



OIC/ICIM-11/2016/DEC/FINAL

## *Jeddah Declaration*

*11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers  
of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation*

*Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

*21 December 2016*

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The Islamic Conference of Information Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in its 11<sup>th</sup> Session held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 21 December 2016;

- Being cognizant of the growing and crucial role of the media, particularly new media, as encapsulated in the theme chosen for the Conference (**New Media to Counter Terrorism and Islamophobia**);
  - Underscoring the growing trend of Islamophobia, as remarked by OIC Member States, particularly in countries with Muslim minorities, and the need to counter this phenomenon and increase cooperation among OIC Member States to combat it and highlight its threats;
  - Believing that countless threats are facing the Muslim Ummah, against the backdrop of profound transformations and rapid changes in the world in general and the Muslim world in particular, and with the remarkable surge in terrorist acts and their negative repercussions on Muslim communities in some world countries;
  - Proceeding from the fact that the values of the noble Islamic religion and its message of moderation constitute a comprehensive media platform, an expression of thought, innovation and knowledge, a stronghold of Islamic identity and the receptacle of Islamic culture, and provide therefore a platform for media synergy;
  - Emphasizing the advancement of the media message as a platform for reporting, synergy and publication, and the establishment of bridges of communication and dialogue with the world;
  - Recognizing that moderation is the pillar of Islamic identity and thus deserves special attention in the OIC 2025 comprehensive media strategy;
  - Recognizing that the current stage requires reinforcing cooperation for the development of the Islamic media product and improvement of its performance for the benefit of the causes of the Muslim Ummah and preparing developed media messages based on diversity, plurality and on addressing the ‘other’ in a language suitable to his/her social reality;
  - Affirming that terrorism has no religion and is not exclusively associated with a specific nationality or place, and that it represents only the perpetrator;
1. Affirms the importance of countering the fierce campaign waged on Islam and Muslim communities, particularly as regards the issue of Islamophobia.
  2. Stresses that addressing the issue of Islamophobia starts with presenting the truth about the magnanimous religion of Islam to foreign interlocutors in a thoughtful and effective manner.
  3. Emphasizes the importance of cooperation among Member States in developing media mechanisms to fight terrorism.
  4. Condemns all manifestations of violence, extremism, fanaticism and terrorism which distort the noble messages of human cultures.

5. Commends the special role of media in Islamic countries in exposing the brutal Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and urges it to continue to highlight the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people and defend them until the establishment of their independent State with Al-Quds as its capital, and the evacuation of the Israeli occupation from Arab territories; inviting them to commit to supporting all efforts made to achieve the national unity of the Palestinian people and abstain from any media behaviour that would fuel conflicts and exacerbate divisions in its rows.
6. Highlights the important role of media based on Islamic principles and moderate discourse in countering firmly and successfully media campaigns which aim to cause prejudice to Islamic holy sanctities and disseminate hate and discrimination against Muslims, while associating Islam - a religion of compassion and peace - with the phenomenon of violence and terrorism which we reject categorically and denounce strongly.
7. Calls for media in Member States to serve truth and convey the concerns of citizens of Member States and to demonstrate the greatest degree of professionalism and objectivity in reporting facts and addressing political, economic, social and cultural issues in full respect for the principles of plurality and diversity of opinion, and a continued approach to open up to modernity while sticking to the constants of the Ummah and persistent desire to exercise freedom widely with a high sense of responsibility.
8. Denounces the criminal act by the houthi militias and those behind them by launching a ballistic missile towards Makkah Al-Mukarramah, the place of revelation and prayer direction for Muslims, which was intercepted and destroyed by air defence forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before reaching its destination without causing any damage; considering it a criminal act, a grave aggression on the feelings of Muslims, a disregard for their sacred sites and an assault on the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Conference also reaffirms the Final Communiqué of the Emergency Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Ministers of OIC Member States held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in Safar 1438 A.H. (November 2016), which called for a collective stance against this heinous aggression and those behind it, who support its perpetrators with arms, considering them as established accomplices in the aggression on the holy sites of the Muslim world, an obvious party seeking to sow dissent and fuel sectarian discord, and a key sponsor of terrorism.
9. Their Excellencies the Ministers of Information commend the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation towards the advancement of the mission of Islam and promote dialogue between the Islamic culture and the world's cultures.

May Allah guide us for the welfare and good of our Ummah, so that it would regain its active presence in the march towards progress, development and prosperity and resume its contribution to the human civilization in a manner commensurate with its heritage.

Jeddah, on Wednesday, 22/03/1438 A.H. (21/12/2016)