



OIC/ICIM-10/2014/Rep./Final

***Report of the
10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers
(Session of Media Convergence for Peace and
Calm in the Islamic World)***

***Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
3 - 4 December 2014***

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- 1- At the kind invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) was held under the theme of (Media Convergence for Peace and Calm in the Islamic World) in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3-4 December 2014 under the high patronage of the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Jahangiri.
- 2- The Session was attended by OIC Member States, Observer States as well as OIC Specialized and Affiliated organs and invited institutions (List of Participants is attached).
- 3- The Conference was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
- 4- The Chairman of the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, the Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Amb. Ismael Gnama Lengoungdu Oligui outlined the efforts made by his country in implementation of the resolutions adopted during the 9th Session of the ICIM, and commended the role of the OIC General Secretariat on the implementation process. He also expressed thanks to the OIC Secretary General for his leadership in steering the Organization for the betterment of the Muslim Ummah. He also outlined the efforts made by Gabon in developing the Information sector and in providing information and communication infrastructure for the educational institutions.
- 5- His Excellency Mr. Ali Jannati, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the 10th Session of the ICIM, started his statement by welcoming the participants in the Conference, pointing out to the “numerous challenges in front of the Islamic world and in particular the Middle East region” posed by “extremism, violence, terrorism, military invasion, violation of national sovereignty of the states and occupation”, and the recent unprecedented killings and devastation in the Gaza Strip which constitute a clear case of war crimes and crime against humanity, perpetuated by the Zionist regime.” He underlined that “extremism and violence, in our region have added to our pains.” In this context, he recalled the initiative of H.E. President Rouhani, on “World Against Violence and Extremism” noting that the initiative has received wide support of the international community, and in particular Muslims throughout the world. Minister Jannati noted that the “Islamic countries should strengthen their information and media inter-linkages in an effective way to be able to confront attempts that are targeted towards

widening divides”, noting that that “joint action and collaboration is the only solution to ensuring a bright future for the Islamic Ummah.” He called for finalizing the restructuring process of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU) and establishment of the OIC Satellite Channel.”

- 6- His Excellency the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, delivered a statement in which he expressed thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Gabon for its efforts and achievements made throughout Gabon’s chairmanship of the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers over the last two and half years. He also expressed thanks to H.E. Mr. Ali Jannati and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 10th Session of the ICIM and for their warm welcome, hospitality and arrangements made to hold this Conference. Madani noted that the Islamic Ummah is confronted with numerous challenges that jeopardize not only its stability, security and development efforts, but also its identity and life style, hence, noting that the Conference addresses the challenges that face our media rhetoric, institutions and the frameworks which govern our media action in various domains. The Secretary General urged for the need to address extremists discourse, dismantle it and comprehend its background and the climate in which it emerges, as well as its political, economic, social and religious contexts. He called for the need to revisit the idea of Code of Conduct for Media organizations and information discourse which was mooted by the 7th and 8th Sessions of the ICIM and which could not see the light. Madani also called on the Media to stand up to racism and “apartheid” policies practiced by Israel against the Palestinian People and the violations of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which exemplify the most revolting forms of rhetoric of hate. In outlining the numerous draft resolutions presented to the 10th Session of the ICIM, the Secretary General expressed hope that the Conference will be successful in articulating a clear vision that includes clear implementation and follow up mechanisms in order to put the resolutions of this Session into effect.
- 7- His Excellency the First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Jahangiri presented a statement in which he welcomed the participants in the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers. H.E. the Vice President noted that the OIC, which was basically established to defend the cause of Palestine, is expected to play and effective role in this regard. He underlined the importance of the OIC, which is expected to proactively voice concerns and interests of the Islamic Ummah at the international level, noting that his country, as an active member of the OIC, is committed to contribute to this important undertaking in cooperation with other Member States. The Vice-President underlined the intensifier and growing attempts by some Western media outlet to advance Islamophobia to new stages. He also spoke about the existing gap in the area of digital media which amplifies the dominance of Western media in different aspects and in particular in the area of Islamophobia. He stressed that the Islamic world needs to be creative, united and progressive

in increasingly employing information and communication technologies to be able to bridge the existing media and information gaps.

- 8- The Conference elected the bureau of the Conference as follows:

Islamic Republic of Iran	}	Chairman
Republic of Sudan		Vice Chairman
Republic of Niger		Vice Chairman
State of Palestine		Vice Chairman
Gabonese Republic		Rapporteur

- 9- The Conference adopted the Draft Agenda and Draft Work Programme of the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers: Documents: (OIC/ICIM-10/2014/DA) and (OIC/ICIM-10/2014/WP).

- 10- In their statements, the Ministers and Representatives of the OIC Member States underscored the need to focus on the role of media in the current stage and to continue to expose the brutal acts perpetrated by the Zionist occupying authorities in their heinous aggression against the Gaza Strip in order to mobilize Islamic and international public opinion behind the Palestinian cause. They also highlighted the importance of coordination among joint Islamic media action institutions and the OIC Information Department, and invited those media institutions in the Member States to contribute to projecting the true image of Islam and countering media attacks against the noble Islamic religion, its symbols and holy sites. The speakers also emphasized the urgent need to utilize the accelerating information and communication revolution in the world, particularly social media networks given their effective and crucial role in conveying media messages.

- 11- The Director General of IRCICA and the representative of the ISESCO also delivered speeches during the Session.

- 12- Based on the report submitted by Mr. Peiman Saadat, Chairman of the Senior Officials' Meeting (document: OIC/ICIM-10/2014/SOM-REP/FINAL), the Conference adopted the following resolutions:

a. The Role of the Media in the OIC Member States in Supporting the Cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque:

The participants in the Conference highlighted the extraordinary circumstances, in which the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers is being held, particularly in light of changes sweeping the Muslim World, the constant suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation and escalating aggression, and the continued violations by Israel in the Palestinian territories including in the city of Al-Quds. The participants condemned the brutal Israeli aggression, praised

the international denunciation of the aggression, and the support of the Islamic states and peoples for the Palestinian cause in all international arenas. The participants also commended the UNESCO's recognition of the State of Palestine and affirmed their support to Palestine's bid for full UN membership.

In discussing the need to continue media coverage of the Israeli regime policies against the Palestinian people, the participants urged media outlets in the OIC Member States to continue their coverage of the repeated Israeli aggressions against Palestinian territories and the targeting of the Palestinian people. Participants also called for shedding light on the violations of human rights and war crimes committed by the Israeli authorities. In this context, the Conference adopted the draft resolution 1/10 – INF on *the Role of the Media in the OIC Member States in Supporting the Cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque*.

b. Internal and External Media Action in partnership with OIC Member States' and International Mass Media Institutions

The Conference praised the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to engage further with foreign media, and stressed the importance of providing the necessary financial resources to launch projects related to direct engagement with foreign mass media outlets; this includes considering the establishment of a fund based on voluntary contributions by the Member States, institutions, and individuals. In the same vein, the Conference adopted the draft resolution No. 2/10 – INF on *Internal and External Action in partnership with OIC Member States' and International Mass Media Institutions*.

c. Supporting the Work of Joint Islamic Media Action Institutions

The Conference discussed the issue of supporting various media institutions under the OIC, including the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), the International Islamic News Agency (IINA), the OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF), the OIC Media Forum. It called on Member States to pay their contributions to the budgets of these institutions, contribute effectively to their work and benefit from the services they offer. The Conference recommended further synergy, coordination and consultation between these institutions and the Department of Information at the OIC General Secretariat, with a view to giving greater media projection of their work and creating awareness about the important role they play, which could support joint Islamic media action. The Conference adopted the draft resolution 3/10-INF on *Supporting the Work of Joint Islamic Media Action Institutions*.

d. Supporting the Implementation of the Special Media Programme Highlighting Africa's Position and Role in the Muslim World and Extending the Programme to other Regions

The participants discussed the issue of implementing the media programme on Africa aimed at highlighting its position and role in the Muslim world. They called on Member States to adopt this programme by financing it or providing the General Secretariat with material support to implement it and extend it to other regions. The participants lauded the importance of the programme which would help to create awareness about the make-up of the African continent and highlight its economic, cultural, tourism and natural potentials thereby reflecting the shining image of the continent in the local and international media. The Conference adopted the draft resolution 4/10-INF on *Supporting the Implementation of the Special Media Programme Highlighting Africa's Position and Role in the Muslim World and Extending the Programme to other Regions*.

e. Media Cooperation and Coordination between the OIC and its institutions in the service of the causes of the Islamic Ummah

The participants extolled the role of the OIC institutions and called on them to contribute to highlighting their role in the various mass media while enhancing their synergy and effectiveness. The participants also called on the OIC General Secretariat and its affiliated institutions, particularly those in the media field to intensify coordination, hold joint programmes and undertake field visits to know the work of the institutions at close range. The Conference adopted the draft resolution 5/10 – INF on *Media Cooperation and Coordination between the OIC and its Institutions in the Service of the Causes of the Islamic Ummah*.

f. Developments on the OIC Satellite Channel Launching Project

The Conference discussed the development on the OIC Satellite Channel Launching Project and the deliberations held in this regard, and the obstacles impeding the implementation of this big project. The Conference adopted the draft resolution 6/10 – INF on *Developments on the OIC Satellite Channel Launching Project*.

g. Promoting Media Visibility of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Pioneering Cultural Exchange, Development and Peace

The Conference discussed the issue of promoting media visibility of the OIC, particularly in championing cultural exchange, development and Peace. They urged Member States to provide media coverage for the activities of the OIC and initiate projects with the OIC General Secretariat in these fields. The participants adopted the draft resolution 7/9 – INF on *Promoting Media Visibility of the OIC, particularly in Championing Cultural Exchange, Development and Peace*.

h. Boosting the Capacity and Productivity of Journalists and Media Institutions in Member States and Cooperation among them

The Conference discussed ways of boosting the capacity and productivity of journalists and media institutions in Member States and cooperation among them. It praised the efforts of the Department of Information at the OIC General Secretariat in this regard, including its organization of a training course on writing press releases in which 22 staff members of the OIC General Secretariat and OIC affiliated media institutions participated. The course which was delivered by the Prince Ahmad Bin Salman Applied Media Academy was held at the OIC General Secretariat from 27 – 30 October 2014 with the aim of improving their drafting and press release writing skills. The Conference urged the Member States with media expertise and facilities to provide capacity building and support to the less developed countries in this field and to engage in joined projects and exchange of expertise. The participants adopted the draft resolution 8/10- INF on *Boosting the Capacity and Productivity of Journalists and Media Institutions in Member States and Cooperation among them*.

i. Establishing a publications unit at the General Secretariat's Department of Information

The Conference discussed the possibility of establishing a publications unit within the structure of the Department of Information at the OIC General Secretariat, considering the growing number of periodic releases and publications at the General Secretariat. These publications are prepared and their printing is supervised internally by the Department of Information. In this regard, the Conference adopted the draft resolution 9/10 – INF on *establishing a publications unit at the General Secretariat's Department of Information*.

- 13- The Conference adopted Tehran Declaration (document no. OIC/ICIM-10/2014/DECLARATION/FINAL), which is enclosed.
- 14- The Conference decided to form a Ministerial Follow-up Committee for the 10th Session of the ICIM comprising the Troika of previous, current and next Chairmen of the sessions of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, in addition to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the headquarters' hosting country, Republic of Senegal has the Chair of COMIAC and the OIC Secretary General or his representative. The Committee shall convene at least once during the current Session, and whenever necessary, upon invitation from its Chair and in consultation with the OIC Secretary General.
- 15- The Conference adopted the Final Report of the Session (document no. OIC/ICIM-10/2014/Rep./Final).
- 16- The Conference welcomed the offer of the representatives of the Republic of Tunisia, People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM). However, after consultations held

in the presence of the OIC Secretary General and the Chair of the 10th Session of the ICIM, it was agreed that the Republic of Tunisia will host the 11th Session of the ICIM in the year 2016.

- 17- The Conference conveyed utmost gratitude and highest consideration to His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hassan Rouhani, and to the First Vice-President, His Excellency Mr. Jahangiri, for their patronage of the Conference, thanking them and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their generous hospitality. The Conference also expressed appreciation to the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Ali Jannati, for the good preparations for the Conference and for his astute steering of its works. It also thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Iran News Agency (IRNA) and its personnel for their invaluable efforts for good preparation for the conference.
- 18- The participants commended the dedicated efforts of the OIC Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, and the personnel of the OIC General Secretariat to organize the Conference and for the good coordination with the competent authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold the Conference in the best conditions possible and attain the success sought in serving the joint Islamic media action.
