

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



*OIC/COMIAC-9/2010/SOM/REP./FINAL*

**Report of  
the Senior Officials Meeting  
Preparatory to the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of  
the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs**

**Dakar, Republic of Senegal  
3 Dul-kiida 1431 H. (11 October 2010)**

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(COMIAC)**

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1. The Senior Officials held a meeting preparatory to the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), on Monday 3 Dul-kiida 1431 H. (11 October 2010) in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.
2. The meeting opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Koran. The Representative of the Secretary General and Director of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, Ambassador Himayatu Din delivered a speech on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) thanking the Republic of Senegal for hosting COMIAC's 9<sup>th</sup> Session, and stating the current session is of special importance as the last four years have witnessed important developments at the level of joint Islamic action, namely the organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar in March 2008, which adopted the new OIC Charter, considered as an event of utmost importance in the course of OIC's existence.

The representative of the Secretary General stated in his speech that the importance of this session lays in the fact that it will also represent an occasion for the mid-term review of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action ( OIC-TYPOA) adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah in December 2005.

3. Mr. Madické Niang, Minister of State and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Senegal then took the floor.

Having welcomed all the delegations and having thanked His Excellency Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu for taking part in this 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMIAC, the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal expressed his country's solidarity with the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, seriously afflicted by the heavy floods that devastated over one third of its lands and led to considerable losses in lives and property.

He further urged Member States to extend financial and material support and hereafter reflect on the mechanism that could in future enable OIC to intervene swiftly in case Member States of the OIC are hit by natural disasters.

He moreover touched on the key issues on which the Senior Officials Meeting should dwell, namely the issue of information challenges, affirmation of cultural identity, combating Islamophobia, dialogue of civilizations, the role of women in development, the management and protection of children as well as the youth issue in order to identify efficient solutions and formulate relevant recommendations expected to contribute to enhancing Islamic culture and to better understanding among civilizations.



causes of the Islamic Ummah and emphasize the role of the OIC as a strategic partner at the international arena.

2. Concerning interaction with media and the reactivation of the work of the relevant supervision committee, the meeting called for the organization of a meeting of the said committee at the experts level to submit proposal to the forthcoming Islamic Conference of Information Ministers.
3. The meeting called for the reactivation of media cooperation among OIC Member States through the exchange of programmes and newsletters, and through shedding light on the situation of the Member States such as to project the true image of Islam and Islamic countries.
4. As regards the code of conduct for information organs in the Member States, many States emphasized the importance of finalizing the preparation this document. Accordingly, the meeting requested the General Secretariat to act in this direction before the forthcoming session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers such as to study the document during the session.
5. The representative of the State of Palestine emphasized the importance of working towards a purposeful Islamic information sector insisting on important Islamic issues and that plurality should not be exploited to bring about divisions among individuals and States. He also called for defining professional rules to advance the information process while respecting the specificity of the individual and guaranteeing the right of opinion and expression. He explained that fair competition and scoop should not be at the detriment of truth and called for the adoption of an Islamic information code of ethics in the form of an ethical guiding document. The paper of the Representative of the State of Palestine shall be included as one of the meeting's documents.
6. Concerning the support of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the completion of the restructuring of the Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU), and at the request of the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, IINA's Director General made a presentation on the state of the restructuring process, the study conducted in this regard and the efforts he made for the executing of the restructuring and development process. The meeting took note of these positive developments and called for continued efforts to advance this important organ in joint Islamic information action. IBU's new Director General took the floor to inform the meeting that IBU's General Assembly will convene in December 2010, which will allow for the completion of the restructuring process and the launching of IBU in its new shape.
7. Concerning cooperation with the Global Digital Solidarity Fund, the meeting commended again the initiative of His Excellency Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference and Chairman of COMIAC to establish this fund, lauding the importance attached by the Member States to bridging the digital gap between developed and developing countries, including the OIC Member States. The Representative of Senegal expressed his appreciation of OIC's support to the fund, calling on Member States to join it and contribute to its financing. He praised the existing cooperation between the General Secretariat and the Fund, urging them to work for the

implementation of the resolution adopted by the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference on launching a wide programme for the provision of 500.000 computers to the least developed OIC Member States.

8. The meeting welcomed the proposal made by the Republic of Turkey on the establishment of the OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IRAF) to be studied.

### **III- Cultural, Social and Family Affairs**

1. In the field of cultural, social and family affairs, the meeting took note with appreciation of the Secretary General's report on the fields concerned.
2. The meeting examined the follow up of the implementation of subjects related to cultural, social and family affairs included in the TYPOA which was adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference and studied issues related to the follow up of the resolutions of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM.
3. The meeting examined subjects related to the cultural, social and family affairs and expressed appreciation of the efforts made in this regard, commending in particular the important achievements made since the last session.
4. The meeting emphasized the importance of combating the increasing Islamophobia in the West, commending the Secretary General's keenness to emphasize OIC's commitment to discharge its responsibilities in this regard.
5. The meeting examined issues related to Islamic centers and the activities of OIC's subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions working in the cultural field.
6. The meeting welcomed the establishment of a Family Affairs Department in the framework of the implementation of the TYPOA.
7. The meeting expressed appreciation of the activities of the General Secretariat and institutions of the OIC concerned with women, children and the youth.
8. The Meeting welcomed the results of the two ministerial meetings on women which took place in the Republic of Turkey and the Arab Republic of Egypt in 2006 and 2008 respectively.
9. The Meeting also welcomed the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Islamic Ministerial Conference on children held Sudan in February 2009.
10. In this context, the meeting invited the Member States to work for the implementation of the provisions of the OIC-Programme of Action for the Development of the Situation of Women adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Ministers in charge of Women's Affairs in the Member States held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.
11. The meeting invited the Member States to extend all forms of assistance to Palestinian universities, particularly Al-Qods University, to enable them to carry out their educational mission. It expressed satisfaction with the role of Palestinian educational and university institutions in preserving the Palestinian cultural heritage

- and requested the Member States and the General Secretariat to mobilize all necessary means to thwart Israel's attempts to blur the religious character of the holy city of Al-Qods.
12. The meeting commended the reports presented by OIC's subsidiary and affiliated institutions and their efforts in their fields of action, namely:
    - Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
    - International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA)
    - Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF)
    - Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
    - Islamic Commission of the International Crescent (ICIC)
    - Islamic Solidarity Sports Union (ISSU)
  13. The meeting welcomed with appreciation the decision of the Government of Senegal to establish a permanent national secretariat to follow up COMIAC's activities and resolutions.
  14. The meeting adopted the work programme of the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMIAC.
  15. The meeting adopted the draft resolutions on information, cultural, social and family affairs enclosed to the present report and submits them to COMIAC's meeting for consideration and appropriate decision.
  16. The participants expressed their thanks and gratitude to Ambassador Moussa Bocar Ly, the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting for his wise leadership which helped in the good conduct of the meeting.

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