



بِسْمِ تَعَالَى

**The Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food
security and Agricultural Development**

I. R. Iran 14 - 16 January 1995

MFSAD/4-95/REP.1/Final

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REPORT OF THE
FOURTH OIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON
FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
13-15 SHA'BAN, 1415H
(14-16 JANUARY 1995)

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The Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 13 to 15 Sha'aban 1415H (14-16 January, 1995) pursuant to the invitation extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. The following Member States participated in the Conference:

1. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
2. Republic of Azerbaijan
3. Islamic State of Afghanistan
4. Republic of Albania
5. State of United Arab Emirates
6. Republic of Indonesia
7. Republic of Uganda
8. Islamic Republic of Iran
9. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
10. State of Bahrain
11. Brunei Darussalam
12. Burkina Faso
13. People's Republic of Bangladesh
14. Republic of Benin
15. Republic of Turkey
16. Republic of Tchad
17. Republic of Turkmenistan
18. Republic of Tunisia
19. Republic of Tajikistan
20. Republic of Gabon
21. Republic of the Gambia
22. Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros
23. Republic of Djibouti
24. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
25. Republic of Senegal
26. Republic of Sudan
27. Syrian Arab Republic
28. Republic of Sierra Leone
29. Republic of Somalia
30. Republic of Iraq
31. Sultanate of Oman
32. Republic of Guinea
33. State of Palestine
34. Republic of Kyrghyzstan
35. State of Qatar
36. Republic of Cameroon

37. State of Kuwait
38. Republic of Lebanon
39. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
40. Republic of Mali
41. Malaysia
42. Arab Republic of Egypt
43. Kingdom of Morocco
44. Islamic Republic of Mauritania
45. Republic of Niger
46. Republic of Yemen

3. The Conference was also attended by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), African Development Bank (ADB), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

4. The list of participants is annexed to the Report (Annex-I).

5. The inaugural session started with a recitation from the Holy Quran. Thereafter, His Excellency Nawab Mohammad Yousuf Talpur, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Third OIC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Agricultural Development, thanked the Government and people of Iran for hosting this important Conference and expressed on behalf of all the delegations, his profound appreciation to His Excellency Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for having graced the occasion with his high presence. He then invited His Excellency the President to deliver his keynote address.

6. His Excellency Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his inaugural address welcomed all delegations and thanked them for responding positively to the invitation to this important Conference.

He said that cooperation in various fields can be considered such as in the development of sound economic and agricultural infrastructure, the sharing of technical and technological know-how, and the formation of an Islamic common market.

His Excellency the President also noted that "agricultural production and food security carry great significance and the trade of agricultural commodities is

increasingly mingling with political aspirations," hence, it is in the interest of OIC states to give priority to the agricultural sector and engage in joint production planning in order to create food security and agricultural development in Islamic Countries. (Copy of H.E's inaugural address is attached as Annex II).

7. In response to the inaugural address, H.E. Musa Mbenga, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Republic of the Gambia, H.E. Mr. Assad Mustafa, Minister of Agriculture of the Syrian Arab Republic and H.E. Datuk Sanusi Junid, Minister of Agriculture of Malaysia made statements on behalf of the African, Arab and Asian groups respectively expressing thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for hosting the Conference and for its generous hospitality. They also thanked the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his inspiring inaugural address. They underlined the importance attached to the problem of Food Security and Agricultural Development by all Member States of OIC and expressed the wish that the meeting would find ways and means of solving the problems of this vital sector.

8. In his address, H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Conference. The Secretary General gave a brief background of the activities leading to the present Conference and analyzed the reasons for food shortages in many Islamic countries which have forced them to rely heavily on food imports to meet their requirements. He underlined the need to increase food production, establish agro-based and agro-related industries and intensify trade among Islamic Countries in food commodities and agricultural products (Annex-III).

9. The Conference was then addressed by H.E. Nawab Mohammed Yousuf Talpur, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of the Third OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development. The Minister, expressing his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Conference, indicated that the progress achieved in the implementation of the decisions of the Third Ministerial Conference was reported to the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) and, through it, to the Sixth and Seventh Islamic Summit Conferences. Referring to the importance of securing sustainable growth in the production and supply of food stuff in the Member Countries, H.E. the Minister emphasized the need for pursuing efficient production and marketing policies as well as improving purchasing power of local population in order to achieve food security in OIC Countries. He also underlined the importance of Research and Development activities in Agriculture and urged Member States to work together for

their promotion and to ensure that results of such activities are disseminated to OIC Countries.

10. The meeting was also addressed by:

- H.E. Mr. Abdellaziz Mizian Belfaqih, Minister of Agriculture, Kingdom of Morocco, representing His Majesty King Hassan II, Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit;

- H.E. Mr. Robert Sagna, Minister of State and Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Senegal, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee on Food Security in OIC African Member States;

- the representatives of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Agenda Item 2:

Election of the Bureau

11. The Conference unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Issa Kalantari, Minister of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran as Chairman. It also elected the heads of delegation of the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Sierra Leone and the State of Palestine as Vice-Chairmen. The Head of delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was elected Rapporteur General.

Agenda Item 3:

Adoption of the Agenda

12. The Conference adopted its Agenda as contained in (Annex-IV).

Agenda Item No.4:

Background Report on Food Security and Agricultural Development presented by the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

13. In its report, the General Secretariat highlighted the gravity of the issue of Food Security and Agricultural Development in Member States. In this connection, it reported that it had circulated to all Member States, the resolutions and decisions adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference including the resolution on OIC Food Security Reserve and the report of the Expert Group meeting hosted by Indonesia and requested the Member States to implement

them accordingly. The report revealed the dire need to improve the level of implementation of the resolutions in order to meet the objectives set by the Member States.

The General Secretariat also informed that it had circulated the resolution of the Sixth Islamic Summit held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 1991 on Food Security in OIC Member States as well as the recommendations adopted at the same venue by the Dakar Symposium on Food Security in Africa.

It also intimated that it has been closely working with the IDB, African Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Senegal on the implementation of the decisions of the Dakar Symposium. The General Secretariat expressed its appreciation to all Member States and institutions for their efforts in the domain of food security and hoped that this Conference would adopt appropriate decisions that will ensure Food Security and Agricultural Development in all Member Countries.

The Conference noted with appreciation the background report and regretted the slow progress in the implementation of resolutions adopted by previous Conferences. The Conference agreed on the need to undertake a complete evaluation with a view to determining obstacles which have hindered the implementation of the previous resolutions. It was also recommended that in future the necessary resources at national, regional and international levels for the implementation of the resolutions should be evaluated or, at least, kept in mind while preparing and adopting resolutions.

Agenda Item No.5:

Report on the Establishment of the OIC Food Security Reserve.

14. The General Secretariat gave an extensive report on the problems of food security problems in OIC Countries showing how production of food has continued to dwindle despite the recorded high rate of population increase thus worsening the food security situation in the Member Countries. The report pointed out that although self-sufficiency in food is basically an individual national phenomenon, joint action and cooperation, especially in trade and development, among Member States would go a long way in finding a permanent solution to the problem. The report highlighted efforts exerted by the OIC General Secretariat for the implementation of the resolution adopted by the Third OIC Ministerial Meeting for establishing a Food Security Reserve for OIC Member Countries.

The report calls for the setting up of a study group that should collect and analyse the relevant data on food

security and formulate recommendations that should form the basis of a seminar on the subject with the participation of all OIC Member States. The General Secretariat proposed that a comprehensive report on this issue should be submitted to the next Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development for consideration.

While considering this agenda item, the Conference made the following remarks and observations:

- 1) When defining food security, the following considerations should be kept in mind:
 - a) the availability of food in sufficient quantity and quality;
 - b) the capability of concerned population to acquire their needs in terms of food in quantity and quality;
 - c) the need to provide concerned population with healthy, active and dignified life.
- 2) Some countries expressed their support for the establishment of the Food Reserve System and their willingness to adhere to it. In this respect, proposals were also made to consider the establishment of pre-reserve of food security system on regional basis as a first step for the establishment of a general Food Security Reserve.
- 3) Some countries highlighted the need to take stock of existing system and/or studies available within the OIC Ummah while undertaking an evaluation of survey on the OIC Food Reserve System.

After a lengthy debate, the Conference called on Member States and concerned OIC, regional and international institutions to provide necessary assistance for the evaluation of the OIC Food Security Reserve with a view to its early implementation for the benefit of Member States. In this respect, the Conference noted, with appreciation, the willingness expressed by many countries to contribute in various ways towards the fulfilment of food security in the OIC Countries.

The Conference requested that the evaluation report be circulated to Member States in good time.

The Meeting took note of the result of the Conference of the Ministers on Food and Agriculture of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali, Indonesia, in October 1994, which resulted in Bali Declaration calling for improved efficiency and effectiveness in international cooperation for promoting food security, particularly in developing countries, and reiterates that the right to food is a fundamental human rights and categorically reject the use of food as an instrument of political and economic pressures.

Certain delegations brought to the attention of the Conference the suffering of their people and their inability to pursue food security and agricultural development programmes because of economic sanctions and appealed through the Conference of the OIC community for solidarity in lifting the sanctions in accordance with the previous relevant OIC resolutions.

Agenda Item No.6:

Report on joint Senegal, OIC, IDB, AFDB Symposium on Food Security in OIC African Member States organised in Dakar in conjunction with the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference.

15. H.E. Mr. Robert Sagna, Minister of State, Minister of Agriculture of Senegal and Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee on Food Security briefed the meeting on the progress made in implementing the decisions of the Dakar Symposium on Food Security in Africa. His Excellency the Minister informed that the Ad-hoc Committee composed of Senegal, OIC, IDB and African Development Bank (ADB) has been exerting tremendous efforts to ensure effective implementation of the decisions on the Dakar Symposium. Towards this end, he reported that the Committee has held many meetings and has organized joint missions to OIC African Member States with a view to making an evaluation of their national strategies and policies for achieving food security.

The Minister informed the Conference that the Terms of reference and guidelines to assist Member Countries to elaborate comprehensive national strategies for food security have been finalised. He added that the Ad-hoc Committee also plans to organize round-tables of donors for each country to mobilize resources for financing food security projects whenever these projects are ready. The first such donor round tables would be held before the end of 1995.

While discussing this point, some Member States underlined the need to continue to closely associate all parties concerned in the activities of the Ad-hoc Committee that are related to the support of national policies in food security. In this respect, the members of the Ad-hoc Committee clarified that the role of this Committee is to assist Member States in defining and/or implementing national strategies, programmes and projects related to food security and as such the Committee will only act within the authority of concerned governments and according to their policies.

The Conference urged the African OIC Member States which have not yet done so to give top priority to the preparation of national strategies, programmes and projects

for food security and to ensure that projects to be submitted for consideration of round tables of donors conferences should be of the required standard and bankable in order to facilitate their financing.

The Conference expressed appreciation to the Government of Senegal, the OIC, the IDB and the ADB for their efforts towards implementation of the decisions on the Dakar Symposium and appealed to OIC Member States and concerned international institutions, namely FAO, IFAD, UNDP, WFP and World Bank to continue their assistance to the Ad-hoc Committee as well as to the concerned Member States with a view to achieving food security in Africa.

Agenda item No.7:

Environment, Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC Member States with special emphasis on the transfer of technology in this regard.

16. The report of IFSTAD revealed that natural disasters such as drought, desertification, soil erosion and floods which most OIC countries are experiencing are, indeed, the major factors that cause chronic food shortages in some OIC Countries. In order to reverse the situation, effective technological measures should be undertaken to improve environmental degradation, control population growth, alleviate poverty and strengthen capabilities for food production.

The report also pointed out that regrettably, science and technology are not fully developed in the OIC countries due to many factors such as inadequate infrastructures and financial resources as well as shortage of manpower and general lack of public interest. The report concluded that the environmental phenomena that seriously affect the production of sufficient food for the teeming population in the OIC countries can best be tackled if science and technology are given the priority that they deserve. The report finally signaled that the OIC and its institutions, given the necessary resources, are capable of helping to meet and coordinate the activities of Member States so as to ensure self-sufficiency in food in the Muslim world.

The Conference noted that the report has covered a wide range of issues relating to the role of technology in the perspective of food and agriculture productions as well as in controlling population growth, eradicating poverty and enhancing environmentally sound and appropriate technologies.

The Conference observed that in a medium term time-frame and with limited resources, OIC Members cannot cover all these fields. As such, some aspects for science and technology policy should be given top priority in the field of Food Security and Agricultural Development namely:

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- (i) Adoption of a few appropriate selective technologies and their dissemination among farmers to increase food production.
- (ii) Control of desertification which is adversely affecting sub-Saharan Africa and the adoption of measures to reverse its negative effects.
- (iii) The non-utilization of untreated sewerage water in growing agricultural crops especially vegetable, and establishment of standards for the agricultural products so as to facilitate the commercialization of these products among Member States.
- (iv) Irrespective of the different trade measures taken to facilitate trade exchange in agricultural commodities as well as plant and animal genetics, a sound sanitary policy and collective protective legislation must be put into effect to protect agriculture in the Islamic States and to protect the consumer.

Finally, the Conference agreed that the role of small and medium enterprises, especially in areas of food production, processing of horticulture products as well as storage and transportation should be given special emphasis.

Agenda Item No.8:

Inter-Islamic Trade of Agricultural Products and Ways and Means of Improving the Trade System Among OIC Member States with a view to achieving Food Security.

17. The report of Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) introduced the preliminary study undertaken by the Centre on trade of agricultural products among OIC Member States. It underlined the economic and social importance of the agricultural sector in Islamic countries and the rising global trade deficit in this sector. The report revealed that few countries show a surplus mainly with regard to vegetable oils, dry pulses, some fruits and vegetables and that high deficits relate to cereals, sugar, animals and meat.

In order to mobilize the existing and potential trade complementarities, the report stated that it was important to ensure availability and dissemination of data related to agricultural products and trade activities of the Member States. It was equally important to undertake promotional activities such as the holding of supply-demand meetings for importers and exporters of specific agricultural products from Member States and of specialized trade fairs relating to raw and manufactured agricultural products as well as to equipment and machinery for the agricultural sector.

Moreover, the report underlined that any significant expansion of agricultural intra-trade depends on the substantial increase and diversification of agricultural production and that more effort is needed to increase the level of food self-sufficiency at country level. Similarly, the report observed that production specialization at regional and international levels may ensure greater food security at the level of the OIC community.

Furthermore, the report stressed the need to carefully study the impact of the new international trade context illustrated by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round on trade of agricultural products among Member States and with the rest of the world in order to identify the new trade potential as well as the new challenges granted by such a context.

The Conference commended the study presented by the ICDT and decided that it should be expanded to cover all OIC Member States. It also stressed the importance of the cooperation of Member States in providing the ICDT with detailed and up-to-date information on production and trade of agricultural products.

The Conference noted, the holding, in Jakarta during 1995, of a Workshop on rice promotion among Member States.

The Conference stressed the important role that the private sector can play in increasing food, horticulture and livestock production through increasing production of fertilizers, pesticides, pure seeds, as well as by improved quality of cattle.

The Conference noted with appreciation that the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised private sector meeting of Member Countries in October 1994 at Istanbul, to bring industrialists and traders of Member Countries to enhance production and trade in food and other agricultural commodities.

The Conference also noted with appreciation that the Islamic Chamber of Commerce had organised a trade delegation, which visited Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, countries that have surpluses in certain food products namely, cattle, meat and fruits, but are unable to export them. The Conference stressed the need for the Islamic Chamber to define ways and means for assisting these countries as well as other concerned African countries in expanding their agricultural exports.

Agenda Item No.9:

Agricultural Development Through Technical Cooperation and Training in OIC Member Countries.

18. The report by SESRTCIC indicated that in accordance with the directive of the Third Ministerial Conference on

Food Security and Agricultural Development, the Ankara Centre was assigned the task of developing the implementation programme for the envisaged Coordinating Centres (CC) and the Network of Agricultural Research Centres (NARC).

It revealed that despite its financial constraints, the Ankara Centre had managed to collect data on technical cooperation and identified some existing institutional facilities and the activities they undertake. It also revealed that the Centre had identified 424 institutional capacities and 3411 activities of technical cooperation among them.

The report further indicated that some Islamic countries are already engaged, although on ad-hoc basis, in cooperation programmes such as exchange of trainees and research results. Hence according to the report, what is now needed is a systematic scheme that can bring about a comprehensive technical cooperation among OIC Member States. The scheme can be partially financed by participating institutions and their host countries. However, catalytic and other financial support will have to be provided by the agencies responsible for implementation of the scheme.

The report recommended the holding of an expert group meeting prior to the take off of the scheme. It suggested that for a start, three Coordinating Centres in each of the regions (Africa, Asia and Middle East) can coordinate the work of the networks in two broad areas, namely Plant Production, Agricultural Production.

Finally, the report indicated that stability and social progress cannot be achieved when people suffer from inadequate food supply. For this reason, it underlined that technical cooperation in agricultural fields among Islamic countries is imperative but cannot start without sufficient funding even though the necessary research and documentation for its take-off have been completed and both have shown positive potentialities.

While considering the report the Conference appreciated the work undertaken by the Ankara Centre. It highlighted some of the important aspects of the report and expressed the need for providing necessary help to the Ankara Centre to enable it to undertake the work of implementation of the Coordinating Centres and the Network of Agricultural Research Centres in an earnest manner. The Conference expressed the hope that the Member Countries and international organizations would support the scheme in its implementation by providing necessary technical and financial help to the Ankara Centre.

The Conference took note of the need for increased focus on community-based development schemes that have proven to be successful in generating self-reliance and sustainable development within the farmers and fishermen communities. Furthermore, the conference noted the technical cooperation on strategy, policy and appropriate arrangements which create conducive framework conditions to the enhancement of socio-economic potentialities, activities and value added in the rural areas should be strengthened.

In this light, the conference noted with appreciation of the holding in Jakarta during 1995 of an international joint meeting of experts and decision makers of developing countries and international organizations to identify actual program of cooperation in community-based sustainable development schemes.

The Conference also noted offers from Indonesia that Indonesia will conduct training programmes for OIC Member Countries for 1995 consist of the following:

- 1- Rice production techniques
- 2- Pest surveillance and forecasting
- 3- Agricultural expansion methodology
- 4- Veterinary drug improvement
- 5- Irrigation and drainage engineering, and
- 6- Apprenticeship program for farmers.

Agenda Item 10:

Joint Investment and Coordination of National, Regional and Inter-regional Action for Ensuring Food Security and Agricultural Development in OIC Member Countries:

19. The report of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) indicated that for almost all OIC Member Countries, except the oil-rich OIC Member Countries, food security is synonymous with food self-sufficiency. It pointed out that measured by per capita food production, average per capita daily supply of calories, and food deficiency, the trend towards food self-sufficiency and food security in most OIC Member Countries has been negative.

It also pointed out one reason for the negative trends in OIC Member Countries is the low level of government expenditures in agriculture as well as external resource allocated to this sector. The factors responsible for this situation include an over-all decline in resource flows to developing countries, a perceived gloomy prospect for agricultural exports from developing countries, lack of clear cut strategies for attracting investments into this sector, the absence of incentives and support for investments in agriculture, weaknesses in related sectors, and over-all problems in macro-economic policies and in the investment climate.

The report emphasised that in order to stimulate more investments in the agricultural sector, these problems need to be solved. In addition, determined efforts should be made to promote joint ventures and encourage investments among OIC Member Countries. In this respect, the report suggested that OIC Member Countries that have not yet done so should consider ratifying the Agreement on the Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments. In addition, regional organizations that are active in this sector should be strengthened, and institutional capacities for formulating and implementing regional agricultural policies should be also strengthened. International institutions should support these efforts and strengthen cooperation among themselves so as to reduce duplication.

The Conference noted with appreciation the IDB report and endorsed the proposals contained therein.

The Conference also considered the idea of Free Trade (on a step by step basis) among OIC Member Countries and desired that IDB would finalize its study regarding duplications of GATT agreement already under hand to the Member Countries for further consideration.

Agenda Item 11:

Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member Countries through Pricing and Credit Policy.

20. The report presented by delegation of Bangladesh indicated that although there is a deficit in wheat production in Bangladesh, the country has managed to achieve laudable successes in rice production. It also indicated that self-sufficiency in rice production has been realized through liberalization of policies such as allowing the private sector to handle the distribution of chemical fertilizer, liberalization of bank credit facilities to even small farmers and expansion of farming lands through irrigation. These liberal policies coupled with the government attractive pricing policy have encouraged diversification of rice production and the country is presently not only self-sufficient in rice but also is in a position to start exporting in the next few years. It finally called on other OIC countries to share the experiences of Bangladesh in rice production.

The Conference took note with appreciation the report and urged individual Member States to contact the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with a view to sharing these successful experiences.

Agenda Item 12:Examination of the Proposal for the Establishment of a Standing Committee on Agricultural Development.

21. The report presented by the General Secretariat on this agenda item indicated that the proposal for the establishment of a Standing Committee for Agriculture was submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sixth Islamic Summit, held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 1991. The report also indicated that the OIC Summit Conference, while recognizing the keen interest shown by Iran for improving food security and promoting agricultural development in Member States, decided that the question be studied more thoroughly at the next Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Summit further decided that the decision to be taken on this question at the Fourth Ministerial Conference be submitted to COMCEC for consideration in the framework of the formulation of the Strategies of the Plan of Action before submitting the same to the Seventh Islamic Summit for final decision. The report finally indicated that due to unforeseen circumstances, the Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development could not be held before the Seventh Islamic Summit.

After the presentation of the report by the General Secretariat on this issue, a lengthy debate on the matter ensued. Many delegations took the floor to express their views and underlined the need for action-oriented measures aimed at the promotion of agricultural development and the attainment of Food Security in OIC countries. For this reason they expressed full support for the Iranian proposal.

At the end of the debate, the Conference decided to approve the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a Standing Committee for Food Security and Agricultural Development.

The Conference also agreed that the Standing Committee should be chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Conference emphasized the necessity to ensure that the objectives and functions of the proposed Standing Committee be formulated with a view to avoiding duplication or overlapping with other OIC Standing Committees.

The Conference decided that the objectives, functions, programmes and structure of the Standing Committee should be examined by an open-ended meeting of experts.

The delegation of Saudi Arabia stated that due to unforeseen circumstances the Conference agenda and the attached documents were only received by the delegation of Saudi Arabia one day before departing for the Conference on 12 January 1995, which did not afford them enough time to study the special memorandum proposing the establishment of a Permanent Committee on Food Security and Agricultural Development in Islamic States.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would therefore like to postpone its approval of establishing a Permanent Committee on Food Security and Agricultural Development until it has consulted its capital. The objectives and specialization of the Committee must be defined by the Committee studying this matter, and submitted in a report to the Member States for adoption.

Agenda Item 13:

Any Other Business:

22. The Conference adopted the Tehran Declaration on Perspective for Inter-Islamic Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Food Security (Annex V).

23. The Conference noted that the studies submitted used out dated statistical data. In view of the importance of using up-to-date statistical figures in the studies and the results that will be based on them, the Conference urges the Islamic States to cooperate with the OIC institutions and organs in providing them with up-to-date statistics, and at an early date. It also urges the institutions and organs to update all statistical data included in the studies submitted to the Conference.

24. The Conference noted with appreciation, the activities and programmes of FAO aiming at improving the living conditions of the populations of Member States notably in the field of food security and rural development. The Conference welcomed the proposal of FAO to hold a World Food Summit in March 1996.

25. The Conference also noted with appreciation the commendable efforts being made by IFAD in the areas of agricultural development and poverty alleviation in developing countries especially in OIC Member Countries. It therefore urged those OIC Member States which have not yet announced their pledges to the Fourth Replenishment to do so at their earliest convenience so that these can be incorporated in negotiations during the next meeting of the consultations from 23 - 24 January 1995.

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Agenda Item 14:

Date and Venue of the Next Meeting.

26. The Conference decided that the Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development will be held at a venue and a date to be fixed after consultations with the General Secretariat.

Agenda Item 15:

Adoption of the Report and Resolutions.

27. The Conference adopted this present report and the attached resolutions of the Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development.

Agenda Item No.16:

Closing Session.

28. At the end of the Conference, Their Excellency the Ministers of Agriculture of the Republic of Sudan and Malaysia expressed, on behalf of all participants to the Conference, their profound gratitude to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations and for the excellent arrangements made for the holding of the Conference which contributed to its success.

The Honourable Minister also expressed to the Chairman the appreciation of the participants for the able and efficient manner in which he conducted the deliberations.

29. The Conference decided to send a message of thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Ayotollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

30. The Chairman, H.E. Issa Kalantari, thanked all the participants for the cooperation and collaboration they extended to him and for the spirit of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity that prevailed throughout the Conference.

Tehran, 15 Shaaban 1415H
(16 January, 1995)
