

Islamic Conference

31st Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

Report and Resolutions of the Economic Affairs

Istanbul, June 14-16, 2004

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS,

1. The Economic and Social Affairs Committee of the Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony) met on 26-28 Rabiul Thani 1425H (14-16 June 2004) to consider items No. 69 to No. 92 of the Agenda of the Session.

2. The meeting of the Committee was chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Alev Kilic, Deputy Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Turkey. The General Secretariat of the OIC was represented in the Committee by His Excellency Ambassador Thierno Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs and Mr. Aydin Nurhan, Director of Science and Technology.

3. The following subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference also participated in the work of the Committee:

- Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah.
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), Ankara.
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca.
- Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka.
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Karachi.

4. The Bureau of the Committee comprised of the following:

- Chairman : Republic of Turkey
- Vice Chairmen : Republic of Tunisia
- Burkina Faso
- State of Palestine
- Rapporteur : Islamic Republic of Iran

5. The Committee based its discussion on the draft resolutions agreed by the 27th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, from 28 February to 3 March 2004 as the working document.

6. The Committee examined and finalized 39 resolutions under the agenda items No. 69 to 79 on Economic Affairs and adopted these resolutions, after making a number of amendments, for consideration and adoption by the plenary. These include a new item on the Inequity of International Cotton Trade and Its Impact on the Poorest Countries, introduced by the delegation of the Republic of Burkina Faso, which was not considered earlier by the 27th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs.

7. Concerning agenda item 78 on the Establishment of a Mechanism for Using Gold in the Settlement of International Trade, the Committee took note of paragraph 14 of the Report of the 27th Session Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs held on 28 February to 3 March, 2004 in Jeddah agreeing on the need for further discussion and studies on the matter as well as its reference to COMCEC for its appropriate consideration.

8. The Committee examined and finalized 14 resolutions under agenda item No. 80 to 93 on Science and Technology and adopted them for consideration and adoption by the Plenary.

9. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee for their full cooperation and earnest deliberation.

10. The Committee expressed its thanks to the chair for conducting the deliberations with wisdom and efficiency.

11. The Committee refers this report along with the attached resolutions to the Plenary for consideration and appropriate action.

Ambassador Alev Kilic

Chairman Committee for Economic and Social Affairs of the 31st Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

RESOLUTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION NO.1/31-E

ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE MEMBER STATES

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

Recalling Resolution No. 1/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia;

Also recalling Resolution No. 1/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Further recalling Resolution No. 6/24-E of the 24th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, in which Member States were invited to reinforce Sub-Regional and Regional Markets and relaunch the existing economic integration projects among themselves;

Noting that globalization and increasing liberalization have made the external environment for development crucial particularly since OIC Member States have become more vulnerable to the intense competition and unpredictable fluctuations in international trade, instability in the financial and monetary flows as well as to the changes in technology;

Noting with concern that the world economy faces severe periodical fluctuations and crises in some regions which affect other regions with impacts on various fields due to the strong interdependence among world economies;

Stressing the urgency for the international community to work for a global approach towards financial crisis;

Aware of the need to improve the capacities and modalities of the International financial institutions, with regard to the prevention, management and resolution of international financial crises in a timely and effective manner;

Aware of the fact that, as a result of the current trends of globalization and liberalization, a large number of OIC Member States are bearing a disproportionate share of the adjustment burden;

Recognizing that the effective implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements would necessitate a certain measure of adaptation in the economic and administrative structures of the Member States to safeguard their interests and to take maximum advantage of the opportunities to be created thereby;

Endorsing the Monterrey consensus of the International Conference of Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico on 18-22 March, 2002;

Further aware of the need to further strengthen cooperation and coordination among OIC Member States to ensure expansion in intra-OIC trade;

Having taken note with appreciation of the studies prepared by SESRTCIC on world economic developments and ICDDT on intra-OIC trade;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the matter,

1. Stresses the need to promptly take practical steps, foremost of which is to set up joint investment projects among Member States, to achieve economic complementarity between them to ensure economic integration among the OIC Member States with the ultimate objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration, on a step-by-step basis, and commends the efforts exerted by the Arab Economic and Social Council to create a major Arab free trade zone and encourages the regional organizations in which Member States participate, especially the ECO, SINSAD, ECOWAS, CEMAC and CEMAO to continue their efforts in this area.

2. Underlines the need to devise ways and means to minimize the adverse effects of the globalization on the economies of the OIC Member States as well as to enable them to harness opportunities provided by globalization.
3. Calls on the international community to adopt appropriate measures to ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared by all countries on an equitable basis so as to ensure balanced advantages and obligations of developing countries including OIC Member States.
4. Calls upon the developed countries for further liberalization and increased access for the products and services where developing countries have a comparative advantage, and access to transfer of technology on concessional terms as well as to investment and technology.
5. Urges the Member States to pursue efforts aimed at strengthening economic cooperation and economic policy coordination among them so as to maximize the complementarities in their economies and avoid further marginalization.
6. Urges also the Member States to coordinate their efforts aimed at making the necessary contacts with the concerned international parties and organizations so as to safeguard their economic interests and not to prejudice their exports of various commodities and materials.
7. Calls on the developed countries to create a more practical, equitable and transparent environment enabling developing countries to implement their structural adjustment programmes to enable them to achieve sustainable development and urges them to support the Common Fund established by UNCTAD with a view to stabilizing raw material prices.
8. Notes with appreciation the exchange of views on current world economic issues that are held regularly during the annual sessions of the COMCEC which constitute valuable occasions for the Member States to share their experiences and coordinate their positions on these issues.
9. Notes with concern the extraterritorial application by a number of developed countries of their domestic legislation which adversely affect foreign investments in other countries, including the OIC Member States; rejects all coercive measures, which are null and void from the perspective of international law; and recalls in this connection the UN General Assembly Resolution 57/5 elimination of coercive unilateral and extraterritorial economic measures to exert political and economic pressure as an attempt by the international community to put an end to such practices.
10. Agrees on the need to closely monitor the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and requests the General Secretariat and related OIC Institutions to study new and emerging trends and report making proposals to implement technical assistance programmes to assist those Member States which might have difficulties in responding to the new challenges.
11. Recognizes that the current phase of globalization and restrictive labour mobility are widening the income disparities between the developed and developing countries and that efficient labour migration management is essential

for closing down such disparities and reducing the negative impacts of globalization through facilitating the flow of trade, capital, skills and ideas.

12. 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-E

ON SUPPORTING THE REFORMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

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

Recalling Resolution No. 2/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 2/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recognising that the recent South East Asian financial crisis was not only rooted in the macroeconomic vulnerabilities in several of the affected economies but was also caused by weaknesses in the current arrangements that govern the international financial system;

Accepting that weaknesses in the arrangements that make up the international monetary system have allowed excessive risk taking, imprudent investor behaviour and speculative activities;

Further recognizing that recent developments in both global and domestic economic environment as well as the emerging trend towards inter-dependence among developing countries, including Islamic countries, have spurred economic collaboration and integration;

Recalling that a high degree of agreement has been achieved in the various form on ways to reform the international financial architecture, particularly in the critical areas of strengthening financial systems, enhancing transparency and disclosure and improving the approaches to crisis prevention and resolution, including by involving the private sector and improved coordination between the international financial institutions;

Taking note with appreciation of the study prepared and submitted by SESRTCIC on the subject.

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Underscores the importance of developing an orderly and strengthened international financial system.

2. Underlines that the reforms of the international financial architecture should aim at addressing the fundamental weaknesses of the free market system and inherent instability of the international financial system through achieving the following:

- a) avoid destabilising capital flows to maximise benefits from globalised capital markets, thereby minimising risk;
- b) contain the adverse impact of currency trading especially on small economies;
- c) mitigate occurrence of future crisis;
- d) limit the contagion effect of any crisis; and
- e) achieve symmetry in efforts of governments and the private sector.

3. Appreciates the contributions and efforts made by the various fora such as the G-7, APEC, ASEAN, the G-15, the G-20 as well as the international financial and regulatory bodies such as the IMF, World Bank, the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) to strengthen the international financial architecture;

4. Stresses the need to maintain the momentum for reforming the global financial architecture.

5. Agrees that the issue still requires crucial action particularly in areas pertaining to exchange rate systems and the adoption of monetary and financial policies likely to encourage capital inflow.

6. Calls for effective representation of the developing and emerging market economies in the consultations and decision-making on the reforms of the international financial architecture;

7. Calls for greater participation of private sector in the prevention and resolution of financial crisis and the application of standards of transparency and disclosure of economic and financial information equally to the public and private sectors.

8. Requests SESRTCIC to continue studying the matter, particularly from the point of view of its implications for the OIC Member States to formulate fresh proposals and recommendations thereon and submit periodic reports to the annual session of the COMCEC and thereafter to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for active consideration for implementation.

9. 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-E

ON STRENGTHENING THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

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

Recalling Resolution No. 3/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 3/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Reaffirming Member States' commitment to progressive trade liberalisation and cooperation in strengthening the multilateral trading system;

Recalling the related decisions of the COMCEC which have the subject on its agenda as a permanent item;

Appreciating the efforts of IDB and ICDT in assisting and appraising the Member States on matters related to WTO.

Recognising that the effective functioning of the multilateral trading system is pivotal in contributing towards enhancing growth and development;

Desiring that the multilateral trading system provide equitable benefits for all members through trade liberalisation and fair rules;

Taking note with appreciation of the report submitted by ICDT;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Calls on OIC Member States who have acceded to the WTO to support and facilitate negotiations for the accession of the other Member States which have not yet joined the WTO.

2. Urges the WTO and its Member States to:

i. facilitate the accession of all States to the WTO to ensure its universality in decision-making, emphasize the importance of clarity and transparency of membership procedure, and avoid requiring states wishing to adhere to meet unfair requirements or conditions beyond the commitments of member states with equal status on the development scale;

ii. stress the need to ensure that political considerations should not impede the process of accession to the WTO;

iii. accord priority and urgency in addressing the developmental issues;

iv. ensure that the agenda for further negotiations remains focused, balanced and manageable, taking into account the limited resources and the level of development of many developing countries, in particular the LDCs;

v. strengthen the development dimension in multilateral trade agreements, including operationalizing the special and differential treatment provisions such as extending the transitional period in implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement, increasing the share of the LDCs in world trade through special privileges in the form of duty and quota free access of LDC goods and services to developed markets, providing technical assistance, ensuring transfer of technology, and eliminating barriers in the free movement of labour.

- vi. reject the inclusion of non-trade issues, such as labour and environmental standards, into the work programme of the WTO, given its detrimental effects to the evolution of a just, free and fair trading environment as reiterated by most WTO members;
 - vii. ensure the availability of sufficient resources for technical cooperation activities to assist developing countries implement WTO agreements and decisions
 - viii. review the structure of the decision making process of the WTO to ensure greater transparency of the WTO process and ensuring effective participation of WTO members in this process;
 - ix. ensure that technical assistance by WTO shall also contribute to capacity building in developing countries, in particular the LDCs.
 - x. put in place a supportive mechanism for the LDCs to face the challenges in the post-MFA regime which will have adverse impact on the growth in their apparel export.
3. Notes that the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference was held in Cancun, Mexico on 10-14 September 2003 and expresses concern that the Conference could not be successful due to lack of response from the developed countries in addressing the concerns of the developing countries on major trade issues, and calls for immediate resumption of the trade negotiations under the auspices of WTO.
4. Calls on the international community to put an end to agricultural subsidies which penalize the producers of developing countries; welcomes in particular, the initiative of some African Member States to maintain the stability of the commodity price of cotton and to develop their indigenous cotton processing industry so that the export earnings of the cotton-producing countries are not eroded; and calls on the Member States and concerned OIC institutions to support this initiative.
5. Commends the IDB for its sincere efforts in raising awareness among OIC Member States of the wide-ranging impact of the Uruguay Round agreements on their economies, and in reinforcing the capabilities of Member States, including its negotiating capabilities, preparing them fully for the negotiations in the context of the WTO, and calls on IDB to continue in its efforts.
6. Urges the UNCTAD to undertake studies on the necessary measures to bring about a balance in cost and benefits for the developing countries in adopting the new trade and economic regimes taking into account their different levels of development and ability to compete.
7. Calls on Member States to consolidate their efforts and coordinate their positions in international organizations, in particular in WTO, World Bank and IMF.
8. Requests IDB and ICDT to continue their efforts and submit periodic reports to the COM'CEC and related OIC fora.
9. Requests ICDT in collaboration with IDB to prepare a study on matters related to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO and its impact on OIC Member States.

10 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-E

ON IMPLICATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

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

Recalling Resolution No. 4/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference

Recalling Resolution No. 4/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with appreciation the reports submitted by the SESRTCIC, ICDT and IDB;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General in this respect,

1. Urges Member States to intensify trade exchanges between them and to work seriously on removing the obstacles which impede progress in this area.
2. Calls upon Member States to emphasize cooperation more in terms of project oriented integration arrangements.
3. Calls on the Member States to take maximum advantage of the studies prepared by SESRTCIC and ICDT on the impact of the entry into circulation of the Euro on the economies of the Member States.
4. Emphasizes the necessity to give priority to cooperation in the area of physical infrastructure, such as transport and communications, as well as in research, training and technology in these regional arrangements.
5. Requests the developed countries giving preferences to OIC Member States under various schemes to examine the erosion that is likely to occur in these preferences as a result of the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and to consider restoring these losses by other trade concessions or forms of compensation.
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.

RESOLUTION NO. 5/31-E

ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND LAND-LOCKED MEMBER STATES

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

Recalling Resolution No. 5/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 5/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its profound concern over the serious economic problems faced by the Least-Developed Member States in particular the sharp decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA);

Expressing concern over the lack of access by the Least Developed Member States to private financial flows, and noting with regret the diminishing shares of these countries in official capital flows.

Expressing concern over the sharp decline in the prices of the raw materials, particularly those produced and exported by the least developed countries; as well as over the marginalisation of the LDCs in the world economy.

Having taken note with satisfaction that the Islamic donor countries continued to provide significant external aid and that the amount of aid distributed to the least developed countries exceeded 0.15 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of UNCTAD in favour of the Least Developed and Land-locked countries and its useful annual Report on the Least Developed Countries and the Trade and Development Report.

Expressing satisfaction with the IDB's efforts for the extension of assistance to the Least Developed Countries and for the opening of a special account for them as approved by the IDB's Board of Governors at its Seventeenth Annual Session held in Tehran in November 1992;

Recalling the decision taken at the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 28-30 May 2003, on setting up an open-ended OIC intergovernmental group of experts, including representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries to study the ways and means of implementing the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for 2001-2010;

Noting with appreciation the study prepared and presented by SESRTCIC on the Problems of Least Developed and Land-locked Member States;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General,

1. Emphasizes the importance of achieving reductions in the outstanding debt of the Least Developed Countries to sustainable levels through debt-relief measures, particularly the HIPC initiative, in order to help relieve their financial burdens, enhance their credit-worthiness and improve their external financial prospects.
2. Appeals to the international community, particularly the developed countries, to fully and expeditiously implement the Programme of Action for 2001-2010 adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May, 2001.
3. Endorses the Cotonou Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed countries held in Cotonou, Benin from 5 to 7 August, 2002;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to setup an OIC intergovernmental group of experts and submit proposals to the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to study the ways and means of the implementing the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for 2001-2010.
5. Emphasizes the need for simplifying and relaxing the rules of origin criteria in favour of the LDCs to enable them to attain the maximum benefit out of the specialized and differential treatments offered by the developed and developing countries.
6. Calls upon the international community to help the LDCs to progressively integrate themselves into the world economy and strengthen LDC's capacity to participate in the multilateral trading system, including facilitating accession to WTO by those LDC's which are not already members.
7. Urges developed countries to increase their contributions and initiate new means within the framework of the International Development Strategy and to follow the example of countries who converted the debts contracted by the least developed countries into grants in order to facilitate the implementation of the structural adjustment measures undertaken by these countries.
8. Expresses concern at the declining trend in the quantity of ODA to the LDCs and stresses the importance of increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) granted by the developed countries in favour of the developing countries in general and the Least Developed Countries in particular and calls upon developed countries to continue providing their official development assistance in parallel with facilitating the access of the products of the developing and the least developed countries to the markets of developed countries.
9. Notes with satisfaction the efforts of some Member States to extend assistance in the technical, financial, food and other forms to the least developed Member States and hopes that such assistance will continue.
- 10 Appreciates the efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in initiating a proposal of activating private sector in Islamic Least Developed Countries and Land-locked countries by establishing a Network of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in these countries.

11. Notes that the Task Force on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) set up by the OIC Secretary General held three meetings successfully, the first one being held on 27-29 January 2002 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the second in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique on 19-21 May 2003 and the third in Lahore, Pakistan on 16-18 March 2004.

12. Calls upon the land-locked countries, their transit neighbours and donor countries to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with the transit problems in accordance with the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries.

13. Recognizes the necessity to respond effectively to the needs of Land-locked and transit countries so as to allow them to develop their transport infrastructure and road network and called on the developed countries to provide the necessary assistance to promote trade among the various parties.

14. 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. 6/31-E

ON ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND LOW-INCOME OIC MEMBER STATES

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

Recalling Resolution No. 6/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 6/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Reiterating the need to give special attention to the eradication of poverty, notably in the Least Developed and Low-income Islamic countries;

Acting in conformity with Islamic rules and precepts as well as the OIC Charter and moved by the spirit of Islamic solidarity;

Noting that Micro-Credit programmes by providing access to small capital, contribute towards eradication of poverty through generating productive self-employment, ensuring social and human development, and promoting participatory processes in the societies; and noting further the support to micro-credit extended by various Summits and other high level meetings;

Noting that the international community is observing the period 1997-2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

Recognizing that, in the process of globalization, the marginalization of the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, has created constraints to the efforts to eradicate poverty;

Noting with appreciation the study prepared and submitted by SESRTCIC on "Eradication of Poverty in the Least Developed and Low-income OIC Member States";

Reiterating the importance of collective efforts by the international community towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals as contained in the UN Millennium Summit Declaration of 2000;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on this matter;

1. Reaffirms that the eradication of poverty in all Member States before the end of the next decade constitute a common objective of OIC Member States.
2. Confirms the link between the acute nature of the poverty phenomenon and the distortion of the socio-economic structures, marginalization in the global economy, and deterioration of terms of trade, due to the inappropriate international conditions, particularly those relating to the requisites of economic growth and development.
3. Urges the developed Industrial States and International institutions to take specific measures for the fulfilment of the commitments made at the World Social Summit, held in Copenhagen, as well as other international fora so as to enable the Least Developed Member States to attain this objective.
4. Notes with appreciation the holding of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later on 12-13 June 2002 in Rome, which adopted a set of important decisions on combating famine and securing food security for all countries, and urges the Member States to take necessary measures for their implementations.
5. Notes also with appreciation the important role played by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in combating poverty and famine and Encourages the developed countries and Member States to continue providing their support to IFAD.
6. Encourages incorporation of micro-credit schemes in the strategy of poverty eradication and implementation of related recommendations as reflected in the Plan of Action adopted in the Micro-Credit Summit held in Washington from 2-4 February 1997.
7. Reaffirms that a favourable international economic environment within the framework of the concessions to be granted to them in terms of providing financial and technical assistance and investment resources; and access to international markets with raw materials price stability and appropriate structural programmes, is necessary for the success of the efforts being exerted by LDCs and low income countries in eradicating poverty.
8. Appeals to developed countries that have not yet done so to achieve as soon as possible the agreed target of 0.7% of the GNP for overall official development

assistance and, to achieve the 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for the least developed countries.

9. Urges the LDCs and low income countries to play in a more coordinated manner a more active role in international fora dealing with the eradication of poverty.

10. Requests Member States to intensify implementation of technical cooperation programmes among themselves with a view to improving the health educational, human and housing conditions as well as other basic needs of their respective population.

11. Welcomes the adoption of a resolution by the Fifty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly (December 2002) on setting up of an international solidarity fund to tackle poverty and to promote human advancement in the developing countries, as well as the initiative of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Tunisia, Mr. Zine El-Abidine, pioneer of the successful Tunisian experiment of the National Solidarity Fund, which confirms the far sightedness of His Excellency on issues of sustainable development and human advancement within the framework of solidarity and mutual help among members of society, as prescribed by our magnanimous religion; and calls upon Member States, civil society institutions and the private sector in those countries as well as international donor institutions to contribute to mobilizing financial resources for the International Solidarity Fund projects aimed at combating poverty in the most needy countries.

12. Encourages the Member States to share among themselves the best practice models for poverty alleviation implemented by both public and private sectors in comparable as well as adaptable situations.

13. Encourages Member States and competent OIC organs and institutions, particularly the IDB and ICCI, to support the on-going development programmes of OIC Least Developed Countries and the low income ones, with a view to encouraging and strengthening the SMEs by providing support service measures for enhancing their local technical capabilities creating production and job opportunities.

14. Requests the more advanced Member States of OIC to reduce tariff barriers on goods and services of the Least Developed Member States to help them broaden their market base and also to provide long-term FDI to help the latter, inter alia, to avert the risks of fluid capital transactions and speculative investment.

15. Stresses the importance of collective action by all Member States as well as effective national economic and fiscal policies aimed at mobilization of national resources for combating poverty.

16. Reaffirms the need to give special priority to the Least Developed and poorer Member States.

17. 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.7/31-E

ON EXTERNAL DEBT OF AFRICAN AND OTHER OIC MEMBER STATES

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

Recalling Resolution No. 7/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 7/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its deep anxiety over the external debts of the developing Member States which have been increasing at an alarming rate for the last few years;

Noting with concern the growing debt-servicing problems of externally indebted developing countries as constituting an element adversely affecting their development efforts;

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has written off the official debt of a certain number of least developed/landlocked and/or Sahelian Member States;

Appreciating the initiative of His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait, who as Chairman of the Fifth Session of the Organization of the Islamic Summit Conference, declared in his speech to the UN General Assembly on 27/9/1990 that in order to alleviate the burden of indebtedness of the developing States, the State of Kuwait took the initiative of writing off the interests due on development loans extended to developing States;

Also expressing its appreciation for the efforts made by His Majesty the King Hassan II, may Allah rest his soul in peace, Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit and the Secretary General in the framework of the implementation of the resolutions of the Seventh Islamic Summit on the debt of OIC Member States;

Noting with appreciation the study prepared and submitted by SESRTCIC on "The External Debt Situation of Sub-Saharan African OIC Member States";

Having also taken note of the report of the Secretary General,

1. Appeals to international creditors as well as to international financial institutions to continue adopting every necessary measure to cut down the debt of OIC Member States, in particular through staggered settlement of debts, deferred amortization, reduced and favourable interest rates or swapping debts for financing various development projects.
2. Takes note of the initiatives of the G-8 to alleviate the debt burden of the most impoverished countries.
3. Reaffirms the urgent need for effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, and to help them exit from the rescheduling process.

4. Expresses its appreciation for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative and calls for its accelerated implementation in order to enable more eligible countries to benefit from the initiative.
5. Urges that approach in the debt settlement should cover all types of debt, including multilateral debt, and all indebted developing countries, and incorporate measures aimed at a once-and-for all reduction arrangement to reduce their debt burden to a scale that would allow them to resume their economic growth and development.
6. Expresses its gratitude to Member States which have already responded favourably to the above request and appeals to Member States which can do so to continue the transfer of capital through grants and concessionary loans to Member States, especially to the least developed, the land-locked and/or Sahelian countries.
7. Renews the call made to the international community, especially the developed countries, to offer substantial reduction or cancellation of African debts and lowering of the burden of servicing charges while ensuring that this process is combined with the flow of fresh and considerable finances at soft-terms, to African countries.
8. Supports the Cairo Declaration adopted by the First Summit Conference of `Africa-Europe, held in Cairo from 3-4 April, 2000, which calls on donors to expedite translating their promises into real commitments to alleviate the debt burden urgently and on deep and wide ranging scale for the group of debt-burdened poor countries.
9. Appeals also to Member States which are donors to use their influence with the International Donor Community to take initiatives to overcome the external debt burden of OIC developing and least developed Member States, with regard to implementing this resolution.
10. Appreciates the efforts of those Member States which have been implementing stringent macro-economic and external debt management policies to alleviate the adverse effects of the developments in the world economic and financial situation.
11. 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. 8/31-E

ON NEED FOR ENHANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG MEMBER STATES IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY

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

Recalling Resolution No. 8/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 8/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Reaffirming the relevance of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States and underlining in this respect the dynamic and constructive role played by the President of the Republic of Turkey in chairing the COMCEC's proceedings;

Stressing the importance of collaboration among OIC Member States in implementing the strategy and the Plan of Action;

Realizing the rapid evolution of the world economy towards increased globalization and integration as well as the challenges embodied in the constitution of powerful economic blocs and by the growing liberalization of world trade;

Bearing in mind the existence of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as the important impacts of the Uruguay Round Agreements and recognizing in this respect the need for more cooperation and coordination among OIC Member States to ensure increase of their share in the world trade;

Emphasising the importance of ensuring universality of Free Trade and convinced that as a result of the WTO, trade relations between Member States should take into account the framework of the rights and obligations provided for by the new trade rules contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, and the relevant arrangements therein.

Having considered the report of the Secretary General;

1. Takes note with appreciation of all the decisions taken by the COMCEC relating to the Strategy and the Plan of Action to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States.

2. Welcomes with satisfaction, the under-mentioned proposals made by His Majesty late King Hassan II (May Allah bless his soul) to the international community on the occasion of the closing session of the Ministerial Conference of the Uruguay Round in Marrakech:

- a) The implementation of a "genuine Marshall Plan" in favour of Africa, with a view to reducing the tremendous poverty and lessen the recurring tensions from which its populations are suffering;
- b) The setting up of a new international negotiations mechanism which will better safeguard the national interests of developing countries in general and particularly those of OIC Member States;

3. Welcomes with appreciation the speech by the Hon. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 27th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, 24-27 Rabiul Awal 1421H (27-30 June 2000) with the theme Islam and Globalisation in which the Prime Minister of Malaysia underscored the need for Member States to meet the

challenges of globalisation. Emphasising the importance of mastering ICT and related technologies for the development of the Muslim Ummah.

4. Urges the Member States to deploy concerted efforts to acquire knowledge to face the challenges of globalisation;

5. Also urges Member States to develop telecommunication technologies and its linkages and to provide facilities to increase cooperation amongst them.

6. Further urges Member States to utilize Islamic Banking facilities and services available in the Member States.

7. Urges Member States to consider steps to be taken on a progressive basis with a view to harmonising their economic policies in order to benefit from the new trade rules provided for within the WTO framework and thus encouraging a rapid development of trade between the Member States paying due regards to relevant resolutions of the recent Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers.

8. Invites Member States to revitalize their actions in order to increase their share in the world economy notably by a sustained improvement of their international competitiveness of their exports of goods and services by adopting a series of policies meant to improve their economic infrastructures, services sector, increase the value-added and the quality of their products, diversify their productive base and provide the required conditions likely to attract foreign investments.

9. Emphasizes the growing importance of the services sector in the world economy and calls on Member States to increase technical cooperation in this field among themselves.

10. Calls upon Member States to further increase their efforts and their budgetary allocations for Research and Development, and also expand their cooperation and coordination in this field, through inter alia, joint ventures with a view to supporting their production of goods and services as well as their competitiveness in international markets.

11. Invites Member States to endeavour to reinforce sub-regional and regional economic groupings and relaunch the existing economic integration projects with a view to institutionalizing cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, finance and technology among them which could lead to the establishment of an Islamic Common Market or any other suitable form of economic integration among themselves.

12. Affirms that in order to achieve the above objectives the private sector in the Member States should play a prominent role through giving impetus to intra-OIC economic relations and in this context invites the Governments of Member States to urge and encourage their businessmen and representatives of the Private Sector to effectively participate in the Private Sector Meetings organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In this connection, it notes with appreciation the setting up of a Monitoring Mechanism for the evaluation and implementation of the recommendations of the private sector meetings over a phased out period.

13. Calls for expeditious accession of the applying developing countries to the World Trade Organisation, including the OIC Member States emphasizing in this connection that no political consideration should be invoked which may impede the process of accession.

14. Calls upon the Islamic Chamber to continue with its efforts in the private sector in adapting to the new concepts in the world economy and challenges of globalization by organizing additional workshops, with the support and contribution of the private sector. In this context, it expresses its appreciation for the generous and kind support offered to the Islamic Chamber by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation, and Inspector General, as well as for support extended by governments of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran and the State of Kuwait and calls on other Member States to extend similar support.

15. Invites Member States to strengthen their consultation and coordination mechanisms particularly within the WTO as well as in their relations with regional economic blocs so as to better protect their individual and collective interests.

16. 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. 9/31-E

ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, OF THE SYRIAN CITIZENS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN HEIGHTS AND OF THE LEBANESE CITIZENS IN OCCUPIED SOUTH LEBANON AND THE WESTERN BEKKA FORMERLY UNDER OCCUPATION

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

Recalling Resolution No. 9/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 9/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Believing in the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter aimed at strengthening Islamic solidarity among the Member States, and conforming with mass international will that rejects arbitrary Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territory which lead to deterioration of the economic and social conditions of Arab citizens under the yoke of Israeli occupation, on the one hand, and supporting the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region based

on the (Land-for-Peace principle) UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1397, 1402 and 1403 as well as the authority of the Madrid Peace Conference, on the other;

Underlining the unfailing efforts exerted by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to promote the economic structure; and to renovate what was destroyed by the Israeli aggression and in view of the escalation of the illegal and unlawful expansionist settlement policies of the Israeli government, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the occupied Syrian Golan; and also in view of the serious implications of this escalation on the existing difficult economic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and the Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan;

Expressing extreme concern over the grave economic impacts, resulting from the expansionist settlement policy of the Israeli government, on the difficult living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and those of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan as well as the Arab people in the occupied Arab territory;

Expressing deep concern over the danger of Israel's continued occupation of the Syrian Golan, part of South Lebanon which are suffering huge economic and material losses;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General,

1. Hails the efforts made by the Palestinian National Authority to rebuild Palestinian facilities, infrastructure and properties already destroyed and those being destroyed by the Israeli occupation authorities. It commends the strenuous efforts exerted by the Palestinian Authority to rebuild and strengthen Palestinian national economy.
2. Invites all concerned bodies to expedite the extension of the envisaged necessary assistance to help the Palestinian people to establish their national economy, consolidation of their national institutions and to enable them to establish their independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.
3. Reaffirms the earlier OIC resolutions in favour of the extension of all forms of economic, technical, material and moral support and assistance to the Palestinian people, preferential treatment for Palestinian export products, granting them exemptions from taxes and tariffs and permitting Palestinian manpower to work in the Member States for specific periods thus helping to improve their material conditions and contributing to their return and their steadfastness on their land.
4. Urges Member States to set up people's committees to collect donations to support the Intifada and provide urgent assistance to the Palestinian people in this emergency situation.
5. Strongly condemns the closure and blockade imposed on corridors, and on the Palestinian towns and villages, which have resulted in heavy losses and serious damage to the social and economic life of the Palestinian people, and are detrimental to the Palestinian economy; and calls upon the international community

to force Israel to end the closure and lift the blockade imposed on the Palestinian territories.

6. Strongly condemns the acts of demolition and destruction of Palestinian homes, institutions, facilities, lands, the uprooting and burning of fruitful trees and plants, and the bulldozing of the soil, which are perpetrated by the Israeli occupation army and settlers and which have resulted in severe losses for the Palestinian economy and building an expansionist infrastructure by establishing more settlements and calls upon the international community to force Israel to put an end to these criminal acts and to pay reparations for these damages also strongly condemns Israel for its erection of the Apartheid Wall which eats up into the Palestinian lands, isolates scores of villages, and prevents their population from exploiting their land in addition to the crimes perpetrated by the settlers, the fences built by them, and their preventing Palestinians from harvesting their crops.

7. Calls upon the international community to intervene to force Israel to release the Palestinian funds being held up by it and estimated at millions of dollars accruing from taxes and tariffs due to the Palestinian authority and levied by the Israeli government.

8. Calls the Member States to continue to make generous contributions to the Al-Quds Fund, the Al-Quds Waqf and Beit al-Mal of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, particularly in the light of the current conditions in the occupied territories where the infrastructure is being systematically destroyed .

9. Calls for the necessity of implementing the draft resolutions of the UN General Assembly on the economic assistance extended to the Palestinian people as well as the draft resolutions of other international organizations and relevant specialized agencies. It also calls for united efforts on the part of the Member States in their support of the Palestinian cause during the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

10. Condemns Israel's continued defiance of the will of the international community and her building of the separation wall on Palestinian land, and stresses the serious impact of the wall on the economic situation in Palestine as well as its adverse effects on the daily lives and increasing the suffering of the Palestinian people.

11. Urges the private sector and investors of the Member States to undertake the execution of the economic, industrial, agricultural and housing programmes in the territories of the Palestinian National Authority with a view to supporting and strengthening the Palestinian national economy.

12. Appreciating the efforts of IDB and ICCI and calls upon the Member States and OIC affiliated and subsidiary organs to provide means of technical and financial assistance to the Federation of Palestinian Chambers and the local Palestinian Chambers to carry out their activities effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, they should stand by them and reaffirm their support in facing the aggressive atrocities perpetrated on the Palestinian people.

13. Condemns Israel for its continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and parts of South Lebanon, including the Shebaa farms and the arbitrary Israeli practices which have led to the degradation of the social and economic situation of the Syrian and Lebanese populations suffering under the yoke of Israeli occupation.

14. Urges the OIC Member States to carry all necessary actions at the international level to exert pressure on Israel to desist from resorting to imposition of the brutal blockades on the occupied Palestinian territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif which result in extremely painful economic effects on the Palestinian people and raise the level of unemployment among the Palestinians. It also hampers international efforts aimed at realizing development in the occupied Palestinian territory and the territory of the Palestinian National Authority.

15. Calls on Member States and the international community to compel Israel to pay the Government of Lebanon reparations for the plight of the Lebanese citizens in Southern Lebanon and the Western Beqaa who suffered Israeli aggressions throughout the occupation that has induced substantial losses and social complications and caused a quasi-permanent paralysis of economic activities in the region.

16. Calls on Member States and the international community to extend necessary assistance to the Lebanese citizens in South Lebanon and the Western Beqaa who have been constantly and every day the targets of Israeli aggression throughout the occupation period, thus entailing huge material losses and social hardships leading to a quasi permanent paralysis of the economic activities in the area.

17. Calls also on the Member States to coordinate their efforts regarding the implementation of the resolutions on the subject.

18. 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. 10/31-E

ON ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES STRICKEN BY DROUGHT, DESERTIFICATION AND NATURAL CALAMITIES

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

Recalling Resolution No. 10/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 10/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by natural disasters, drought and desertification, and the ensuing damaging effects on economic and social

conditions especially in the sectors of agriculture and food, economic and social infrastructures as well as public services and utilities;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by some Member States and the Islamic Development Bank which have extended and continue to extend technical and financial assistance as well as food aid to Member States stricken by drought and natural disasters;

Fully aware that afflicted Member States, belonging as they do to the category of the Least-Developed, cannot by themselves, bear the growing burden of anti-drought and anti-desertification campaign and the implementation of major related projects;

Recognising the importance of disaster preparedness and management for mitigating the impacts of natural calamities and the need for continued efforts by the international community to enhance awareness in this regard.

Having considered the report of the Secretary General,

1. Expresses its gratitude to Member States, which have provided and are still providing assistance to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.
2. Expresses also its gratitude to IDB for its continuing assistance to Member States afflicted by drought, desertification and other natural disasters and encourages the Bank to continue its assistance in this domain.
3. Appeals to the International Community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought, desertification and natural disasters.
4. Calls upon the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend urgent and continual assistance to OIC countries of Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which has been threatening them for too long.
5. Notes with appreciation the meeting of Donor Countries and national and Regional Financial Institutions convened by Kuwait at IDB Headquarters in June, 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programmes.
6. Welcomes the contribution of 30 million US\$ made by the State of Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US\$ contributed by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
7. Also notes with appreciation that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked upon the implementation of its new programme for the control of drought and desertification in the African Sahel countries.
8. Expresses its gratitude to the efforts of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for its interventions in some Islamic countries afflicted by natural disasters and calls on the Member States to support it and extend assistance to it in fulfilling its mission.

9. Underlines the need to put in place a mechanism in the form of a network of nodal agencies and resource persons for sharing of information and views on the issues relating to disaster preparedness and management.

10. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this recommendation and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 11/31-E

ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LOSSES FOR GREAT JAMAHIRIYA AS A RESULT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NOS. 848/92 AND 883/93

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

Recalling Resolution No. 11/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 11/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken note of the negative effects on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of the sanctions imposed on it by the Security Council under Resolutions No. 848/1992 and 883/1993, in the economic, cultural and social fields;

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the various fora of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General;

1 Reaffirms the need to give the necessary attention to this issue to compensate the Arab Libyan people for the losses sustained as a result of the sanctions imposed on them by virtue of UN Security Council Resolutions 848(92) and 883(93).

2. 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. 12/31-E

ON SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND OTHER OIC MEMBER STATES TO COUNTERACT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

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

Recalling Resolution 12/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 12/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with concern that the stability of the financial system in some OIC Member States in South East Asia region and other Member States continues to remain under pressure arising from, amongst others, revolution in information and communication technology facilitating uncontrollable management of large amounts of capital for speculative purposes, as well as the prevailing directions of current international transactions;

1. Requests the Secretary General to continue to support the efforts of the OIC Member States of South East Asia to counteract the implications of the economic and financial crisis.
2. Requests the OIC subsidiary organs to study of the economic and financial crisis and their impact on the Islamic States.
3. Calls on the Islamic Development Bank as well as international financial institutions to continue their assistance to further strengthen social safety nets to protect the poor and vulnerable.
4. 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. 13/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

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

Recalling Resolution No. 13/10-E (IS) adopted by the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 13/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Further recalling Israeli aggressions against Lebanon, and the resulting losses of life and property, and their consequences on political and economic conditions in Lebanon;

Appreciating the efforts exerted by the Government of Lebanon to achieve stability and security, establish its authority, reconstruct its country, and provide for the needs of citizens in the territories previously under Israeli occupation;

Taking into account the difficulties faced by the Lebanese citizens in the territories previously occupied by Israel, and in the neighbouring areas;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses its appreciation for the donation made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, announced at the Donors Conference (Paris 2) of the amount of US\$700 million in the form of securities and of purchasing government bonds.
2. Expresses also its appreciation of the assistance extended by some Member States and by the relevant organs of the OIC.
3. Condemns Israeli acts of aggression against public facilities and infrastructures in Lebanon, aimed at obstructing the efforts of reconstruction made by the government of Lebanon. It also condemns the continued Israeli unwillingness to withdraw from parts of the territory of Lebanon, including the Shab'a farms, to the line of the internationally recognized borders of Lebanon.
4. Condemns Israel for refusing to hand over comprehensive maps of landmines, which it planted in various regions of the south and the western Bekaa and which constitute a grave danger to the lives of civilians. Condemns also Israel for detaining Lebanese detainees in its prisons.
5. Reaffirms its previous Resolutions on the need to provide various forms of financial, material, and humanitarian aid to Lebanon to meet its economic, technical and training needs, and reiterates the appeal to OIC Member States and to international and regional bodies to contribute urgently and effectively to the reconstruction of what was destroyed by Israeli occupation, and to respond positively to the call for a conference of donor states for that purpose.
6. Calls on Member States to grant exceptional facilities to Lebanese products to permit them unhindered access to their markets in support of the Lebanese economy, the mainstay of Lebanese steadfastness and resistance to Israeli aggression.
7. 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. 14 /31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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

Recalling Resolution No. 14/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 14/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Guided by the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter which lay stress on the common objectives and destiny of the peoples of the Ummah, as well as their commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing full solidarity of the Member States with the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Taking also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, held in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the Special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21st and 22nd Meetings of the OIC Foreign Ministers which were held in Karachi and Casablanca respectively and the Seventh OIC Summit, and the Work Programme of the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry and the 24th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Jakarta on supporting the Dayton Agreement;

Stressing the principles contained in the Final Document adopted by the enlarged meeting of the OIC Contact Group held in Sarajevo in April 1996;

Welcoming the resolutions of the enlarged meeting of the Ministers of the OIC Contact Group which was held in Geneva in July 1996, especially those relating to the establishment of the Revolving Fund to be allocated to medium and small projects in Bosnia;

Also expressing its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilisation Group for Bosnia and Herzegovina, formed during the OIC Kuala Lumpur meeting, which met in Sarajevo on 27-28 April 2001, towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Having examined the report of the Secretary General,

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by Member States and OIC relevant bodies. and noted with appreciation the special programme of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry to assist the private sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Commends the contributions of the OIC Member States at the Donors Conference for the Rehabilitation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was held in Brussels in April 1996.

3. Appeals to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations to enable full implementation of the IDB programme aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the reconstruction of the country and to work for the preservation of the Islamic identity of the Muslim inhabitants of Bosnia.
4. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
5. Urges upon the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina and humanitarian assistance relating to return of the refugees and displaced people to their homes by means of OIC Trust Fund for Bosnia and Herzegovina.
6. Demands that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected along its internationally recognized borders.
7. Requests the OIC Member States, to seek directing the biggest part of international assistance for reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the regions inhabited by Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
8. 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.15/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

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

Recalling Resolution No. 15/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 15/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Deeply concerned at the critical situation in Somalia and expressing the desire for early restoration of peace and order in that sister Member country;

Concerned at the adverse economic effects of the serious drought being experienced by the Republic of Somalia;

Having also taken note of the report of the Secretary General,

1. Expresses appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant institutions.

2. Urges OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia to end the human suffering in this Muslim country.
3. 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.16 /31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA IN THE FACE OF THE REFUGEE INFLUX FROM LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

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

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 18th Session of the COMCEC;

Recalling Resolution No. 16/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Considering the role played by the Republic of Guinea, within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to establish peace and ensure stability in some Member States, victims of armed conflicts;

Considering that the presence of a huge number of refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone constitutes an unbearable burden for the economy of the Republic of Guinea;

Considering the need for the Republic of Guinea to reconstruct its country and ensure the survival of the refugees and their return to their respective countries;

1. Calls urgently the international community and Member States to provide substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Guinea so as to enable it to face this situation created by the aggressions which victimized her and by the presence on its territory of hundred of thousands of refugees most of whom are Muslims.
2. Appeals to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its assistance to the Republic of Guinea so that it may create the social infrastructures needed for the displaced population and the refugees, and overcome the deterioration of the environment brought about by this massive presence of refugees.
3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this recommendation and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 17 /31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

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

Recalling Resolution No. 17/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 17/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling further Resolutions 57/19-P and 9/20-E adopted by the Nineteenth and Twentieth Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, respectively;

Recalling the results of the Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Sierra Leone;

Expressing appreciation for the sustained concern and interest of the leaders of the West African Sub-region, for peace to prevail in the Republic of Sierra Leone;

Expressing appreciation for the assistance rendered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Arab Republic of Egypt and other friendly nations for the donations of food items, clothing and medicines for the refugees and displaced inhabitants of Sierra Leone;

Expressing appreciation for the generous financial contributions made by State of Qatar, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Sudan.

Considering that the armed conflict in Sierra Leone caused considerable damage to life and property and for several years disrupted all economic activities particularly in the Mining, Agriculture and Industrial sectors, resulting in substantial loss of revenue to Government and the private sector;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General;

1. Appeals to the Member States and the international community to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone so as to enable its people to undertake the much needed process of rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of returnees and displaced inhabitants of about 1.5 million.
2. Requests the Secretary-General to use his good offices to accelerate the process of approval for projects already identified for Sierra Leone.
3. 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. 18 /31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

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

Recalling Resolution No. 18/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling also Resolution No. 18/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Expresses its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy.
3. Urges OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and International Organizations to grant generous economic assistance to Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.
4. 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. 19 /31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

The Thirty-First Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony) held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26-28 Rabiul Thani 21425H (14 to 16 June 2004),

Recalling Resolution No. 19/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 19/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling further the text of the Final Communiqué of the 9th extra-ordinary session of the ICFM held in Doha on 10 October, 2001;

Taking into account that Afghanistan is currently faced by serious constraints due to more than two decades of war;

Taking also into account the participation of the Member States and the Secretary General of the OIC in the Donors Conference held in on 21-22 January 2002 in Tokyo;

Noting the extra-ordinary grave situation prevailing at present in Afghanistan due to the on-going military campaign;

Noting that about 70% to 80% of its economic and social infrastructures has been destroyed during the two decades of war;

Also noting with concern the migration of Afghans into neighbouring countries because of existing humanitarian conditions and the onerous burden placed on these resources strained neighbouring countries;

Aware that over 1.5 million Afghans were killed, about 1.5 million disabled and more than 5 million displaced and took refuge in the neighbouring countries;

Recognizing that about 10 million mines were planted in different parts of the country:

Noting also that the interim Government of Afghanistan needs critical international support and assistance in its efforts at stabilization and reconstruction of the war-ravaged country

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Calls for a major international effort to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.
2. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and relevant OIC bodies.
3. Urges Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and to the internally displaced Afghans as well as to the Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran..
4. Expresses its satisfaction on the conclusion reached at the Donors Conference in Tokyo to extend assistance to Afghanistan, and appeals to countries to begin to implement the commitments made at the Tokyo Conference to assist Afghanistan to rebuild her infrastructure.
5. Commends the assistance extended by Islamic countries in implementation of the declaration of commitments made during the Tokyo Conference held on 21 to 22 January 2002, in particular the contribution made to Afghanistan by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of an amount of US\$221 million in addition to \$52 million in humanitarian aid, and appreciates the donation of \$30 million for the construction of the Kabul-Herat road.
6. Appreciates also the contributions made by the Islamic Republic of Iran, State of Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, United Arab Emirates and other Member States for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
7. Welcomes the holding of the International Conference on `Afghanistan and Regional Economic Cooperation: Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan` in Bishkek on 10-12 May, 2004 with a view to finding ways and means of reinforcing economic cooperation between the states of the region and Afghanistan.

8. Requests the donor countries, international institutions and the OIC Member States participating in the international effort for reconstruction and development of Afghanistan to take advantage of the facilities and services available in the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, especially Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

9. 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. 20/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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

Recalling Resolution No. 20/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 20/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Aware that the Government of the Republic of Uganda is currently experiencing serious strain on its meagre resources as a result of the presence of refugees from neighbouring countries who flock into the country;

Recognizing that Uganda is offering asylum to large numbers of refugees whose number will increase if the state of unrest continues to escalate;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Invites Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugee problems and other related consequences. Also stresses the need to enable Uganda to implement its relevant economic and cultural programmes in an urgent and effective manner.

2. 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. 21/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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

Recalling Resolution No. 21/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 21/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Confirming full solidarity of the Member States of the OIC with the Government and people of Azerbaijan at this very critical time of the country's history;

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding this conflict;

Deploring the Armenian hostilities in the Nogorno-Karabakh district of Azerbaijan followed by the occupation of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which forced almost one million Azerbaijani people to flee their homes in the face of the brutal attacks and gross violations of human rights by this aggression;

Recognizing the need to reinforce concrete solidarity of the OIC Member States with the Government and people of Azerbaijan;

Welcoming and appreciating the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies, United Nations institutions and international organizations;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Appeals to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic and humanitarian assistance with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Azerbaijani people.
2. Calls upon the international organizations to continue to grant humanitarian, financial assistance to Azerbaijan.
3. 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. 22/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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

Recalling Resolution No. 22/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 22/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Kyrgyz Republic after attainment of independence and sovereignty;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

Expressing its sympathy with the brotherly people of Kyrgyz Republic regarding the consequences of the natural disasters which struck this country, thus affecting the socio-economic situation;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Appeals to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and to contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyz Republic either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organizations so as to enable Kyrgyz Republic to fulfil its economic programme.
3. Appeals also to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyz Republic.
4. 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. 23/31-E

ON ASSISTANCE TO THE KASHMIRI PEOPLE

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

Recalling Resolution No. 23/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling also all previous resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference on assistance to the Kashmiri people, particularly Resolution 23/30-E of the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing deep appreciation for the assistance extended to the Kashmiris by some Member States and relevant OIC bodies;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Appeals to Member States and Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Islamic Development Bank and charitable institutions, to grant generous humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.
- 2 Also appeals to Member States and the Islamic Institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in the OIC countries.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 24/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

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

Recalling Resolution No. 24/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 24/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen and the losses incurred in the tourism sector in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001 in New York.

Appreciating the efforts made and success achieved by the Government of the Republic of Yemen in implementing the Economic Reforms Policy and the Fight-Against-Poverty Programme;

Taking into consideration the heavy burdens borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighbouring African countries;

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of Yemeni Government in overcoming its economic difficulties and the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and the Fight-Against-Poverty Programme.

2. Renews its call to the Member States and all regional and international organizations to extend all kinds of economic assistance to the Yemeni Government to support its efforts aimed at implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and the Fight-Against-Poverty Programme with a view to alleviating the heavy burden of sheltering large number of refugees from neighbouring African countries.

3. 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. 25/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF PALESTINE

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

Recalling Resolution No. 25/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling also Resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference as well as resolutions of the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th Sessions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with great interest the efforts by the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza Strip and West Bank to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people and to reconstruct the Palestinian national economy;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the issue;

1. Expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance extended to the Palestinian people and Authority by some Member States and relevant bodies of the OIC; and calls upon all Member States to continue their support and assistance for their Palestinian brothers to enable them face the difficult conditions they are passing through due to continuous Israeli aggression.

2. Commends the substantial assistance and contributions extended by the people and Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the generosity of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for his support of 1,000 families of the martyrs of the Palestinian intifada and notes that Saudi Arabia has paid up all its installments until March, 2004 to support the Palestinian Authority in conformity with the Arab League resolution addressed to all Arab countries in support of the Palestinian Authority

3. Commends the efforts of the Palestinian National Authority in the Palestinian territories to reconstruct what has been destroyed during three consecutive years of Israeli aggression, and calls upon the international community, and monetary and economic institutions to come to the aid of the Palestinian people and assist them to rebuild the destruction caused by the Israeli occupation.

4. Reaffirms the previous resolutions aimed at extending all forms of moral, material, technical and economic support to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority; and at giving preference to importation of Palestinian products and exempting them from taxes and custom duties.

5. Condemns Israel's continued defiance of the will of the international community and her building of the separation wall on Palestinian land, and stresses the serious impact of the wall on the economic situation in Palestine as well as the daily sufferings endured by the Palestinian people.

6. Urges business men and investors in Member States to contribute in executing economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian territories

in order to build the Palestinian national economy and to support the Palestinian National and institutions in the implementation of the coming phases of their development programmes in the economic, social and health fields.

7. Urges Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in view of the obstacles placed by Israel, to facilitate employment opportunities for the Palestinian labour force, in order to enhance the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people and to eradicate unemployment.

8. Also urges the Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestinian National Authority in the economic, commercial and social fields in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in their homeland, and expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance extended to the Palestinian people by some Member States to build their national economy in the self rule regions of West Bank and Gaza Strip.

9. 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. 26/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

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

Recalling Resolution No 26/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 26/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its deep concern over the unprecedented floods in Southern Africa and Mozambique, in particular, that caused loss of lives, extensive destruction infrastructures, deterioration of socio-economic situation and dislodgement and scattering of landmines;

Taking note of the Donors' Conference held in Maputo, Mozambique from 12 to 13 July, 2001, with the aim of mobilizing financial resources for the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures and assistance to the people affected by the floods occurred earlier in 2001 in Mozambique.

Noting with satisfaction that the process of pacification and democratisation that is in place in Mozambique creates a climate of peace and harmony conducive to creating a solid platform of genuine reconciliation among Mozambicans, a "sine qua non" condition for the implementation of economic and social programmes;

Appreciating the efforts being made by the Government of Mozambique in the implementation of the national reconstruction programme;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Expresses thanks to the member states which have extended assistance to Mozambique to alleviate the suffering of its people resulting from the floods that affected the country, and in particular the GCC States.
2. Stresses the need to enable Mozambique to implement its economic and social development programmes in an effective manner.
3. Appeals to Islamic Development Bank, all Islamic Institutions and the international community in general to render their material and financial support in order to ensure the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures and rehabilitation of the affected people in Mozambique.
4. Emphasizes the need to promote and encourage the role of the private sector particularly within the context of development of Small and Medium Enterprises.
5. Urges the developed countries to write off the external debt of Mozambique in the light of its current critical socio-economic situation.
6. Urges the international community to increase its assistance to mine-clearance Programmes, taking into account the far reaching effects of the floods.
7. Urges the international community to render assistance for setting up national, sub-regional, regional and international disaster prevention, preparedness and management mechanisms, including early warning systems.
8. Commends the efforts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to address the devastating effects of the floods and thanks international community for the support, solidarity and humanitarian assistance rendered to Mozambique.
9. Calls upon all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique.
10. 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.27/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

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

Recalling Resolution No. 27/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 27/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking into account the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter as well as members' commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Deeply concerned at critical situation which Tajikistan has faced in the light of 5 years of bloody civil war, resulted in the death, injury and displacement of thousands of people as well as destruction of its economic and social infrastructures;

Noting the return of about 200 thousands Tajik refugees to their homeland which necessitates a great financial and technical support;

Recalling the report of the World Food Programme which estimates that 25 per cent of Tajikistan's population is in dire need of food aid;

Noting with concern the marked spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and diarrhoea, victims of which are especially infants, children and women;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Expresses deep appreciation to the assistance extended by some Member States.
2. Appeals to all members and Islamic financial institutions to make their generous contributions to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Tajikistan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Tajikistan to fulfil its rehabilitation programmes.
3. Urges the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Tajikistan.
4. 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. 28/31-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

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

Recalling Resolution No. 29/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 28/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Affirming the principles and objectives which underscore cooperation and solidarity of the Ummah with its members;

Recalling that the Republic of Djibouti is sheltering on its territory an important number of refugees and displaced persons representing more than one third of its population, and weighing heavily on its health and educational infrastructures;

Deeply concerned at the recent floods causing an important loss in livestock, as well as serious damage to roads and health establishments thus causing cholera and malaria epidemics;

Aware that the Republic of Djibouti has resolved, through dialogue, a three-year internal conflict which had seriously affected its economy;

Conscious that peace should be strengthened through the preservation of social gains;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Makes an urgent appeal to the Member States to provide substantial financial and material support to the Republic of Djibouti for the consolidation of peace, the reconstruction of the country and the implementation of its structural adjustment programme.

2. Calls on the Member States to assist the Republic of Djibouti in its struggle against the disastrous consequences of the recent flood at both the social and economic levels.

3. 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. 29/31-E

ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CHECHEN PEOPLE

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

Recalling Resolution No. 30/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 29/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Guided by the noble principles of Islam and the objectives of the OIC Charter which emphasize on the common objectives and destiny of the people of the Ummah as well as their commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Recalling the concerns and the support expressed at the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) in December 1994 regarding the situation in Chechnya which has deteriorated again in 1999;

Referring to the call to all Member States made by His Excellency S. Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chairman of the Eighth Islamic Summit, for a rapid humanitarian assistance to the people and refugees of Chechnya and its readiness to assist in coordination of this effort;

Expressing deep concern over the plight of Muslim refugees and displaced people of Chechnya and humanitarian and material losses resulting from the Chechnya Crisis in 1999;

Welcoming voluntary humanitarian assistances provided by some Member States, as well as some affiliated institutions of the OIC for people and refugees of Chechnya;

1. Calls on all Member States, Islamic Philanthropist Institutions and appeals to the international community to urgently provide generous humanitarian assistance to the people and refugees of Chechnya.
2. Recommends to all Member States to encourage their relevant institutions, NGO's and individuals to provide humanitarian assistance for people and refugees of Chechnya.
3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this recommendation and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 30/31-E

ON ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (COMCEC)

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

Recalling Resolution No. 31/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Also recalling Resolution No. 2/6-E(IS) of the Sixth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 9-11 December 1991 on the activities of the COMCEC mandating it to formulate new Strategies for the enhancement of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States and to take appropriate action for its implementation;

Recalling resolution No. 8/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994) which endorsed the Strategy and the Plan of Action;

Recalling Resolution No. 30/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the resolutions of the Ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC;

Also recalling the resolutions adopted at the nineteen previous sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among the Member States, particularly in the area of trade;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, affiliated and specialized institutions of OIC, working in the field of economy and trade, to implement the resolutions of the COMCEC;

Noting with appreciation that the Strategy for Economic and Commercial Cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member States and is based on the principles giving emphasis to private sector, economic liberalisation, integration with the world economy, sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member States and their international obligations.

Also noting with appreciation that the revised Plan of Action is a general and flexible policy document open for improvement during its implementation in accordance with the provisions stipulated in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.

Recognizing the importance for the Member States of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of regional economic groupings, signing of the Uruguay Round Agreements, and creation of the World Trade Organization and its subsequent Agreements;

Appreciating that, starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy of the Member States could exchange views on current world economic issues and that the topics "Implications of the Uruguay Round of trade Negotiations and the Establishment of the World Trade Organization on the external trade of OIC Member States", "Privatization Experiences in Member States", "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings particularly the European Union on the Economies of Member States", "Intra-OIC Trade and Investment and Economic Stabilisation and Structural Reforms in Member States", "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation in the Member States of the OIC", "Strengthening of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and Liberalisation" "The Effects of Non-tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade of the Member Countries", "Private Sector Investment in the Member States and the Role of IDB" and "Impact of Electronic Commerce and Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of intra-OIC trade" were the themes for the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Sessions of the COMCEC, respectively;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Stresses the need for COMCEC to continue to pay utmost attention to coordination and cooperation among Member States with regard to the membership of new countries that wish to join the World Trade Organization, and to the clarification of positions on the new issues and agreements under

consideration within the framework of the WTO with a view to strengthening the negotiating position of these countries at the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations especially with respect to the built-in agenda and to the new ones.

2. Expresses satisfaction that the Islamic Development Bank has successfully carried out the mandate given by COMCEC to organise Coordination Meetings for Member States to consult among themselves and better prepare for the WTO Ministerial Meetings held in Singapore from 9 to 13 December 1996, in Geneva from 18-20 May 1998, in Seattle from 30 November to 03 December 1999, in Doha from 9-14 November, 2001 and in Cancun, Mexico from 10-14 September 2003 respectively with a view to assisting them to adopt a common stand regarding the issues raised in the Agenda of those meetings.

3. Thanks the ICDT and IDB for organising an expert group meeting before the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference for the benefit of the Member States.

4. Thanks the IDB for organizing a brainstorming meeting for the Geneva-based Permanent Missions of the Member States on 1-2 May 2003 and a Consultative Meeting on 27-28 July, 2003 for the capital-based officials in preparation for the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference, as well as for holding a post-Cancun dialogue for the Geneva-based Permanent Missions of the OIC countries on 2-3 December 2003 in Geneva.

5. Appreciates also the technical assistance programmes of the Islamic Development Bank to assist Member States which are either members of the WTO or in the process of accession to the Organization, and the role of the Bank in organizing for consultative meetings of Member States and the Seminars and Workshops it organizes for this purpose.

6. Appreciates the efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in organizing Private Sector Meetings as directed by the COMCEC for an effective implementation of the Plan of Action.

7. Underlines the crucial importance of the active participation of the private sector in economic cooperation among the Member States and appreciating the cooperation and productive support of IDB for all the events of ICCI, calls upon ICCI to pursue its efforts to further involve the private sector in the economic cooperation among Member States.

8. Appreciates the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding the 10th Private Sector Meeting on 4-6 October 2003 in Tehran in collaboration with ICCI and the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines.

9. Notes with appreciation that the Regulations for the Islamic Trade Fair which was prepared by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, had been adopted by the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC.

10. Expresses its gratitude to the United Arab Emirates for hosting the Islamic Trade Fair in Sharjah from 21 to 26 December 2002 on the theme: Free Trade and Sustainable development, and expresses its appreciation for the commendable efforts made by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sharjah for the success of the fair.

11. Welcomes the offer of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce to host the 11th Private Sector Meeting on February 5-7, 2005.
12. Also welcomes the agreement between the Republic of Guinea and the Kingdom of Bahrain, under which the Kingdom of Bahrain is to host the 10th Islamic Trade Fair on 5-9 February, 2005 in place of the Republic of Guinea, which earlier offered to host it and calls upon the Member States to actively participate in the event.
13. Further welcomes the offers of the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Guinea to host the 11th, the 12th and the 13th Trade Fairs of Islamic Countries in 2006, 2008 and 2010, respectively.
14. Supports the Secretary-General's initiative on the OIC's participation at "Expo 2005) in Aichy (Japan), and calls on the Member States and OIC institutions concerned to support this initiative and coordinate in the matter with the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, who is designated as the commissioner in charge of preparing for the participation of OIC at the World Exhibition in order to enable it to take part effectively in this significant cultural and economic event.
15. Emphasizes the need to urgently implement the revised Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States the OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
16. Stresses the importance of the recommendations of the Experts Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the Plan of Action and requests that measures be taken by the Member States to accelerate the implementation of these recommendations through appropriate mechanisms to be proposed by the COMCEC Coordination Office in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC institutions.
17. Takes notes of approval by the COMCEC of the Draft Project Profile Form prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office in pursuance of the relevant recommendation of the Experts Group Meeting on Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action and requests the Member States to make use of it whenever they wish to submit project proposals within the framework of the OIC Plan of Action.
18. Takes note of the adoption by the 19th Session of COMCEC the Supplementary Mechanism developed by the COMCEC Coordination Office, in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IUT, IDB, ICCI and OISA in pursuance of the relevant recommendation of the Experts Group Meeting held on 6-7 May 2001 in Istanbul.
19. Takes note of the approval by the 19th Session of COMCEC of the Sessional Committee serving as the appropriate body under the supervision of which the concerned OIC institutions are to function and coordinate their activities in fulfilling their mandate regarding the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action; and of the

adoption by the same session of COMCEC the necessary modifications in the Article 11 of the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the COMCEC.

20. Takes note also of the adoption by the 19th Session of COMCEC of the Rules of Procedure of the Sessional Committee to regulate and coordinate the activities of the OIC institutions in the field of commercial and economic cooperation to implement the OIC Plan of Action as proposed in the Supplementary Mechanism, and requests the OIC General Secretariat to take necessary measures for submission of the Rules of Procedure to the 11th Islamic Summit Conference for its approval.

21 Requests the Member States to take appropriate measures including necessary cooperation, coordination and consultation among themselves to make efforts with the required possible economic and technical support from the developed countries, international community and relevant international organizations and financial institutions to increase their food production capacity with a view to arriving at national food security as well as enhancing the purchasing power of their people.

22. Invites the Member States to host sectoral Expert Group Meetings in priority areas of cooperation in the Plan of Action.

23. Welcomes the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host two sectoral Expert Group Meetings in the area of "Transport and Communications" and "Food, Agriculture and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action.

24. Thanks the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism on 6-9 October 2002 in Riyadh.

25. Invites IDB to continue its active support in ensuring effective and urgent implementation of the revised Plan of Action.

26. Thanks the Republic of Senegal for the hosting of Seminar-Workshop in cooperation with IDB to familiarize the African member states with the Plan of Action, and recommends that similar seminars be held in other regions and sub-regions of OIC.

27. Recognizes that the Exchange of Views organized during the annual sessions of the COMCEC would be utilized to coordinate the positions of the Member States vis-a-vis major world economic issues.

28. Welcomes the offer of the government of the Republic of Sudan to host sectoral Expert Group Meeting on "Energy and Mining" and "Human Resources Development."

29. Thanks the Republic of Gabon for having organised a sub-regional seminar for the OIC States of Central and East Africa on "the role of IDB in the promotion of the private sector" in cooperation with IDB and the other concerned institutions of the OIC.

30. Thanks Burkina Faso for hosting a regional workshop on Industry for East, West and Central African OIC member states in cooperation with the IDB and other related OIC institutions.

31. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host sectoral Expert Group Meeting in the area of Health and Sanitary Issues to be followed by a Ministerial meeting on the same topic.
32. Thanks the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Experts Group of Meeting on Accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action, which was held on 6-7 May, 2001 in Istanbul.
33. Welcomes the offer of the Republic Tunisia to host an experts group meeting on "Promoting the Activities of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises" in the field of production and exports.
34. Calls upon the concerned Member States to actively take part in the first round of trade negotiation under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC, and also invites the Member States, that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement.
35. Welcomes the designation by the 19th Session of COMCEC of the COMCEC Coordination Office and the ICDDT to serve as the Secretariat for the Trade Negotiating Committee under the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States.
36. Takes note with appreciation of the adoption by the 19th Session of the COMCEC the Ministerial Declaration for the launching of the First Round of Trade Negotiations under the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States as well as the rules of procedure of the Trade Negotiating Committee.
37. Thanks the Republic of Turkey for hosting the first meeting of the first round of negotiations on 6-9 April 2004 in Antalya held by Trade Negotiating Committee under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States and notes that the second meeting will be held on 7-10 September, 2004 in Antalya and urges the participating countries to communicate their views on the Negotiating Strategy for TPSOIC as adopted at the first meeting at their earliest convenience before September, 2004.
38. Thanks the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting of an Experts Group Meeting to prepare the Launching of the First Round of Trade Negotiations within the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States held in Casablanca on 24-26 June, 2003 and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the COMCEC Coordination Office for organizing it and preparing the necessary documents in this regard.
39. Welcomes the offer of Indonesia to host an International Workshop on Employment and Manpower Exchange.
40. Welcomes the offer of Arab Republic of Egypt to host an OIC Ministerial Meeting to promote intra-OIC trade.
41. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host a workshop on 14-16 September 2004 in Islamabad on Trade and Transport Facilitation among the OIC Member States, in collaboration with the ICDDT, ICCI, OISA and other

relevant OIC institutions as a preparation for the exchange of views session to be held during the 20th session of COMCEC.

42. Thanks the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the workshop on “Impact of Electronic Commerce and the Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade” on 10-12 June, 2003 in Tunis in collaboration with SESRTCIC, ICDT, IUT and other relevant OIC institutions as a preparation for the exchange of views session to be held during the 19th session of COMCEC.

43. Notes with appreciation that the 20th Session of the COMCEC will be held from 23-26 November, 2004 in Istanbul under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey and calls upon the Member States to effectively and actively participate in the meeting.

44. Appreciates the initiative of the Republic of Turkey, in its capacity as the Chairman of COMCEC and Islamic Development Bank of holding a high-level Ministerial meeting for focusing on promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment, styled as the OIC Istanbul Economic Conference, to be held concurrently with the 20th Session of COMCEC on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of COMCEC and calls upon the Member States to actively participate in the Conference and also to encourage and ensure a wider private sector participation in the Conference and requests the OIC General Secretariat and the concerned OIC institutions to provide all necessary support in this respect.

45. Takes notes of the initiative of ICCI on forming a working group comprised of the General Secretariat, the COMCEC Coordination Office, IDB, ICCI, SESRTCIC and ICDT, as the focal point assuming the responsibilities of the monitoring mechanism to implement the recommendations of the private sector meetings.

46. 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. 31/31-E

ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

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

Recalling Resolution No. 32/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 28/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No. 31/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling also the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, held in Kuala Lumpur on October 10-

13, 2001; and the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, held in Riyadh on 6-9 October 2002;

Also recalling that tourism has been identified as a priority area for cooperation in the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States;

Convinced that tourism forms a main pivot in economic development, cultural exchange and rapprochement between nations;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Invites the Member States to cooperate in the various fields of tourism development.
2. Expresses satisfaction at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the OIC General Secretariat and encourages the two organizations to strengthen their cooperation to foster tourism in the Member States.
3. Encourages Member States to find ways and means to facilitate further cooperation between WTO and OIC, particularly through holding of meetings of OIC on the sidelines of WTO annual sessions in order to coordinate their position with regard to different topics.
4. Thanks Malaysia for hosting the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism on 10-13 October, 2001 in Kuala Lumpur and meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Conference in Kuala Lumpur on 5-6 September 2002.
5. Endorses 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.
6. Thanks the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism in Riyadh on 6-9 October 2002.
7. Notes with appreciation the Resolution on Tourism Development and the Riyadh Declaration adopted by the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism.
8. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism on 17-19 December, 2004 and invites Member States to actively participate in it.
9. Thanks the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade for its efforts to organize a Tourism Fair, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in Member States once every two years and welcomes in this connection the offers of the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Lebanon and the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the first, second and third Tourism Fairs in 2005, 2007 and 2009 respectively.
10. Takes note of the proposal of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry to organize in future on a regular basis Private Sector Forum on Tourism and appreciates the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to hold the first such Forum with the collaboration of this Supreme Council of Tourism of the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Council of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2004.

11. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Mali to host the Second Private Sector Forum on Tourism in 2004.

12. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of all the recommendations and resolutions especially those pertaining to the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Plan of Action adopted at the Conferences of the Ministers of Tourism and to submit reports thereon to the annual sessions of COMCEC and future sessions of Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences.

RESOLUTION NO. 32/31-E

ON STATUS OF THE SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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

Recalling Resolution No. 33/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 32/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having reviewed the developments in respect of signature and/or ratification of the (i) Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among Member States, (ii) General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States, (iii) Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States, (iv) Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council, (v) Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union and (vi) Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC);

Having taken cognizance of Resolution (1) adopted by the Nineteenth Session of COMCEC on the matter;

Having taken note also of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Expresses satisfaction at the efforts of the General Secretariat, the IDB and the ICCI to speed up the implementation of the Agreements and Statutes aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among Member States.

2. Welcomes the initiative of COMCEC to facilitate the signing of the Agreements/Statutes that fall within the framework of cooperation among Member States and recommends that this practice be pursued.

3. Notes with satisfaction that the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States entered into force upon its ratification by more than ten Member States as required under the Agreement and urges those who have not yet done so, to do it as soon as possible.
4. Requests the General Secretariat and its specialised subsidiary organs to exert their efforts to convince Member States of the need to sign and ratify the Agreements/ Statutes and to regularly follow up on the matter.
5. Calls upon Member States which have not yet signed and/or ratified the above mentioned Agreements/Statutes to do so, at their earliest.
6. Urges the Member States that have ratified the above Agreements to take follow-up actions and inform the General Secretariat about the progress of implementation.
7. 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. 33/31-E

ON ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS ACTIVE IN THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE FIELDS

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

Recalling Resolution No. 34/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 33/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the activities of the Subsidiary Organs of the OIC, namely, the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), Ankara, and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca;

Having taken note with satisfaction of the activity reports submitted by the representatives of the above-mentioned subsidiary organs;

Appreciating the increasing number of joint activities among the OIC organs and agencies;

Expressing its appreciation at the role played by the subsidiary organs in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Commends the role which the SESRTCIC and ICDT are playing each in their respective fields.

2. Urges the Member States to actively and effectively participate in the work of these organs and expeditiously respond to the questionnaires circulated by them, and closely follow up their documents and studies so as to achieve maximum benefit from these organs in the area of economic cooperation among the Member States.
3. Encourages these organs to intensify contacts with international and regional institutions particularly those working in the framework of the United Nations and others, such as Bretton Woods institutions and to benefit from the studies and reports produced by these institutions.
4. Thanks ICDT for organizing a training seminar, in cooperation with IDB, on "Economic Diplomacy", which was held in Casablanca on 16-20 February 2004.
5. Urges the Member States, which have not done so thus far, to settle their regular mandatory contributions to the budgets of these bodies, and to act for the settlement of their arrears, if any, at the earliest in view of the current financial difficulties being faced by these organs.
6. Notes that the Member States are to benefit from the special services offered by the subsidiary organs, above and beyond the tasks assigned to them in their work programmes, on a contractual basis.
7. Calls upon OIC institutions to hold consultative meetings on a regular basis concurrently with the annual sessions of the COMCEC and Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, in order to enhance the existing collaboration among OIC institutions, avoid duplication and monitor the progress of the programs assigned to each institution and learn from their respective experiences.
8. Urges Member States to consider, when nominating their representatives to the Board of Directors of these organs, persons who are experienced in the activities of the organs, and expresses the strong desirability of setting up conditions for selection of such representative to those meetings.
9. Calls upon the General Secretariat to consider putting in place a medium term plan for these subsidiary organs to perform tasks, and to extend to them every assistance within the framework of a three to four-year work programme, also calls upon the General Secretariat to better coordinate the activities of these organs with a view to achieving positive results that are relevant to changes in the international arena and international economy.
10. 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. 34/31-E

ON SUPPORT FOR THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

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

Having taken note of the Resolution No. 35/10(IS) of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 34/30-E of the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken note with appreciation of the report on the activities and operations of the Islamic Development Bank;

Noting with satisfaction that the Islamic Development Bank continues to expand its field of operation and activity concerning project financing, import and export trade financing, technical assistance, technical cooperation, special assistance, scholarship programme and other fields of cooperation in the Member States and the Muslim communities;

Also noting with satisfaction that for the meeting of the needs of the Member States in the area of Research and Development, IDB has established the Islamic Research and Training Institute, which is making useful contribution since 1981 and has also established two scholarship schemes and IDB prizes in Islamic economic, Islamic banking, and Science and Technology for encouraging human resources development in the Member States.

Noting with appreciation that the IDB has played an active role in the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States as well as the various resolutions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC);

Also noting with satisfaction that within the framework of its mandate and commitments aimed at meeting the needs of the Member States, the IDB has developed innovative financing instruments, technical and financial assistance programmes, various new schemes, funds and other entities, some of which were initiative under the auspices of the COMCEC for financing of projects in priority sectors and for promotion of intra-OIC trade;

Noting with appreciation that the IDB, while carrying on activities of its own in the area of science and technology, has cooperated closely with the Standing Committee for Science and Technology in the areas of information networking, implementing projects in selected areas of advanced technology, launching scholarship programmes for advance degrees and providing technical assistance for capacity building in order to help promote science and technology in the Member States.

Having taken note also of the report of the Secretary General in this regard:

1. Expresses its full satisfaction at the devotion and efficiency with which the IDB President and his staff are running this institution to ensure its good performance, as it continues to make an invaluable contribution to the development and progress of Muslim populations.
2. Calls on the Islamic Development Bank to keep up its beneficial action and strive to increase the mobilization of necessary resources for augmenting its services to the Member States, and to the Islamic Ummah at large.
3. Commends the IDB on the steps taken to implement the Resolutions of the 8th, 9th and 10th Islamic Summits on Preparation of the Ummah for the 21st Century.
4. Welcomes the decision taken by the Board of Governors of IDB at its 27th Meeting held in Ouagadougou in October 2002 to establish a special assistance programme for Africa in implementation of the New African Partnership Development Programme (NEPAD).
5. Calls on the Member States to participate in various schemes which the Bank has recently started implementing and to benefit from the Export Financing Scheme, the Islamic Banks' Portfolio, the IDB Unit Investment Fund, the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, along with IDB's other existing schemes, programmes and operations.
6. Appreciates the varied activities of IDB aimed at the promotion of the private sector and the enhancement of its role as a key actor in the economic and social development of the Member States, and welcomes the activation of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) in fulfilment of their tasks in supporting private investment and trade in the Member States.
7. Appreciates the Bank's efforts to create the IDB Infrastructure Fund with a capital of 1500 million US dollar to develop infrastructure in Member States in the fields of energy and hydro-electricity, communications, transport etc. and to support the private sector.
8. Urges Member States, which have not yet done so, to urgently complete the official procedures to join these two corporations as full members, pay their shares of subscribed capitals and start utilizing their facilities on the widest possible scales for the benefit of the private sector entities and their overall development.
9. Welcomes the successful launching of the Sukuk (Islamic Bond) in the world capital markets in July 2003 in the amount of US\$400 million, which opened up a whole new avenue for the IDB in its quest for mobilizing additional resources in meeting the development financing needs of the Member States.
10. Requests the General Secretariat, the IDB, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade to jointly organize regional seminars on the various schemes approved by the COMCEC, especially the Export Trade Financing Scheme, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit, the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and the Islamic Multilateral Clearing Union

with a view to ensuring efficient and speedy implementation of these schemes for the benefit of the business community of the Islamic Ummah.

11. Invites the Member States which have not yet done so to subscribe to the second capital increase of the IDB and to settle their outstanding contributions and other financial commitments.

12. Also calls upon the Member States to lend their support to the Bank so as to enable it to fulfil its obligations and commitments towards fostering economic development and social progress in the Member States.

13. Appreciates the keen interest that IDB has shown in the efforts at reorganization of the OIC in order to increase the effectiveness of the Organization, and the technical assistance it has provided for preparation of its study to restructure the General Secretariat of the OIC for implementation of quick-win initiatives in response to the challenges of the new millennium.

14. Welcomes the decision taken by the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank at its 26th meeting to achieve a substantial increase in the authorized and subscribed capital of the IDB in accordance with a decision taken at the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference.

15. Expresses appreciation for efforts of IDB to make arrangements for preparatory meetings prior to WTO ministerial meetings for consultations and exchange of views among Member States. It also commends IDB support to Member States in their efforts to effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations and its continued provision of technical and financial assistance to Member States.

16. Expresses appreciation for IDB efforts to accord preferential treatment to companies and contractors from Member States in the implementation of projects financed by the Bank and calls upon IDB to intensify its efforts in this field.

17. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts in the establishment of the World Waqf Foundation, and urges the Member States to cooperate with it for advancing the Waqf affairs towards enhancing its economic and social role.

18. 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. 35 /31-E

ON AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS OF THE OIC OPERATING IN THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS

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

Recalling Resolution No. 36/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No. 35/30-E of the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken cognizance of the activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA);

Expressing its appreciation for the role played by the affiliated institutions in the elaboration and implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States;

Confirming the important role that the private sector has to play in the development of Member States and promotion of economic Cooperation among them;

Appreciating the role played by these two institutions in their respective fields of action;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC);

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Notes with appreciation the important role which the ICCI and the OISA are playing in their respective fields.
2. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Tenth Private Sector Meeting.
3. Congratulates the ICCI for its important initiatives aimed at maintaining contacts with businessmen and contributing to socioeconomic development in then Member States.
4. Appeals to the governments of the Member States to encourage their Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to develop a framework of cooperation with the ICCI and contribute to its programs to enhance trade and investment among the Member States.
5. Takes note with appreciation the recommendations adopted by its 40th Executive Committee and the 20th General Assembly Meetings held in Tehran on 4-6 October 2003 as well as the, recommendations adopted by its 41st Executive Committee Meeting held in Sharm El Shaikh on 27-28 April, 2004.
6. Thanks the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the National Chambers of the Commerce in Malaysia, Cameroon, Turkey and Egypt for hosting the regional offices of ICCI in order to further expand the network of the Islamic Chamber among the private sector.
7. Expresses thanks to the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for extending consistent support to the Islamic Shipowners' Association, giving donations and hosting its Headquarters.
8. Also expresses thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for allowing the setting up of the Headquarters of the Bakkah Shipping Company (BASCO) in Jeddah.

9. Takes Note with appreciation the recommendations of the 25th Session of the Executive Committee and the 17th Meeting of the General Assembly of the OISA held in Dubai on 1-4 October 2003.
10. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the 25th Executive Committee Meeting and the 17th General Assembly Session and also thanks UAE for approving to register the Bakkah Shipping Company (Operational Office) in Dubai without the need for a local sponsor and granting a piece of land free of cost to this project.
11. Also appreciates the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for extending its support to the Islamic P&I Club enabling it to operate and offering adequate coverage within the Iranian jurisdiction with the minimum legal restriction.
12. Welcomes the setting up of the Bakkah Shipping Company and calls upon the shipping companies, private sector and individuals of the Member States to back up and support the Company in its effort to serve the Islamic Ummah.
13. Commends the initiative of the OISA Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Club (Asian Protection and Indemnity Club) and the Iranian Shipping Companies specially to the National Iranian Tanker Company for their joint efforts and contributions in having the Asian P&I Club to be under the umbrella of the Islamic Shipowners Association. Also expresses its thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), for initiating and preparing a solid study to set up an Islamic P&I Club.
14. Invites Member States and its maritime companies to register their ships with the Islamic P&I (Protection and Indemnity Club) in Qeshm Island in Islamic Republic of Iran, in order the Club meet the level of the existing International P&I Clubs and also to encourage the treatment of the ships under cover of the Club on equal footing with national ships at the member states seaports. All the ports authorities of the member states are urged to cooperate and offer all supports and facilities to the acceptance of Islamic P&I Club covers ad certificate of entries issued by the Club. The insurance companies in the member states also to facilitate all kind of services to Islamic P&I Cub in accordance with support of the Club covers.
15. Commends the initiative of the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association for setting up a web-based Cooperative Information System to serve the maritime companies of Member States.
16. Urges the Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign the Statute of the Islamic Shipowners' Association.
17. Appeals to Member States to continue to extend their support and assistance to the ICCI and the OISA.
18. 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. 36/31-E

ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISLAMIC COMMON MARKET

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

Recalling Resolution No. 33/8-E(IS) adopted by the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Tehran;

Recalling Resolution No. 37/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia;

Recalling Resolution No. 36/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting that the process of globalization and economic liberalization could offer new opportunities and challenges for all developing countries including OIC member states;

Noting also that the creation of regional and sub-regional economic groupings comprising a number of Member States and their interest in establishing Free Trade Zones and Common Markets among them are important and positive steps towards establishing an Islamic Common Market.

Recognizing that recent developments in both the global and the domestic economic environment and the emerging trend towards interdependence among developing countries - including OIC Member States - spurring them on to contribute to economic cooperation, collaboration and integration.

Recognizing also that inter-regional, regional and sub-regional cooperation among Islamic Countries is an important element in the development strategy, particularly for expanding trade and investment flow and an essential contribution for the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the Islamic Countries ;

Welcoming the efforts of a number of OIC Member States which have made notable progress in building their potentialities and strengthening their competitiveness on the international markets through active participation in the global trading system and attracting more foreign direct investments.

Expressing concern that many OIC Member States have been marginalized in the international economic system through lack or weakness of institutional arrangements which are necessary for expansion of their foreign trade and participation in the international financial markets;

Taking into account that the formation of an Islamic Common Market is a long-run process and requires comprehensive studies and at the same time requires its own implementation and follow up arrangements;

Taking note with appreciation the study prepared and submitted by SESRTCIC on the establishment of an Islamic Common Market;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the matter;

1. Emphasizes the importance of implementing the Plan of Action to strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States; the Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among Member States; the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States; the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among Member States; the Agreement on the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit, and the Agreement on the Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector for the purpose of strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among Member States with a view to achieving the ultimate objective i.e. the establishment of an Islamic Common market.
2. Emphasizes also the need to reinforce economic cooperation establishing free trade zones and common markets among the Member States through their regional groupings as a positive stage towards establishing a free trade zone among the OIC Member States with the ultimate aim of creating an Islamic Common Market.
3. Welcomes in this connection the creation of the customs union of the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council on 1 January, 2003.
4. Agrees that the establishment of an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration shall not contradict with the existing or possible international obligations of the Member States.
5. Requests the COMCEC to coordinate the efforts and studies undertaken or to be undertaken in this regard by SESRTCIC or the other relevant OIC institutions and centres with a view to taking necessary practical steps to reach the objectives related to the establishment of an Islamic Common Market.
6. Reiterates the need for specific arrangements among OIC Member States to take necessary steps to secure their optimal share in the global economic and trading system, through, inter alia, analysis of the consequences that the establishment of an Islamic Common Market could have in this respect.
7. Expresses its desire to see Member States extending their cooperation and coordination in the areas of market access, competition policy, transfer of technology and know how, finance, investment and eventual development of an integrated information network and an infrastructure for achieving the objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market.
8. Invites Member States to formulate specific proposals for cooperation and coordination in setting up centres of advanced studies, and high-level expertise in areas where they can discover potentials for expanding trade and investment among themselves with a view to developing cooperation in areas that would facilitate realization of an Islamic Common Market. It also welcomes of the undertaking by the Islamic Republic of Iran to set up a centre of advanced studies and excellence to conduct research and studies.
9. Commends the Islamic Republic of Iran for holding an "International Seminar on Ways and Means to Establish an Islamic Common Market" in Tehran from 27-28 September, 2000 and also commends the State of Qatar for convening an "Expert

Group Meeting on the Implications of Establishing an Islamic Common Market” in Doha from 13-14 October, 2000, and takes note of the recommendations made by the two meetings, stressing the need to subject the activities relating to this area to effective processes of study and coordination.

10. Appreciates the holding of the “International Conference on Practical Measures to Establish a Common Market between Muslim Countries” by the University of Qatar, in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat on 13-15 May, 2002.

11. Urges the Member States to encourage any initiative by their private sector for expanding economic, financial, trade and investment cooperation with other Islamic Countries.

12. Stresses the importance of trade fairs and of establishing a network of trade focal points in the Member States to facilitate expansion of trade and investment among them in an expeditious manner as an effective contribution towards the objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market.

13. Emphasises the importance of the launching of a round of trade negotiations among the Member States under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System which constitutes the first stage towards the establishment of an Islamic Common Market. Res.36/31 -E

14. Appreciates the efforts made or to be made by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade for organizing and facilitating this round of trade negotiations and calls on the OIC institutions to give their financial and technical support to these efforts including the participation of the Least Developed Countries in the trade negotiations.

15. Thanks the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for hosting the Islamic International Trade Fair in Jeddah from 9-14 June 2001, organized by the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the IDB and ICDDT noting that a seminar was also held concurrently by the IDB, ICCI and the Jeddah Chamber on ways and means of promoting intra-OIC trade.

16. Notes with appreciation the initiative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to set up a website to provide information and data on commercial capabilities and potentials of the Islamic countries in order to facilitate intra-trade and contribute to the objective of creating an Islamic Common Market.

17. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an experts group meeting on Islamic Common Market 5-6 July, 2004.

18. 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. 37/31-E

ON ROLE OF THE ISLAMIC UMMAH IN THE 21st CENTURY

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

Recalling Resolution No. 38/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Doha, State of Qatar;

Recalling Resolution No. 37/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking into consideration the relevant paragraph of Resolution No. (1) of the 17th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC)

Also taking into consideration the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States.

Noting that the IDB document on "Preparation of the Ummah for the 21st Century in the fields of Economic, Commercial and Financial Cooperation" is a long term strategic framework document characterized by far-sightedness which provides an impetus to the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action.

Having considered of the report of the Secretary General;

1. Appreciates the aforesaid initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and its significant role in preparing the Islamic Ummah to meet the requirements of international economic developments.
2. Appreciates also the initiative of IDB to prepare the document "Preparation of the Ummah for the 21st Century in the fields of Economic, Commercial and Financial Cooperation" and to call upon the Ummah to face the challenges posed by the 21st Century.
3. Appreciates the efforts made by the Islamic Development Bank with respect to the programme to reinforce trade among member states and the Bank's allocation of US\$ 1 billion from its special funds and urges Member States and their relevant bodies as well as their private economic actors to take the necessary measures in order to support the efforts of the Bank to secure the necessary additional funds which amount to \$ 1 billion from the collective murabaha and the two-phased murabaha.
4. Urges Member States to develop policies, strategies and administrative measures to supplement the efforts of the IDB in expanding intra-trade, and also urges Member States to designate national focal points if they have not yet done so.
5. Expresses its appreciation of the efforts made by the Task Forces on Training, Health and Literacy and urges the Member States and relevant bodies to combine their efforts with those of the Task Forces concerned.

6. Calls upon member states to cooperate in the area of prospective studies to explore the possibilities of cooperative action to deal with the phenomenon of globalization.
7. Urges the Islamic Ummah to acquire knowledge and skills in fields such as information and communication technology to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
8. Urges OIC Member States and institutions to implement diligently the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States.
9. Appreciates the consultations held by the IDB with other sister institutions to determine effective ways to translate the IDB document into practical programmes.
10. Also appreciates the role of the IDB in organizing the meeting of Regional Economic Organizations in the Islamic world at its headquarters from 16 to 19 Rabi Al Awal 1419H (8-11/08/1998) as recommended by the 8th Islamic Summit, and the meeting of regional organizations in the IDB Member States on the fringe of the 25th Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors in Beirut, Republic of Lebanon, on 11-12 Sha'ban 1421H (7-8/11/2000).
11. Commends the IDB and other cooperating institutions for the work done during the meeting of Experts in Health, Literacy, Training and Trade, and the programme of action suggested by the Experts to implement the Summit resolution.
12. Urges, the IDB and other cooperating institutions to proceed with the implementation of these programmes to achieve the required quantitative objectives.
13. Appreciates the efforts of the Standing Committees in preparing the Ummah for the 21st century and calls upon OIC Institutions to explore the challenges of the 21st century each contributing to its respective field of competence, and to determine the response of the Ummah to these challenges.
14. Urges Member States to take the necessary measures required to cooperate among themselves and with OIC Institutions in achieving the proposed quantitative objectives in the fields of intra-trade, Health, Literacy and Training.
15. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this recommendation and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 38/31-E

ON PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG THE STOCK EXCHANGES IN THE OIC COUNTRIES

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

Recalling Resolution No. 39/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 38/30-E adopted by the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting that in the context of current world economic situation the OIC member states require to develop their economic structures and consolidate economic relations among themselves and with other countries by creating the appropriate climate to attract and stabilize investments;

Commending the approach of the Member States towards developing the private sector as well as encouraging the privatisation of their productive institutions;

Taking note of the importance of taking advantage of the benefits granted under the Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to market the products of the OIC Member States;

Appreciating the efforts made by most Member States to develop their stock exchanges by mobilizing and attracting national savings and channelling them into local investment opportunities to avoid flight of capital abroad;

Expressing its desire to avoid disruptive capital flows and secure the Stock exchanges of OIC Members from any future financial crisis;

Noting the advantages accruing from a specialized institution under the aegis of the Organization of the Islamic Conference concerned with coordination, monitoring and development of the stock markets of the OIC member states;

Taking note with appreciation the study prepared by SESRTCIC on the establishment of an Islamic Stock Exchange Union;

1. Urges Member States to continue to take the necessary steps to mobilize internal resources in the form of stocks and shares and to facilitate the optimal utilization of such resources in profitable investment projects both in public and private sectors.
2. Invites the Member States to press on with undertaking the necessary steps to develop their stock markets through appropriate legislations so as to enable their markets to be open to the outside world facilitating the in-flow of capital available in foreign markets, while taking into consideration the economic and monetary interests of these States.
3. Urges Member States to make every effort to expand the establishment of publicly owned companies facilitating wide distribution of shares among large numbers of individuals;
4. Invites Member States to set up a comprehensive database on their respective stock exchange and investment regimes and to explore the possibility of concluding regional agreements among themselves to establish links among their stock exchanges;
5. Requests SESRTCIC and ICDT to undertake necessary studies, benefiting from the experience of the Istanbul Stock Exchange, on creating and mechanism for

cooperation among the OIC Member States in the areas of financial markets and clearing of stocks and bonds without such studies leading to the creation of any new bodies but the activation of existing mechanisms in such fields and submit it to the 20th session of COMCEC to be held on 23-26 November, 2004 in Istanbul.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 39/31-E

ON THE INEQUITY OF INTERNATIONAL COTTON TRADE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE POOREST PRODUCER COUNTRIES

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

Bearing in mind the fundamental principles of OIC based on equity and Islamic solidarity;

Recalling Resolution No. 5/10-E (IS) on Economic Problems of the Least Developed and Land-Locked Member States, which expresses the concern of the Member States over the sharp decline in the prices of raw materials, particularly those produced and exported by the least-developed countries;

Recalling Resolution No. 6/10-E (IS) on Eradication of Poverty in the least-developed and low-income OIC Member States, which reiterates the need to give special attention to the eradication of poverty, notably in the least-developed and low-income Islamic countries;

Taking into account the appeal made by the OIC to the international community to assist the Least-Developed Countries to be progressively integrated into the world economy and to strengthen their capabilities to participate in international trade;

Noting with regret that the policy of subsidy practiced by the developed countries to support their cotton producers results in the fall of the commodity price of cotton in the international market;

Considering that this inequity in the cotton trade seriously penalizes the poorest cotton producer countries by drastically reducing their export revenues;

1. Underlines the necessity of taking all possible measures within the OIC with a view to supporting the least-developed cotton-producer countries in their legitimate demand of securing greater added value in the processing of this product.

2. Calls upon specialized OIC institutions (the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Center for Development of Trade) as well as the Chambers of Commerce in the Muslim countries and the private sector in the Member States to explore all possibilities to foster the establishment of a cotton processing infrastructure in the concerned countries.

3. Invites cotton producing and processing Member States as well as specialized OIC institutions and all private individuals to take part in the upcoming meeting on cotton processing to be held in Ouagadougou.
4. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.