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**RESOLUTION  
ON INFORMATION AFFAIRS  
SUBMITTED TO  
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION  
AND  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS (COMIAC)**

**DAKAR – REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL**

**22-24 SHAWAL 1427H  
(13-15 NOVEMBER 2006)**

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RESOLUTION No. 1/8-INF(COMIAC)  
ON  
INFORMATION AFFAIRS

The Eighth Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs, convened in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 22 to 24 Shaaban 1427H (13-15 November 2006),

Recalling the resolutions issued by the Islamic Summit and other Conferences, particularly the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference, the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, and the Thirty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the resolutions of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs, particularly those adopted at its Seventh Session held in Dakar, on 17-19 December 2002, relating to the role of information and communication within the framework of joint Islamic action among Member States.

Recalling also Resolution No. 13/31-POL on rationalization of the agendas and resolutions of the Islamic Conferences, issued by the Thirty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 2004;

Recalling further the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, held on 13-14 September 2006 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

I. Takes note of the recommendations issued by the Seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, and more particularly:

**(a): Interaction with the external media;**

Pursuant to the decision of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December, 2005 (Item 7) on the necessity of joint Islamic action on the international arena, the Conference recommends to constitute a small supervisory Ministerial Committee to draw up within a period of six months a complete Work Plan to address the outside world in languages which it understands and according to methods which conform with its logic and mental constitution. The Committee shall seek the help of a group of specialized experts to draw up executive plans and programmes while referring all the Working Papers submitted on this subject to the afore-mentioned committee to make use of. This committee shall be composed of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia, Republic of Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, the Kingdom of Morocco and the OIC Secretary General or his representative. The committee shall submit the results of its work to the Chairman of the current session of the ICIM to discuss with the members of the committee the beginning of implementing them.

The Committee recommends that a Special Fund be set up. Its resources would come from Member States' contributions to finance the programmes and projects included in the Information Plan for external action.

**(b) Code of Ethics:**

The Meeting recommends to agree on a Code of Ethics as a guide to the mass media of the Islamic States which will realize diversity and plurality, and preserve the values and interests of the Islamic Ummah. The Code constitutes a document on (the morals and principles of information action in the Member States), (the resolution adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Information Ministers) being the appropriate framework for this Code. The General Secretariat is entrusted with setting up the draft Code and that the Member States shall communicate to the General Secretariat their proposals and views in this respect. The preparation of the draft shall be completed in a period of six months and then submitted to the Chairman of the current Session of the ICIM.

**(c) Organization by National Television Stations in Member States of an annual campaign to collect donations (Telethon) to face natural and human disasters**

Believing in the dire need for launching television campaigns in the case of natural and human disasters, the Meeting recommends to the mass media to commit themselves to launch domestic campaigns in each Member State to collect donations in a way which they deem fit and to send them directly to the afflicted state in accordance with the regulations in force in each State in coordination with the competent authorities. The Conference recommends to the General Secretariat to coordinate campaigns and specify one day to do this in the Member States.

**(d) The International Islamic News Agency (IINA):**

The Meeting sees the necessity to restructure the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) in order to boost its efficiency according to its objectives and objectives of the OIC. The Meeting recommends to constitute a Board of Directors for IINA for a two-year period chaired by the Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the membership of the Heads of the News Agencies of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia, Cameroon, Senegal, Nigeria, Niger and the OIC Secretary General or his representative. The Board may invite the Secretaries-General of the African News Agency, the Union of Arab News Agencies and the Union of Asian News Agencies to attend its meetings as Observers. The Board may charge whom it sees fit to carry out scientific study to develop the performance of the Agency in order to realize the expected objectives with the utmost efficiency and within a period to be defined by the Board. It shall approach the IDB to discuss the possibility of financing this study.

**(e) Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO):**

The Meeting recommended to develop ISBO and transform it into (the Union of Islamic Broadcasting) in order to provide further new fields and information horizons to serve the OIC Member States. The Conference recommended to constitute a Board of Directors for the Union and that it shall prepare, within six months, a complete Study and draw up an organizational and functional chart as well as new work plans including work programmes of the Union and their implementation mechanisms in such a way as to realize the objectives of the Ten-Year Programme of Action which was adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 5-6 Dhul-Qaida 1426H, corresponding to 7-8 December, 2005.

The Meeting recommended to constitute a Board of Directors for the Union chaired by the Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the membership of Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Sudan, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Uganda, Turkey, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Iran and the OIC Secretary General or his representative. The Board shall undertake arrangements for continuous contacts with similar regional and international Unions. The Conference recommended to make use of developments taking place in Cyber-space and the Internet, as well as to utilize all the means to convey Islamic information messages to the targeted public inside and outside the Islamic World.

**(f) The Information Department at the OIC General Secretariat:**

In the framework of strengthening joint Islamic action among Member States, the Meeting recommends the importance of developing the Information Department at the OIC General Secretariat by providing it with the necessary human and material resources to enable it to carry out the task entrusted to it by the Information Ministers of the Member States.

**(g) The free and easy movement of media people between the OIC Member States:**

The Conference urges the OIC Member States to facilitate all the procedures that enable the media people working in the national mass media to move easily among the Member States.

**(h) The right of citizens in the Member States to have access to information:**

The development and the well-being of Muslim citizens necessitate to have access to information from the mass media and from their sources in due time, free of charge or at a reasonable cost. International Human Rights Charters, legislations, and international constitutions in most of the states of the world guarantee this right due to its significance in human life. On this basis the Member States approve the right of citizens in the Islamic States to have easy access to information.

**(i) The Palestinian Cause:**

Pursuant to the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter, the Conference reiterates the resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the ICIM on the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Palestine and the Occupied Arab Territories including Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms. It takes into consideration the need to support the organs and bodies of the Palestinian Authority in the field of information and communication, especially following the bombardment of the information facilities and buildings as well as the destruction of their equipments. The Conference appeals to the Member States to extend assistance to the Palestinian Authority in order to support and develop its radio and television authority and exchange programmes and expertise with it. The Conference entrusts the OIC General Secretariat with organizing information seminars on Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine. It calls on the media in the Member States to intensify the production and exchange of information programmes in cooperation with the Palestinian media. It also requests the Member States to contribute to the establishment of a permanent site of Al-Quds in the Internet in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.

**(j) The Republic of Iraq:**

The Conference called on the media people in the Member States to stand by the side of Iraq in order to unify its ranks and overcome its suffering, and to establish contacts with it in such a way as to achieve its unity and sovereignty on its territory and resources. The Conference also called on them to avoid inflaming the fires of dissention and refrain from encouraging division – directly or indirectly.

**(k) The Sudan:**

The Conference firmly stands on the side of the Sudan in the face of antagonistic information campaigns in relation to the position of the government of the Sudan aimed at preserving and protecting its unity, independence and rejection of foreign intervention in its affairs.

**(l) Digital divide:**

In order to bridge the digital divide, the Conference recommended that the Member States as well as the competent information and communications institutions and organizations and the private sector to contribute financially to the Digital Solidarity Fund which was launched on 14/3/2005 at the initiative of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of COMIAC.

- II- Decides to endorse these recommendations and calls for their implementation in line with the new approach of the Joint Islamic Action.
- III- Mandates OIC Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this Resolution and report thereon to the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs.

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