

## Islamic Conference

### 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

#### Resolutions on Information Affairs

Istanbul, June 14-16, 2004

##### RESOLUTION No. 1/31-INF

##### ON THE ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION IN PROMOTING THE JUST CAUSES AND IMAGE OF ISLAM

The Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

Recalling Resolutions No. 69/9-P (IS) and No. 1/10-INF (IS) on COMIAC adopted by the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conference respectively, which approved the resolutions of the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of COMIAC;

Recalling also Resolution No. 1/30-INF adopted by the 30th Session of the ICFM held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 27 to 29 Rabiul Thani 1424H (28-30 June 2003) on the Role of Information and Communication in Promoting the Just Causes of Islam;

Considering all the resolutions of the 6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 7-8 Muharram 1424H (10-11 March 2003);

Expressing deep concern over the misuse of the media to distort the image of Islam and Muslims and citizens of the OIC Member States under the pretext of combating terrorism;

Emphasizing that the dangers of such media campaigns are further exacerbated by certain political elements which openly discriminate against Muslim communities or citizens of OIC Member States;

Commending the measures proposed by the Secretary-General to activate the sector of information and communication so that it may play its true role in promoting the just Islamic causes and the glorious image of Islam and calling on Member States to contribute to the crystallization of the above-mentioned measures and their enrichment with expertise from their own Information Organs, particularly those that seek to project the tolerant and true image of Islam and Muslims following the media campaigns resulting from the 11 September 2001 events;

Having taken cognizance of the Report of the Secretary-General on the role of information and communication in promoting the just causes and image of Islam;

1. Condemns the persistent and erroneous linkage between Islam and terrorism, such as changing the designation of "war against terrorists" to that of "war against

Islamists” in some Western print, audio-visual, and electronic media; and calls on the Member States to undertake information activities to counter these propaganda.

2. Requests the Secretary-General:

- a) To use his activities and visits to highlight the Member States’ deep concern over the propaganda waged by some media organs around the world to distort the image of Islam and defame the citizens of the OIC Member States;
- b) To work with donor states that have the requisite means to mobilize contributions to the resources of the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC)

3. Calls on Member States—according to their respective means—to contribute the resources of the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC) with the aim of upgrading the media of countries in need of such modernization so that these media can assume their role in promoting the just causes of the Islamic Ummah. In order to do so, funds should be earmarked to finance projects submitted by information institutions, particularly those approved for funding by the 6th Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) and its Ministerial Follow-up Committee.

4. Requests the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), during its next session, to extend financial assistance to projects submitted under the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC) to upgrade the Islamic media, particularly the two projects submitted by Sierra Leone and Mali respectively, in pursuance of Resolution No. 3/6-ICIM adopted by the Sixth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 2/31-INF

ON THE INFORMATION PLAN AND FUNDING PROBLEMS THEREOF

The Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

Recalling Resolutions No. 70/9-P (IS); 29/10-INF (IS); and 2/30-INF adopted respectively by the 9th and 10th Islamic Summit Conferences, and the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the Information Plan of the OIC Member States;

Recalling also the resolution adopted by the 7th Session of COMIAC held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 Shawwal 1423H (December 18-19, 2002) on the funding and implementation of the Information Plan;

Also recalling the Member States' pledges and commitments in the context of their cooperation to build an adequate communications network to lessen the deficiency in the flow of Information in the Islamic world on the one hand, and to create a specific Information Order designed to affirm national and cultural identities while countering the hostile campaigns targeting Islam and Muslims, on the other;

Inspired by the resolutions adopted by the 6th Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM), held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 7-8 Muharram 1424H (10-11 March 2003);

Recalling the request made by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference to the Secretary-General to make direct contacts with the Member States in order to confirm Information-Plan programs that they may implement and to engage in coordination with them with a view to obtaining from them the necessary voluntary contributions to implement the Information Plan as a whole;

Having taken cognizance of the Report of the OIC Secretary-General on the Role of Information and Communication in promoting the just causes of Islam, as well as the Report of the Secretary-General on implementing the Work Program for the financial year 2003-2004 derived from the Information Plan and attached to this Resolution;

1. Reiterates the need for Member States to strongly support the Information Plan and make effective contributions to it in order to ensure its success.
2. Urges Member States that have not done so:
  - a) To pledge their financial, technical, and material contributions for the implementation of the said Plan.
  - b) To implement the annual program derived from the Information Plan (See Document attached to this Resolution).
3. Calls on Member States:
  - a) To incorporate individually or in cooperation amongst themselves, some of the operations of the Information Plan in their national programs and to seek to implement them;
  - b) To contribute to the funding of OIC activities in the fields of Information and Communication, particularly by settling the arrears of their contributions and making voluntary contributions to the budget of the General Secretariat in order to enable it to make up on delays in implementing the Plan. The States are also called upon to proceed with the financing of other operations of the Plan.
4. Requests the Secretary-General to make direct contacts with the Member States to confirm programs scheduled in the Information Plan which they may take upon themselves to cover; and also to coordinate with the Member States to mobilize the

grants and voluntary donations necessary for the implementation of the entire Information Plan.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

#### RESOLUTION No. 3/31- INF

#### ON UPDATING THE MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ISLAMIC INFORMATION STRATEGY INCLUDING THE ISLAMIC SATELLITE

The Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

Referring to the general conception of the Islamic Information Strategy adopted by the First Islamic Conference of Information Ministers in Jeddah, in 1988;

Recalling Resolutions No. 3/3-ICIM and No. 13/3-ICIM of the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers on the Information Strategy of Islamic States and its Implementation Mechanisms;

Referring to Resolutions No. 1/5 and 2/5 adopted by the 5th Session of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), on 8-9 Dhul Quida 1417H (27-28 March 1996), which adopted the Islamic Information Strategy and its Implementation Mechanisms; as well as Resolution No. 1/7 of the 7th Session of COMIAC held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 Shawwal 1423H (18-19 December 2002);

Referring also to Resolution No. 1/6 adopted by the Sixth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 7-8 Muharram 1424H (10-11 March 2003) on implementing the Mechanisms of the Information Strategy of the OIC Member States;

Having taken cognizance of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Information Strategy of the OIC Member States and upgrading its Implementation Mechanisms;

1. Invites Member States anew to take the necessary steps to incorporate the Islamic Information Strategy into their information policies.
2. Appeals to the Member States to extend human, material, and technological assistance to the two information institutions involved in Islamic information, namely the International Islamic News Agency (IINA), and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO), to enable them to achieve the objectives of the Strategy, in accordance with the provisions of the resolution adopted by the 6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 7-8 Muharram 1424H (10-11 March 2003).

3. Requests the Member States to use all available media, including satellites and new communication technologies, and to coordinate action among public and private space television channels in Member States; between those channels and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO); between those channels and the national news agencies of the Member States; and between those channels and the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) with a view to securing for them a better presence in the international information space.
4. Requests the Member States to coordinate their efforts in order to promote the project of the Islamic Satellite in order to keep abreast of current developments.
5. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 4/31-INF

ON THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY (IINA)

The Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

Having considered the Report of the OIC Secretary-General on the Role of Information and Communication in Promoting the Just Causes of the Islamic Ummah and Projecting the True Image of Islam, and having also considered his Preliminary Report on the OIC institutions specialized in the field of information and the Activity Report of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA),

Taking note with satisfaction of the Resolution of the Seventh Session of COMIAC, which calls for the need to support IINA as a specialized institution and as a mechanism entrusted with implementing joint Islamic information action programs,

Having taken note of the resolutions of the 6th Session of COMIAC held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 7-8 Muharram 1424H (10 and 11 March 2003),

Having taken note of IINA's efforts to extend and diversify the scope of its activities by publishing books and bulletins on current events in the Islamic world, or by publishing journalistic reports and investigations on Member States—despite the financial, technical, and journalism-related difficulties faced by IINA—through regular reporting on IINA's website: [www.islamicnews.org](http://www.islamicnews.org),

Expressing its deep concern over the lack of commitment of some Member States to paying their contributions to IINA's budget,

Expressing its gratitude and appreciation to the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its consistent support for IINA, and to the Member States that have contributed to IINA financially, morally, or with manpower thus enabling it to pursue its information mission:

1. Reiterates its calls to the Member States to settle their annual contributions and arrears to IINA's budget to enable it to fulfill its mission, particularly with reference to the implementation of the Work Program defined by Resolution No. 6/7-ICIM of the 6th Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM).
2. Urges Member States to support IINA through the following:
  - 2.1 By providing it with staff in editorial and technical fields to enable it to achieve its objectives in the service of Islamic information;
  - 2.2 By supplying it with news and information on Islamic activities and development programs.
  - 2.3 By enriching its daily newsletters published on the Internet.
  - 2.4 By urging national agencies and radio and television networks to benefit from IINA's newscasts.
3. Commends IINA's efforts in publishing its magazine "Al-Islamiyya", urges it to enrich this magazine with more diversified information and reports on the Islamic world; and further urges IINA to activate its internet website, and to strengthen its relations with regional federations of news agencies around the world, whether they be Arab, African, or Asian news agencies, and with the Mediterranean News Agencies Federation.
4. Calls on IINA's Director-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon, in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

#### RESOLUTION No. 5/31-INF

#### ON THE ISLAMIC STATES BROADCASTING ORGANIZATION (ISBO)

The Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

Having taken cognizance of the Report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on the role of Information and Communication in Promoting the Just Causes of the Islamic Ummah and Projecting the True Image of Islam and having also considered his Preliminary Report on the OIC institutions specialized in the field of information and the Report of the Secretary-General of the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO) on the latter's activities, projects, and work plans;

Taking note with satisfaction of the resolution adopted by COMIAC-VII on supporting ISBO as a specialized institution and as one of the mechanisms entrusted with carrying out joint Islamic information action programs;

Also taking note with satisfaction of ISBO's achievements in the service of Islamic Da'wa, the dissemination of the Arabic language, the exchange of programs, and the defense of Islamic causes;

Having taken cognizance of the resolutions of the 6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM), held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 7-8 Muharram 1424H (10-11 March 2003);

Expressing its thanks and appreciation to the Member States that have paid their contributions to ISBO's budget and that continue to extend their material and moral support, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt;

Deeply preoccupied by the accumulating arrears of contributions owed by a large number of Member States to ISBO's budget;

1. Calls on the Member States concerned to pay their contributions fully and regularly to ISBO's annual budget and to speed up the payment of their arrears to enable ISBO to carry on its activities normally, particularly with reference to the implementation of the Work Program defined by Resolution No. 6/6-ICIM of the 6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM).

2. Calls on Radio and Television Institutions of the Member States to coordinate and cooperate with ISBO to make a success of the Second Edition of the International Festival of Radio and TV Producers, which is to be held—hopefully—during the year 2004 in the hospitality of one of the Member States .

3. Calls on ISBO to publish "a guide of television productions" for the Member States in cooperation and coordination with them.

4. Requests ISBO's Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon, in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

#### RESOLUTION No. 6/31-INF

#### ON THE MEMBER STATES' PARTICIPATION IN STAGE II OF THE WORLD SUMMIT OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IN THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA IN 2005

The Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 Rabiul Thani 1425H (14-16 June, 2004),

Referring to the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 56th and 57th Sessions on the holding of a World Summit on the Information Society in two stages: Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005;

Based on Resolution No. 4/10-INF (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference on the World Summit on the Information Society and

the participation of the Member States therein, particularly in Stage II, due to be held in the Republic of Tunisia from 6 to 18 November 2005;

Recalling Resolution No. 75/28-P adopted by the 28th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Bamako, Republic of Mali, on 25-27 June 2001 as well as Resolution No. 6/29-INF of the 29th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, on 14-16 Rabiul Thani 1423H (25-27 June 2002), and Resolution No. 6/30-INF adopted by the 30th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 27-29 Rabiul Awwal 1424H (28-30 May 2003);

Recalling also Resolution No. 3/7-INF (COMIAC) of the 7th Session of COMIAC held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 Shawwal 1423H (18-19 December 2002);

Recalling further Resolution No. 4/6-ICIM issued by the 6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 7-8 Muharram 1424H (10-11 March 2003) on the Information Society;

Underlining the importance of Stage II of the World Summit on the Information Society, which is to be held in Tunis (on 16-18 November 2005) and the importance of integrating the two phases of this Summit as interrelated stages in the examination of optimal ways to bridge the digital divide between the developing countries and industrial ones, while keeping sight of the impact of the information society on economic, social, and cultural development;

1. Invites all the OIC Member States to participate actively in the preparatory work for the second stage of this Summit in order to ensure that its proceedings will be crowned with an effective partnership plan to establish a balanced and shared information society.
2. Affirms the importance of the General Secretariat's contribution of coordination among OIC Member States in order to make good preparation for and participate extensively and efficiently in the preparatory work for the Tunis Summit.
3. Urges the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the 6th ICIM to prepare, at its next meeting in 2004, a vision of an information society charter, and a plan of action to be presented on behalf of Member States at the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society (Tunis 2005). Delegations of this Committee's members should include experts in new ICTS and internet systems.
4. Affirms the pivotal role played by the private sector and civil society in formulating visions and developing practical resolutions in order to bridge the digital divide, and urges all governmental and civil parties in the Member States to contribute actively in defining the trends and axes of the Tunis Summit.
5. Calls on the OIC Member States to make the Tunis Summit a significant stage in the construction of a balanced and equitable information society, and to work to crown their proceedings with a declaration with a practical content and a solidarity dimension, as well as with practicable mechanisms and tools that would achieve a real international and regional digital partnership capable of strengthening the noble goals of the Millennium Declaration.



6. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.