further expressed deep concern over the serious humanitarian situation prevailing in Palestine, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, West and Central Africa, Myanmar and in other countries in the Islamic world due to various complex humanitarian situations that undermine decades of socioeconomic development efforts. It reiterated its call to Member States, donors, international organizations, NGOs and philanthropic organizations to assist in alleviating the suffering of the vulnerable people and those in need.

210. The Conference welcomed the progress achieved in Somalia, Mali, Chad, and in a number of other Member States, and the progress in the fight against Ebola, and recognizes that in moving into a post-conflict phase assistance to reinforce the linkages

between relief, rehabilitation and development to strengthen the resilience of these countries will be necessary.

211. The Conference welcomed the results of the OIC Emergency Meeting on Ebola, Chaired by Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia in her capacity as Chair of the Islamic Conference on Health Ministers, held in Geneva on 29 September 2014 which took coordinative steps to respond the Ebola outbreak in OIC Member States, in particular those in the Western African region.

212. The Conference welcomed the financial contributions provided to the humanitarian efforts of the organization and in particular the generous contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Guyana, Kazakhstan, the Saudi National Campaign, IIRO, WAMY, Islamic Relief, International Crescent, IDB, ISF and Sheikh Saleh Kamel.

213. The Conference urged Member States that have unpaid contributions and arrears to settle the same as soon as possible to overcome the financial difficulties of the organization. It welcomed the proposal of the General Secretariat to reactivate the mechanism of incentive measures to help Member States settle their respective arrears.

214. The Conference expressed appreciation of the commendable progress made by the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) within a short span of time since its establishment in 2011 in promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with its mandate. It also expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for provision of the building for the IPHRC headquarters and assurances for making available all the necessary support and services for its independent functioning.

215. The Conference further welcomed the approval of the first independent budget of the IPHRC by the 44th Permanent Finance Committee to be paid by the Member States as part of their mandatory contributions and requested IPHRC to continue this practice while observing OIC Financial Regulations for its expenditures. The Conference urged all Member States to continue to extend their full moral and material support to the IPHRC for its effective functioning as an independent institution.

216. The Conference endorsed the outcome of the election of nine members of the Commission (Annex ..) held at the sidelines of this Summit for a period of three years, with effect from August 2016.

217. The Conference called upon all Member States which have not done so to positively consider opening independent permanent missions accredited to the OIC in Jeddah to strengthen cooperation within the Organization with a view to more effectively contribute to and participate in the work of the OIC.

218. The Conference decided to convene the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in the Islamic Republic of the Gambia at a date to be determined in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, and called upon OIC Member States and

relevant Organs to cooperate with the General Secretariat and the host country to make efforts for the success of the Summit Conference in Banjul.

Annex-1

ELECTION OF NINE MEMBERS OF THE OIC INDEPENDENT PERMANENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IPHRC) FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

The 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey from 13-15, April, 2016, proceeded to the election of nine Members of the IPHRC for a term of three (3) years, starting from August 2016, pursuant to Article 3 of the IPHRC Statute as well as Rule 4 and 66 of the IPHRC Rules of Procedure.

The outcome of the election is the following:

African Group:

- Dr. Oumar Abou Abba, Republic of Cameroon (For a Second term);
- Amb. Cheikh Tidiane Thiam, Republic of Senegal;
- Mr. S.K. Kagawa, Republic of Uganda (For a Second term);

Arab Group:

- Mr. Mohamed Hamdi Al Taher, Republic of Tunisia;
- Amb. Ilham Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, Republic of the Sudan (For a Second term);
- Minister Plenipotentiary Mahmoud Afifi, Arab Republic of Egypt;

Asian Group:

- Ms. Asila Wardak, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (For a second term);
- Amb. Mostafa Alaei, Islamic Republic of Iran (For a second term);
- Professor. Dr. Raihanah Binti Abdullah, Malaysia (For a second term).

Other Press
