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**RESOLUTIONS
ON
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**11TH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (COMIAC)**

***(SESSION OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AS DRIVERS OF
PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND RAPPROCHEMENT OF PEOPLES)***

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RESOLUTION NO. 1/11-C
ON
GENERAL CULTURAL MATTERS

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the following subjects:

A) DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS

Recalling the principles of The Tehran Declaration adopted in December 1997 by the 8th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference affirming that Islamic Civilization has always and throughout history been rooted in peaceful co-existence, cooperation, mutual understanding, and constructive dialogue with other civilizations and other ideologies; and also underlining the need to build understanding between civilizations; **bearing in mind** Resolution No. 53/22 adopted by the UN General Assembly, at the initiative of the Republic of Iran, designating the year 2001 as the “UN Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations” which called for taking all measures aiming at the enhancing the concept of dialogue among civilizations; and **recalling** also the provisions of The OIC-2025 called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary, specialized and affiliated bodies to contribute as a partner to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and related efforts in this regard,

1. Commends the initiative on Inter-faith and Intercultural Dialogue propounded by the Previous Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdelaziz, which was concretized in the Conference of Makkah in 2005 which saw the participation of Muslim Scholars from different schools of thought and which paved the way to the organization of the International conference held in Madrid with the participation of a large number of followers of world civilizations and cultures and insisted on the unity of the humanity and on equality among peoples, regardless of their colors, races and cultures.

2. Also commends the continued efforts of the Previous Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in this regard, which led to the organization of a high-level meeting by the General Assembly of the UN in November 2008, to which many world leaders participated in support of the results of the Madrid Conference on the Initiative of the Previous Custodian of the Two holy Mosques about dialogue. This was emphasized in the statement of the Secretary General who commended the initiative and its role in the dissemination of the culture of dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding among all the peoples of the world.

- 3. Commends** the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aimed at activating this initiative through the establishment of a relevant mechanism, namely King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), whose headquarters were established in Vienna, and **calls on** the Member States to actively contribute with ideas, suggestions, and recommendations of making the Center an effective institution for promoting interfaith and inter-civilization dialogue.
- 4. Commends** the OIC General Secretariat for having implemented programs and activities to materialize its cooperation with the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), including through joint-events of interreligious talks on “The role of religious and community leaders in the implementation of the peace agreements in Central African Republic, held in Dakar, Senegal in December 2017; and also through joint-project to improve Muslim-Buddhist relationship in East and Southeast Asia, notably the Strategic Workshop of interreligious dialogue held in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand, in December 2017 and Welcomes the Plan of Action resulted from the Round-table event in Dakar, Senegal on 8-11 December 2017 which was aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and, Encourages Member States to provide technical as well as financial supports to the implement points enlisted in the aforementioned Plan of Action.
- 5. Commends** the outcomes of the Strategic Workshop on “Religious Coexistence in South Asia: Addressing the contemporary challenges related to Buddhist-Muslim relationships” held on 18-20 December 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, in cooperation with KAICIID, Interreligious Council of Thailand (IRC)/Religions for Peace (RfP), the Mahidol University, and Fatoni University.
- 6. Also commends** the outcome of the Washington Conference on the “Alliance Religions” organized by the Forum for Promoting Peace on 5-7 November 2017, with the participation of religious leaders representing different divine religions, and influential academics and researchers from the US, Muslim countries and other countries; which culminated in the establishment of the global “Alliance of Virtue for the Common Good”, for the good of all humanity.
- 7. Commends** the efforts of the United Arab Emirates through the Peace Promotion Forum which was established in 2014 under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah and held three sessions in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, and Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco; It also made significant efforts to promote sound Islamic thought and the civilized image of Islam in dealing with others and protecting non-Muslim minorities in Muslim countries.
- 8. Pays tribute** to the extensive efforts made by the United Arab Emirates through the Muslim Council of Elders, sponsored by the United Arab Emirates, which was established in 2014 under the chairmanship of Sheikh Al-Azhar Al-Sharif and has made considerable efforts through dialogue of civilizations between East and West in both Italy and France. Several meetings with the Elders of the West were held to bring together the Islamic and Christian perspectives through the common denominators that unite Islam, Christianity and other monotheistic religions for the sake of peaceful coexistence and cooperation among civilizations to the benefit of mankind.

9. **Commends** the High Patronage conferred by His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the Conference on the Rights of Religious Minorities in the Muslim World held in Marrakech in January 2016, during which the Marrakech Declaration was adopted as a cornerstone in the promotion of dialogue and interaction among various religions.
10. **Commends** the great efforts of the UAE through the launch of the Award for World Peace of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, which recognizes individuals and organizations that make outstanding contributions to world peace, the biggest world award of USD 1.5 million, as well as the efforts of the Government of the UAE in promoting moderate Islamic culture in the country and beyond.
11. **Commends** the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in initiating, at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010, *The World Interfaith Harmony Week*, which has been observed in every first week of the month of February since the year of 2011.
12. **Reiterates** the OIC's support to the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, convened triennially on the initiative by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, and encourages religious leaders of the OIC Member States and the international community to actively participate in the VI Congress to be held in Astana on 10-11 October 2018 under the slogan of "Religious Leaders for a Secure World".
13. **Commends** the outcomes of the international symposium on "Promoting the Values of Peace and Dialogue", held on 18-20 April 2016 in Sousse in Tunisia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in the Republic of Tunisia, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
14. **Commends** the Secretary General for engaging in dialogue with the United Nations, and other international organizations, including the OSCE and Council of Europe, political leaders and civil society to underscore the concerns as well as raise global awareness over the dangers of Islamophobia and for his initiative calling for a historical reconciliation between Islam and the Christianity.
15. **Calls on** the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) to continue to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-civilization dialogue through concrete and sustainable initiatives, conferences and symposia; and **appeals to** all Member States, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), and the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) to provide with possible financial support for the success of these dialogues.
16. **Commends** the active role Azerbaijan plays in promoting inter-cultural and inter-civilization dialogue between the Islamic world and the West, including through the *World Forums on Intercultural Dialogue*, held in Baku since 2011 and Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-27 April 2016.

17. Commends the measures taken by the Republic of Azerbaijan for strengthening interfaith dialogue around the world, including through the organization of an international conference titled “2017 – Year of Islamic Solidarity: Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue” at Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 21 December 2017.

18. Applauds the initiatives, programs and activities taken by the General Secretariat and those by the relevant OIC Specialized and subsidiary bodies in particular the ISESCO and IRCICA for celebration of 2010 as the International Year for Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for peace.

19. Calls upon all Member States to give necessary assistance and support to the Dialogue and Outreach Department in implementing its new mandates, considering the important role that the OIC plays in boosting dialogue, outreach and openness with all other cultures and civilizations, as described in the Secretary General’s Report at the 44th CFM.

20. Commends the International Conference held by Al-Azhar Al-Shareef and the Council of Muslim Elders on 17-18 January 2018 in Cairo, under the patronage of President Abdulfattah Al-Sisi, which reaffirmed the Arab and Islamic character of Al-Quds and the invalidity of all measures taken by the US President to relocate the US Embassy to Al-Quds.

B) ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

Cognizant of the need to promote greater harmony and understanding between and among different cultures,

Referring to the OIC-2025 Vision and reemphasizing its premise that inter-civilization dialogue, based on mutual respect and understanding, and equality amongst peoples are prerequisites for international peace and security, tolerance and peaceful co-existence,

Acknowledging, in this respect, the valuable contribution of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), launched jointly by Turkey and Spain in 2005 to attaining the goals stated in the OIC’s Ten-Year Action Plan,

Remembering its resolutions 1/38-C, 1/39-C, 1/40-C, 1/41-C, 1/42-C on the Alliance of Civilizations adopted by the 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, respectively,

Recalling also the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Secretariats of the OIC and the Alliance of Civilizations, **underlining** the significance of the Conclusions of the various AoC global forums in stemming the tide of intolerance, extremism and polarization between the Islamic world and the West as well as **encouraging** greater cross-cultural understanding,

Emphasizing the importance of membership in the Group of Friends of Alliance of Civilizations to effectively contribute to Alliance’s noble goals,

Noting the Alliance’s adoption of a Regional Strategy for Southern Europe, the Mediterranean, and Latin America,

- 1. Appreciates** the continuing determination and efforts of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the overall work of the Alliance and the dissemination of its noble goals.
- 2. Commends** the Secretary-General for his efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Secretariats of the OIC and the Alliance of Civilizations, and also for the OIC’s constructive contributions to AoC meetings and for proposing joint projects.
- 3. Welcomes** the results of the Alliance’s Seventh Global Forum held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-27 April 2016, which has been crowned with success.
- 4. Appreciates** the active participation of the OIC and its Member States in the Seventh AoC Global Forum held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26-27 April 2016.
- 5. Welcomes** the outcomes of the Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting of the UNAOC themed “Youth Engagement: The Nexus to Building Inclusive Societies and Sustaining Peace” held in New York on 22 September 2017.
- 6. Welcomes** Algeria’s initiative to declare 16 May an “International Day of Living Together in Peace”, which was adopted the UN General Assembly in its last session, with a view to joining the efforts of the international community for peace, tolerance, solidarity and fraternity.
- 7. Calls on** Member States that have not yet done so, to join the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations. Through the Baku Declaration, adopted at the Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance, the Group of Friends reaffirmed its support to UNAOC and expressed its conviction that UNAOC plays an important role as a global platform for sharing good practices for living together in inclusive societies.
- 8. Calls upon** Member States of the OIC to actively participate in the work of the Alliance, particularly the development and adoption of the Alliance’s regional strategies and related guiding documents, and the implementation thereof.
- 9. Appreciates** the successful convening of the *3rd Meeting of the AoC Focal Points of the OIC Member States* by the Government of the State of Kuwait in Kuwait city on 12 January 2013.
- 10. Commends** the successful convening of the *4th Meeting of the AoC Focal Points of the OIC Member State*, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in Bali, prior to the 6th AoC Global Forum.

C) CULTURAL STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION

Taking note of the reports of the Consultative Council on Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Muslim World (CCICS) adopted at its earlier meetings and the importance of the protection of intellectual and cultural heritage against external threats:

1. **Welcomes** the adoption of the amended Cultural Strategy for the Islamic world that was adopted by the 10th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, held in Khartoum, the Republic of Sudan, on 21-23 November 2017, and calls upon ISESCO to develop a comprehensive plan of action to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy.
2. **Calls upon** the Member States to implement cultural projects in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO in line with the amended Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World.
3. **Commends** the activities carried out by ISESCO and cultural capitals since 2011, and expresses deep gratitude to Member States that actively participated in these events.
4. **Calls** for the activation of the Council of the ambassadors of the OIC Member States in Europe and the America to hold cultural and artistic activities in order to convey the true message of Islam, improve the image of Muslims, spread Islamic cultures to confront Islamophobia and serve joint Islamic causes in these countries.
5. **Calls upon** the Secretary General to take necessary measures to introduce the OIC prize for Islamic art to be awarded during the regularly held Asian Art Biennale in Dhaka, which may commence with the 18th Biennale in the last quarter of 2018; furthermore, requests the Member states to encourage participation of their artists, art galleries and institutions in the 2018 Biennale and thereby promote peace and understanding through art in various forms.
6. **Calls upon** the Member States for taking up a plan of Islamic action on OIC Cultural Strategy with a view to enhancing and projecting the cultural values and strengths of the Muslim world and especially in mitigating and dispelling Islamophobia thereby. Also calls upon the General Secretariat to devise a mechanism of encouraging soft counter terrorism narratives through such plan of action with particular emphasis on creation of literature, films, etc.

D) THE UNIFIED HIJRI CALENDAR

Taking into account the pressing need for the unification and standardization of the Hijri Calendar which will reflect the unity of Muslims during the feasts and celebrations;

Taking note of the conclusions of the scientific symposium on unifying the Hijri Calendar held in Tunis on 11 June 2009 in presence of the OIC General Secretariat, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the Member States, which include the following:

- **Need to** rely on vision while making use of astronomical calculations and observatories and to take into account scientific facts and fixed and accurate astronomical calculations.

- **Make** use of Al-Shahid System of the Tunisian Scientist Mohamed Al Awsat Al-Iyari.

Taking also note of the *International Conference of the Unity of Hijri Calendar*, hosted by the Turkish Administration of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) in May 2016 in Istanbul to which scientists, astronomers and officials from around 50 countries attended.

Recalling all previous resolutions supporting *Dar Al-Iftaa* in implementing the satellite project in cooperation with Cairo University and the Center for Aerospace Studies and Consulting in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and stressing the importance of implementing the project proposed 15 years ago with the aim of unifying the Hijra calendar in Islamic countries as an embodiment of their unity;

- 1. Calls on** OIC Member States and institutions and civil society organizations to financially contribute towards the establishment and manufacturing of the Islamic satellite.
- 2. Requests** the Secretary General to take all necessary measures in this regard in coordination with *Dar al-IftaaAl-Misriyah* with a view to starting the effective implementation of this project.
- 3. Calls upon** all the Member States and Islamic institutions to implement previous resolutions to support the Fatwa Institution in implementing the satellite project with the cooperation of University of Cairo and Centre for Space Studies and Consultations in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and through cooperation with Turkish Administration of Religious Affairs (Diyanet).
- 4. Takes into consideration** the efforts exerted by the United Arab Emirates to achieve the unity of Muslim countries through the two meetings of the sharia scholars and astronomers held in (1438/2016– 1439/2017) that agreed to the unification of the Hijri calendar."
- 5. Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 12th Session of the COMIAC.

RESOLUTION NO.2/11-C
ON
PALESTINIAN CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 5th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Welcoming the Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016) which stipulated, inter alia, “that it will not recognize any changes to the 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem”; while **stressing** the importance of this resolution in creating better prospects for achieving comprehensive, lasting and just peace;

Taking into consideration the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities towards the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, aimed primarily at the eradication of their cultural identity, along with Israel’s attempts to obliterate and disintegrate their national and Arab identity at all levels, including their history and heritage, and its continued practices to malign the Islamic civilization, distort historical and geographical facts, in addition to the ongoing policy of colonial expansionism and racial discrimination through claims of Israeli supremacy over the citizens of the occupied Arab territories, all of which constitute a blatant violation of their fundamental rights;

Condemning the aggression perpetrated by Israel in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif including the construction of colonies and the racist annexation and expansionist wall around the city for its Judaization;

Recalling the Jakarta Declaration adopted by the 5th Extraordinary Islamic Summit, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 6-7 March 2016 on Palestine and Al-Quds Ash-Sharif;

Stressing the importance of empowering the Palestinian people and the OIC Member States’ support to all efforts aiming to promote and develop quality education in Palestine and provide training to all Palestinian people, both in Palestine and in the Member States;

Expressing deep concern at the incessant Israeli threats and attacks against the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic and Christian holy places in the territory of the State of Palestine;

Recalling the Final Communiqué of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit, held in Istanbul, on 13 December 2017 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, to consider the situation in the wake of the U.S. Administration’s recognition of the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the so-called capital of Israel, the occupying power, and the relocation of the US Embassy to Al-Quds.

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the following matters:

A) TWINNING OF PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITH UNIVERSITIES IN OIC MEMBER STATES

- 1. Calls on** Member States to allocate scholarships for the benefit of Palestinian students in all areas of study; **expresses** appreciation to Member States that have already given more scholarships; and **urges** them to increase these scholarships and reduce tuition fees for Palestinian students;
- 2. Recommends** lending all forms of financial and academic support and assistance to Palestinian universities to enable them to play their national and educational role; **calls upon** the League of Islamic Universities to coordinate with the League's member universities to facilitate and encourage twinning agreements between Palestinian universities and member universities of the League with a view to fostering cooperation between; **calls upon** these universities to send and receive training and academic missions to and from Palestinian universities; and calls for a conference of universities from the Member States and Palestine to support the Palestinian universities in all fields;
- 3. Requests** the General Secretariat, in coordination with the State of Palestine, in implementation of the resolution of the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit on the Establishment of Al-Aqsa University in Jerusalem, to commence the necessary procedures for the establishment of the university; and **calls upon** Member States, Islamic funds, the IDB and other OIC organs to contribute effectively and generously to the establishment of the university, which is considered an important national achievement for the Ummah at large;
- 4. Calls on** Member States to boycott Israeli universities, until Israel, the occupying power, ceases all its violations against the Palestinian people in general and the Palestinian university and school students in particular;

B) THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

- 1. Condemns strongly** the attempts of Israel, the occupying power, to impose Israeli curricula on the schools of the occupied city of Al-Quds to replace Arab Palestinian curricula, as an attempt by Israeli occupation authorities to impose its version of history on Al-Quds citizens as a prelude to **Judaize** the city and obliterate its Arab identity, which constitutes a blatant violation of international laws and instruments; and **calls** for an international appeal to counter those measures and for the OIC Group at the relevant UN fora to act promptly to compel Israel, the occupying power, to stop its egregiously colonial and racial policies;
- 2. Calls upon** Member States to implement its previous decisions to find the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan and to provide all necessary financial assistance in order to secure the funding required for the development of education in the occupied territories, in general, and in the East Jerusalem, in particular, and to work to actualize the educational aspect of the Strategic Plan for the development of East Jerusalem adopted by the 4th session of the Extraordinary Islamic summit, and subsequent summits in view of the extreme difficulties faced by the educational process in the Holy City on account of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities to impose their own educational curricula, prevent the construction of schools or refuse their expansion and restoration, impose high

taxes on schools reporting to the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, close down schools outside their control, and erect security barriers impeding movement and transportation of teachers and students and prevent access to their places of work, schools and universities. They are also subjected to harassment and attacks by settlers. **Calls on** the Secretary General to set up a fund, under the supervision of the OIC, to support schools in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

3. Invites Member States to introduce an academic subject about the history of the city of Al-Quds into the Member States' curricula, so as to acquaint generations of the Muslim Ummah with the religious significance of the city of Al-Quds and Al Aqsa Mosque and the coexistence between followers of revealed faiths, show the Palestinian people's suffering under occupation and identify their inalienable rights in their land. The Conference also calls on the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and with the State of Palestine, to prepare such materials and translate them into the OIC official languages, and hold in 2017 a symposium of experts to prepare this academic subject.

4. Stresses the importance of organizing, in cooperation with the State of Palestine, cultural symposia, lectures and such activities as may address the Palestinian cause and its significance to the Muslim countries, the aim being to sensitize future generations to the importance of the Palestinian cause;

5. Reiterates its full support and assistance for the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan in their resistance against the oppressive Israeli practices, and their legitimate struggle to preserve their cultural, national, and Arab identity, and **appeals to** the United Nations and to specialized international bodies and institutions, particularly UNESCO, to counter these Israeli policies which violate international laws and conventions;

6. Calls for support to the steadfastness of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan against the Israeli practices aimed at obliterating their Arab cultural identity and proclaims its support for the preservation of the Syrian Arab educational curricula and the provision of their educational and cultural materials;

7. Calls upon the international community to shoulder its full responsibility in compelling Israel to abide by the principles of human rights, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and all international conventions on human rights, particularly those related to human rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and **calls upon** the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to implement the measures adopted by the successive conferences of High Contracting Parties, according to the first article of the treaty, and take the necessary steps to end the violations and crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian civilians measures, and work collectively to hold the perpetrators of these crimes accountable,

8. Condemns the actions and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against educational and other institutions in the occupied Syrian Golan, their cancellation of the Syrian educational curricula in the villages of the Golan, and their substitution by Israeli curricula, their imposition of the teaching of Hebrew instead of Arabic, their replacement of the teaching staff to serve the goals and directives of Israeli policy, their imposition of measures to deny Syrian Arab citizens access to

higher education in Syrian universities and their denying some of those who manage to get education in those universities the right to return to their homes.

C) THE ISRAEL AGGRESSIONS AGAINST ISLAMIC HOLY SITES AND CULTURE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE ISLAMIC CHARACTER, HUMAN HERITAGE, AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF

- 1. Reiterates** the necessity of implementing all previous Islamic resolutions on the preservation of the Islamic character and human heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; and calls on the Member States to respect these resolutions, including through supporting and voting relevant resolutions at international institutions;
- 2. Calls for** continued urgent and effective action at all Islamic and international levels with a view to compelling Israel to rescind its decision to annex the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; reaffirming the City's Arab-Islamic character; and rejecting its annexation or Judaization, in line with the relevant Resolutions of international legality, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions No. 465 and 478; while exerting all efforts in order to implement these two resolutions in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations and international legality. And reiterates that all practices through which Israel, the occupying Power, seeks to change the character and status of the city and its demographic composition null and void and should be abolished,
- 3. Condemns** the ratification of the bill to "ban the call for prayer" which seeks to prevent other religions from freedom of worship, especially that Adhan (Mosques' call for prayer) is one of the rituals of the Muslim faith; and calls on the Secretary General to address a letter to the UN counterpart to pressurize Israel to stop its provocative acts which hurt the feelings of Muslims the world over;
- 4. Condemns again** Israel's illegal decision to add the Mosque of Elibrahimi in Hebron and Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque in Bethlehem to the Israeli heritage list. **Considers** the Israeli act as looting of Palestinian cultural and heritage sites. Also **Calls** upon the international community and UNESCO to show their responsibilities of protecting the Palestinian cultural and heritage places, and compelling Israel to abide by international law and Geneva conventions and, in this regard, calls on Member States to support the efforts of the State of Palestine in its quest for the inclusion of a group of Palestinian positions, including the old city in Hebron and the Cremisan Valley in Beit Jala, in the World Heritage List;
- 5. Condemns** the systematic and the continuous Israeli attempts to plunder and falsify Islamic and Arab heritage in Palestine, including the recent discovery of stealing by Special Forces of the Israeli occupation army of Arabic and Islamic books and manuscripts from Palestinian homes and institutions following the Nakba in 1948; the Council mandates the Islamic Group in UNESCO, ISESCO and IRCICA to follow up investigation of this major theft of Islamic and Arab history and culture and establish a joint follow-up expert group;
- 6. Calls on** Member States to ensure the restoration of the old town in Al-Khalil and to safeguard the heritage and culture of this historic city and its resident Palestinian families in order to

counter Jewish settlements in the city; and urges Member States to import Hebron's beautiful and famous pottery pieces in support for its people's steadfastness;

7. Requests the General Secretariat to continue working with international agencies and institutions and particularly with UNESCO in order to implement the initiative of UNESCO's Director-General to restore the Holy City; preserve the historic buildings of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the ancient buildings surrounding Al-Quds Holy Sanctuary; close the tunnels constructed by Israel; stop the excavation works especially on the south and west of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque; and counter any designs aimed altering and obliterating the Islamic character of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

8. Strongly condemns Israel for building the separation Wall, the so-called Jerusalem Envelope, which seeks to isolate the City of Al-Quds from its Palestinian environment, and for its unrelenting attempts to judaize it by altering its civilizational, historical, and cultural landmarks. It also insists on the implementation of the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on 9 July 2004 concerning the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory; and condemns all states and entities that encourage this illegal behavior;

9. Strongly denounces and decries the continued aggression perpetrated by Israel, the occupying power, against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, along with the Israeli attempts to install its temporal and spatial division by allowing settlers to enter and pray in the Mosque's compound; decries the continued excavations carried around and under the Mosque which led to the fall of a large section of the Mosque's fence on the Western Gate; and **condemns** Israel for denying the Palestinians access to their places of worship in Al-Quds and for its attempts to interfere in the Islamic Waqf (endowment) matters and prevent the repair of holy sites;

10. Requests Member States to coordinate and intensify their efforts in the various international forums to counter the attempts of Israel, the occupying power, to alter the religious and historical character of Islamic and Christian sanctuaries, and also to counter the partitioning of Mosque in Al-Khalil;

11. Demands Member States to support resolutions related to Al-Quds Al-Sharif in international , while taking part in relevant sessions; and **expresses** in this regard its regret at the failure of a number of Member States to support decisions related to Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Palestinian cause, including Cameroon, Albania, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo;

12. Requests the General Secretariat to devise a plan of action to promote religious tourism in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in coordination with member states with a view to raising awareness of Israeli violations in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharqiya; and calls for practical steps to organize cultural weeks in member states, including photo exhibitions, seminars and the projection of documentaries on the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

13. Requests the General Secretariat to constitute an ad-hoc committee of legal experts from Member States to discuss the grave violations perpetuated by Israel, the occupying power, in the vicinity of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque in the form of excavations and threat to the Mosque's

foundations, make necessary legal recommendations for the protection of the Mosque and other holy places in the city of Al-Quds and other parts of Palestine, and ensure follow-up at international forums; and **invites** the Secretary General to conduct a workshop to accomplish this task.

14. Calls on the Member States to boycott all governments, companies, institutions or individuals that contribute to the imposition of Israeli colonial occupation in the State of Palestine and the judaization of Al-Quds city, such as holding formal meetings in the city of Al-Quds, relocating its embassies in the city, or installing projects as part of the Israeli colonial pattern in the State of Palestine. It also **calls** for circulating a nominal list of international companies contributing to the imposition of the Israeli control over the city of Al-Quds to Member States, in order to endeavor to boycott of these companies in line with the relevant international resolutions

15. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 12th Session of the COMIAC.

RESOLUTION NO. 3/11-C
ON
PROTECTION OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Recalling the objectives of the OIC which stress the need for coordinated effort to safeguard the Islamic Holy Places and strengthen the struggle of Islamic peoples for the preservation of their dignity, independence and national rights;

Affirming those objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the OIC aimed at coordinating efforts to safeguard and preserve the Islamic heritage;

Also recalling the Resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, on the unified stand against the desecration of Islamic Holy Places, especially Resolution No. 3/6-C (IS) of the Sixth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling the Resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the unified stand against the violations of the sanctity of the Sacred Muslim Places:

A) DESTRUCTION OF THE BABRI MASJID IN INDIA AND PROTECTION OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES

Noting that the Babri Masjid with its history spanning five centuries was the object of veneration and respect of Muslims all over the world;

Also noting with regret that the 25th Anniversary of the attack on Babri Masjid has passed without concrete steps being taken towards rebuilding of the Masjid or punishing those responsible for the sacrilegious act of its destruction and killing of thousands of innocent Muslims in its aftermath;

Recalling also that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation made several appeals to the Indian Government to prevent any violation of the sanctity of the Masjid and emphasized the responsibility of the Government of India for safeguarding the inviolability of the Masjid and protecting its building against attacks by Hindu extremists:

1. Strongly condemns the destruction of the historic Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, India, by Hindu extremists on 6 December 1992.

2. **Expresses deep regret** over the failure of the Indian authorities to take appropriate measures to protect this important Muslim holy site.
3. **Condemns** the forced and illegal entry of Hindu militants into the site of the Babri Masjid on 17 October 2001.
4. **Further condemns** the growing intolerance and extremism in India, including the increasing number of cow vigilants and lynching incidents, resulting in the deaths and injuries to many Indian Muslims.
5. **Expresses deep concern** over the failure of the Government of India to resolve the dispute and to provide safety and security to the Muslim minority in India.
6. **Further expresses deep concern** at the recent provocative statements of BJP leaders about Taj Mahal of having been built on the site of a Hindu temple, and views such statements as reflective of sinister plans to desecrate this historical site.
7. **Strongly believes** that such statements are totally against historical facts and are only aimed at humiliating Muslim minority in India, and urges the Indian government to ensure the protection of this great historical site.
8. **Calls** on OIC Member States to raise the case of Babri Mosque at the UNESCO and the Islamic group at UNESCO to follow it up in a result-oriented manner in order to prevent occurrence of incidents of desecration of Islamic sites in India in future.
9. **Recommends** the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation to follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of Resolution 3/11-C (IS) adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Resolution 3/39-C adopted by 39th CFM, Resolution 3/40-C adopted by the 40th CFM, Resolution 3/41-C adopted by the 41st CFM, Resolution 3/42-C adopted by the 42nd CFM and Resolution 3/45-C adopted by the 45th CFM, which call upon the Government of India to:
 - a) **Ensure** the safety and protection of the Muslims and all Islamic Holy Sites throughout India in accordance with its responsibilities and obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments.
 - b) **Take** immediate steps to implement its solemn commitment to reconstruct the Babri Masjid on its original site, to restore it as a Holy Place for Muslims, and to punish those guilty of the sacrilegious act of destroying a revered Muslim symbol.
 - c) **Take** effective measures to prevent the construction of a temple on the site of the Babri Mosque.
 - d) **Take** immediate steps to ensure the protection of the other 3000 Mosques, especially those at Mathura and Varanasi, which have been the targets of threats and destruction attempts by Hindu extremists.

B) THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CHARAR-E-SHARIF ISLAMIC COMPLEX IN KASHMIR AND OTHER ISLAMIC SITES THEREIN

Deeply concerned that, as a result of Indian armed action on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha in 1415H (1995), over 1500 houses and shops were gutted, holy relics were destroyed and the mosque and the Islamic Complex of Charar-e-Sharif razed to the ground, and deeply concerned at other incidences of damage to: the Dargah Hazratibal in 1993 and 1995, the Shrine of the Shah-e-Hamadan in December 1997, the Jamia Mosque of Safapur in Baramula district in January 1998, the historic Jamia Mosque at Kishtwar in January 2001, Chadora mosque in October 2001 and a mosque in Srinagar with burning of the Holy Qur'an on 14 December 2002, Khanqah-e-Faiz Panah Tral in 2012, Dastger Sahab in 2012, Zarith Zain Shah Wali Ashmaqam in 2013:

- 1. Strongly deplores** the destruction of the 542 year old Islamic complex at Charar-e-Sharif which constitutes a serious aggression against the Islamic heritage of the Muslim people of Kashmir.
- 2. Expresses its concern** over the loss of life and the burning of over 1500 houses of the civil residents of Charar-e-Sharif.
- 3. Strongly condemns** the burning of the Shrine of Shah-e-Hamadan and the desecration of the Jamia Mosque at Safapur, and the burning of the Jamia Mosque at Kishtwar and other incidents of desecration of Muslim Holy places.
- 4. Also condemns** the continuing desecration of Mosques and Muslim Holy Places and denial of religious rights to the Muslim population in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- 5. Urges** the international community, especially the Member States to exert utmost efforts to protect the basic rights of the Kashmiri people, including their right to self-determination according to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions as well as to safeguard their religious and cultural rights and their Islamic heritage.

C) THE DESTRUCTION AND DESECRATION OF ISLAMIC HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RELICS AND SHRINES IN THE OCCUPIED AZERBAIJAN TERRITORIES RESULTING FROM THE AGGRESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Emphasizing that pieces of Azerbaijani history, culture, archaeology, and ethnography remaining in its territories occupied by Armenia are an integral part of Islamic heritage, and, therefore, must be protected;

Reaffirming United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), and 884 (1993), which call on the Armenian forces to withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories, including the Lachin and Shusha areas, and strongly urge Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Reaffirming also that the utter and barbaric destruction of mosques and other Islamic Shrines in Azerbaijani territories occupied by, for the purpose of ethnic cleansing is a war crime and a crime against humanity;

Noting the tremendous losses inflicted by the Armenian aggressors on the Islamic heritage in the Azerbaijani territories occupied by the Republic of Armenia, including total or partial demolition of rare antiquities and places of Islamic civilization, history, and architecture, such as mosques, mausoleums, graves, archaeological excavations, museums, libraries, art exhibition halls, and government theatres and conservatories, besides the destruction and smuggling out of the country of large quantities of priceless treasures and millions of books and historic manuscripts;

Stating that such actions by the Republic of Armenia constitute a serious violation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and 1954 and 1999 protocols thereto;

Fully sharing the anguish of the government and people of Azerbaijan in this regard:

1. **Strongly condemns** the barbaric acts committed by the Armenian aggressors in the Republic of Azerbaijan with the aim of total annihilation of the Islamic historic and cultural heritage in the occupied Azerbaijani territories.
2. **Vigorously demands** the strict and unconditional implementation by the Republic of Armenia of UN Security Council Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), and 884 (1993).
3. **Stresses** the need to ensure the protection of cultural heritage, cultural property and sacred sites in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, including, inter alia, the prohibition and prevention of any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property, any archaeological excavation, as well as any alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property which is intended to conceal or destroy cultural, historical or scientific evidence;
4. **Demands** that Armenia cease any attempts to introduce Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage as its own, including at tourism fairs and exhibitions.
5. **Reaffirms** its support for the efforts deployed by Azerbaijan at regional and international levels and aimed at protecting and preserving Islamic cultural values and treasures in the territories occupied by Armenia.
6. **Reaffirms** also Azerbaijan's right to claim appropriate reparation for the damages it has sustained, and **affirms** Armenia's responsibility to provide such reparation.
7. **Requests** the relevant OIC subsidiary organs and specialized agencies to explore the possibility of drawing up a program to help rebuild the mosques, educational institutions, libraries, and museums in the Azerbaijani territories liberated from occupation with the help of OIC Member States.

8. **Thanks** the Secretary-General for transmitting the OIC Member States' position on this issue to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNESCO, and other international bodies, and for the coordination measures he has taken within the framework of OIC subsidiary, specialized, and affiliated organs. It also **thanks** those organs and organizations for their response, especially for the adoption by the IDB and ISESCO of programs to implement projects aimed at protecting Islamic holy places in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 12th Session of the COMIAC.

RESOLUTION NO. 4/11-C
ON
SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Having considered the report of Chairman of the ISF Permanent Council, on the activities of the Fund and the execution of its budget for the financial year 2016, in which he referred to several projects implemented by the Fund in spite of the financial difficulties it faces in financing its budgets and implementing its annual programs;

Emphasizing the need for all relevant subsidiary organs to submit their work programmes and annual report of their activities to the General Secretariat by the month of November of each year with a view to allowing work complementarity and avoiding duplication of activities;

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and reports submitted by IRCICA, and IIFA on following the matters:

A) THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)

1. Notes with appreciation the production of a number of research works and reference books and organization of congresses on subjects relating to history, history of culture, multicultural coexistence and intercultural dialogue, cultural and architectural heritage, arts and traditional handicrafts of the Muslim world in the context of the Centre's various programs and research projects.

2. Commends IRCICA's program of Studies on The Holy Quran involving historical and orthographical research and scholarly and reference publications about earliest copies of the Holy Quran which serve academic objectives and at the same time highlight the clear evidence invalidating ill-intentioned claims of some Orientalists about the Holy Quran.

3. Takes note of the academic congresses on the history of Islamic civilization and Muslim countries and intercultural relations which help advancement of research in these fields by diffusing objective scholarly information and highlight experiences of cultural dialogue and scientific interactions that represent among others, Islam's contribution to world civilization in various domains, and *lauds* in particular the international congress on "China and the Islamic World: Mutual Learning of Civilizations" organized as third in a series jointly with Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing, 4-5 July 2017), and active participation in the meetings of the Group of Strategic Vision

“Russia–Islamic World” held in Grozny, Chechen Republic, Russian Federation and Russia-Islamic World Kazan Summit 2017 in Kazan, Tatarstan Republic, Russian Federation (16-20 May 2017).

4. Takes note of the various initiatives and activities that contribute in promoting inter-cultural harmony and countering extremism and Islamophobia, particularly the International Symposium on “Islamophobia in Europe, Past and Present” organized jointly with Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul on 13-14 January 2017, the coordination with Member States’ high-rate participation, of the OIC Expert Group Workshop for Evaluating the First Decade of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, on “The Role of OIC Islamophobia Observatory in Bolstering Muslim World’s Efforts to Address Islamophobia Around the World” in Istanbul, on 4-5 April 2017, as well as the report published on “Anti-Muslim Extremism in Europe” and others in preparation.

5. Expresses its appreciation of the research projects on the history of al-Quds and Palestine based on first-hand archive documents which result in publications on administrative, cultural, educational and social life in al-Quds and Palestine in recent centuries, including the second volume, related to the 17th century, of the book concerning Al-Quds in Muhimme Registers and the series of volumes on Sharia Court Registers of al-Quds six more of which published in 2017 brought the total number of volumes to 17.

6. Commends the pioneering research projects and publications on history of different regions of the Muslim world based on first-hand sources which render those sources and their studies available to researchers including: the series entitled *The Arab Provinces in the Ottoman Documents* of which volumes 5 and 6 published in 2017 are related to history of the region of Iraq; the editions and translations of authentic scholarly sources on history of Islamic civilization in Central Asia, including, recently, the two volumes on Islamic scholars of Kazakhstan, as well as the book resulting from the conference on Islamic studies in Central Asia, and the research project on Islamic heritage in Aral Caspian region launched with a seminar in Almaty, on 29 March 2017.

7. Praises the Centre’s permanent program on Islamic Heritage of al-Quds that includes organization of various architectural and opinion-building activities and *welcomes* in this regard the comprehensive Al-Quds Atlas project together with the continuing projects aiming to improve life standards in Al-Quds and Palestine and preserve its Islamic heritage.

8. Expresses its appreciation of the highest-standard and high-profile realization of the International Conference on “Protecting Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World” organized by OIC General Secretariat, IRCICA and ISESCO in Istanbul on 1-2 November 2017 in the presence of Dr. İsmet Yılmaz, Minister of National Education of Turkey and H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia together with authorities from Member States, heads of international organizations and international experts from around the world; also *commends* IRCICA’s studies on heritage facing destruction in conflict areas, in particular, in Azerbaijan’s Nagorno Karabagh region occupied by Armenia, as well as in Syria, and in Jammu and Kashmir, and its co-organizing the international conference “Urbicide II–Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Yemen - Post-War Reconstruction and Development” held in Beirut on 6-8 April 2017.

9. Commends IRCICA’s projects for upgrading skills and expertise on different dimensions of heritage preservation, in particular the short-term schools titled “Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management” conducted jointly with Al-Turath Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, of which three school programs were implemented during 2017 in Saudi Arabia, Morocco

and Uzbekistan respectively; *welcomes and expresses its appreciation* of IRCICA's preparing series of regional seminars to be held in cooperation with the Member States and international organizations aiming to expand state-of-the-art standards and modalities of heritage preservation to different parts of the Muslim world.

10. Lauds the authentic initiative entitled "Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database" sponsored by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and implemented by IRCICA, and given its importance for exhaustively recording the Islamic world heritage, invites the Member States which have not done so yet to provide IRCICA with the required data and information on their Islamic sites and monuments and designate their respective focal points to collaborate regularly with the Database unit at IRCICA.

11. Praises the Centre's assistance to Member States, at their request, in its different fields of expertise and experience in research, documentation, arts and cultural cooperation including, among others, the project undertaken to contribute technically to preservation of Timbuktu manuscripts in Republic of Mali.

12. Takes note of the Centre's promoting the Islamic arts, particularly calligraphy, by organizing workshops, competitions, lectures and exhibitions in different geographical regions, which were held during 2017 in Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and through the co-organization of the ASEAN Calligraphy Festival and Exhibition 2017 in Jombang, East Java, Indonesia; *commends* the continuing training programs in Islamic calligraphy that lead to granting of *Ijaza* – license for practicing and teaching calligraphy – to artists from the Member States and other parts of the world.

13. Expresses its appreciation of the organization of multidimensional events in the context of the Craft Development Program, in particular the "Tabriz International Festival for Arts, Crafts and Creativity" (7-12 May 2017), in Tabriz, Iran; the "International Congress on Crafts and Arts of the Muslim World with a Focus on Miniature, Paper Making, Book-Binding and Ebru" (4-6 May 2017); "Third Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts", Awards worth \$80,000 and the International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work with craftspeople from 31 OIC Member States who displayed and practiced their techniques in the fields of Miniature, Sadaf Works, Pottery, Ornamentation, Gilding, Leather and accessories, Metal repousse, Coppersmith, Carpets, Kilims, Tapestry and Felting, Wood Engraving, Handmade Suzani and Embroidery, traditional Costumes, Fashion designing, Jewelry, Batik, Painting, Mosaic, Stone handmade Products, Lacquer Works, Silk, and many more.

14. Takes note of the project of IRCICA to organize the Baku International Festival of Arts, Crafts and Creativity in Baku on 23-30 June 2018 which include the International Congress on Traditional Costumes of the Muslim World, Baku International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts (Awards worth \$80,000), Live Presentations of Artisans of the Muslim World -as at-Work; the Riyadh International Festival for Artisans of the Muslim World as at Work, Riyadh, October 2018 which include the Riyadh International Prize for Innovation in Crafts, Live Performance of Artisans as at Work, Bazaar for handicrafts and the International Conference on the Marketing of Handicrafts in the Islamic World; and, Khartoum International Handicraft Festival, in Khartoum on 23-30 November 2018 which include Khartoum International Congress on Cultural, Heritage, Tourism and Economic Dimensions of Handicrafts, Khartoum International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Handicrafts (worth \$ 60,000) and the Khartoum Bazaar (Souk) of Handicrafts.

Commends the publication of the two books, namely *Album of Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts and Handmade Prayer Carpets Through History*.

15. Welcomes the proposal of the Government of Bangladesh to establish a Special Chair at the University of Dhaka, intended to study OIC related issues in humanitarian and human rights affairs, and requests relevant OIC organs, bodies and institutions to render necessary assistance.

16. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the Member States, in particular the Republic of Turkey, host country of IRCICA and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, host country of the OIC General Secretariat, for their continuous support of IRCICA.

17. Expresses its thanks to the Member States which regularly pay their contributions to IRCICA's budget and calls upon the other countries to do so and to settle their arrears due to IRCICA's budget.

B) INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY (IIFA)

In view of the noble mission entrusted to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, as the institution of reference for the promulgation of *Fatwa*, to familiarize the Islamic Ummah with Islamic Shari'a, to study the new issues and their development and publish adequate rulings (fatwas) based on Islamic Shari'a, through a collective thinking (*Ijtihad Jama'i*) undertaken by Ulemas chosen among the greatest scholars in the field of Islamic Fiqh and eminent scholars in various fields of knowledge, thus reflecting the spirit of tolerance and moderation, as well as the vitality and positive character of the Islamic Shari'a, COMIAC:

- 1. URGES** the cultural institutions and media of the OIC Member States to maintain constant contact with the Secretariat of the Academy in order to identify the most important Fatwa issued by this institution and which provide answers to the concerns of many Muslims in the economic, legal, medical, social (family, women, children), terrorism, extremism, development, etc., as well as the statements issued by the Academy to clarify its position on the day-to-day challenges, and published on a large scale in order to raise awareness and enable them to better understand the appropriate solutions that Islamic Shari'a brings to these new issues, which are the subject of their concerns.
- 2. REITERATES** its continued interest in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Academy, in cultural and media matters, through coordination for the holding of conferences and other cultural and media activities, in order to benefit from the courses that the Academy could organize to ensure capacity-building for media professionals in Islamic countries to strengthen their cultural and professional skills in covering Islamic issues and themes;
- 3. ALSO URGES** all the OIC information organs and cultural institutions as well as its subsidiary bodies to renew their cooperation with the Secretariat of the Academy.

RESOLUTION NO. 5/11-C
ON
SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Stressing on the need for the Secretariats of OIC Institutions to always adhere to the principle of impartiality and disinterestedness and to abstain at all times from political influence or interfering in or giving opinion about Member States' affairs without being duly authorized or mandated by Member States concerned.

Taking note of the Report of the 32nd Session of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) held in Tunis- Republic of Tunisia on 12-14 October 2016.

Emphasizing the need for all relevant specialized institutions to submit their work programmes and annual report of their activities to the General Secretariat by the of month of November of each year with a view to allowing work complementarily and avoiding duplication of activities;

Having considered with appreciation the reports submitted by ISESCO on the activities carried out between the two sessions of the COMIAC:

A) THE ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ISESCO)

- 1. Commends** the remarkable activities and programmes carried out by ISESCO in its various educational, scientific, cultural, communicational and social fields of competence; **praises** its Director General, Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, for his efforts to develop the Organization's action and expand its scope; **commends** the content of ISESCO's Draft Action Plan and Budget for 2019-2021, which reflects a holistic, innovative and coherent multidisciplinary strategic vision; **commends** ISESCO's outstanding contribution to implementing the Ten-Year Action Programme adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference; and **expresses** appreciation for the activities implemented by ISESCO under this programme.
- 2. Welcomes** the signing by ISESCO of new cooperation agreements and action programmes with several Arab, Islamic and international organizations; **commends** the joint activities implemented in this connection, particularly the international

conferences and symposia and developmental projects that have added impetus to the invaluable initiatives of ISESCO Director General to establish varied cooperation relations that have been crowned with numerous programmes with parallel organizations and institutions, thus contributing to highlighting the positive true image of the Muslim world; and **invites** ISESCO to pursue such commendable efforts.

3. **Notes with appreciation** the content of the joint Islamic action strategies and their implementation mechanisms devised by ISESCO, particularly in the areas of education, science, culture and communication; and **invites** the Member States to cooperate with ISESCO in implementing these strategies adopted by the Islamic summit conferences and the relevant specialized Islamic conferences, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, and in cooperation with the relevant regional and international organizations.
4. **Thanks** ISESCO for implementing a number of national, regional and international activities in the cities celebrated every year as capitals of Islamic culture and **invites** it to pursue such support; **commends** the efforts put by Member States in hosting capitals of Islamic culture for 2017, namely Sinnar, Amman, Mashhad and Kampala; **welcomes** the selection of Muharraq, Nakhchivan, and Libreville as capitals of Islamic culture for 2018; and **invites** the competent parties to work on successfully implementing this key cultural programme.
5. **Invites** ISESCO to sustain its efforts in the fields of human rights, face extremism and fanaticism; promote peace and security; capitalize on Islamic values to fight all forms of social discrimination; and foster the socioeconomic and cultural environment, in accordance with Islamic and international declarations of human rights, in order to anchor peace and justice and enable people to coexist peacefully in dignity and freedom.
6. **Urges** ISESCO to dedicate more efforts to empower the youth in the Islamic world through playing the roles relevant to devising educational and cultural policies for the youth; implement relevant plans in their countries; and develop educational systems, academic disciplines and vocational and technological trainings that cater for the changing needs of the labor market, invigorate the sense of initiative among the youth, and help reduce unemployment rate among them, in such a way as to contribute to the elimination social tensions and thwart the likelihood of being a target of destructive and aberrant trends and terrorist groups.
7. **Invites** ISESCO to pursue its efforts and increase contacts with Islamic cultural centres and associations in Europe, Asia and Latin America, through the Supreme Council for Education, Culture and Science for Muslims outside the Islamic World, with a view to activating the Implementation Plan of the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action outside the Islamic World, and the Strategy for Benefiting from Muslim Competencies outside the Islamic World.

8. **Commends** ISESCO's efforts devoted to technical and professional training of media and communication professionals in Member States through the establishment of regional centers for media training in Khartoum for the Arab, African and Asian regions respectively; **praises** the activities ISESCO carried out in a number of European capitals to counter anti-Muslim media smear campaigns and Islamophobia; **takes notes** with appreciation the Study on Western Media Content on Islam in Light of International Law; and **invites** ISESCO to disseminate the study to the competent bodies and media faculties and institutes in Member States for a wider benefit.
9. **Reiterates** ISESCO's efforts aimed at boosting the Islamic World Heritage Committee's action towards preserving Islamic heritage in the Member States, with special emphasis on the protection of endangered Islamic cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, inter alia; and **stresses** the necessity to coordinate and collaborate with IRCICA in this regard.
10. **Expresses** sincere thanks, appreciation and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and to their Majesties, Excellencies, Highnesses the Kings, Presidents and Emirs of Member States for their generous support to ISESCO and for financing several educational, scientific and cultural programmes and activities.
11. **Expresses** sincere thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his high patronage of ISESCO conferences and for the constant support the Moroccan government extends to it to fully discharge its mission.

RESOLUTION NO. 6/11-C
ON
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Having taken note of the decisions adopted by the 9th and 10th sessions of the ISSF General Assembly Meeting as well as those of the 25th, 26th and 27th ISSF Executive Committee Meetings; (ISSF) Emphasizing the need for all relevant affiliated institutions to submit their work programmes and annual activity reports to the General Secretariat by the month of November of each year to ensure complementarity of action and avoid duplication;

Having considered the reports submitted by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF), and Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC):

A) Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF)

- **Recalling** the Resolutions adopted by various Islamic Summits and other Islamic Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary Islamic Summit, the 3rd extraordinary Islamic Summit, the 42th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the 9th Islamic Summit of Culture Ministers, the 10th session of the Standing Committee for Information & Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) and the Sessions of Youth & Sport Conferences &

- **Taking note** of the Resolutions adopted by the 9th and 10th Sessions of the General Assembly of ISSF, the Resolutions adopted by Sessions Nos. 24th, 25th and 27th of the Board of Executives of ISSF.

- **Emphasizing** the necessities, for the relevant Affiliated Committees, to submit their work programs and annual reports on their activities by November of each year to complement the work and to avoid duplications.

And after reviewing the report submitted by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation, would like to:

1. **Congratulate** His Excellency the Consultant Mr. Turkey bin Abdulmohsen Al-Sheikh on the occasion of being recommended for the position of the President of ISSF and would like to wish His Excellency all the success and good luck to accomplish the serious tasks entrusted to him to fulfill the objectives of ISSF and to serve the Youth in our Muslim Nation.
2. **Congratulate** the ISSF on the success accomplished in organizing the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, Azerbaijan during the period 12-22 May, 2017.

3. **Thank** the Government of Azerbaijan headed by His Excellency the President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev and his wife the First Lady of Azerbaijan, the Vice President of Azerbaijan and the Chairman of Organizing Committee of the Games, and to extend thanks to His Excellency Mr. Azad Rahimov the Minister of Youth and Sport in Azerbaijan for their interest and full support to host and organize the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, 2017.
4. **Thank** the President, Board Members and General Secretariat of ISSF for the great efforts they have rendered to prepare for and to organize the Games, their keen interest to facilitate the participation of all Islamic Countries in the Games and for their valuable cooperation with the organizing Committee of the Games that enabled high standards of organization. The organization of the Games in Baku was praised by participants , and to extend thanks to all NOC Members of ISSF for their interaction and keenness to take part in the Games.
5. **Welcome** the decision taken by the 10th General Assembly of ISSF to approve the hosting of 5th Islamic Solidarity Games in Istanbul, Turkey and would like to extend thanks to the Government of the Republic of Turkey represented by the Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Bureau of the NOC of Turkey for their keen interest to host and organize the Games.
6. **Welcome** all Resolutions adopted by the 3rd Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Youth and Sport held in Istanbul, Turkey during the period 3-5Muharam 1438(H) that corresponds to 5-7 Oct.2017, and would like to urge all Islamic Countries to activate implementing these Resolutions and to cooperate with the General Secretariat of both the OIC and ISSF to develop necessary strategies and plans to accomplish the objectives targeted.
7. **Affirm** the Resolution adopted by the 3rd Conference of the Ministers of Youth and Sport held in response to the invitation made by the OIC and its Committees aiming at providing the ISSF with a “Constant Financial Support of one Million Dollar every four year to contribute to the good preparation of the Islamic Solidarity Games and to support all Islamic countries taking part in the Games.
8. **Express** a special thanks to the President and General Secretariat of ISSF for the distinguished efforts exerted to prepare the “Strategy Plan” submitted by the ISSF to develop the sports in the Member States Members of OIC.
9. **Mandate** the General Secretariat of ISSF to follow up the implementation of the “Strategy Plan” put to develop sports in the Islamic Countries as adopted in the 3rd Session of the meeting of the Ministers of Youth and Sport held in Turkey to suit the objectives, needs and capacities of ISSF, and to urge the Ministers of Youth and Sport as well as the NOCs Members of ISSF to cooperate with the ISSF to achieve maximum benefits of the programs and plans (involved in the strategy) as per the capabilities of each country.
10. **Requests** the ISSF to assist member states in the implementation of their physical education and sports policy and to support participation in international competitions.

11. **Invites** the Ministers and NOCs Members of ISSF To interact and cooperate with the ISSF and the General Secretariat of OIC to activate the “Strategy Plan” for the benefit of youth in the Member States.
12. **Bless** the future activities that the ISSF decided to undertake, as part of his plan for 2018-2019, and to urge the Islamic Countries to host the programs and activities of ISSF and to participate actively in them to guarantee their success and to urge granting the ISSF with all possible “Financial and Moral Support”.
13. **Welcome** hosting the 4th Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Youth and Sport in 2018 by the Republic of Azerbaijan, represented by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan and to stress the continuation of the ISSF in carrying out the tasks of the secretariat work in the field of sports during the Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Youth and Sport in coordination with the General Secretariat of OIC.
14. **Praise** the efforts exerted by the Executive Board of ISSF for its cooperation with the various sports organizations in regard to (organizing and hosting activities of ISSF) and to urge the NOCs Members of ISSF to participate actively in such activities to help achieving the objectives of ISSF in all fields of sport (i.e. to serve the largest possible segment of young athletes in the Muslim countries and to organize championships and training courses to qualify distinguished athletes in various sports with the importance of adhering to joint Islamic action.
15. **To Extend** thanks and gratitude to the Government of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia headed by the Custodian of the Two Holly Mosques and the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Mohammed Bin Salman for hosting the Headquarters of ISSF and for the Financial and Moral Support assigned for the ISSF.

B) THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE YOUTH FORUM FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION (ICYFDC)

1. **Commends** the important work in various fields pertaining to youth development carried out by the ICYF-DC as OIC youth institution according to its mandate as endorsed by the 3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM); praises the President, the Board and the Secretariat of ICYF-DC for continuous efforts towards development of Muslim youth;
2. **Underscores** the importance of the annual “OIC Youth Capital” international programme carried out by ICYF-DC as implementing agency of the programme under the JYAP; **Congratulates** the cities of Putrajaya (Malaysia), Shiraz (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Fes (Kingdom of Morocco) on successful implementation of the programme as OIC Youth Capitals for 2017; **applauds** selection of Al-Quds Ash-Sharif as the OIC Youth Capital for 2018 while underlining importance of this decision as the concrete action stemming from the OIC decisions including the decisions of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit on Al-Quds (13 December 2017, Istanbul) on importance of joint actions in preserving Islamic character of Al-Quds and strengthening

solidarity with just cause of Palestinian people; **calls upon** the OIC Member States and Institutions, in particular members of the Council of Patrons of the Programme to actively cooperate with ICYF-DC as the Programme's Implementing Agency; and **encourages** active participation of their youth in the Programme and support the concerned authorities of the State of Palestine, with a view of successful implementation of the programme;

3. **Congratulates** ICYF-DC with successfully holding the 1st Celebrations of 3 September as the OIC Youth Day as proposal by H.E. Dr. Yousef Al Othaimen, the OIC Secretary General including the organization OIC Youth Day International High-Level Conference in Istanbul, on 26 September 2017; and **calls upon** the Member States to actively cooperate with ICYF-DC towards successfully organization of the annual OIC Youth Day Celebrations in 2018 and beyond.
4. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States and the relevant institutions, in particular IDB and ISESCO to support implementation of Joint Youth Action Plan (JYAP) and fulfill their commitments in this regard as required by the resolutions on youth adopted by the relevant ICYSM Sessions, **requests** the COMIAC to scale up its cooperation with ICYF-DC through holding joint activities under the appropriate item in JYAP;
5. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilization (GYMAoC) based on the "Youth for the Alliance of Civilizations" initiative developed by the ICYF-DC and presented at the High Level Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2007 under the patronage of H.E. Mehriban Aliyeva, The First Lady of Azerbaijan, UNESCO/ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador; **recognizes** ICYF-DC as the OIC partner in youth related issues in OIC-UN Cooperation; **applauds** the joint projects implemented by ICYF-DC in the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNAOC and **calls upon** the Members States to support ICYF-DC's application for joining the UNAOC Group of Friends; **welcomes** the Cooperation between ICYF-DC and different UN agencies including UNDP, UNOSSC, UNAOC, UNFPA, UNEP and UNESCO in particular in regards to ICYF-DC initiative to establish a platform in Europe to monitor and counter Islamophobia and violent radicalization; and **commends** ICYF-DC's efforts and actions to combat Islamophobia;
6. **Appreciates** the activities of ICYF-DC in promoting the program of "The OIC Memorial Day for commemoration of humanitarian catastrophes of Muslim communities throughout the Twentieth century", including partnership with ISESCO and Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States to this end and **calls upon** the Member States to actively take part in the program; **invites** the Member States to actively support ICYF-DC campaign #SaveRohingyaNow; **Welcomes** "Justice for Khojaly" international civil awareness Campaign initiated by Mrs. Leyla Aliyeva, ICYF-DC General Coordinator for Inter-cultural Dialogue and aimed at disseminating of historical truth on the genocide of Azerbaijani civilians perpetrated by the Armenian armed forces in the town of Khojaly (the Republic of Azerbaijan) in February 1992; commending the activities of the Campaign in 2017 marking 25th tragic anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, **calls upon** the Member States and the OIC institutions to support and actively

participate in the activities of the Campaign and exert due efforts for recognition on national and international levels of this genocidal act as crime against humanity as well as for bringing to justice its perpetrators; **welcomes also** ICYF-DC programme to educate European youth in true history of Muslim sufferings in Anatolia in 1915;

7. **Commends** declaration of 2017 a Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan by the relevant order of the His Excellency the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **commends** the Youth Leadership Programme – 5th Model OIC co-organized by ICYF-DC, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the OIC General Secretariat, in the framework of the Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan and the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games as testimony of growing exchanges and cooperation among OIC Member States in the field of youth and sports;
8. **Expresses** its deep appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their devotion to the cause of development of Muslim youth and personal support towards ICYF-DC activities as well as constant support the governments of Turkey and Azerbaijan extends to ICYF-DC to accomplish its mission effectively;
9. **Thanks** H.E. Dr. Yousef Al Othaimen, the OIC Secretary General for the efforts resulted in increasing efficiency of cooperation by the OIC General Secretariat with ICYF-DC on whole range of youth issues as the major partner vis-à-vis implementation of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action in the field of youth and **requests** the Secretary General to submit report on the Forum’s activities to the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers;

RESOLUTION NO. 7/11-C
ON
THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ISLAMIC AND WORLD
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGES

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 45th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Emphasizing the importance of protection and preservation of historical religious sites and various places of worship and ancient historical artifacts in OIC Member States as well as other parts of the world;

Stressing the importance for the Member States to provide the necessary protection to cultural, archaeological and historical monuments and antiquities located on its territory and within its borders, including religious sites, places of worship, educational institutions, museums, and other archaeological, historical and cultural heritage monuments.

Recalling and welcoming the relevant Security Council resolutions, specifically Resolution 1483 (2003) and Resolution 2199 (2015) on combating the trafficking of cultural and scientific property looted from Iraq and Syria and on urging its restitution to the institutions of both countries, along with Resolution 2347 (2017) on the protection of cultural heritage and cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

Noting the decision of the 197th Session of UNESCO Executive Board held in October 2015, to establish a Blue Helmets Cultural Unit to protect or defend important cultural sites before they are destroyed by terrorist attacks, war, or hit by natural disasters;

Recalling the decisions adopted by UNESCO Executive Board at its 197th, 199th, 200th and 201st sessions, regarding the Plan of Action to Implement the Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict, which contains measures on which the Member States can build to safeguard archaeological and historical sites, cultural property and institutions involved in cultural activities, in cooperation with the relevant UN bodies.

1. **Welcomes** the establishment by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of a Center on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage named after the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the establishment by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage of a center for national architectural heritage to preserve and rehabilitate national heritage, the recent change of the name of the "Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities" to become the "Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage" to be inclusive of all aspects and components of heritage.

2. **Welcomes** the decisions taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to protect heritage, chief of which is the decision on the preservation of Islamic heritage sites; as well as the Saudi Government's adoption of the law on museums and architectural heritage and the executive rules and regulations thereof.
3. **Stresses** the focus on the two elements of awareness-raising and the importance of cultural heritage among local communities with all their constituents by presenting effective programmes designed to promote the individual's knowledge of his cultural assets, in coordination with specialized educational, vocational and cultural institutions, with a view to building a generation of the Muslim society that is capable of playing its part towards its country and its security.
4. **Welcomes** the hosting by the UAE of the international conference on "Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict Zones", which took place at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, on 2-3 December 2016.
5. **Commends** the UAE's heritage preservation efforts translating in the launch of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage and the setting up of cultural heritage centers and institutes in the country and the world over.
6. **Stresses** the need to utilize the outputs of regional workshops on 'the protection of cultural heritage at the time of crises' held on 15-17 December 2015 under the patronage of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, with the participation of the Athar Regional Conservation Center (ICCROM), the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
7. **Welcomes** the Member States' efforts in protecting cultural and natural heritage; and calls on the Member States in this regard to design the necessary educational and training programmes on the regional and international mechanisms for the protection of cultural and historical property as well as cultural and natural heritage, enlarge scope for scientific research activities, establish museums and stage specialized exhibitions.
8. **Emphasizes** the creation of appropriate mechanisms to activate the charter on the conservation of Islamic heritages.
9. **Strongly condemns** the crimes committed against tangible and intangible cultural heritage in all its forms in Iraq, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Yemen, Syria and in other Member States; and invites ISESCO and IRCICA, in coordination with Member States to strengthen the cooperation with UNESCO in order to monitor the situation of cultural, civilizational and religious heritages in the Muslim World, and taking part in countering acts of destruction and vandalism against such heritages.
10. **Commends** the successful holding of the Colloquium jointly organized by the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Republic of France on the "Preservation and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the OIC Member States", held on 14-15 May 2017, at the OIC General Secretariat, within the context of the implementation of the Resolution number 10/43-C on "The Protection and preservation of the Islamic and world historical and cultural heritages", adopted by the 43rd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in October 2016, in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, with the aim of contributing to the safeguarding and protection of cultural heritage in Member States.
11. **Welcomes** the convening of the International Conference on Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World by the OIC General Secretariat, IRCICA and ISESCO held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 1-2 November 2017, as was decided by the 9th Islamic Conference of Cultural Ministers (ICCM), held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on 2-4 November 2015, and

endorsed by the 13th Session of Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April, 2016; and Urge the Member States to consider the recommendations of the Istanbul Declaration, including the proposal of setting up an OIC Platform for Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, that was adopted by the said Conference.

12. **Supports** the call from the OIC Group at UNESCO, for this UN Agency to cooperate closely with experts from OIC Member States in help-countering the attacks on culture and heritage, as to exert the tolerant principles of Islam and profound respect to human heritage.

13. **Requests** support for the Republic of Iraq to rebuild and rehabilitate Nineveh prophets' tombs as well as historical and Islamic monuments brought to ruin by terrorist groups and organizations;

14. **Commends** the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting the 1st and 2nd World Nomadic Games in 2014-2016, that contributed to the development of ethnohistorical sport, intercivilizational and intercultural dialogue, tourism and education, and calls the OIC member States to join the III World Nomadic Games, which will be held on 2 September 2018 in Kyrgyzstan.

15. **Calls upon** Member States, the IDB, and ISESCO to finance the ethno-historical sports (hunting with birds of prey and dogs, horse and camel racing, kok-boru/buzkasi, the national wrestling and intellectual games) and other national, traditional and historical sports in the Member States through opening of the sport centers in the Member States and organizing regular sports competitions on the basis of the World Nomad Games.

16. **Calls on** the Member States to intensify their efforts to preserve their natural heritage areas and the habitat of animals threatened with extinction; commends in this connection the Member States' efforts to safeguard the natural habitat of snow leopards; values the Kyrgyz Republic's efforts in this area, which chiefly involved hosting the First International Forum on Snow Leopard Conservation in 2013; and expresses support for the country's efforts to host and organize the Forum's second session in 2017.

17. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 12th Session of the COMIAC.

RESOLUTION NO.8/11-C

ON PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES IN THE CULTURAL DOMAIN AND SUPPORTING CINEMATORGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

The 11th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (Session of Education and Culture as Drivers of Peace, Development and Rapprochement of Peoples) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 14-15 May 2018 (28-29 Shaaban 1439);

Recalling the outcomes of the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 13-14 April 2016 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey;

Cognizant of the importance of cultural heritage in general and the Cinematographic legacy in particular, in shaping international public perceptions;

Reaffirming the necessity to develop a Member States' cultural policy in which manifestations such as arts, painting, literature, music, etc., will contribute to consolidating the cultural identity and the diplomatic influence of the OIC in the world;

Desirous to foster Member States' common values of family, living together, sharing, solidarity and peace;

Desirous to support cinematographic production and promote cooperation in the cultural domain with a view to reinforcing cultural relations among Member States;

1. **Emphasizes** the importance of the effective implementation of paragraph 185 of the Final Communiqué of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No. 8/45-C on Cultural Affairs adopted by the 45th session of the CFM held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 5-6 May 2018, which "called on the General Secretariat to take measures, in cooperation with Member States in order to support cinematographic production and promote cooperation in the cultural domain, including through holding an OIC film festival, with a view to reinforcing cultural relations among Member States".
2. **Decides** the establishment of an OIC prize to reward the best cinematographic productions which meet the ideals and objectives of the OIC and the establishment of the OIC Film Festival and calls for the General Secretariat to prepare a concept note on the selection criteria.
3. **Decides** to set up an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts to: first, consider the concept note to initiate a special OIC-sponsored prize to be given at the 26th session of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou, scheduled for 23 February – 02 March 2019 in Burkina Faso, to award best film production contributing to the objectives of the OIC; and second, consider the launch of a Film Festival of the OIC.
4. **Encourages** the reinforcement of cooperation among film festivals throughout OIC Member States, and in particular support to joint initiatives and projects.

5. **Takes note** of the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to host a group of professionals in cinema industry in Islamic countries to specialize in the area of cinema production and production techniques. A decision in this regard may be made through the committee established in this context.
6. **Calls for** the establishment of an OIC Cultural Day to be celebrated by Member States, the OIC and its subsidiary and specialized institutions on a date to be determined.
7. **Appreciates** highly the initiative to hold a Festival of Islamic Arts and Handicrafts in one of the OIC Member States in order contribute to the radiance of the Islamic culture in all its aspects.
8. **Requests** the General Secretariat, in coordination with relevant OIC institutions, to conduct the necessary consultations with the Member States for them to manifest their interest in holding the 1st edition of this important event.
9. **Requests** the IDB, ISESCO, IRCICA and all other relevant OIC institutions to fully support all cultural cooperation initiatives, including in the area of cinematographic production.
10. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the 12th Session of the COMIAC.