

## Departamento de Medio Oriente

### Organization of the Islamic Conference

#### Final Communiqué

of The Thirty-Third Session

of The Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

(Session of Harmony of Rights, Freedoms and Justice)

Baku, Republic Of Azerbaijan

23-25 Jumada Al-Uwla 1427h

(19-21 June 2006)

At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmonization of Rights, Freedoms and Justice), held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 23 to 25 Jumada I 1427H (19-21 June 2006).

2. The Conference listened to the speech of H.E. Ilham Aliev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (text of the speech annexed).

3. The Conference was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. His Excellency Dr. Abu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qirabi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Yemen and Chairman of the 32nd ICFM delivered a speech in which he highlighted the on-going process of reform in the framework of the Ten-Year Programme of Action as well as the continuous efforts of the Secretary General. He expressed the hope that this Programme will push

forward the Islamic Ummah. Then he referred to the major challenges facing the Islamic World. He also referred to the most outstanding efforts exerted during Yemen's chairmanship of the 32nd ICFM and expressed his confidence that such positive efforts will continue in the forthcoming phase.

4. The inaugural session was addressed by H.E. Hamid Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, representing the Chair of the 10th Islamic Summit. He pointed out that Muslims are weak despite their considerable human, material and natural potentialities, and reiterated that it is important for Muslims to acquire state of the art sciences and technologies, including nuclear technology for peaceful purposes

5. Addressing the opening session, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, began by thanking H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, for the Republic of Azerbaijan of the 33rd session and for gracing the opening session of the meeting with his personal presence, which is a clear evidence of the interest he shows to OIC affairs. He then addressed the various initiatives and reforms introduced in the internal work of the General Secretariat, the relationships of the Organization with the world, the laying of bridges with international and regional organisations and some European countries. He urged the Member States to seize the opportunity of the meeting and the appropriate historic timing created by the Makkah Al-Mukarramah historic Summit and the Ten-Year Programme of Action, it adopted. He reviewed the details of the programme components achieved.

The Secretary General talked about the progress achieved with the West regarding Islamophobia in general and the issue of the caricatures and their developments in particular.

The Secretary General reviewed the actions undertaken by the General Secretariat in the major political issues, such as Palestine, Iraq, Somalia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, etc., in addition to the conditions of Muslim communities in non-member states, in particular Philippines and Thailand.

He addressed the economic issues, highlighting the importance of developing the trade volume among Member States. He said that it is possible to reach the volume proposed by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit in Makkah Al-Mukarramah. He also tackled social, cultural issues and science and technology affairs and stressed the necessity to promote the issues of literacy, poverty e issues of literacy c suOreduction, and the eradication of infectious diseases, in order to enable Member States to be exporters of knowledge and not just mere importers of the new sciences. He underlined the achievements of the Secretariat General at the administrative and financial levels. He reiterated the call to Member States to give an active interest to the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action and not miss the historic opportunity available to the Islamic States to achieve their development and growth.

6. The Secretary General declared the launching of the Ten-Year Programme of Action by stating to the Conference the commencement of executive works at the level of the OIC and affiliated institutions in the wake of

the conclusion of the proceedings of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Extraordinary Islamic Summit. This he followed by presenting the documents of the Summit, including the Ten-Year Programme of Action to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He exhorted the Member States to implement this Programme in a spirit of Islamic brotherhood and project the necessary political will.

7. In response to the speech of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the representatives of the three geographic groups, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for the Asian Group, the Foreign Minister of Guinea, for the African Group and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, for the Arab Group. They thanked Azerbaijan for hosting the Conference and stressed that the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action constitutes the appropriate means for the Islamic Ummah to confront the current challenges.

8. On the basis of the recommendation of the Senior Officials' Meeting, the Conference unanimously elected H.E. Ilmar Mammad Yarob, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as Chairman of the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. It approved the composition of the Bureau as follows: Republic of Cameroon, the State of Palestine and the United Arab Emirates as Vice-Chairs, and the Republic of Yemen as Rapporteur.

9. The Conference adopted the report of the preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for the current session, held in Jeddah from 8 to 10 Rabie I 1427H (6-8 May 2006). The Conference adopted the Draft Agenda and Work

Program submitted to it by the SOM as well as the reports of the Islamic Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs and the Permanent Finance Committee.

10. After considering the reports of the Secretary-General and in light of the brilliant statements made and the constructive discussions that took place among the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, the Conference adopted a number of resolutions as follows:

11. The Conference reiterated that the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif is the central cause of the Islamic World and stressed the necessity of countering the perils of judaization to which the sacred city is subjected as a consequence of the policies and measures carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at isolating Al-Quds Al-Sharif from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories by building the racist Separation Wall, confiscating lands, demolishing homes and expanding colonies around the Holy City. The Conference invited the Member States to support and strengthen the steadfastness of Palestinian citizens in the occupied City of Al-Quds.

12. The Conference affirmed its full support and backing for the Palestinian people in strengthening their national unity and unifying their internal front; and expressed its support for the Palestinian national dialogue efforts and for its steadfastness in the face of the practices of Israeli occupation authorities.

13. The Conference commended the Palestinian legislative elections, which reaffirmed that the Palestinian people deserve their right to self-determination

and to establish their independent State. It called upon the international community to respect the democratic choice made by the Palestinian people, and expressed full support for the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian national dialogue aimed at affirming the unity of the Palestinian rank and finding the effective ways and means of establishing the independent Palestinian State and achieving peace on the two States basis, pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Arab peace initiative and the roadmap.

14. The Conference condemned the Israeli measures imposed at the crossings in Gaza Strip and the West Bank in violation of the provisions of the international humanitarian law and the Agreement on Crossings reached under the aegis of the Quartet. The Conference condemned Israel for seizing the Palestinian National Authority's funds and warned against further imposition of such arbitrary measures which affect the various aspects of the daily lives of the Palestinian people.

15. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the role played by the Islamic States in supporting the Palestinian people, and called upon the Member States and the financial funds to provide more support to help the Palestinian people cope with the economic embargo imposed on them and avoid a humanitarian disaster in the occupied Palestinian territories.

16. The Conference also called upon the States and bodies that have stopped their assistance to the Palestinian people after the Palestinian legislative elections to review their positions and not to punish the Palestinian

people for their democratic choices. It also urged them to renew their assistance to the Palestinian people and their national authority.

17. The Conference reaffirmed the need to put an end to the Israeli occupation of all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the remaining occupied Lebanese territories.

18. The Conference affirmed the necessity of reaching a just resolution of the Palestinian question in all its aspects on the basis of international law and legality, and the agreed references, such as the relevant UN resolutions, the principle of land for peace, the impermissibility of occupying others' land by force, the Arab peace initiative, and the roadmap, so as to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their national independence and exercise their sovereignty over their State of Palestine, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

19. The Conference affirmed the illegality of the Israeli laws and practices in Eastern Al-Quds, aimed at annexing, judaizing and changing the demographic and geographic character of the city. It requested States and international institutions and bodies to abide by international resolutions on the City of Al-Quds as an integral part of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, and called on them not to participate in any meeting or activity that serves Israel's objectives in establishing its occupation and annexation of the Holy City.

20. The Conference reaffirmed the need to find a just solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the UN resolutions, particularly UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948), and reiterated its rejection of all forms of resettlement.

21. The Conference called upon the QUARTET to resume serious work in order to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with the Roadmap and the Arab peace initiative; and affirmed its rejection of the partial solutions and the unilateral measures which Israel has taken or intends to take in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including the city of Al-Quds, in an attempt to anticipate the outcome of the negotiations on final settlement issues and the unilateral demarcation of Israel's borders, as these fulfill its expansionist designs and destroy any chances for the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State.

22. The Conference affirmed its condemnation of Israel for its continued colonization of Palestinian territories through all forms of settlement activity, and requested the UN Security Council to work toward their immediate ending and to remove the existing settlements in accordance with UNSC Resolution 465 and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The Conference called upon the UN Security Council also to reinvigorate the International Supervisory and Monitoring Committee in order to prevent settlement in al-Quds and the other occupied Arab territories in accordance with UNSC Resolution 446.

23. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for its intention to build a housing settlement in the Old City of occupied Al-Quds. It made an urgent appeal to the UN Security Council and the Quartet to immediately act in order to dissuade Israel from executing its plans to judaize occupied Al-Quds and create realities on the ground which constitutes a flagrant violation of the international legitimacy and the Fourth Geneva Conventions as well as the agreements signed with the Palestinian side.

24. The Conference called upon the Member States to commemorate the criminal attempt to burn down the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and to mark 21 August of every year as the Day of Islamic Solidarity with Al-Quds and Palestine.

25. The Conference requested the international community to counter the construction of the racist separation wall and its damaging impacts on the Palestinian people and on their land, waters and borders, and to stop the construction of the wall and remove the existing parts thereof. It invited all States of the world to impose punitive measures against the bodies and companies contributing to the construction of the wall and against settlers, settlement products and all those making profit from any settlement activity on the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds, in implementation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/15.

26. The Conference condemned Israel for the excavation works around and beneath the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque and for willfully destroying cultural and

heritage sites in Al Quds, Nablus and Al-Khaleel (Hebron), and commended the initiative of the Director General of UNESCO concerning the preservation of the historical heritage of the city of Al Quds. In this regard, it resolved to coordinate between the OIC General Secretariat and UNESCO, and invited the Member States to support this initiative and help implement it.

27. The Conference strongly condemned the continuous threats against Islamic and Christian holy places, particularly the threats to storm and damage the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque, and held Israel, the “occupying power”, fully responsible for the consequences of these aggressions, particularly as they happen under the eyes and protection of Israeli occupation forces. It condemned terrorism exercised by settler gangs against Palestinian civilians and peace activists coming from all parts of the world to show solidarity with the Palestinian people.

28. The Conference reiterated its firm support and backing for the Syrian Arab Republic’s demand and right to regain all of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, on the basis of the peace process and UN resolutions, building on what has been accomplished in post-1991 Madrid Conference negotiations. It reaffirmed the previous Islamic resolutions which reject all the actions taken by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at changing the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, considering these actions null and void and a violation of international agreements and of the UN Charter and resolutions.

29. The Conference reaffirmed its support for Lebanon in its efforts to complete the liberation of its territories, and in its demands for the release of Lebanese prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons. It also demanded the UN Security Council to act toward preventing the repeated Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty in land, air and sea, and to force Israel to pay damages for all the losses incurred in the Lebanese territories as a result of its continuous aggressions against Lebanon. It supported Lebanon in its demands for the removal of the mines left behind by the Israeli occupation, as Israel is responsible for laying and removing these mines, and for the need to hand over full mine location maps. It also supported the inalienable rights of Lebanon to utilize its waters in accordance with international law. It condemned Israel's machinations on these waters, and held Israel responsible for any action that would infringe upon Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence, safety of its people and integrity of its territories.

30. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Ninth Conference of the Liaison Officers of Islamic Regional Offices of Boycott of Israel, which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah from 13 to 15 March 2005.

31. The Conference strongly affirmed its respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity. The Conference stressed the importance of international support for security and stability in Iraq, and welcomed the appointment of President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament, and the formation of a permanent national government in Iraq. It strongly condemned the terrorist acts that were carried out and continue to be carried out against the Iraqi people and the official and civil institutions in Iraq,

and called for the necessary assistance to curb violence and dry out the sources of terrorism.

32. The Conference supported the Iraqi Government's efforts aimed at full control of all Iraqi resources for the betterment of the people's living conditions and the reconstruction of the State's institutions and national economy. It expressed its support for the government's efforts to control Iraq's borders and security so as to serve independence and security in Iraq and the entire region. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the OIC Contact Group on Iraq. It also affirmed the importance of opening an OIC coordination office in Baghdad.

33. The Conference expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots and, within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary General in his Report of 28 May 2004 and of the previous OIC resolutions, reiterated its decision to put an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. It strongly called on the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. Recalling the UN Plan aimed at establishing a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, the Conference acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Conference expressed its deep disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the UN plan. It called on the international community to exert pressure on the leadership of the Greek Cypriots to this end. Through a unanimously adopted resolution, the Conference once again urged the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and

expand their relations in all fields; and encouraged the Member States to exchange high-level visits and business delegations, develop cultural relations and sports contacts with the Turkish Cypriot side. The Conference also urged the Member States to inform the Secretariat of the actions taken regarding the implementation of the OIC resolutions, in particular resolution 2-31/P.

34. The Conference reiterated its determination to restore and preserve Somalia's unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. While welcoming Somali's legitimacy embodied in the establishment of the three state structures of legislature, executive and judiciary, which have gained the confidence of the Somali Provisional Parliament emanating from the Somali Reconciliation Conference held in Nairobi. It also called upon the international community to extend urgent financial support to the Somali Transitional Government so as to enable it to consolidate security and stability, complete national reconciliation and establish the remaining fundamental structures necessary for a central government. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Somalia, which was held in Baku on 20 June 2006. It requested the Secretary General to open an OIC office in Somalia in order to monitor the situation in the country and to assist the Government and people of Somalia to build peace and accelerate reconstruction. It urged Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the General Secretariat to enable it open the office.

35. The Conference reaffirmed its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and welcomed the decision of the Secretary General to appoint Ambassador Ezzat Kami Mufti as his Special Representative in Kashmir. It called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the

ending of their continuous violations, and urged India to allow international human rights organizations to verify the conditions of human rights in India-occupied Kashmir.

36. The Conference expressed its strong support for the ongoing peace process between Pakistan and India, which envisages a peaceful settlement of all disputes through the "Composite Dialogue" being pursued by the two countries. It appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the ongoing Composite Dialogue process with India, and called for the dialogue process to be purposeful and result-orientated, leading to a just and final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, thus, ensuring durable peace in the region. The Conference welcomed the Pakistani initiatives in the area of confidence-building aimed at alleviating the suffering of Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control. The measures included bus services between Muzaffarabad-Srinagar-Rawalpindi-Poonch and the opening of the five crossing points along the LOC as well as reviving internal trade between the two parts of Kashmir on the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar Road.

37. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It also took note of the memorandum presented by the true representatives of the Kashmiri people to the Contact Group and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

38. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and expressed its support for the presidential elections which were

held in October 2004 and September 2005, which led to the establishment of a standing Afghan government representing the totality of the Afghan people, seeking to achieve security, stability and comprehensive and sustainable development.

39. The Conference requested the Member States that have pledged donations to the Assistance Fund for the Afghan People to provide more donations in order to strengthen the Fund's resources to help it achieve its noble humanitarian goals for which it was established.

40. The Conference appealed to the international community to speedily provide the assistance it pledged to Afghanistan during the Tokyo Donor Conference held in January 2002 and the Berlin Donor Conference held on 31 March 2004, as well as in the London Conference held on 31 January-1 February 2006.

41. The Conference emphasized its full solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in firmly establishing the foundations of peace and stability all over the country, to achieve national reconciliation, and to defend its sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity.

42. The Conference lauded the Sudanese Government and the SPLM for honoring their international commitments by signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. It requested all Member States to support the efforts of the

Sudanese government to achieve peace, stability and national reconciliation in Sudan. It appealed to the international community to honor its commitments in the Oslo Conference for Reconstruction of The Sudan with a view to firmly establishing the foundations of peace in the country. It called on the General Secretariat to speedily implement the resolution of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference on the establishment of a Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of war-stricken areas in the Republic of the Sudan. It also urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and financing institutions of Member States to contribute to the Fund. The Conference also called on Member States to provide urgent assistance to The Sudan in order to support its efforts aimed at addressing the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

43. The Conference commended the agreement that was signed in Abuja in May 2006 between the Government of the Republic of The Sudan and the military organizations in Darfur and asked all sides to work towards strengthening stability in Darfur. The Conference reaffirmed its support for Sudan in its position of the presence of international Peacekeeping Forces in Darfur.

44. The Conference reaffirmed that the security of any Muslim country concerns all Muslim countries. It totally rejected any attempt to wrongly interpret the provisions United Nations Charter in a way that contradict the principles of the international law on the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity of states and the inadmissibility of the use or threat to use force in international relations. In reinforcing these principles, the Conference requested the General Secretariat to circulate the draft OIC Code on Promoting Dialogue, Cooperation and Confidence among Member States, preparatory to the convening of meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Security

and Solidarity of Member States to prepare a code of conduct on these three issues.

45. The Conference reiterated its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. The Conference supported Azerbaijan's efforts to build on the results of the meetings held within the framework of the Prague process on the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

46. The Conference reiterated its determination to support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan aimed at removing the obstacles to the peace process, which have led to illegal activities carried out by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, such as the transfer of settlers of Armenian nationality, practices of artificial geographic, cultural, and demographic alterations, illicit economic activity, and exploitation of natural resources in those occupied territories. The Conference urged all Member States to further strengthen their solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan and to extend their full support to its endeavors aimed at utilizing the potential of the United Nations, including through cooperation with relevant regional international organizations, to achieve soon the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

47. The Conference reaffirmed the need for total nuclear disarmament and for the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. It called on Member States to actively take part in all related international initiatives and conferences. It called on all Member States to ratify fair and non-discriminatory international conventions and to encourage the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. It strongly condemned Israel for developing nuclear weapons and persistently refusing to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency access to its nuclear facilities in violation of all international agreements on nuclear proliferation.

48. The Conference emphasized that the question of reform and expansion of the UN Security Council continues to be the primary preoccupation of the UN membership, including all OIC Member States. It, therefore, called on its Member States to actively and effectively take part in the UN reform process, in accordance with the relevant declarations and statements issued by the OIC.

49. The Conference reiterated its support for a comprehensive overhaul of the Security Council, in order to make it more representative, transparent and accountable as well as to enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of its decisions.

50. The Conference highlighted that in the current era of regional blocks, the OIC is the largest institution after the United Nations, which brings together one-fifth of the world population. Keeping in view the significant demographic and political weight of the Muslim world, the reform of the Security Council also bears particular importance, not only from the perspective of increased efficiency, but also to ensure the representation of the main forms of civilization,

including the adequate representation of the Muslim world in any category of an expanded Security Council.

51. The Conference reiterated its rejection of unilateral economic measures and attempts to impose unilateral economic sanctions on Member States. It expressed solidarity with Member States that are affected by such unilateral sanctions and requested that they be lifted immediately.

52. The Conference welcomed the lifting of the unilateral sanction which had been imposed on Libya and reaffirmed Libya's right to reparations for the damages it sustained as a result of these sanctions. The Conference reaffirmed the previous positions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), deeply regretted, once again, the verdict issued against the Libyan citizen Abdelbassit Al-Megrahi, and demanded his immediate release, since his conviction was based on political motives and has no legal justification, as was confirmed by United Nations observers as well as a number of international legal experts. In this respect, the Conference called on the International community and human rights organizations to exercise pressure on the governments concerned in order to ensure the release of the Libyan citizen.

53. The Conference encouraged the National Reconciliation Government of Cote d'Ivoire to continue the achievements recorded in the context of achieving peace and national reconciliation and called on all parties in the conflict to participate in the peace process. It also invited Member States and Islamic financial institutions to provide assistance for the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire

and decided to establish a Special Fund for this purpose as well as a contact group to be concerned with monitoring developments in the country.

54. The Conference, while reaffirming the inalienable rights of Member States, including Iran, without discrimination, to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as enshrined in the NPT and the Statute of the IAEA, called and supported firmly the peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues through negotiations, without preconditions. It expressed concern over the pressure being mounted on Iran and its potential consequences for peace and security in and outside the region.

55. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the major developmental and humanitarian activities of the OIC funds for Bosnia Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone in furtherance of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the Ummah. It urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the Funds and make good use of them when implementing their projects meant for the above-mentioned countries.

56. The Conference welcomed the Pakistani government's decision to host the Ministerial Conference on Refugees in the Muslim World which will be held in collaboration with the High Commission for Refugees. It urged Member States, humanitarian organizations and specialized institutions to contribute to cover the costs of the conference.

57. The Conference decided to make the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference a permanent item on the agenda of the Summit and Foreign Ministers' Conferences as well as those of COMCEC, COMIAC and COMSTECH. It called upon Member States to provide political, financial and moral support to implement the programme. It also invited the OIC institutions to continue coordination efforts in order to guarantee the effective and quick implementation of the Ten-Year Programme and emphasized the pivotal role of the OIC General Secretariat in implementing this Programme. It commended the continuous efforts being exerted by the General Secretariat in this regard.

58. The Conference also decided to constitute an Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group to study all aspects of the issue of OIC reform. It requested Member States and OIC institutions to appoint focal points for each of them in the area of implementing the Ten-Year Programme. It also requested the Secretary General to appoint a special coordinator for this purpose.

59. The Conference welcomed the results of the high-level meeting which discussed the amendment of the OIC Charter in such a way as to include new visions and objectives for its functioning, as well as the recommendation of the meeting to carry out some amendments on the text of the present Charter. It expressed its support to continuation of work in the near future to finalize this task.

60. The Conference adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee (OIC Troika).

61. The Conference welcomed the initiative by Malaysia to host the First OIC Anti-corruption and Enhancing Integrity Forum with the objective of combating corruption, promoting good governance, increasing transparency and accountability among Member States.

62. The Conference welcomed the decision of the IDB Board of Governors to raise its capital. It also welcomed the establishment by the Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors held in Kuwait from 30-31 May 2006 of a Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation, and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz for announcing a donation of US\$ 1 billion to the Fund. It also expressed appreciation to other Member States which have also pledged contributions to the Fund and called upon others to generously contribute to the Fund.

63. The Conference strongly condemned the publication of offensive, irresponsible and blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet (PBUH) in the print and electronic media of some Western countries and their republication under the pretext of the freedom of expression and press freedom. It stressed that the right to freedom of expression should be exercised with responsibility and in accordance with the law.

64. The Conference declared the Year 1427H as the “Year of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)” and recommended organizing cultural events which will enhance cultural and humanitarian bonds among human societies.

65. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the growing phenomenon of intolerance and discrimination against Muslim communities in non-Islamic countries, particularly in the West, including the promulgation and oppressive application of restrictive laws and other measures. It emphasized that all Islamophobic practices constitute an infringement of human dignity and contradict the provisions of the international human rights documents.

66. The Conference called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to formulate an internationally binding document to promote global respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.

67. The Conference stressed the need to find fair and just solutions to the problems facing Muslim minorities in the world, including in particular denying them the right to exercise their political, civil and cultural rights, the gross human rights violations which at times amount to ethnic cleansing, in addition to religious and sectarian segregation, socio-economic backwardness, and exclusion from effective political activity in their countries.

68. The Conference called on Member States to support economic and social development trends, to encourage Islamic savings and investment institutions, particularly in non-OIC Member States with Muslim minorities.

69. The Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary General in following up the conditions of Muslims in the southern provinces of Thailand, welcoming the cooperation of the Thai Government and requested him to continue monitoring the situation, and to closely work with the Thai Government in the framework of respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand, especially with regard to the progress made in addressing the roots of the problem in terms of the cultural and linguistic specificity of the province, and enabling them to take control of part of their natural resources in favor of the people of the province, and maintain cooperation and dialogue so as to reach a peaceful solution to the problem, achieve security, peace and stability, and meet the legitimate aspirations of the Muslim population of the province.

70. The Conference called on the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to preserve the gains resulting from the signing of the Peace Agreement, to move forward to the full implementation of this Agreement, and to make steady efforts to make the people of Bangsamoro benefit from the advantages of the Peace Agreement, particularly in Mindanao, with support from Member States, the IDB, and the ISF in order to achieve peace and comprehensive development in the region.

71. The Conference commended the Secretary-General's decision to dispatch a fact-finding mission to the Province of Muslim Mindanao in Southern

Philippines from 18 to 24 May 2006, and the positive results of this field visit. It endorsed the recommendations of the mission's report annexed to the Secretary-General's report on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines, and called for the expeditious convening of the Tripartite Meeting between the OIC General Secretariat, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front in Jeddah in July 2006, with the purpose of evaluating the current status of the Peace Agreement signed in 1996, and with a view to removing the obstacles hindering the full implementation of the spirit and letter of the Agreement. The Conference called on the Secretary General to appoint a special representative to follow up efforts to achieve peace in Southern Philippines in full cooperation with the parties concerned and to report to the forthcoming ICFM on the progress made in the peace efforts in Southern Philippines.

72. The Conference, while reiterating its commitment towards Muslims in non-OIC member states, stressed that the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace in Greece is an integral part of the Islamic world. In this context, it called for the recognition of the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini, namely, Mr Mehmet Emin Aga and Mr Ibrahim Serif, respectively, as the official Muftis. It further invited Greece to allow the minority to elect the members of the administrative boards of their waqfs. The Conference also urged Greece to reinstate the citizenship rights of tens of thousands Turkish minority members.

73 The Conference urged the Government of Myanmar to stop the acts of banishment, forced emigration and displacement practiced against Arakan Muslims and its continuous attempt to obliterate their Islamic culture and identity. It requested the Government authorities to respect their international obligations in accordance with the relevant human rights instruments. The

Conference requested the OIC Secretary-General to consider the possibility of dispatching a fact-finding mission to Myanmar in order to be acquainted with the conditions of Muslims of Arakan, to dispatch an OIC delegation to the neighboring countries of Myanmar, and to coordinate with the ASEAN countries in order to examine the issue and find ways and means of enhancing the conditions of Muslims in Myanmar.

74. The Conference emphasized the importance of following up the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, and stressed that human rights in Islam are global in nature, and must therefore be addressed by the international community objectively and indivisibly, without selectivity or discrimination. It also requested Member States at their earliest convenience to sign and ratify the draft Rights of the Child in Islam. Furthermore, it called upon the Intergovernmental Group of Experts concerned and its sub-committee to continue their work soonest, particularly through holding regular meetings during the year 2006 in order to prepare the “Islamic Charter on Human Rights” and “the Covenant on the Rights of Women in Islam” and to consider the possibility of establishing an independent body to promote human rights in member States, as well as the “Islamic Covenant against Racial Discrimination”.

75. The Conference called upon Member States to continue the ongoing positive coordination and cooperation among them in the field of human rights, especially in international fora, and to unify their positions in the work of the Human Rights Council on issues of concern to the Muslim world in general. It also commended the invaluable contribution of the Secretary-General in the field of human rights, and the efforts of the two OIC open-ended working groups concerned with human rights and humanitarian issues in the OIC offices in New York and Geneva.

76. The Conference emphasized that terrorism contradicts the teachings of Islam, which urge tolerance, mercy and non-violence. It also condemned any connection between terrorism, race, religion and culture. It renewed the call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the struggle of people to gain their national independence. It also called for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to affirm international consensus on developing a comprehensive strategy to combat this dangerous phenomenon.

77. The Conference invited the OIC Ministerial Committee on Combating International Terrorism, comprised of 13 Members, headed by Malaysia, to convene a meeting as soon as possible in order to make the necessary recommendations with regard to fighting international terrorism, to engender the ideal understanding of Islam and its principles, and to coordinate the activities between the OIC and other international and regional organizations concerned with fighting terrorism.

78. The Conference commended the Secretary-General's actions in the field of media and his intensive activities and interest in this field, which has had positive impact on the standing of the Organization in the international arena through the adoption of outstanding positions.

79. The Conference requested the Secretary-General, through his various activities and visits, to highlight Member States' grave concern over the smear campaign waged by some international media to distort the image of Islam and Muslims and intensify hatred and enmity toward Islam in general.

80. The Conference called again on Member States to contribute, within their capabilities, to the resources of the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC) which is aimed at upgrading the media of countries in need of such modernization so that they could assume their role in promoting the causes of the Islamic Ummah by allocating funds to finance projects submitted by these media institutions.

81. The Conference reiterated its call to the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), during the forthcoming meeting of its permanent Council, to consider extending financial assistance to projects submitted by Member States under the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC).

82. The Conference requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study to assess the current situation of the OIC system of the Islamic Information Action, particularly the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO), in line with the Ten-Year Programme of Action, adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Summit Conference. This study will be submitted to the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers.

83. The Conference called on Member States to pay their annual contributions and arrears to the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Organization's (ISBO) budgets to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities.

84. The Conference called upon all Member States to join efforts to benefit from the significant results of Phase II of the World Summit on Information Society, in order to contribute to the building of an equitable information society that meets the aspirations of the Muslim peoples and achieves a regional and international partnership to integrate the information society.

85. The Conference called upon Member States to urge and mobilize the different components of the international community i.e. governments, the private sector, the civil society at all national, regional and international levels in order to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the "Tunis Commitment" and "the Tunis Agenda" issued by the Tunisia Phase of the Summit with a view to bridging the digital divide between developed and developing States to support the process of development in Islamic States.

86. The Conference affirmed 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 urged all governmental and civil parties in Member States to contribute actively in defining the trends and themes of the Tunis Summit.

87. The Conference noted with appreciation the operationalization of the “Digital Solidarity Fund” on 14 March 2005 at the initiative of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information Affairs (COMIAC), which fund is designed to mobilize financial resources to bridge the huge digital divide between the North and the South; and requested Member States to support this initiative through voluntary contribution to the “Digital Solidarity Fund” in order to enable it to fulfill the mission for which it was established.

88. The Conference called on Member States to increase their share of world trade by enhancing their global competitiveness. It further underscored the fundamental importance of expanding intra-OIC trade.

89. The Conference called for speedy accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) underlining that no political consideration should impede this process. It rejected all attempts to include non-trade issues, such as labour and environmental standards, into the working programme of WTO, or to link such issues with trade deals. It also reiterated its appeal to the WTO to strengthen the development dimension in the various multilateral trade agreements through a wide range of measures, including the application of the provisions on special and preferential treatment for the developing countries and due consideration to the special needs of Least Developed Countries.

90. The Conference called on the international community to put an end to agricultural subsidies, which are detrimental to producers in developing

countries. It underlined the necessity of taking all possible measures within the OIC to support the least-developed cotton-producing countries in their legitimate demand for greater added value in the processing of this product. It also expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT) for successfully organizing the “2nd Experts Group Meeting on Enhancing Production Efficiency and International Competitiveness in OIC Cotton Producing Countries” from 28-30 March 2006 in Izmir, Republic of Turkey.

91. The Conference expressed its support for the initiatives taken to ensure promotion of Member States’ basic products with a view to increasing the added value of these products as well as their producers’ revenues.

92. The Conference stressed the importance of developing a coherent and strong international financial system with a view to addressing the fundamental weaknesses of the present financial system and stemming the possible repercussions of any future financial crisis.

93. The Conference commended the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) for its key role in strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among Member States. It also appreciated the commendable stewardship of H.E. Mr. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

94. The Conference appreciated the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Turkey in its capacity as the Chair of COMCEC to hold the high-level ministerial meeting focusing on promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment, which was held concurrently with the 20th Session of COMCEC on 20-23 November 2004 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of COMCEC.

95. The Conference stressed the necessity of accelerating the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States. It took note, in this connection, of the approval by COMCEC of the six project proposals made by the Republic of Turkey as well as designation of some of the subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions of OIC to coordinate the work needed for implementation of these projects.

96. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the First Round of the Trade Negotiations under the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPSOIC) was concluded successfully, that the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPS-OIC (PRETAS), which includes specific targets and a time-frame for tariff reduction, was adopted by the 21st Session of the COMCEC and presented to the member countries for signing/ratification, and that the second round of trade negotiations will be launched in 2006.

97. The Conference emphasized that the Framework Agreement on the TPSOIC and the PRETAS are the basis for reaching the 20% intra-OIC trade target set by the Ten-Year Program of Action and for establishing a free trade

area among the OIC Member States.

98. The Conference renewed its appeal to the international community to fully and expeditiously implement the Programme of Action for 2001-2010 adopted by the Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001. It also endorsed the Cotonou Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou, Benin in August 2002.

99. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the OIC General Secretariat convened, at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 6-7 March 2006, the Meeting of the open-ended OIC intergovernmental group of experts, which included representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, the IDB, the ICCI, the ICDT and the SESRTCIC, with the mandate to examine the ways and means of implementing the Programme of Action for 2001-2010 in respect of the Least Developed Countries within the OIC.

100. The Conference expressed appreciation of the Ten-Year Plan of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and invited the Member States and relevant institutions to support it. It called for establishing a number of institutions, such as the Federation of Businessmen, the World Zakat Authority, the Federation of Life Makers, in order to contribute to the implementation of this plan. The Conference also called for the adoption of an open visa for the movement of businessmen among the OIC Member States.

101. The Conference expressed concern over widespread poverty in the LDCs leading to their marginalization in the global economy. It further reaffirmed the common objective of Member States to eradicate poverty before the end of the next decade and the need to incorporate Micro Credit Programmes in the poverty eradication strategy.

102. The Conference renewed its call to the international community to significantly reduce the indebtedness of the African countries and secure fresh flow of substantial funds concessional to these countries, and welcomed the recent decision of the 8 industrialized countries to cancel U.S.\$ 40 billion in debt, most of which were owed by Least Developed African States.

103. The Conference called for effective implementation of the OIC/IDB/CILSS Programme for the Sahel and for assistance to be provided for the Inter-governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought control in the Sahel (CILSS).

104. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the debt relief initiative for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and called for its accelerated implementation in order to enable more eligible countries to benefit from the initiative and, in this connection, welcomed the decision adopted recently by the G8 at its 10-11 June 2005 meeting to write off the debt owed to the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank, the beneficiaries of which are mostly Least-Developed African countries.

105. The Conference welcomed Malaysia's initiative to establish a Capacity Building Programme aimed at poverty alleviation in less-developed and low-income countries and welcomed the launching of the Programme on 29th March, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, with four pilot projects identified for implementation in the first phase, each in Bangladesh, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Indonesia.

106. The Conference stressed the role of the private sector in stimulating intra-OIC economic and commercial cooperation and further emphasized the role of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the industrial development of Member States. It noted in this connection the progress made by the OIC Task Force on SMEs in working on a strategy for development of SMEs.

107. The Conference commended the role of the Islamic Development Bank Group in supporting development programmes in Member States and invited the latter to make full use of the various services offered by the Group.

108. The Conference commended the role played by the subsidiary organs and the affiliated institutions of the OIC, active in economic and commercial fields, namely, the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Organization of the Islamic

Shipowners' Association, and called on Member States to support their activities.

109. The Conference called for the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action for the Development and Promotion of Tourism in the OIC Member States, as adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2001, and endorsed by the Third Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Riyadh in October 2002. It also thanked the Republic of Senegal for hosting the Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, in Dakar from 28-30 March, 2005.

110. The Conference condemned the acts of demolition and destruction of Palestinian houses, institutions, facilities and lands causing severe losses to the Palestinian economy, expressed its deep concern over the disastrous economic repercussions of these ongoing aggressive practices of the Israeli government, and called for their immediate cessation. It also appealed for assistance to the Palestinian people to help them rebuild their national economy, to strengthen their national institutions, and to establish their independent state, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. It reiterated its commendation in this connection of the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to create two funds to support Palestine with a donation of USD250 million and called for financial support to these funds.

111. The Conference strongly condemned Israeli practices and their impacts on the environment in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories, and the occupied Lebanese territories, and stressed the need for cooperation and

adoption of effective measures to protect the environment which is essential for the sustainable development of the Member States.

112. The Conference reaffirmed the need to share the know-how and expertise in the fields of science and technology among Member States and to harness them for peaceful purposes for the good of humanity and the socio-economic development of Member States. It welcomed the establishment of an International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance in Malaysia as a means to quality Islamic Finance Professionals to meet the needs in this field.

113. The Conference noted with appreciation the current programmes and activities of COMCEC aimed at advancing OIC Member States' capacity in science and technology.

114. The Conference took into consideration the strategy for Science and Technology Developments in Islamic countries and its implementation mechanisms as prepared by ISESCO in collaboration with COMSTECH and approved by the 9th Islamic Summit Conference.

115. The Conference commended COMSTECH, ISESCO and IUT for their efforts in the service of the Islamic Ummah and called for support for them.

116. The Conference praised the activities of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Dhaka and urged it to continue its efforts to mobilize the human resources that the Member States need in the field of science and technology. It urged the Member States to lend financial assistance to Islamic University of Technology (IUT).

117. The Conference called upon the Member States to extend enhanced support to the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Bangladesh in order for it to contribute more towards capacity building of the OIC Member States through human resources development

118. The Conference took into consideration the 1441 Hijri Vision, adopted by the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Malaysia from 16 to 18 October 2003. It adopted the resolution on the 1441 Hijri Vision on science and technology. It recognized the role of science and technology in the advancement of the Ummah and requested the Working Group to expedite the preparation of the strategic plan of action to implement the 1441 Vision with technical help from the IDB and other sources.

119. The Conference commended the report of the Second Meeting of the OIC Working Group on the 1441 Hijri Vision and urged all the Member States to lend full support to the letter and spirit of the 1441 Hijri Vision so as to make science and technology more established and entrenched in order to usher in an era of prosperity in the OIC countries.

120. The Conference urged the Member States on the need to bridge the gap between the OIC Member States and Islamic countries and industrialized countries.

121. The Conference called on the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) to continue to organize specialized symposia on protecting Islamic culture and heritage from the negative fallout of globalization.

122. The Conference applauded the efforts of the Islamic Group in UNESCO for its advocacy of Member States' interests, and urged this group to convene regular meetings at the level of ambassadors and experts with the aim of coordinating the positions of the Member States on issues of common interest to the Islamic world.

123. The Conference called on the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture (IRCICA) to continue to organize interactive sessions in order to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue through concrete and sustainable initiatives; and appealed to all Member States and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to provide all possible moral and financial support for the success of these dialogues.

124. The Conference welcomed the offer made by the Republic of Turkey during the preparatory proceedings for the 3rd Extraordinary Summit in Makkah, to host the 1st Conference of Ministers in-charge of Women's affairs, through which a plan of action could be worked out on the promotion of women's role in the development of Muslim societies and on providing them with more opportunities in public life. It also welcomed the offer made by the Pakistani Government to host a Conference in 2007 in Islamabad for women leaders in the Islamic world.

125. The Conference endorsed the Rabat Declaration on issues of Children in the Islamic world adopted by the 1st Islamic Ministerial Conference on the Child, and urged all Member States to implement all the commitments included in the declaration.

126. The Conference urged that special programmes for the welfare of orphans and minors should be included in relief programmes provided for Islamic States affected by wars and natural disasters.

127. The Conference welcomed the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the meeting of Member States' Ministers of Health in Tehran on 23-24 September 2006, and requested all Member States to participate in the meeting.

128. The Conference directed an urgent appeal to the international community and Member States in the OIC, Islamic Charitable Organizations and the Islamic Development Bank to commit themselves within one year to providing additional financial resources to the international initiative for the eradication of Polio in order to tackle this disease in OIC countries in 2006/2007.

129. The Conference appealed to Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, and Islamic Philanthropic organizations and individuals to contribute to Waqfs of the Islamic Universities in Niger and Uganda and to assist the two universities by providing them with financial and material support to enable them meet the requirements of growing number of students; and also called for scholarships to empower needy students who cannot afford university fees.

130. The Conference recommended that every kind of financial and academic support and assistance should be extended to Palestinian universities so that they can play their national and educational role.

131. The Conference appealed to Member States to support the efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organization to promote education in the Palestinian territories under its National Authority during the transitional period, and to provide it with all technical and financial means to develop curricula for all educational levels and meet its obligations.

132. The Conference called upon Member States to extend every necessary financial assistance to provide the funding required for the promotion of education in the occupied territories in general and in the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in particular, in view of the great difficulties facing education in the Holy City, on account of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, such as imposing its educational curricula and closing schools that reject its authority.

133. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for the construction of the separation wall, the so-called “Jerusalem Envelope” that seeks to isolate the City of Al-Quds by severing it from its Arab-Palestinian environment and judaizing it through the obliteration of its historical, cultural and civilizational features.

134. The Conference commended the efforts taken by IRCICA to conduct a feasibility study to document and classify archaeological and historical Islamic sites and monuments in the Member States, and to build a data bank of these sites and monuments, and invites the Member States and the private sector to extend possible means for financing the project.

135. The Conference expressed its thanks to the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for according importance to the Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA) and for bringing together an elite group of eminent scholars from inside and outside the Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA) in order to prepare a detailed study designed to develop the work of the Academy in

implementation of the resolution of the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (ISC) held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah. It adopted the new Statute of the Fiqh Academy prepared by an open-ended Governmental Experts aimed at restructuring and developing the work of the Academy commensurate with the challenges faced by the Islamic world in the twenty-first century.

136. The Conference lauded the reports presented by ISESCO on its efforts to promote dialogue of cultures and civilizations, Arab, Islamic and European cooperation and cultural diversity, to implement and strengthen the mechanism of the Islamic World Cultural Strategy, and to highlight the Islamic view on cultural diversity and ways to deal with international changes, and appreciated its efforts and achievements in this regard.

137. The Conference urged the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified the Agreement on the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent to do so, as soon as possible, so as to enable the latter carry out its tasks and realize its noble objectives. It invited all Member States and Islamic institutions to extend material and moral support to the Committee so that it can implement its programmes.

138. The Conference hailed the future activities to be organized by the ISSF within its programs for 2006-2007, particularly the 2nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers, and the acceptance of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 2nd Islamic Solidarity Games in Tehran in 2009.

139. The Conference recommended that the General Secretariat, Islamic organizations and institutions, Islamic Solidarity Fund, and the Islamic Development Bank should support the Plans and Projects of the World Federation of Arab Islamic International Schools and extend to the Federation all possible assistance for their implementation.

140. The Conference invited the Member States to support the ICYF-DC and to encourage their youth organizations to actively participate in and contribute to the Forum's work aimed at intellectual development of and solidarity among the youth of the OIC countries.

141. The Conference took note of the steps taken by the Secretary General to convene the first meeting of the Committee of Experts to study the strengthening and promotion of the role of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

142. The Conference took note of the Secretary General's invitation to Member States to provide the donations they can during the 33rd ICFM in order to support the budget of the ISF and its Waqf to enable them discharge their duties.

143. The Conference took note of the re-election of the current members of the ISF Permanent Council pending the completion of the study on the strengthening and promotion of the role of the ISF.

144. The Conference noted with appreciation the financial and humanitarian support given by the Member States to the victims of the tsunami disaster in all aspects, and appreciated highly the donation of US\$500 million by the Islamic Development Bank for the reconstruction of the areas affected by the disaster. The Conference urged Islamic Member States and civil society institutions in the Muslim world to continue to provide relief to Muslim victims of natural disasters. It welcomed Malaysia's readiness to host a meeting to discuss the modalities for the establishment of an Islamic Rapid Response Relief Team.

145. The Conference approved the convening of a Donors' Conference to assist the Government and people of Niger in order to build strategic food reserve and encourage agriculture so that the recurring food shortages in the country will be eradicated. It welcomed the approval by the State of Qatar to host the Donors' Conference before the end of 2006 and appealed to all Member States and organizations to participate actively in the Donors' Conference. The Conference exhorted all the Member States and humanitarian and charitable institutions and organizations to quickly respond to the appeal made by the Republic of Niger and to dispatch relief assistance to this country as it is facing a serious humanitarian disaster due to the drought and famine which have claimed the lives of many citizens, particularly children and the elderly.

146. The Conference commended the role assumed by the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) in coordinating the different activities of Islamic governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the positive results reached by the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) in building a common platform and a coherent vision of Islamic action in the service of Muslims all over the world and with the aim of protecting the heritage and radiant image of Islam.

147. The Conference affirmed the importance of incorporating the Strategy for Joint Islamic Action (JIA) in the field of Dawa among the national policies of Member States in the various educational, information, media, and Islamic Dawa fields as a guideline to inspire their action on Joint Islamic Action (JIA).

148. The Conference approved the report and recommendations of the 34th Session of the Permanent Finance Committee (PFC).

149. The Conference approved the following financial resolutions:

a) The budget of the OIC General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs for the 2006/2007 financial year;

- b) The amendment of the Financial Regulations of the OIC;
  
- c) The new scale of Member States' contributions to the budget of the General Secretariat;
  
- d) The election of Member States of the Finance Control Organ.

150. The Conference adopted the financial report of the issued by the 6th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to Study the Restructuring of the OIC General Secretariat and its Role in Confronting the Challenges in the New Millennium.

151. The Conference highly appreciated the generosity of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud for his preparedness to build the new OIC General Secretariat, following the conclusion of the international competition for the building design.

152. The Conference resolved to confine the agenda of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, which is held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, to consultation and coordination of the positions of OIC Member States on matters that are of concern to the OIC and included in the agenda of the United Nations

General Assembly. It also resolved that the conclusions of its proceedings should be drawn in the form of a communiqué agreed upon by the Foreign Ministers of Member States or their representatives.

153. The Conference approved the Draft Rules on Observer Status for Non-Governmental Organizations and recommended that the concerned Intergovernmental Group of Experts continues its meetings in order to arrive at a consensus on the conditions for accession of States as Observers.

154. The Conference welcomed the accession to the OIC as affiliated institutions of the General Council for Islamic Banks, the Federation of Contractors of Islamic States, the Federation of Consultants of Islamic States and the Islamic World Science Academy.

155. The Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary General in strengthening cooperation between the OIC and other regional and international organizations and urged him to sign more cooperation agreements with these organizations, particularly with the United Nations organs and bodies.

156. The Conference welcomed with great satisfaction and expressed its deep appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan for their pledged donations of One Million US Dollars and Five Hundred Thousand US Dollars respectively to the budget of the General Secretariat of the OIC to support its various activities.

157. The Conference took note of the report of the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund concerning the activities of the Fund. It highly valued the donations made by Member States to the Fund and its Waqf, notably the United Arab Emirates for its on-going generous donations of the Two Million US Dollars to the Fund. It called on all Member States to make annual donations to the Islamic Solidarity Fund and to contribute to the capital of the Fund's Waqf.

158. The Conference decided to hold the 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign ministers (ICFM) in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan at a date to be determined in coordination between the host country and the OIC General Secretariat.

159. On behalf of all the participants, H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the OIC, addressed a cable of thanks to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his country's hosting of the Conference and for the facilities extended to the delegates, which highly contributed to the success of the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Baku —Republic of Azerbaijan

25 Jumada I 1427H

(21 June 2006)