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**Final Report and Recommendations
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The 17th Session of the Committee
for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action**

Sao Paulo, Brazil, Latin America

**17-19 Jamada Al Thani 1431H
(31 May – 2 June 2010)**

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Final Report and Recommendations

In implementation of the resolutions issued by the OIC Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences, particularly Resolution No. 1/11-DA(AF) on Dawa activities and the activation of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa,

Based on Resolution No.. 1/37.D. on Dawa Activities and activation of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action, issued by the 37th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 4-6 Jamada Al Thani 1431H (18-20 May 2010) inviting all Islamic organizations, organs and civil society institutions in the Member States to cooperate with the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in order to boost solidarity and rally efforts in the defense of Islamic causes;

Also in implementation of para 3 of Res. 1/37-D Calling upon the working group stemming from the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa, to keep up its work to clarify the role of Islamic organizations and institutions in the field of Dawa and humanitarian relief within the framework of the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action;

Realizing the need for Islamic Institutions and organs active in the field of Dawa to coordinate their activities such as to avoid duplication, overlapping or dispersed efforts, within the framework of a more effective joint Islamic action;

Referring to the gracious offer made by the Islamic Dawa Centre in Latin America to host the 17th session of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa, the OIC General Secretariat addressed invitations to the members of the Committee to convene for the said meeting.

The opening session of the session was attended by Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General and H.E. Lovis Marino, Governor of the City of Sao Paulo in addition to a number of the diplomatic corps members as well as some officials representing Islamic Organizations in Latin America and a number of Imams and of people interested in Islamic Cultural Affairs in the region.

The session's proceedings started with a recitation from the Holy Quran followed by a statement delivered by the OIC Secretary General in which he expressed thanks to Dr. Ahmad Ali Al Saife, Director of the Islamic Dawa Centre in Latin America, and member of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action, for kindly hosting the Committee's session and for all the laudable efforts he and his assistants had

contributed in preparing for it. The Secretary General pointed out that convening this session in this country is reflective of the time-honored relations between the Islamic world on the one hand and Brazil and the other Latin American countries on the other, and that it will constitute a contributor, quite undoubtedly, towards enhancing the presence of Islamic culture in Brazil and towards greater welfare and prosperity for the region. He also made reference to the positive developments, witnessed over the six past years, foremost of which the adoption of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, to face up to the challenges confronting Muslims in the 21st Century, along with the adoption of the new OIC Charter. Also in his statement H.E. the Secretary General referred to the implications of Islamophobia and urged the member organizations to shoulder their responsibility in highlighting the real image of Islam as a religion of tolerance, mercy and balance.

With regard to the brutal aggression perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against the defenseless citizens in the Freedom Flotilla which was bound for Gaza in support of the blockaded Palestinian people, the Secretary General indicated that he had issued a declaration condemning this crime which represents a serious escalation and a blatant violation of international law, and international norms and standards; and which undermines all the peace efforts in the region.

The participants in the session considered the Secretary General's statement as an official document of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Dawa;

Mr. Lonis Marino, Governor of the city of San Bernardo De Campo also delivered a statement to the meeting in which he conveyed the greetings of H.E. the President of the Republic of Brazil, Mr. Inasio Lola Da Silvia, to the OIC Secretary General and to the Members of the Coordination Committee who had chosen Brazil, as a venue for their 17th Session. He also paid tribute to the strong relations between Brazil and the Islamic world and indicated that Muslims in Brazil enjoy their full rights and exercise their religious rites in total freedoms and that they constitute today an asset for their country, Brazil, economically and culturally.

Mr. Antonio Rabiolo, Director General of the Post Office in the city of Sao Paulo also took the floor. He welcomed the visit of the Islamic group to his country, and announced that the post-office was issuing a stamp to commemorate this visit, with the logo of the OIC, that of the Islamic Dawa Centre in Brazil, and the city of San Bernardo de Campo.

Afterwards, Mr. Ahmed Al Saifi, Director of the Islamic Dawa Centre in Latin America, took the floor and expressed his thanks to the OIC Secretary General for his efforts in the service of the Islamic Ummah and welcomed the members of the Coordination Committee, noting that the Committee's convening in Brazil offers moral support for all the Muslims of Latin America.

Also Mr. Amine Kurdi, Ambassador of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, delivered a speech on behalf of the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Brazil, in which he underlined the importance of the meeting and expressed his best wishes for its success.

One of the hallmarks of this session has been the active participation of a number of Dawa and Cultural Centres, in Latin America whose official representatives made interventions on the cultural contributions of Muslims in Latin America and submitted proposals and conceptions for the consolidation of Islamic Cultural action in the Continent.

The Committee has engaged in a two-day deliberations over a number of issues which centered around: The Islamic cultural and civilizational contributions in Latin America; Islamic Dawa in Latin America (an analytical perspective), immigrant capacities and ways to benefit from their competencies; role of Islamic institutions and organizations in spreading the culture of fellowship; women and culture from the Islamic prospective; assessment and development of mechanisms of coordination in the field of Islamic Dawa; fundamental principles for addressing Islamophobia.

Reports were submitted by organizations that are members of the Coordination Committee, on their contributions to the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action. These included the Muslim World League (MWL), The Islamic Dawa Society, The Academy for Inter-Faith Rapprochement, The World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) and the International Islamic Philanthropic Society.

The discussions were marked by a spirit of responsibility and effective awareness of the different aspects of the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah, and by a particular emphasis on the need for Islamic action approaches to rise up to those challenges from their different angles... And, based on those discussions, the following recommendations were adopted:

- In harmony with the Secretary General's proposals in his statement at the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers recently held in Tajikistan on the phenomenon of Islamophobia, and in conformity with the Council's resolutions on the issue, the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action recommends that a task force be set up among its members to be entrusted with the follow-up of the phenomenon's developments, under the supervision of H.E. the Secretary General, and to prepare for an expanded meeting of experts and specialists that would evolve effective executive progress on the matters.
- Enhancing contacts with Islamic organizations in Latin America and encouraging their cultural and civilizational contributions to the culture of the peoples of the region, ensuring greater exposure for such contribution, and expanding the spheres of cooperation with those peoples in all that could help in the education of their leaderships, religiously and culturally.

- Establishing links between the Islamic associations and leaderships in North America and South America, such as to promote the exchange of expertise, ensure advantageous use of the human and natural resources available to both sides, and learn from each other's successful experiences, all through gatherings to be organized to that effect.
- According priority to the contribution of educational institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean and offering more scholarships for the children of Muslim families, particularly in the fields of information, telecommunication and information technologies in all their fields of specialty.
- Importance of training preachers and educational staff such as to give them competence in offering Dawa work that is reflective of authentic Islam with its openness and balance, and advancing the Islamic faith's call for dialogue and cooperation in all that is likely to help promote welfare, peace and security for societies, and seeing to the establishment of educational schools institutions to assume such role.
- Consolidating mechanisms for the coordination of Islamic action such as to enhance complementarity of efforts and prevent duplication or inconsistency, whilst identifying priorities as may be dictated by the cultural and intellectual challenges facing the Islamic Ummah.
- Documenting the history of the presence of Islam in Latin America with its different facets: religions, cultural, social and economic, and educating the Muslim new generations about the Muslims' contributions to the development of this country economically and the role of Muslims in its cultural diversity.
- Laying emphasis on the importance of information in defending Islam and standing up to the hostile campaigns, raising the guiding principles of Islamic discourse for it to transcend ideological and sectarian differences and rally the Ummah's potential, intellectually and culturally in a civic approach that is reflective of the role of Islam in human civilization, and exploring the possibility of establishing radio stations to assume such a role.
- Enhancing women's role in the Muslim society and empowering them to partake in the Dawa responsibilities, advancing them to leadership positions both locally and regionally, and encouraging their active presence in society.

- Encouraging all initiatives in favour of dialogue and openness to the other benefiting from Islamic heritage in this respect, strengthening relations with other religious, humanitarian and cultural institutions, within full respect for each other's theological and cultural specificities, and making advantageous use of all that to build up relations in favour of mutual respect and cooperation in all spheres of goodwill.
- Encouraging efforts for the establishment of Islamic endowments (Waqfs) that would procure some of the requisites for Dawa and cultural action, help preserve the cultural identity of future generations and secure sustained funding for some religious, cultural and social ventures.

Words of thanks

- The Committee expressed its profound gratitude to the Islamic Dawa Centre in Latin America for hosting the session and for its positive contribution and active participation in boosting joint Islamic action in Latin America, all of which have been significant contributors to the success of the session's proceedings.
- The Committee also expressed its deep appreciation to Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General, for his sustained efforts to stimulate joint Islamic action towards broader and better horizons for the Islamic Ummah.
- The Committee expresses its deep thanks and gratitude for the kind offer it received from His Eminence Sheikh Mohamad Ali Taskhiri, Chairman of the World Academy for Rapprochement between Islamic Schools, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, to host the Committee's 18th Session.
- The Committee expresses its profound thanks and appreciation to the World Association of Muslim Youth (WAMY) and the International Islamic Dawa Society for their supportive stand in favour of the establishment of radio stations under the umbrella of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action, to broadcast on FM waves in the African continent.
- The Committee decided to issue a declaration on the Zionist aggression against the Freedom Flotilla bound for Gaza.