

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. At the kind invitation of the Republic of Turkey and in accordance with the decision of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of just and durable peace through cooperation among Member States and respect for international legitimacy), was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 24 to 28 Muharram 1412H, corresponding to 4 to 8 August 1991. The Conference was held under the high patronage of His Excellency Turgut OZAL, President of the Republic of Turkey.

2. A. The following Member States attended the Conference:

- 1- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- 2- Afghanistan.
- 3- The State of United Arab Emirates.
- 4- The Republic of Indonesia.
- 5- The Republic of Uganda.
- 6- The Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 7- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- 8- The State of Bahrain.
- 9- Brunei Darussalam.
- 10- Burkina Faso.
- 11- The People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- 12- The Republic of Benin.
- 13- The Republic of Turkey.
- 14- The Republic of Chad.
- 15- The Republic of Tunisia.
- 16- The Republic of Gabon.
- 17- The Republic of the Gambia.
- 18- The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- 19- The Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros.
- 20- The Republic of Djibouti.
- 21- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 22- The Republic of Senegal.
- 23- The Republic of Sudan.
- 24- The Syrian Arab Republic.
- 25- The Republic of Sierra Leone.
- 26- The Republic of Somalia.
- 27- The Republic of Iraq.
- 28- The Sultanate of Oman.
- 29- The Republic of Guinea.
- 30- The Republic of Guinea Bissau.
- 31- The State of Palestine.
- 32- The State of Qatar.
- 33- The Republic of Cameroon.
- 34- The State of Kuwait.
- 35- The Republic of Lebanon.
- 36- The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
- 37- The Republic of Maldives.
- 38- The Republic of Mali.
- 39- Malaysia.
- 40- The Arab Republic of Egypt.
- 41- The Kingdom of Morocco.

42-The Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

43-The Republic of Niger.

44-The Federal Republic of Nigeria.

45-The Republic of Yemen.

B. THE FOLLOWING SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE OIC ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE:

-Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center, for Islamic Countries, Ankara.

-Research Center on Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul.

-The Islamic Center for Technical and Vocational Training and Research, Dhaka.

-The Islamic Center for the Development of Trade, Casablanca.

-The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development, Jeddah.

-The Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah.

-International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage, Istanbul.

-Islamic Solidarity Fund, Jeddah.

-The Islamic University of Niger.

-The Islamic University of Uganda.

C. THE FOLLOWING SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS OF THE OIC:

-Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah.

-Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Rabat.

-International Islamic News Agency (IINA), Jeddah.

-Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO),Jeddah.

D.FOLLOWING AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS:

-Organization of the Islamic Capitals and Cities, Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

-Sports Federation of Islamic Solidarity Games, Riyadh.

-Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, Benghazi.

-The Islamic Shipowners Association, Jeddah.

-World Federation of Arab Islamic International Schools, Jeddah.

-International Association of Islamic Banks, Cairo.

E.FOLLOWING ISLAMIC FOUNDATIONS AND SOCIETIES ATTENDED AS INVITEES:

-Muslim World League, Makkah Al Mukarramah.

-World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli.

-World Muslim Congress, Karachi.

-World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), Riyadh.

-League of Islamic Universities, Riyadh.

-International Islamic Council for Da'wa and Relief, Cairo.

-International Islamic Charitable Foundation, Kuwait.

F.OBSERVERS

i) State:

Republic of Mozambique.

ii) MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

- Turkish Muslim Community of Kibris

- Moro National Liberation Front

iii) INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

-United Nations Organization.

-Non-Aligned Movement.

-League of Arab States.

-Organization of African Unity (OAU).

G.INVITEES:

-Gulf Cooperation Council of Arab States.

-UN. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

-United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

-UN. Development Program (UNDP).

-Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).

-Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

-The OIC Contact Group on the Plight of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Bulgaria.

3. The Conference was opened by His Excellency Turgut Ozal, President of the Republic of Turkey, who, in his inaugural address, welcomed the participating delegations.

Noting the pleasure of the Turkish Government in relation to hosting the Conference of Foreign Ministers in Istanbul for a second time in the last two decades, he paid tribute to the remarkable progress achieved by the OIC in bringing the Islamic countries together and in promoting solidarity and cooperation among them.

His Excellency Turgut Ozal observed that the OIC had successfully adapted itself to the changing conditions on the international scene and underlined the importance of the multi-dimensional nature acquired by the activities of the OIC as it evolved and matured.

Drawing attention to the momentous challenges confronting the Islamic world at this particular junction of history, the President of Turkey recalled the tragic ordeal brought about by the recent Gulf crisis and its aftermath. Explaining Turkey's clear and principled stand throughout the crisis aimed at the restoration of legitimacy and the full reversal of the consequences of aggression, he stressed the necessity of laying down firm foundations capable of preventing the recurrence of similar incidents of lawlessness. In this respect, he also referred to the need of avoiding further divisions and harmful recriminations within the Islamic Ummah.

His Excellency Turgut Ozal, elaborating on the twin processes of political liberalization and economic transformation unfolding in Europe, commended the role of the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) framework and structures in spawning these processes and expressed his belief in the possibility for the Islamic world to take steps in a similar direction. Reaffirming Turkey's readiness to share her experience gained within the CSCE system, President Ozal underscored the crucial role which the OIC could play in this regard with the aim of achieving just and durable peace through dialogue and cooperation. The President of Turkey identified economic cooperation as the best and most effective method to achieve peace and stability, citing as example the evolution in Western Europe towards greater harmony through economic integration. In this context he highlighted the contribution made by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation to increase and expand such relations among the Member States of the OIC. Also referring to the scheme in operation over the past four years whereby the Islamic Development Bank promotes the exports of the Member States and to the Framework Agreement for Preferential Trade among Islamic nations, he praised the support and collaboration afforded by the Member States without which these concrete achievements could not have been possible. Focusing on the development of economic cooperation in the Middle East, His Excellency Turgut Ozal emphasized the substantial complementarities among the economies in the region. To explore the potentials in one such field, President Ozal said, a "Middle East Water Summit" would be held in Istanbul in November 1991 and referred to his proposal for the construction of a "Peace Water Pipeline" that would benefit nine Member States of the OIC.

His Excellency the President of Turkey said that the Islamic world stood to gain from the era of democratization and liberal economic policies dawning in

Central and Eastern Europe. This era, he said, promised more freedom for the Islamic communities in these countries, better prospects for the preservation of their religious identity and a congenial atmosphere for their practice of the Islamic faith. He pointed out that, the relaxation of tensions in the international context would enable scarce economic resources to be increasingly diverted from military to civilian use, thereby contributing to the welfare of all peoples. All sectors of business in the Member States of the OIC could avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by the process of privatization in the former communist countries. However, he said, better coordination of economic policies, enhanced cooperation and greater solidarity among Islamic countries were indispensable in order to assess and utilize these prospects and opportunities in a most efficient manner.

His Excellency President Turgut Ozal also elaborated on the revival of religion being witnessed as part of the process of change underway in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union. As confirmed by history, he said, people believing in God build stronger societies. He underlined the importance for the world community of remaining vigilant against dangers that could result from a rekindling, between Muslims and Christians, of ancient conflicts. In this context, he drew attention to the fact that thirst for power could lead some people to exploit even the smallest differences among nations and factions to achieve their objectives. To prevent such a dangerous course, the President of Turkey told the Conference, societies and individuals need to be more tolerant towards each other and emphasized that this had been the message he repeatedly conveyed to the Christian countries in the West in almost all his statements.

The President of Turkey gave a concise description of his country's transformation into a prosperous market economy and underscored Turkey's will for increased cooperation with neighbouring and other Member States of the OIC. He thanked the OIC Secretary General for the latter's admirable performance and contributions in the service of the Organization. Looking forward to the Sixth Islamic Summit to be held in Senegal, he expressed confidence that combined efforts embracing the ensemble of the Member States would ensure its success.

His Excellency Turgut Ozal concluded his address by wishing success to the 20th Meeting of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and, expressing the hope for it to become a significant new milestone in the history of the OIC, reaffirmed that the Islamic Ummah can, indeed must, meet the challenge of the new era lying ahead in the progress of humankind.

4. On the proposal of His Excellency Amr Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Chairman of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Conference decided to adopt the inaugural address of His Excellency President Turgut OZAL as an official document of the Conference.

5. Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Senegal, the State of Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the African, Arab and Asian Member States respectively expressed their profound gratitude and sincere thanks to His Excellency President Turgut OZAL for patronizing the Conference by his presence and the highly inspiring guidelines contained in his inaugural address. Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers also thanked the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements it had made for the Conference and for the generous hospitality extended by it to all delegations.

6. His Excellency Mr. Amr Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairman of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers delivered a statement at the opening session, which he considered to be a report by the Chairmanship of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. He expressed the thanks of the Member States to Turkey for the constructive efforts it has exerted, under the leadership of President Turgut Ozal, to host the present Conference and for the excellent preparations made in this respect. He also expressed sincere appreciation for the comprehensive inaugural speech delivered by the Turkish President.

His Excellency Amr Moussa referred to the many transformations taking place in the world and requested the Organization of the Islamic Conference to keep abreast of these transformations. He expressed his regret at the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait which came as a surprise to the Islamic States during the convening of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference and which threatened the foundations of security, stability and solidarity. He highlighted the firm stands taken by the Organization of the Islamic Conference to confront this crisis by condemning the Iraqi invasion and demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of its legitimate government. He recalled the efforts exerted by President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, in his capacity as President of the State assuming the Chairmanship of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference, to contain the crisis and seek the restoration of Islamic and international

legitimacy; these efforts were pursued until the liberation of Kuwait was achieved. The Chairman of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers emphasized the necessity of stepping up efforts to reactivate the peace process in the Middle East following the liberation of Kuwait. This is to be done by utilizing the momentum generated by the application of the principles of international legitimacy on the Gulf crisis; by supporting the principle of exchanging land for peace, rights and security, in affirmation of the provisions of international and Islamic legitimacy contained in Resolutions 242 and 338 of the UN Security Council, and in the resolutions of the OIC, concerning the recovery of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; and by rejecting duplicitous positions and double standards. He considered the settlement policy followed by Israel in the occupied Palestine and Arab territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as an obstacle to peace. He condemned the Israeli practices directed against the citizens of the occupied territories, which are in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

His Excellency Amr Moussa stated the readiness of the Arab parties to take part in the peace conference with the participation of the representatives of the Palestinian people and in the presence of the United Nations and the European Community. He demanded that Israel should not attach conditions to its participation in the conference so that a just and lasting peace may be established. He asked for the removal of the causes of fear and lack of trust and called for the establishment of security for all states and peoples without exception. He emphasized that the removal of all the weapons of mass destruction is one of the most important foundations of security, because security is indivisible. He stressed the necessity of refusing any arrangement which may give any privilege to any party to the detriment of the other, through systems of control and verification applicable to all. He asked for ensuring security for all states and peoples involving the minimum of armament so as to allow the mobilization of the resources of the Islamic Ummah for development within the context of the peaceful settlement of all regional conflicts, in an environment of security, peace and stability.

He welcomed the adoption of the "Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam" by the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, which is considered an important achievement by which the Islamic States should be guided when making the domestic legislations.

He also referred to the role of Al Azhar Al Sharif in enriching cultural, educational and fiqh cooperation among Islamic States. He called for coordinating researches on Seerah and Sunnah in the Islamic world in conjunction with the Organization of the Islamic Conference. His Excellency Amr Moussa stated the position of the Organization on the various issues included in the agenda in implementation of the resolutions of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

7. In his address at the inaugural session of the Ministerial Conference, the OIC Secretary General, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, expressed his delight at being in the city of Istanbul, which hosted, back in 1976, the Seventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers; Istanbul, that prestigious, bustling and dynamic city, whose past and present attest to the impressive and rich history of Turkey and to its considerable contribution to the harmonious development of Islam and Islamic civilization.

The Secretary General was keen to express, once again, to Turkey, its people and its Government, his fraternal esteem, distinct appreciation and deep gratitude for their constant support to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and their unflinching commitment to joint Islamic action.

His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid added that this tribute was addressed, naturally and above all, to the Head of State of this great country, His Excellency Mr. Turgut Ozal, President of the Republic of Turkey, whose highly inspiring message had the distinct merit of addressing our concerns, hopes and legitimate aspirations.

Upon commending the action of President Turgut Ozal at the head of IFSTAD Scientific Council and of COMCEC, the OIC Secretary General highlighted his role as a deserving

pioneer and active militant in favor of joint Islamic action and as well as his prominent contribution to the activities of the OIC, its subsidiary organs and its specialized and affiliated institutions.

His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid then dealt with the invasion and occupation of the State of Kuwait by Iraqi troops at the very time in which the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was being held in Cairo. He stressed the stubbornness of Iraq and its refusal to comply with any of the appeals addressed to it or any of the initiatives and measures aimed at ensuring its withdrawal from Kuwait.

This stubbornness led the OIC Member States and the international community to denounce and condemn Iraq's move as a blatant aggression against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait, in violation of all Charters and international Conventions.

Concluding, the Secretary General declared that "now we must undertake to face the untold human sufferings which have beset the peoples of this region, rebuild that which has been destroyed and dress the deep wounds caused by this crisis. To do this we must seek to ensure the correct and integral implementation of the numerous UN Security Council resolutions which are designed to bring peace to the Gulf region.

Dealing with the Palestinian question and the situation in the Middle East, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid recalled the collective and solemn oath to devote our efforts and means to the liberation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by the Zionist enemy, and to assist the martyred people of Palestine struggling for decades to recover their usurped rights and to set up on the land of their forefathers, their independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative.

Having hailed the valiant Palestinian people's blessed Intifadah, the Secretary General recalled the various peace initiatives, since King Fahd's peace plan, endorsed in 1986 by the Arab Summit of Fez, the Palestinian peace proposals, the Arab initiatives for a settlement on the basis of international legality, concerning the Palestine Question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

He paid a resounding tribute to Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the PLO for their firm, courageous and highly positive stand in favor of the peace process on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Such an attitude is markedly different from that shown by the Israeli government. The latter seems to fear as always peace and has chosen to multiply the impediments on the road to peace. That government is rejecting the option of land for peace, pursuing its policy of implanting settlements in the occupied territories and Al-Quds Al-Sharif and is attempting to dictate to the Palestinian people the composition of the delegation representing them in the peace negotiations.

The OIC, went on the Secretary General, is called to increase, in these particularly crucial times, its support to the struggle of the Palestinian people and their blessed Intifadah and maintain strong pressure on Israel on an international scale. The world is ever more becoming conscious of the real intentions and dark designs of that country.

Speaking about the situation in Lebanon, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid warmly congratulated President Elias Hrawi, President of the Republic of Lebanon, and the Government of Lebanon for the success achieved in the matter of national reconciliation, and of consolidation of the State and of Lebanese sovereignty on the whole of the national territory.

Concerning the situation in Afghanistan, the Secretary General urged Member States to increase diplomatic pressure to help remove the last obstacles to the ongoing process of political settlement, and invite the Afghan Mujahideen to close ranks and adopt unified positions at this crucial stage.

Concerning the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, on the other hand, the Secretary General recalled the resolution adopted on this question by the 19th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and expressed his belief that the dispute can be settled by political means in the

spirit of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

With respect to Somalia, the Secretary General expressed satisfaction at the results achieved by the

last sessions of the National Reconciliation Conference, marked essentially by agreeing on cease-fire and by collective commitment to work for reconciliation, national unity and reconstruction. His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid commended the initiatives of the President of the Republic of Djibouti, His Excellency Hassan Gouled Aptidon, in furtherance of the peace process.

Concerning the Cyprus question, the Secretary General recalled that the Muslim Turkish people of Cyprus have always been the object of active sympathy at the OIC where the Muslim Turkish community has had observer status for many years.

He called on Member States to take action and coordinate their efforts along the lines of the recent proposals of the UN Secretary General calling for quadripartite negotiations to solve the Cyprus question.

Evoking the situation of the Muslims in Southern Philippines which still remains a matter of concern for Member States, the Secretary General affirmed that the time has come to find a solution to this question which has been on the agenda of our successive Conferences for fifteen years, in keeping with the legitimate aspirations of the Bangsamoro people and in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Tripoli Agreement.

Dealing with the situation in Africa, the Secretary General pointed out the major challenges that threatened the modest gains painfully achieved throughout thirty long years of considerable sacrifice; namely in the Sahel region where the Muslim populations waged a daily war against poverty, disease, illiteracy and natural disasters. He invited the Member States of the OIC to be the promoters and initiators of new action founded on the principles of Islamic solidarity, in order to help African countries master current difficulties and their national objectives in terms of economic development and social progress; solutions which necessarily address the problem of indebtedness and increased assistance for purposes of development.

The Secretary General concluded his address by recalling the profound upheaval occurring on the international scene and asserted that "the new Islamic order must enable us to draw from our present sufferings and current difficulties the reasons underlying our hopes and determination to conceive and edify together our future in order to avoid the obvious risk of marginalisation besetting our nations."

8. The Conference thereafter unanimously elected His Excellency Safa Giray, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey as the Chairman of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

9. After assuming the Chairmanship, His Excellency Safa Giray Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey delivered a statement in which he called upon his colleagues the Foreign Ministers of Islamic countries to combine their efforts for the success of the Conference and delivered a vote of thanks to His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Essmet Abdul Meguid, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and H.E. Amr Moussa, Current Foreign Minister, for their unique contributions to the work of the OIC during their tenure as Chairman of the Ministerial Conference.

Noting that the meeting was held at a critical juncture of international relations as the first one of its kind since the unfortunate events in the Gulf area, he emphasized the need for a genuine display of resolute and coherent attitudes in facing the challenges that lie ahead. To facilitate the adoption of such attitudes, he suggested that the working procedures of the OIC could be improved by assigning subordinate bodies to elaborate on those issues not yet ripe enough to be tackled at the Ministerial level, thus sparing adequate time for the latter to discuss important political issues on which sufficient preparatory consultative efforts have been spent.

His Excellency Mr. Safa Giray also stressed the necessity to make utmost of this Conference in order to strengthen Islamic solidarity and attune the progress of the Islamic Ummah with

the new direction towards multifold cooperation currently gaining momentum on the international scene, especially in the economic field.

10. The Conference elected Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Cameroon, the State of Kuwait and the State of Palestine as Vice Chairmen. His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt was elected as the Rapporteur-General.

11. Thereafter, the Conference approved the Report of the meeting of Senior Officials which was presented by His Excellency Ozdem Sanberk, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Head of Delegation of the Republic of Turkey.

The Conference decided to entitle this Session "Session of just and durable peace through dialogue and cooperation among Member States and respect for international legitimacy." The Conference adopted the draft Agenda submitted by the meeting of Senior Officials.

12. The Conference noted with appreciation the Report of His Excellency Mr. Amr Moussa, Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Chairman of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

13. The Conference noted with appreciation the Reports submitted by the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on various items of the agenda and on the activities of the General Secretariat between the Nineteenth and Twentieth Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers.

14. The Conference listened to statements of their Excellencies Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdul Meguid, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Budimir Loncar, Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia representing the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as the statements made by the representatives of the Secretaries General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in which they called for the strengthening of the relations which exist between their respective institutions and the OIC.

15. The Conference heard with fraternal sentiments the statement of His Excellency Dr. Kenan Atakol, who voiced the rightful cause of the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus and their request for membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference.

16. The Conference also heard a statement made by His Excellency Mr. Nur Misuari, Chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front, regarding the problems of the Muslims of Southern Philippines.

17. The Conference listened also with fraternal sentiments to the message of the representatives of the Islamic communities in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Albania and Yugoslavia.

18. During the general debate, the Foreign Ministers and heads of delegations analysed the situation in the Islamic world and on the international scene after the Gulf crisis as well as in the light of the profound transformation in East-West relations and its implications for the security, stability and development of the Islamic World. They emphasized the need for intensifying collective efforts to realize the noble objectives of the Charter of the OIC.

19. The Conference noted with appreciation the Reports presented by the Secretary General on the activities carried out under the auspices of Al-Quds Committee, the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), and the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH).

The Conference expressed its gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco, to the President of the Republic of Senegal H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, to the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Turgut Ozal, and to the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, for their keen interest and sagacious guidance in promoting intra-Islamic Cooperation in these vital fields.

20. The Conference noted with appreciation the Report of the Secretary-General prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the implementation of Resolution No. 1/19-ORG on the functioning of the OIC and the subsidiary Organs, specialized and affiliated institutions. The Conference expressed its

satisfaction at the measures taken by the Secretary General to implement this important resolution and to draw a Strategy of Joint Islamic Action to be submitted to the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference.

21. The Conference held a special session for pledging voluntary contributions. The following voluntary contributions have been pledged:

Republic of Turkey:

- US\$ 30,000 for Islamic Solidarity Fund.
- US\$ 15,000 for the Waqf of the Islamic Solidarity fund.
- US\$ 960,000 for Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries.
- US\$ 220,000 for the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture.

Republic of Tunisia:

- US\$ 15,400 for the Waqf of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.
- US\$ 9,602 for the Islamic Solidarity Fund.
- US\$ 3,000 for the Al-Quds Fund.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN:

- US\$ 50,000 for the Al-Quds Fund.
- US\$ 40,000 for Islamic Solidarity Fund.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

Reaffirmed that it had given a piece of land for the Waqf of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

22. The Conference welcomed with gratitude and appreciation the generous offer of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host on the blessed soil of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and within the sacred premises of the Ka'aba in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, the First Conference of Muslim Communities and Minorities in order to seek solutions to the problems facing them and explore future prospects. It expressed its warmest thanks and consideration to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of Muslim communities and Minorities in particular, on behalf of Muslims in general.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS:

23. The Conference affirmed its active solidarity and total support for the just struggle of the valiant Palestinian people. It saluted with great pride the heroic steadfastness and immense sacrifices of the Palestinian people, the continuation and escalation of their blessed Intifadha against the repressive practices of the Israeli forces of occupation, and their valiant resistance to its brutal and barbaric methods. It called on Member States to extend all forms of political and economic support to the Palestinian people.

The Conference strongly condemned the continuation of the policy of establishment of settlements and expansionism of the Israeli government, and its expulsion of Arab citizens in violation of fundamental human rights and all international treaties and covenants, considering that the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories constitute a major obstacle in the way of the international efforts being exerted to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Conference called on the international community to promptly provide urgent international protection to the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, to force Israel as the occupying and aggressor State to implement all the articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.

The Conference also urged the UN. Secretary General to call a meeting of the States signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention to promptly take the necessary measures in

order to force Israel to comply with the clauses of the said Convention in keeping with its international obligations.

The Conference expressed its deep concern at the persistent implementation of the scheme of transferring Soviet, Falasha, and other Jews to Israel and settling them extensively in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and occupied Syrian Golan, which will pave the way for world Zionism to carry out its colonialist design aimed at establishing the so-called "Greater Israel" which constitutes an immense danger to the historical rights of the Palestinian people and threatens the security of Arab and Islamic States. It also called upon the Security Council to set up an international observer force to supervise and monitor the non-settlement in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and occupied Syrian Golan and reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to return to their occupied territory and homeland, a right that the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged in its resolution 194.

The Conference, in this regard, appealed to the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, and the friendly countries concerned, to desist from according facilities, assistance and loans to Israel, until it complies with and implements the resolutions of international legitimacy regarding the settlement of the Palestine Question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Conference emphasized that the Palestinian Question is the prime cause of all Muslims and the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It supported all the efforts being exerted to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region of the Middle East, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and called for the speedy convening of the International Conference on Peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the UN., with the participation of the Permanent Member States of the Security Council as well as all concerned parties including the PLO, on an equal footing with other parties, in accordance with all relevant UN. resolutions including resolutions 242 and 338 of the UN. Security Council so as to guarantee the total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the exercise of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to return and to self-determination and their right to establish their own independent State on national soil with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

The Conference reaffirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that it alone has full right to represent them in all conferences and activities relating to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

The Conference expressed its deep concern at the agreements concluded between the United States and Israel regarding strategic cooperation between them, which provides for stockpiling U.S. weapons in Israel, which will encourage its policy of annexation and settlement to the detriment of the Arab territories. It reiterated its condemnation of Israel for its continuing refusal to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency calling for submission of its nuclear facilities to international control and inspection.

24. The Conference urged the Member States to continue their efforts to oppose current attempts at rescinding the General Assembly resolution No. 3379 (1975) which considers Zionism as a form of racism.

25. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for its refusal to abide by UN Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981 and forcefully applying its guardianship, laws and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan as well as for its annexationist policy and practices for implanting settlements, for seizing land. It considered all the foregoing measures null and void and viewed them as a violation of the principles and norms of International Law relating to occupation and war, in particular the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949.

26. The Conference declared the Islamic Ummah's commitment to liberate the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, first Kibla and Third Holy Shrine and reaffirmed that Al-Quds Al-Sharif is part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and is the capital of the Palestinian State and

reiterated its commitment to strengthen Islamic solidarity for liberation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and to preserve the Arab Islamic character of the holy city.

The Conference expressed its strong condemnation of Israel for its plans of settlements particularly in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. It reaffirmed that all the measures taken to annex Al-Quds Al-Sharif and impose Israeli laws on its Arab Palestinian inhabitants are null and void and called on the international community to condemn the continuing criminal acts against Al-Aqsa mosque and other Islamic and Christian Holy Places, and to force it to comply with all international resolutions, the latest of which are Security Council resolutions 672 and 681 which provide for the sending of a Committee by the UN. Secretary General to investigate the situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and provide the necessary protection to the Palestinian people and the Holy Places.

The Conference called on all states of the world to refuse to locate their Embassies and Missions in the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, thus expressing their non-recognition of the annexation by Israel of this Holy City.

The Conference expressed its appreciation of the efforts made by Al-Quds Committee under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, and took note of all the recommendations made by the Committee at its Thirteenth Session in Rabat on 15 October 1990. The Conference called for the convening of an Islamic-Christian meeting in coordination with the Vatican and with the participation of other, eastern churches with a view to preserving the identity of that holy city and to preserve its religious and historic character.

The Conference expressed its appreciation to the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity, the European Economic Community, and the Vatican for their constant support for the cause of Palestine, of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

The Conference, once again, affirmed the importance of the vital role played by Al-Quds Fund and its Waqf for the support of the struggle and jihad of the Palestinian people and their valiant Intifadha inside their occupied homeland and particularly the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; called on Member States to commit themselves to covering the Fund's approved budget and collecting donations for the Fund and its Waqf.

27. The Conference condemned the continued occupation by Israel of South Lebanon and the coercive and military operations perpetrated against the Lebanese citizens, and called for its immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territories. The Conference reiterated its support for the independence of Lebanon, its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized boundaries. It also reaffirmed the need to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolution 425 of 1978. It also expressed its appreciation for the achievements of the Supreme Tripartite Arab Committee as well as its support and endorsement of all measures taken by the Lebanese Government to exercise the authority of the State over entire Lebanese territory, so that it may rehabilitate and modernize its infrastructure and build up the facilities needed for economic prosperity. The Conference also called upon the international community to contribute to the International Fund for the Reconstruction of Lebanon whose establishment was decreed by the Baghdad Arab Summit.

28. The Conference recalled its declarations issued during the period between the Nineteenth and the Twentieth Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers regarding the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. It welcomed the restoration of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait as well as its legitimate government. The Conference affirmed the necessity for full implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions issued in this regard to ensure non-recurrence of a new Iraqi aggression in the face of the previous aggressions against its neighbouring states. It deplored that the Iraqi government has not fully complied with UN resolutions indicating the harbouring of aggressive intentions which consequently necessitates the maintenance of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council, and expressed its distress for the ordeal endured by the

people of Iraq due to the non-compliance of the Iraqi regime with UN resolutions thereby disregarding the interests of the people of Iraq.

It also expressed its deep regret and concern over the procrastination of the Iraqi authorities regarding the implementation of the resolutions concerning the release of Kuwaiti citizens and other detainees in Iraq and called upon the Iraqi authorities for their immediate release.

The Conference held Iraq fully responsible for the human and material damages inflicted upon Kuwait and other countries, and demanded from Iraq compensation for those losses in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions without any procrastination or delay. It reiterated the necessity of Iraq's effective adherence to all Security Council resolutions regarding the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and affirmed the necessity of eliminating all kind of weapons of mass destruction from the entire Middle East region.

29. The Conference commended the heroic struggle of the people of Afghanistan for the liberation of their homeland and recognized and supported the role of the Afghan Mujahideen for the restoration of the independent, Non-aligned and Islamic status of Afghanistan. It called for a comprehensive political settlement and in this context welcomed the recent initiative taken by the United Nations Secretary General. It requested the OIC Secretary General to coordinate his efforts with the UN. Secretary General and recommended that the OIC should have an active role in promoting a just political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Conference recognized that the formation of a broad based government is essential for the restoration of peace and for enabling the people of Afghanistan to exercise their right to choose their political, economic and social system free from outside intervention. It supported the efforts of the Afghan Mujahideen to establish a broad based government in Afghanistan. The Conference also called for the creation of the necessary condition of peace and normalcy that would enable the Afghan refugees to return voluntarily to their homeland in safety and honor.

The Conference decided to continue generous humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees and to work for their repatriation and rehabilitation in Afghanistan in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. It renewed its call to all states as well national and international organizations to extend assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan refugees.

It approved the recommendations made by the Secretary General on the study on reconstruction in Afghanistan prepared by the Islamic Development Bank and appealed to all Member States to extend financial and moral support for the implementation of these recommendations.

30. The Conference called for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla Agreement. It condemned the massive violation of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and called for the respect of their human rights including the right to self-determination. It called upon India to allow International Human Rights Groups and humanitarian organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir. It expressed its deep concern on the prevailing tension in the region and called upon India and Pakistan to redeploy their forces to peacetime locations. It also renewed its willingness to send a good offices mission under the Chairman of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers with a view to easing the tension between the two countries and to promote a peaceful settlement. It also requested the Secretary General to constitute a three-member fact-finding mission to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

31. The Conference condemned the continuing U.S. aggression, threats and plots against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya including the economic boycott measures and reaffirmed its solidarity with Libya in defending her independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity against economic boycott measures which seek to undermine its plans

for development.

32.The Conference reaffirmed its resolve to strengthen the security of the Member States and the cooperation and solidarity among Islamic countries, in accordance with the objectives and the principles of the Charter of the OIC and of the Charter of the United Nations. It reiterated that the security of each Muslim country is the concern of all Islamic countries and reaffirmed the need for respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, as well as the principles of non-use of force in international relations, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

33.The Conference recognized that Confidence and Security Building Measures, especially when applied in a comprehensive manner, have a potential to significantly contribute to the enhancement of peace, security and stability throughout the Islamic world and to the strengthening of the climate of mutual trust and solidarity among Islamic countries, and invited Member States to develop and formulate concrete proposals on Confidence and Security Building Measures.

34.The Conference recognized that Small States are particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs and called upon Member States to provide assistance, when requested by small member states, for strengthening of their security in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the OIC.

35.The Conference called upon all States, particularly the states of the region concerned to respond positively to the proposals for the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. It welcomed the various proposals made by Pakistan to keep the South Asian region free of nuclear weapons including the proposed 5-Nation consultations to ensure nuclear non-proliferation in the region. It reaffirmed the determination of Member States to take measures to prevent nuclear proliferation on a non-discriminatory and universal basis. It also requested the Conference on Disarmament to work urgently towards an agreement on an International Convention to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the threat or use of nuclear weapons. It also called for the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction, and welcomed the initiatives of some Arab States for the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East within the framework of United Nations and called for the early establishment of such a zone.

36. The Conference took cognizance of the current developments in international situation especially in Eastern and Central Europe and expressed the hope that the strengthening of economic relations between East and West would not affect the order of priorities in respect of economic cooperation and trade exchanges between these and Islamic countries. It also expressed the hope that the States of Eastern and Western Europe and other States would respect the Islamic identity of the Muslim communities and minorities living in their countries and their right to practice freely their language and religion.

37.The Conference condemned the policy of apartheid and reaffirmed its support of the constitutional principles set forth in the Harare Declaration and the United Nations resolutions which constitute the basis for turning South Africa into a non racist democracy. It noted the current process undertaken by the Government of South Africa in relation with the parties and political organizations of South Africa and urged this Government to accelerate the process in a significant and real manner in order to definitively put an end to the apartheid system. It demanded that the South African Government take immediate steps to end violence and protect the lives and property of the black population. It also urged all the political organizations and all popular movements to end fratricidal conflict. It also appealed to the international community to use all forms of pressure to induce the Pretoria regime to speed up the process of dismantling the apartheid system.

38.The Conference emphasized that the African economic crisis is of deep concern to the entire Islamic Ummah and welcomed the efforts of the African countries towards their economic recovery and development. It called upon the international community,

particularly the developed countries and the concerned international financial agencies to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of the objectives of African Economic Recovery and Development. It also expressed the hope that the process of appraisal of the UN Program of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-90 would result in the formulation of concrete measures and recommendations for sustained and sustainable growth and development in Africa beyond 1991. It also urged the developed countries and international financial institutions to give special attention to alleviating the extreme debt burden of the African States.

39. The Conference urged the Member States to give priority consideration to the critical economic situation in the African countries of the Sahel and appealed to all Member States to increase their aid to the fight against locusts. It also appealed to all donor countries to implement all the Programs of food aid and emergency assistance for rural development projects and increase their aid in farming, pest control, food security and rational management of water resources of the Sahel as well as their support to pilot Programs for desertification control.

40. The Conference reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros over the Island of Mayotte and requested the Government of France to honor the commitments entered into prior to the referendum on the self-determination of the Comoro Archipelago of 22 December 1974 concerning respect for the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros. The Conference invited the Member States to use their influence with the Government of France collectively and individually with a view to urging it to accelerate the process of negotiations with the Government of Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on the basis of the national unity and territorial integrity of this country.

41. The Conference reaffirmed its solidarity with the Government and people of Sudan in facing the hostile foreign designs and defending its unity and territorial integrity. It appealed to all Member States to provide moral and material support to enable Sudan to safeguard its unity, territorial integrity and identity in conformity with the principles embodied in the Charter and the resolutions of the OIC.

42. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the recent events in Somalia, which have caused immense suffering to the people and have grave implications for the national unity and territorial integrity of this Islamic country. While affirming that it is imperative to restore the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Somalia, the Conference expressed its appreciation and full support for the efforts being made by the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Djibouti and other fraternal countries as well as the Secretary General to seek ways and means to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis in Somalia and appealed to the Somali political leaders and movements to extend to them their fullest cooperation.

It requested the member states and the international community to extend urgent humanitarian assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country and to resume sustained economic cooperation with the Somali Republic.

43. The Conference affirmed that the dumping of dangerous nuclear and toxic wastes in Member States is a crime against humanity, and called upon all states which produce dangerous and toxic wastes to take all the measures necessary for treating and recycling this waste in their own countries. It urged all the Islamic countries to ban all the illegal trans-border movements of dangerous and toxic wastes.

44. The Conference affirmed the inalienable right of the Islamic Ummah to develop and use science and technology for peaceful purposes in the economic and social fields. It invited the industrialized nations to facilitate the transfer of technology to the developing countries and to remove all impediments thereto. It also requested the Member States to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

45. The Conference also expressed its support to the efforts of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to obtain compensations in particular for the war aftermath left by

colonialist powers on the soil of the Jamahiriya and which has resulted in serious human and material losses and wounded people among the innocent population.

46. Reaffirming its past resolutions and declarations on Cyprus, the Conference expressed its solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot community in its rightful cause and adopted a new resolution on the subject. It called on the two parties to negotiate together to reach a settlement in accordance with the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 649 (1990) and expressed its appreciation for the constructive efforts of the Turkish Cypriot side in this connection. The Conference expressed its support for the on-going efforts of the United Nations Secretary General within the framework of his mission of good offices. The Conference underlined the key importance of respect for the principle of political equality in the attainment of a mutually acceptable solution. In this context the Conference considered the application of the Turkish Cypriot side for membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference and decided in this respect to enhance the participation of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus in the activities and meetings of all the organs of the Conference, including its subsidiary and affiliated bodies. The Conference also decided to remain seized of the Turkish Cypriot request for membership. The Conference called on Member States to increase and expand their ties with the Turkish Cypriot people in all fields, including trade, commerce, tourism, investment and sports. The Conference asked the Islamic Development Bank to undertake a comprehensive study of the economic situation in North Cyprus with a view to promoting the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community. Finally, the Secretary General was asked to take the necessary measures for the implementation of this Resolution, to make further recommendations as appropriate, and to present a report to the Sixth Islamic Summit and to the next meeting of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

47. The Conference expressed its profound concern over the continuous sufferings of millions of refugees in various parts of the world, most of whom belong to the Islamic world. It expressed its concern on the decline in the level of international assistance for refugees and called upon member states to cooperate with the UNHCR and to secure additional resources to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees in Islamic countries.

48. The Conference urged Member States to pay attention to the problems faced by Islamic communities and minorities living in Non-OIC Member States to play an effective role to protect them and to do their utmost in approaching states in which they live and urging these states to recognize their full right of citizenship and to grant them all their civil and religious rights and treat them with equity in accordance with international Charters and Conventions relating to human rights and basic freedoms.

The Conference recommended that contacts be further strengthened between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Islamic organizations and institutions in Member States, on the one hand, and between these Muslim communities, on the other with a view to putting an end to their isolation and to getting acquainted with their demands and needs.

49. The Conference reaffirmed its previous resolutions on solidarity with the Muslims in Southern Philippines in their just struggle for the achievement of their legitimate aspirations, within the framework of the territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines. It noted the recent measures taken by the Government of the Philippines with a view to solving the question of the Muslims in Southern Philippines. It urged the Government of the Philippines to continue to implement fully the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 in letter and spirit in order to pursue its efforts to grant autonomy to South Philippines as agreed upon with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

It reaffirmed its readiness to continue providing every form of assistance - humanitarian, material, financial and political - to the Muslims in Southern Philippines and to the Moro National Liberation Front to enable them to attain their legitimate aspirations.

50. The Conference reiterated its total solidarity with the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria

and expressed its high appreciation for the continuing efforts of the OIC Contact Group and endorsed the recommendations of its last report. It took note with satisfaction of the new approach and decisions of the new Bulgarian leadership aiming at alleviating the plight of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Bulgaria and appealed to the Bulgarian Government to observe fully its contractual obligations and to put into effect all necessary practical measures and legal guarantees which could ensure a full restoration and respect for the minority's religious, linguistic and cultural rights and to eradicate discrimination against this minority.

The Conference also took note that OIC Contact Group will visit Bulgaria in the upcoming months and appealed to the Bulgarian Government to extend every assistance possible to the Contact Group in finding opportunities to make the necessary contacts and observations.

51. The Conference noted with concern that the rights and fundamental freedoms of the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace continue to be denied and violated and urged that all their rights and freedoms, collective and individual, be fully respected.

52. The Conference took note of the various candidatures of Member States to the post in international organizations.

Concerning the election of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Conference also took note of the candidatures submitted by various countries for this post. It underlined that equity demands that the African continent assume, in its turn, this post, which has not been occupied by any African since the establishment of the United Nations. The Conference supported the list of African candidates for this post adopted by the African Summit, held in Abuja on 27 July 1991.

53. The Conference urged the Member States that have not yet ratified the Statute of the International Islamic Court of Justice and the amendment of the Charter to complete the ratification procedure and to send their instruments of ratification to the General Secretariat as soon as possible, so that the quorum necessary for the Court to become operational may be attained.

54. The Conference recognized the importance of follow up of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam; to be retained as an item on the Agenda of the ICFM Regular Session; and its continued consideration for the effectiveness of joint action by Member States and the General Secretariat of the OIC in order to facilitate the promotion of all Islamic values in the field of human rights. It invited Member States to coordinate their positions during the UN Summit Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993 on the basis of the guidelines contained in the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam.

55. The Conference urged, anew, the Member States to sign or ratify, as soon as possible, the various agreements concluded in the framework of the OIC.

56. The Conference reiterated its support for convening an International Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the struggle of peoples for national liberation.

57. The Conference expressed its deep appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for having hosted the Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information and noted the decisions of the said Committee.

58. The Conference reaffirmed the need for active support and effective participation of Member States in the implementation of the Information Plan to ensure its success and approved the 1991-92 Program of Action submitted by the General Secretariat and drawn from the Information Plan. It appealed to Member States to pay all contributions and to extend all the assistance needed for the implementation of this Program of Action.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS:

59. The Conference, once again, expressed its deep concern over the deteriorating international economic situation and its implications for Islamic States. It noted with anxiety the new economic transformations that are likely to occur after the establishment of the Unified European Market in 1992 and hoped that the recent strengthening of relations

between the European Community and the Central and Eastern European countries would not adversely affect trade exchanges between Member Countries and the European Community.

It urged Member States to intensify their efforts in economic and commercial cooperation so as to further consolidate the relations among Member States in the face of world challenges. The Conference also emphasized the need to pay due attention to the serious economic problems caused by the recent Gulf War and called for a study of the possibilities of closer cooperation for economic reconstruction and development to alleviate the devastating effects of the conflict.

60. The Conference requested the Member States to actively participate in the preparation for the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN. Development Decade and urged them to join the Agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries and to coordinate their negotiating positions within the framework of the system.

61. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the continuous escalation of the international economic crisis during the recent years in a manner that has generally done harm to the developing countries among which are African Member States, which are still suffering from the accumulation of foreign debts and its critical social consequences. It called for the increase in the Official Development Assistance granted by the developed countries in favor of developing countries in general and the Least Developed Countries in particular.

62. The Conference emphasized that the efforts being undertaken, by the developing countries, to foster sustained economic growth, although important, cannot alone succeed in reactivating growth and development without favorable international economic environment. It expressed its deep concern at the decline in external financial resources available to developing countries for development and the reverse transfer of resources from developing to the developed countries and the risk of deviation of assistance.

63. The Conference appealed to the developed countries to take immediate measures aimed at world economic recovery and at accelerating the development process of the developing countries. It also appealed to the developed countries, national and multinational creditors to take appropriate measures to cutdown the debt of African countries through writing off debts, staggered settlements, deferred and amortization's, reduced or favorable interest rates. The Conference noted the need for direct economic cooperation among Member States, which will contribute to their development as well as to the preservation of peace and stability among them. It urged Member States to pursue their efforts for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States.

64. The Conference being apprised of the activities of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) decided to recommend to the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Dakar, Senegal in 1991 to issue a new mandate for the COMCEC for the formulation of new strategies within the existing Plan of Action, taking into account the overwhelming changes which have taken place in the world since 1981 and their possible effects on the economies of the Islamic States.

65. The Conference regarded deterioration of the Environment as a major global problem facing the world and expressed concern over the increasing environmental degradation caused by human activities, which has led in some cases to irreversible changes in the environment, which threaten life-sustaining eco-systems and undermine the health, well-being, development prospects and the very survival of life on the planet. The Conference reaffirmed the determination of the Member States to work for the strengthening of international cooperation on global environmental problems.

It also emphasized the need for inter-state cooperation to continuously monitor, assess and anticipate environmental threats and render assistance in cases of environmental emergencies. It also emphasized the need for necessary and timely action for the protection

of global climate for present and future generations. It also called for combating pollution. It requested the Member States to intensify their efforts within the framework of United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

The Conference condemned the Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories which inter alia affect the environment and thus further contribute to the deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

66. The Conference considered the question of Antarctica and expressed its conviction that any International Regime aimed at the comprehensive environmental protection and conservation of Antarctica and its dependent and associated eco-systems, to have universal validity and be of benefit to all mankind, should be negotiated with the full participation of all members of the International Community. It expressed its support for the banning of prospecting, exploration and exploitation of the Mineral Resources in and around Antarctica.

67. The Conference expressed its grave concern over the increase in drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking in narcotics, which is threatening the health and well-being of millions of people, in particular youth, in the majority of states in the world. It also expressed the anxiety of Member States at the increase in the incidents of drug abuse in Muslim countries which threatens the social and family structure of Islamic societies and emphasized the need to combat the drug abuse problem in all its manifestations and forms, forcefully so as to completely eliminate this menace.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS:

68. The Conference noted with appreciation the Reports of the Secretary General on Islamic universities and Islamic Cultural Institutes and Centers as well as the progress achieved for projects financed or supported by the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The Conference attached great importance to the dissemination of Islamic culture, Islamic teachings and Islamic education and the teaching of the Arabic language. In this context, the Conference expressed its satisfaction at the progress achieved by the Islamic universities in Niger and Uganda as well as those in Malaysia and Bangladesh, which were established under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference despite the financial difficulties which these universities have been facing. The Conference urged the Member States, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Islamic Development Bank and other Islamic institutions to extend financial and material support to these universities, institutions and centers in view of their ever-increasing role in human resources development, essentially, required for any developmental activity.

69. The Conference took note of the Report of the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund on the activities of the Fund and its Waqf. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the Member States which have extended generous donations to the Islamic Solidarity Fund and its Waqf. The Conference called upon all Member States to extend annual voluntary contributions to the budget of the Fund according to their potentialities, so as to enable the Fund to cover the deficit in its annual budget.

70. The Conference examined the reports of the subsidiary organs, the specialized and affiliated institutions working in the cultural fields. It expressed its profound appreciation for the activities of these organs and institutions.

71. The Conference also discussed the Reports submitted by the General Secretariat on the educational situation in the Occupied Arab Territories; twinning the Palestinian universities in the Occupied Territories with those in the Member States; the preservation of the Islamic character of the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its Islamic heritage; and the teaching of the history and geography of Palestine in Member States.

The Conference urged Member States to adopt the measures necessary for the continuity of education in the Occupied Arab territories and the preservation of the Islamic heritage in these territories and to express its full support to the education and the uprising (Intifadha) of the Palestinian people.

72. The Conference urged all Member States and the Islamic financial institutions to provide assistance for the new campus of Al-Zeitouna University, in Tunis. The Conference endorsed

the Report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Da'wa and the reactivation of the Coordination Committee of Islamic Action. The Conference also considered the project of the establishment of an Advanced Center for Medical Research and Training, in Bangladesh and requested the Secretary General to continue exploring the views and observations of Member States on this project.

73. The Conference examined the unified stand on sacrilegious acts against Islamic holy places and values and condemned most vehemently any individual or governmental stand in support of any insult directed against the sanctities of revealed religions; under the pretext of allowing the freedom of belief, expression and writing and respect for the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS:

74. The Conference adopted a number of resolutions on the Administrative and Financial issues. It particularly expressed its profound concern at the extreme financial difficulties faced by the General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs. It also requested the Member States which have not settled their arrears of contribution to the General Secretariat and to the Subsidiary Organs to do so as soon as possible. It formed a Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General to consult with the Member States on the question of accumulation of arrears.

The Conference adopted the Program budgets of the General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs for the financial year 1991-92.

TWENTY-FIRST ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

75. The Conference decided that the Twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers will be held at Khartoum, Republic of Sudan in 1992 on dates, which will be fixed in consultation between the host country and the Secretary General.

TWENTY-SECOND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

OF FOREIGN MINISTERS:

76. The Conference welcomed the generous offer made by Islamic Republic of Pakistan and decided that the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers will be held in Pakistan in April 1993.

CLOSING SESSION:

77. His Excellency Mr. Safa Giray, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Conference, made a concluding statement wherein he recapitulated the results of the deliberations and underscored the importance and relevance of the new consciousness in the Islamic world vis-a-vis the challenges of the ongoing era of transition. He reiterated the significance of the contribution of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to the attainment of "just and durable peace through dialogue and cooperation." He expressed his cordial gratitude to all the delegations for the spirit of harmony and brotherly solidarity which had characterized the proceedings. He also thanked His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, the Secretary General, the officials of the General Secretariat, the members of the technical staff, along with the local personnel, for the excellent services they rendered and appreciated their contributions to the success of the Conference.

VOTE OF THANKS:

78. At the end of work, Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Mali and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria expressed respectively on behalf of the Asian, African and Arab Member States their profound thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Turgut Ozal, President of the Republic of Turkey, and the Government and people of Turkey for the generous hospitality extended to the delegations and for the excellent arrangements which greatly contributed to the success of the Conference. They also expressed their appreciation to His Excellency Safa Giray, Chairman of the Conference for his farsightedness and competence in conducting the deliberations of the Conference, which has been a success.

Issued in Istanbul
28 Muharram 1412H (8 August 1991)