

REPORT and RESOLUTIONS
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMCEC

Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997

COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, November 1997

Address:

COMCEC Coordination Office

Necatibey Cad. 108

Ankara-TURKEY

Tel: 90-312-231 97 40

Tifax: 90-312-232 10 66

Tlx: 4210 10 DPT TR

Website: <http://www.dpt.gov.tr>

e mail: ykaraca @ [dpt.gov.tr](mailto:ykaraca@dpt.gov.tr)

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PART ONE

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE OIC FORMING
THE BASIS AND GUIDING THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE COMCEC**

I

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ESTABLISHING THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE OIC CHAIRED BY HEADS OF STATE

Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS)

The Third Islamic Summit Conference (Palestine and Al-Quds Session), meeting in Mecca Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 19th to 22nd Rabi-Al-Awal, 1401 H. (25-28 January, 1981);

Having listened to the proposals by His Majesty King HASSAN II, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, that three committees will be established and chaired by the Kings and Presidents of the Islamic States,

Proceeding from a firm belief that joint Islamic action needs to be consolidated in the scientific and technological field, and in the economic and trade sphere,

Prompted by the desire to give information and culture a fresh impetus to help world public opinion understand the basic issues of the Islamic nations, particularly those of Al- Quds and Palestine, and to confront the tendentious campaign launched against Islam and Muslims,

DECIDES:

I. To establish three Standing Committees, the first for scientific and technological cooperation, the second for economic and trade cooperation, and the third for information and cultural affairs;

II. These Committees shall undertake to follow up implementation of the resolutions passed, or about to be passed, by the Islamic Conference in those fields; to study all possible means of strengthening cooperation among Muslim States in those fields, and to draw up programmes and submit proposals designed to increase the Islamic States' capacity in those fields;

III. Each Committee shall consist of the representatives of ten Islamic States, at ministerial level, and shall be chaired by the Head of State of an Islamic State;

IV. Members of these Committees shall be elected by the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference for a renewable term of three years;

V. A Committee shall hold a meeting, if invited to do so by its Chairman or by a majority of its members; its meeting shall be valid if attended by a majority.

II

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE FOURTH ISLAMIC
SUMMIT CONFERENCE ENTRUSTING THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
TO H.E. KENAN EVREN, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

Final Communique No. IS/4-84/E/DEC

"... The Conference decided to entrust H.E. Mr. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, with the Chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation..." (Page 18, para 40).

III

RESOLUTION No.8/7-E (IS)
ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
(COMCEC)

The Seventh Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Fraternity and Revival), held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, 11-13 Rajab 1415H (13 to 15 December 1994),

RECALLING Resolutions of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Islamic Summit Conferences on the COMCEC and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States;

RECALLING Resolution No.2/6 E(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference on the activities of the COMCEC mandating it to formulate new strategies for the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States and to take appropriate action for its implementation;

RECALLING the Resolutions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers pertaining to the activities of the COMCEC;

ALSO RECALLING the Resolutions adopted at the previous tenth Sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among member countries, particularly in the area of trade;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that, after the Longer-Term Trade Financing Facility which started its operation in 1988, the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit has come into force and that the Corporation will commence its operations by July 1995 under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank;

ALSO NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the efforts of the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, affiliated and specialized institutions of OIC, working in the field of economy and trade, to implement the Resolutions of the COMCEC;

TAKING COGNIZANCE of the importance for the Member Countries of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of the Single European Market; creation and strengthening of regional economic groupings in the Americas, Asia and Pacific; progress in the Middle East Peace Process; conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations;

1. ENDORSES the Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States of OIC adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC.
2. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION that the Strategy of economic cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member Countries and is based on the principles giving emphasis to the private sector, economic liberalization, integration with the world economy, sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member Countries and their international obligations.
3. ALSO NOTES WITH APPRECIATION that the Plan of Action is a general and flexible policy document open for improvement during its implementation, in accordance with the provisions stipulated in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
4. AGREES on the need to urgently implement the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States of OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.

5. APPEALS to the Member States to host, as soon as possible, the Inter-Sectoral Experts' Group meeting envisaged in the chapter on Follow-up and Implementation of the Plan of Action.
6. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the decision of the COMCEC that starting with its eleventh Session it would also serve as a platform for Member Countries where the ministers of economy could exchange views on current world economic issues and, that the topic "Implications for External Trade of Member Countries of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations and the Establishment of World Trade Organization" was designated as the theme for the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC, to be held from 21 st to 24th October 1995 in Turkey.
7. APPEALS to the Member States, who have not yet done so, to sign and/or ratify the statutes and agreements approved by OIC in the area of economic cooperation; to take the necessary measures to implement the resolutions of the COMCEC and to join economic cooperation schemes established to that effect.
8. REQUESTS the General Secretariat of OIC to follow up the implementation of the resolutions of the COMCEC and to continue to provide necessary assistance for the efficient organization and conduct of its activities.

PART TWO

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS AND REPORT
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

I

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENT CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

Original : English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

DOCUMENT CODE

1. Draft Agenda of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC.OIC/COMCEC/13-97/DA
2. Background Report by General Secretariat of the OIC.OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(1)
3. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Member Countries by SESRTCIC. OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(3)
4. Annual Report on Inter-Islamic Trade, 1996-1997, Overview by ICDT. OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(II)
5. Report of the Follow-up Committee. OIC/COMCEC-FC/13-97/REP
6. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(2)
7. Progress Report on the Islamic Development Bank's (IDB) Technical Assistance to Member Countries in Matters Related to the World Trade Organization (WTO). OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(4)
8. Report by ICCI on the Fourth Private Sector Meeting of OIC Member Countries for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investments.OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(7)

DOCUMENT CODE

9. Preparation of the Islamic Ummah for the 21st Century in the Areas of Economic, Trade and Financial Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries by the Islamic BankOIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(6)
10. Draft Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic CountriesOIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(5)
11. Proceedings of the Workshop on Implications of Globalization and Regional Economic Groupings, Particularly the European Union, for the Economics of the OIC Countries.....
12. Report and Recommendations of the Workshop on the Implications of Regional Economic Groupings, Particularly the European Union for the Economies of Member Countries by SESRTCICOIC/COMCEC/13-97/REG(2)
13. The Implications of the Regional Economic Groupings on the Industrialized World on the OIC Member States in the Trade Sector byICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/13-97/REG(3)
14. Country Reports:
 Turkey's Experience with Regional Economic GroupingsOIC/COMCEC/13-97/REG(1)
15. Brief Report on the Activities of the Islamic Chamber to the 13th Session of COMCECOIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(10)
16. World Trade Organization (WTO), Major Activities and New Developments Since Ministerial Conference in Singapore by the OIC General SecretariatOIC/COMCEC/13-97/D(12)

DOCUMENT CODE

17. Views and Observations of the Member States on the Draft Statute of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries 0IC/COMCEC/13-97/D(13)
18. Legal Comments of the OIC General Secretariat on the Draft Statute of Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries.....0IC/COMCEC/13-97/D(14)
19. Report of the Sectoral Expert Group Meeting on the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action in the Area of "Foreign Trade".....0IC/COMCEC/EGM-FT/97/REP
20. Report of the Director General of the Ankara Centre.....0IC/COMCEC/13-97/D(9)
21. Report of the OIC General Secretariat on Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.....0IC/COMCEC/13-97/D(8)

II

**REPORT
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

Original : English

**REPORT
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

1. The Thirteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held on 3 - 4 November 1997. The Session was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials, on 1 - 2 November, to consider items of the draft Agenda and prepare Draft Resolutions.

2. The Session was attended by the representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC):

1. Republic of Albania
2. Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
3. Republic of Azerbaijan
4. State of Bahrain
5. People's Republic of Bangladesh
6. Burkina Faso
7. Republic of Cameroon
8. Arab Republic of Egypt
9. Republic of Gabon
10. Republic of Guinea
11. Republic of Indonesia
12. Islamic Republic of Iran
13. Republic of Iraq

14. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
15. Republic of Kazakhstan
16. Republic of Kyrgyzstan
17. State of Kuwait
18. Republic of Lebanon
19. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
20. Malaysia
21. Republic of Mali
22. Kingdom of Morocco
23. Federal Republic of Nigeria
24. Sultanate of Oman
25. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
26. State of Palestine
27. State of Qatar
28. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
29. Republic of Senegal
30. Republic of Sudan
31. Republic of Surinam
32. Syrian Arab Republic
33. Republic of Tajikistan
34. Republic of Tunisia
35. Republic of Turkey
36. Republic of Turkmenistan
37. State of the United Arab Emirates
38. Republic of Uzbekistan

The representatives of the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as observers while the representative of the Republic of Macedonia participated as guest.

3. The Session was attended by the General Secretariat of OIC, and the following subsidiary, affiliated and specialized OIC institutions:

1. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
2. The Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT)
3. The Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT)
4. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
5. Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
6. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO)
7. The International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB)

4. The Session was also attended by the representatives of the following international organizations and United Nations Agencies:

1. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
2. The Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
3. Federation of Islamic Countries Contractors (FICC)
4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
5. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 1.)

Opening Session

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

6. H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, in welcoming delegates, expressed his thanks and appreciations to the OIC General Secretariat and other OIC institutions for their keen interest and constructive contributions to the achievements of the COMCEC. H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, while assessing the current global developments, indicated the possible positive role of the COMCEC in responding to these developments and expressed that our great religion, which is based on tolerance, brotherhood and solidarity, constitutes the most reliable source of power for efforts to strengthen economic cooperation among OIC member countries. H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL concluded his address by wishing success to the delegates.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL is attached as Annex 2.)

7. H.E. Nabika DIALLO, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC, conveyed the message of H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC, who has not been able to attend the Meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. In his message, H.E. Azeddine LARAKI expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, and H.E. Işın ÇELEBİ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey, for their keen interest and wise guidance in promoting economic cooperation among the OIC Member States.

(A copy of the Message of H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex 3.)

8. The Heads of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, Republic of Indonesia and, Republic of Cameroon made statements on behalf of the three geographical groups of the Member States they represented. While expressing their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL for his wise guidance as Chairman of the COMCEC, the Heads of Delegation referred to the economic difficulties and problems of member countries and called for more effective modes of cooperation. The Heads of Delegation praised the progress achieved by the COMCEC in the field of economic cooperation among Member Countries. They thanked the President, the Government and the People of Turkey for their continued support to economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

(The texts of the Statements made on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African Member States are attached as Annexes 4, 5 and 6 respectively.)

9. In his statement delivered at the opening ceremony, H.E. Ahmed Mohamed ALI, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, summed up the activities of the Islamic Development Bank and highlighted the progress achieved by the Bank in terms of the tasks assigned to it by the COMCEC.

(The text of the Statement of the President of IDB is attached as Annex 7.)

10. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

11. The Ministerial Working Session of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Işın ÇELEBİ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

12. The Ministers adopted the Draft Agenda of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC and decided to take up Agenda Item 8 on the Exchange of Views on the "Implications of the Regional Economic Groupings, Particularly the European Union on the Economies of the Member Countries" and to review the Draft Resolutions prepared by the Senior Officials.

(The Agenda of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 8.)

13. H.E. Prof. Dr. Orhan GÜVENEN, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting made a brief presentation on the outcome of the deliberations of the Senior Officials on the "Implications of the Regional Groupings, Particularly the European Union on the Economies of Member Countries".

(The Text of presentation of the Chairman of the Senior Officials is attached as Annex 9.)

14. Thereafter, the Heads of Delegation of the Republic of Turkey, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Turkmenistan, Republic of Surinam, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Tunisia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of Indonesia gave a short account of their respective country experiences with the regional groupings.

OIC/COMCEC/13-97/REP

15. The Ministers then adopted Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D.RES(1) and Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/13-97/D.RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/13-97/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/13-97/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 10 and 11 respectively.)

Closing Session

16. The Closing Session of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Işın ÇELEBİ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

17. In a special ceremony at the Closing Session, the following Agreements and Statutes were signed by the member states indicated below:

- General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation: Republic of Tajikistan.
- Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investment Among Member States of OIC: People's Republic of Bangladesh and Republic of Tajikistan.
- Framework Agreement on the Preferential Trade System Among Member States of OIC: People's Republic of Bangladesh.

18. The message of Dr. Azzedin LARAKI read out at the closing session, by H.E. Nabika DIALLO, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC, stressed the significance of the results achieved at the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC, and praised the keen interest and wise

guidance of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL in promoting economic cooperation among Member States. The Assistant Secretary General assured the Meeting of the OIC General Secretariat's full cooperation in the follow-up work to ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC.

(The text of the Message of H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC, is attached as Annex 12.)

19. H.E. Robby Koesman DRAGMAN, Minister of Commerce and Industry, of the Republic of Surinam, delivered a statement on behalf of all delegations. The Minister, expressed deep appreciation for the significant results achieved at the Session and for the wise and able leadership and keen interest of President Süleyman DEMİREL in achieving the objectives of the OIC economic cooperation. The Minister also thanked the OIC General Secretariat and the subsidiary, affiliated and specialized OIC institutions for their contributions to the successful conclusion of the Meeting.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Robby Koesman DRAGMAN, Minister of Commerce and Industry, of the Republic of Surinam, is attached as Annex 13.)

20. In his closing address, H.E. Işın ÇELEBİ, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey expressed his thanks and appreciation to the delegations, the General Secretariat and the relevant OIC institutions as well as to the representatives of the other international organizations for their valuable efforts and constructive contributions to the work of the Standing Committee. The Minister suggested the organization of an

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occasion in the year 2000 in Istanbul, to celebrate the 21st century as the century of Islamic countries, the possible arrangements for which could be considered at the 14th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. H.E. Işın ÇELEBİ wished delegates a safe journey home.

(The text of the closing statement of H.E. Işın ÇELEBİ is attached as Annex 14.)

ANNEXES

- 1 -

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE
THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

Original :English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)**

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- Mr. ADHURIMRESULI
Director.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. GENCI PECANI
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- Mr. CHERIF ZAAF
Manager, Ministry of Trade

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- HE. MEHMEDALIYEV
Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Turkey

- Mr. ELDAR SELIMOV
Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
International Economic Relations Department

- Mr. GUISMET GUZELOV
Attache, Department of the OIC

STATE OF BAHRAIN

- HI: KARİM EBRAHIM ALSHAKAR
Ambassador.
Director of International Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- **SHAIKH KHALED BIN SALMAN BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA**
First Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- **H.E. SYED ALANGIR FARROUK CHOWDUQRY**
Secretary, (Undersecretary)
Ministry of Commerce
- **Mr. HOSSAIN MD ANOWAR**
Joint Secretary,
Economic Relations Division MO Finance
- **Mr. SYED MAUDUD ALI**
Minister, Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara

BURKINA FASO

- **H.E. OUMAR DIAWARA**
Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Riyadh
- **Mr. MOUSSA B. NEBIE**
Director of Multilateral Cooperation

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- **H.E. MOHAMADOU LABARANG**
Ambassador of Cameroon to Riyadh
- **Mr. AKOM MVONDO MOISE**
Chief of International Cooperation Section,
Expert of OIC
- **Mr. EROL USER**
Honorary Consul in Istanbul

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- H.E. MOHAMMED ELMAHDY FATHALLA
Ambassador of Egypt to Turkey
- H.E. Ambassador, MOHAMED EZZELDINE ABDEL
MONEIM
Deputy Assistant to the Egyptian Foreign Minister
- Mr. MOUSTAFA KHALEF
Head of the Egyptian Commercial,
Counsellor's Office in Istanbul
- Mr. AHMED NASSER
Counsellor ,at the Egyptian Commercial Office in Istanbul
- Mr. KHALED MOHAMED ABDEL HALIM RADY
Consul at the Egyptian General Consulate in Istanbul
- Mr. YASSER ELWY
Attache ,at the Egyptian Foreign Affaires

REPUBLIC OF GABON

- H.E. KOUSSOU INAMA
Ambassador of Gabon to Saudi Arabia
- Ambassador, JACQUES BONA VENTURE ESSONGHE
Adviser of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and State Ministry

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

- Mr. LOUNCENY NABE
Director, Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Mrs. FALLY KES SO BAH SOW
Chief Department Analyse and Syntheses

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- H.E. DR. HARTARTO SASTROSOENARTO
Coordination Minister for Production and Distribution
- Mr. BACHRUM S. HARAHAHAP
Assistant to the Coordinating Minister for Production and
Distribution
- H.E. SOELARSO S. SOEBROTO
Ambassador of Indonesia to Turkey
- Mr. A. HUSEN ADIWISASTRA
Head of the Bureau of Foreign Technical Cooperation ,
Cabinet Secretariat
- Mr. FACHRUL ABDUL RACHMAN
Director of Development for Foreign Trade Program,
Department of Industry and Trade
- Mr. SUSANTO PRIO UTOMO
Senior Official,
Office of Coordinating Minister for Production and Distribution
- Mr. BUDI PERIANTO
Senior Official,
Department of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. VERONICA WIWIEK SP. SULISTYO
Deputy Director for Foreign Relations,
Bank of Indonesia
- Mr. ZAINULBAHAR NOOR
President Director
Sarikat Takaful Indonesia
- Mr. AMIRUDDIN RIAYAT
Managing Director of P.T. Asuransi
Jasa Indonesia

- Ms. NINIEK K. NARYATIE SISWOJO
Second Secretary,
Indonesia Embassy in Ankara

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- H.E. Dr. ABBAS ARABMAZAR
Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance
- H.E. ABDOL ALI AMIDI
Director General for International Institutions,
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance
- H.E. ALI ASHARF MOJTAHED SHABESTARY
Head of Department for International Economic Affairs,
Foreign Ministry
- Mr. ALI REZA EGHLM
Expert,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SAEED KHANI OSHANI
Expert,
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance
- Mr. NASER HAMIDIZARE
Member of Consulate General in Istanbul

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

- Mr. MUHANAD AHMED SALEH
Commercial Counsellor of Iraq to Turkey

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

- H.E. Dr. BASSAM SAKET
Minister of Transport, Post and Communication
- Mr. SAMI NSOUR
Adviser in the Ministry of Planning

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

- Mr. J.B. MUKASHEV
Head of Division,
Department of Foreign Trade Policy and Cooperation
- Ms. SVETLANA KOSGELDINOVA
Assistant of Head of Department

REPUCLIC OF KIRGYZSTAN

- Mr. ATDJIGUIT BAURANOV
Rant of the Deputy of Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Director of the Department for Economical Policy
- Mr. KOUBANYTCHBEK TOKTONOV
Expert Minister of Foreign Affairs

STATE OF KUWAIT

- H.E. NASSER ABDULLA AL - ROUDHAN
Deputy Prime Minister , Minister of Finance
- H.E. ABDULLAH A. M. AL - MURAD
Ambassador of Kuwait to Turkey
- Mr. MUSTAFA JASSIM AL - SHEMALI
Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs
- Mr. ISHAQ ABDULGANI ABDULKARIM
Director,
International Economic Cooperation Department
- Mr. MISHAL MENWER AL - ARDHI
Head of the OIC Affairs Division
- Mr. WALEED BADER AL - QENAIE
Department Head,
Public Relations
- Mr. SAAD MOHAMMAD AL - RASHIDI
Economic Researcher

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

- H.E. JAAFAR MOAWI
Ambassador of Lebanon to Turkey
- Mr. MOHAMMAD EL AMINE
General Manager, Commerce Ministry
- Mr. ALI YOUSSEF
Undersecretary of Minister of Commerce

SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

- H.E. SALEH EL EMİN AL - ARBAH
Undersecretary of Ministry of Economy, Planning and Trade
- Mr. FAWZI AL - MUGASBI
Representative of 'UNCTAD'
- Mr. MANSUR RAHUMA SHIBANI
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MALAYSIA

- H.E. ABDUL JALIL HARON
Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey
- Mr. AHMAD RASIDI HAZIZI
Head of Chancery,
Embassy of Malaysia

REPUBLIC OF MALI

- Mr. BABA SOGODOGO
Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

- H.E. MOHAMED BIJAAD
Secretary of State, in Charge of Population Affairs

- Mr. ADIB TAIB
Head of Division on the Arabic and Islamic Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mrs. FATIMA H'KIEK
Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of State
- Mr. İSSA MOHAMED BABANA EL ALAOUİ
Charge d' Affaires,
Embassy of Turkey

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

- H.E. AHMED ALGAZALI
Ambassador of Nigeria to Riyadh
- Mr. USMAN ALHAJIBARAYA
Counsellor , Nigerian Embassy, Riyadh

SULTANATE OF OMAN

- H.E. HAMOOD BIN HILAL AL - HABSI
Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Economy
- H.E. MOHAMMED N. HAMED AL - WOHAIBI
Ambassador of Oman to Turkey
- Mr. MOHAMMED BIN YAHYA AL - SHABIBI
Director of the Affairs of Arab and Int. Econ. Organizations Dept.,
Ministry of National Economy
- Mr. SHAIKHAN BIN ZAHER AL - HINAJ
Head of the Division of Arabic and Islamic Organisations,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- Mr. IQBAL FARID
Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce

- H.E. HÜMAYUN KHAN BANGASH
Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey
- Mr. RAHAT UL AIN
Consul General of Pakistan in Istanbul
- Mr. M. NADEEM KHAN
Vice Consul, Consulate of Pakistan in Istanbul

STATE OF PALESTINE

- Mr. SA'IB BAMYA
General Manager of International Cooperation and Trade
- H. E. FOUAD YASEEN
Ambassador of Palestine to Turkey

STATE OF QATAR

- H.E. SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN KHALIFA AL - THANI
Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce
- H.E. SHEIKH SULTAN BIN JASSIM AL THANI
Assistant Undersecretary,
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Commerce
- H.E. AMBASSADOR AHMED JASSIM AL - MULLA
Director of Protocol Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Dr. HASSAN ALI HUSSAJN AL - NI'MAH
Ambassador of Qatar to Turkey
- Mr. NASSER MOHAMED AL- HAJERI
Economic Adviser
- Mr. ALI HASSAN AL KHALAF
Director ,Economic Affairs Department

- Mr. ABDUL RAHMAN AL- MANSOUR
Economist,
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Commerce
- Mr. MUBARAK RASHID AL-KHALIFA
Economist,
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Commerce

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- H.E. Dr. OSAMA FAQEEH
Minister of Commerce
- Dr. HAMAD ABDULHAMID AL - AWFY
Director General for Quality Control and Inspection
- Mr. HASSAN HOSAIN AL KHAYAT
Commercial Attache in Turkey
- Mr. MOHAMMED AL - GOUFEILY
Representative of Ministry of Finance
- Mr. HASSAN ABDULRESHID ATTAR
Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Saudi Arabia Standardisation Institute
- Mr. TALAL AL - AMIR
Ministry of Commerce

REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

- H.E. PAPA ABDOU CISSE
Ambassador of Senegal to Saudi Arabia, Permanent Representative
to OIC
- Mr. MAMADOU KANE
Official on the Transregional Division, International Organisation
Direction,
Ministry of External Affairs and Senegalere Abroad

REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

- H. E. ABUBEKIR YAHYA EL FADLI
State Minister, Ministry of Finance and National Economy
- H.E. HASSAN ADAM OMAR
Ambassador of Sudan to Turkey
- Mr. MOHAMED EL - HASSAN MAKAWI
Director General, Ministry of Finance and National Economy
- Mr. MOHAMED ALI ABDALLA
Ministry of External Trade

REPUBLIC OF SURINAM

- HE. ROBBY KOESMAN DRAGMAN
Minister of Commerce and Industry
- H.E. A. LALL MOHAMED
Ambassador of Surinam to Den Haag
- Ms. ELINE NELLEKE CARLIEN GRAANOOGST
Director of Industry,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

- Mr. MOUSTAFA AL - BITAR
Adviser to the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade
- Mr. JAMIL SAKHR
Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SHAWKAT NASSRI SHEIKH AL - BZOURIEH
Director of Public Dept. at the Ministry of Finance
- Mr. KHALIL SAIRAFY
Director of Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Economy and
Foreign Trade

- Mr. AHMAD AL - SAYAH
Deputy Director of Arabic Relations at the Ministry of economic
and Foreign Trade

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

- HE. GAFAROV TOHTABOY
Minister of Economy and International Relations
- Mr. MUSSOVVIROV FAYZALI
Head of Presidential International Relations Department
- Mr. LIKOEV MAHMADALI
Head of International Association Dept.,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

- H.E. M. FETHİ MERDASSI
State Secretary of International Cooperation and Foreign
Investment
- H.E. AHMED SAHNOUN
Ambassador of Tunisia to Turkey
- Mr. KHALED SALHI
Director, Ministry of Commerce
Consul

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- H.E. Dr. İŞİN ÇELEBİ
Minister of State
- H. E. Prof. Dr. ORHAN GÜVENEN
Undersecretary, State Planning Organisation
- Mr. TİMUÇİN SANALAN
Deputy Undersecretary, State Planing Organisation

- Mr. OĞUZ ÖZBİLGİN
Deputy Secretary General, President's Office
- Mr. YAVUZ AKTAŞ
Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. YALÇIN KAYA ERENŞOY
Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SALİH YILMAZ
Head of Department, Undersecretaries of Treasury
- Dr. ÖZHAN ÜZÜMCÜOĞLU
Adviser, President's Office
- Mr. NACİ NACAR
Adviser of Minister of State
- Mrs. LALE ÜLKER
Adviser of Under secretary of State Planning Organisation
- Mr. HASAN YALÇIN
Head of Section, Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade
- Mr. İHSAN ÖVÜT
Expert, Turkish Standards Institution
- Mrs. NURHAN ERKAN
Expert, Capital Markets Board of Turkey
- Mr. HASAN DEMİRCİ
Expert, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey

REPUBLIC OF TURKMENISTAN

- H.E. MATKARIM RADGAPOV
Minister of Economy and Finance
- Mr. GUVANCFI MURAD GEOKLENOV
Deputy Director,
The State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan

- Mr. VEPA ANNADURDIYEV
Attache,
Ministry of Foreign Relation

STATE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- Mr. YOUSUF ALI AL USAIMI
Consul General in Istanbul
- Mr. OMAR AHMED AL MOHARAMI
Director of Organisations and Economic Relations Department
- Mr. ABDULRAHMAN AL WAHHABI

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

- H.E. RAUF S. MUKHAMEDOV
Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations
- H.E. ABDUGAFUR ABDURAHMANOV
Ambassador of Uzbekistan
- Mr. SHERZOD A. GOUZIROV
Deputy Head,
Directorate General for Analysis and Prospect Of Foreign
Economic Relations Developments
- Mr. YUSUF TILLAEV
Head of Protocol Department

B. OBSERVERS

FEDERATION OF BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

- H.E. HAJRUDIN SOMUN
Ambassador to Turkey

TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

- H.E. SALİH COŞAR
Minister of Finance
- H. E. NAZİF BORMAN
Ambassador
- Mr. M. SADETTİN TOPUKÇU
Consul General in Istanbul

C. GUEST

MACEDONIA

- H.E. BLAGOVA PETRUŞEVSKI
Undersecretary,
Ministry of Economy
- H.E. TRAJAN PETROVSKI
Ambassador of Macedonia to Turkey
- Mr. SPRESA YUSUFI
Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. MARIA ZAREZANKOVA - POTEVSKA
Assistant, Minister of Economy

D. THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

- H.E. THIERNO NABIKA DIALLO
Assistant Secretary General,
Adviser to the Secretary General for Economic Affairs
- Mr. AHMED TAZI
Adviser to the Secretary General
- Mr. SAYED ANWAR ABU ALI
Director of Legal Affairs

- Mr. MOTAHAR HOSSAIN
Director of Economic Affairs
- Mr. HOMIED ZABEN ALOTAIBY
Professional Officer,
Department of Economic Affairs
- Mr. HAMDİ IRMAK
Professional Officer,
Department of Political Affairs

E. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

**THE STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND
TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRTCIC)**

- Dr. ABDELRAHMAN ZEINELABDIN
Director of Economic Research Department
- Dr. MAHMOUD RAIS
Director of Publication Department
- Mr. SELİM İLKİN
Head of the Technical Cooperation Department

THE ISLAMIC CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

- Dr. BADRE EDDINE ALLALI
Director General
- Mr. EL HASSAN EL ALAOUI
Head of Information Systems Department

THE ISLAMIC INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT)

- Prof. Dr. ABDUL MATIN PATWARI
Director General

F. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC

THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

- H.E. Dr. AHMAD MUHAMMED ALI
President IDB
- Mr. TARIK KIVANÇ
IDB Executive Director
- Mr. ABDURRAHMAN NUR HERSI
Adviser to President
- Dr. MUKHTAR HAMOUR
Head, Cooperation section EPSP Department
- Mr. MANSOUR BEN FETEN
Technical Assistance to the President
- Mr. HASHEM MUTIE AL - DAJANI
Publication Officer
- Mr. MOHAMMED SALIH ELYASS ELATAYA
Information Officer

**ISLAMIC CORPORATION FOR THE INSURANCE OF INVESTMENT
AND EXPORT CREDIT (ICIEC)**

- Dr. ABDEL - RAHMAN TAHA
General Manager

G. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC

THE ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ICCI)

- H.E. AQEEL AHMAD AL - JASSEM
Secretary General

- Mrs. ATTIYANAWAZISHALI
Manager Trade Promotion

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ISLAMIC BANKS (IAIB)

- Mr. SAMIR AMD SHAIKH
General Secretary

H. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

- Dr. SOHRAB SHAHABI
Deputy Secretary General

**THE FEDERATION OF CONSULTANTS FROM ISLAMIC COUNTIES
(FCIC)**

- Dr. HASSAN EL-SHAFIE
President
- Mr. ATILLA KAPRALI
Secretary General

FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES CONTRACTORS (FICC)

- Mr. ABDERAHTM LAHJOUJI
President
- Mr. AHMED BENKIRANE
Assistant of President
- Mr. SALTI ZAEBI
Board Member

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
(UNCTAD)**

- Mr. MEHMET ARDA
Chief of the Diversification and Natural Resources Section of the
Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and
Commodities

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENTS PROGRAMME (UNDP)

- Mr. PAUL VAN HASTWIJCK DEJONGE
Resident Coordinator of UN in Turkey

I. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

(Within the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey)

- Mr. CELAL ARMANGİL
Head of COMCEC Coordination Office
- Mr. MUSTAFA ŞİRİN
Head of Department, COMCEC Coordination Office
- Mr. NURİ BİRTEK
Head of Department, COMCEC Coordination Office
- Mrs. GÜLBİN SUEL
Executive Secretary
- Mr. FERRUH TIĞLI
Expert, Coordinator for Documentation
- Mr. EBUBEKİR MEMİŞ
Expert, Coordinator for Documentation
- Mr. YAKUP KARACA
Expert, Drafting
- Mr. FATİH ÜNLÜ
Expert, Drafting

- Mr. ORHAN ÖZTAŞKIN
Expert, Protocol and Press Relations
- Mr. ATA ATALAY
Expert, Protocol
- Mr. KEMAL ARSLAN
Expert, Computer Service
- Mrs. BİLGE GÜLLÜ
Expert, List of Participants

**J. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
OF THE STATE PLANNING**

- Mr. ALİ IŞIKLAR
Head of Department
- Ms. MÜKERREM ÖZKILIÇ
Head of Section
- Mr. YAŞAR GÜLSOY
Expert
- Mr. MEVLÜT YAŞAR
Expert
- Mr. SEYİT AMBARKÜTÜK
Technician

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**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Original :Turkish

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Honourable Guests,
Welcome to Turkey.

I would like to express my pleasure at being with you once again on the occasion of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC. I would also like to extend my greetings and best wishes to you and wish that your work will benefit the Islamic World and mankind as a whole.

The economic cooperation in the framework of our Organisation has recently increased past with the addition of new members. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Surinam and Togo into our midst.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Azzedin LARAKI, for his new mission and wish him outstanding success in his work..The Honourable Secretary General, as an able and competent person, will make very important and beneficial contributions to our Community. Unfortunately H.E. Azzedin LARAKI is unwell and cannot be with us in Istanbul. I wish him a speedy recovery on behalf of the COMCEC Community.

I would also like to convey my thanks to the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to the Islamic Development Bank, and to all the specialized committees for their dedicated work and valuable contributions to the COMCEC.

Distinguished Delegates,

We are at the threshold of a new century. Societies which can smoothly cross from the present to the future and cope with the requirements of the information and communications age will enjoy an influential and powerful position in the world of the next century.

Reviewing the world agenda, we note that globalization which has emerged as an inevitable reality, has already started to shape the fliture of the world economy. The great speed at which the world is moving towards a single market brings nations and countries ever closer to one another. A restructuring process is underway in the political, economic, social, cultural and all other fields. The awareness that peace, democracy and development constitute an indissoluble triad increases everyday.

The classical role played by the State is being questioned throughout the world. A new way of thinking is gaining ground according to which the State, instead of intervening in social life, should support it, and instead of managing individuals, should clear the way for new opportunities and possibilites. The notion that there is no alternative to the role played by the State in economic development has also become debatable.

Democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, the concept of a free market, peaceful solutions to conflicts, interdependence, solidanty and tolerance constitute the common values defining the global order of the

21st century. A new international order is gradually taking shape in this connection.

Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Guests,

As members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which goes back nearly thirty years, we must closely follow these trends, cope with them, even anticipate them if possible.

An important step in this direction, the New Economic Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan, resulted from efforts made to review the cooperation and solidarity among our countries through a new approach and understanding in conformity with world developments. I have further noted with pleasure that meetings of sectoral experts groups are being held in the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan. The meeting on "Money, finance and capital movements" was held in Turkey, and the meeting on "Foreign trade" took place in Pakistan. I would like, at this juncture, to convey my thanks to the government of Pakistan for hosting the meeting on foreign trade.

As the OIC Community, we have founded an institutional structure and mechanisms in the field of economic and commercial cooperation, and more importantly, we have gained some degree of experience. However, when we consider the economic potentials of our countries, we can not be satisfied with the present level of our economic and commercial relations. The trade volume between our countries is around 10% of our total trade. We must seek more effective ways to exploit the existing potentials for the prosperity of *our* people by increasing the volume of trade between our countries, an indicator of the level of economic cooperation, to a minimum of 30%.

Distinguished Delegates,

The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations, considered as the most important reform to the world trade system since the Second World War II resulted in the liberalization of world trade, a development in line with international rules as well as in the establishment of the mechanisms needed to solve any conflict that may arise.

Specific current events and issues relating to world economy are discussed during the exchange of views that take place in the framework of the annual COMCEC Session. I consider the issue of "Regional Economic Integrations and Their Repercussions" as a meaningful and appropriate choice for this year's debate. The stronger interdependence between countries has given rise to ever-stronger regional economic groupings and arrangements. These groupings and arrangements, outward-oriented and supportive of and complementary to multilateral trade systems, play an important role in the global development process. The COMCEC should not isolate itself from this world-wide trend.

Distinguished Delegates,

While mankind is endeavouring to rally around common values and objectives to establish peace, stability and cooperation in the world, hazards and risks, such as ethnic nationalism, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, terrorism, organized crime and problems related to under-development unfortunately continue to prevail. It is only through joint efforts and solidarity that these obstacles to a better and more just world order can be overcome.

Turkey strongly supports the Middle East peace process and believes that the opportunity to establish a lasting and just peace in the region should not be missed. In this context, it is of paramount importance

that the parties concerned fulfill their obligations. On the other hand, the international community should increase its economic assistance to Palestine. In accordance with resolutions passed at the Casablanca, Amman, and Cairo Middle East/North Africa Summits and on the basis of our historical solidarity, there is no doubt that we shall all extend our full support to our Palestinian brothers.

Special attention should be devoted to the fragile Dayton Peace Agreement which is of vital importance for stability in the Balkans. We must continue to prove our solidarity to Bosnia-Herzegovina and contribute to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of this country in order to ensure the full implementation of the peace agreement. In this region, Albania also is undergoing a difficult period. It is consequently also very important to grant support to Albania.

As to the conflict in the Caucasus between Azerbaijan and Armenia, a permanent and just solution to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan based on international law will greatly contribute to the well-being of the region and create new opportunities for cooperation. It is imperative that Armenian forces immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Azerbaijani territories. We hope that all OIC member countries will demonstrate a more effective solidarity towards our Azerbaijani brothers.

The civil war that is dividing Afghanistan continues to cause deep concern in the Islamic community. We sincerely wish for an end to the suffering in this sister country.

Another regional problem that is a source of deep sorrow is the Cashmir issue. We support a solution through a dialogue in the framework of international legitimacy.

The situation of muslim minorities living in non-muslim countries is likewise a continuing source of anxiety for us. For example, Greece exerts pressure and discriminates against the muslim minority in Western Thrace, violating all the basic rights and freedoms of minorities, including the right to worship and education. The muslim minority in Western Thrace is looking forward to the support and solidarity from the Islamic Community.

I would also like to mention the rightful cause of the muslim Turkish population of Cyprus, crushed under an inhuman embargo for years. The only thing that Turkish Cypriots want is to be political equal possessors of the island of Cyprus so as to be able to live in peace and security on their own land. We expect the sister Islamic countries to spare no effort in supporting the Cypriot muslim Turkish people.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The new age of international relations requires a closer economic cooperation among our countries, linked together by a common historical, spiritual and cultural heritage as well as by fraternal ties.

In this historical process of transformation, Turkey, in full awareness of her responsibilities, is endeavouring to strengthen and diversify her relations with the world at large so as to become a real power on the world scene. In this context, the Islamic community, to which we are bound by historical, cultural and spiritual ties, occupies an undisputable place. I would also like to assure you that Turkey will continue to fully support the activities of the Organization of the of the Islamic Conference, which brings together all the sister Islamic countries, as well as the work of the COMCEC.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you full success in your work which, I am convinced, will be beneficial for the Islamic community and hope that you will have an enjoyable stay in Istanbul.

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**MESSAGE OF H.E. DR. AZEDDINE LARAKI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

**MESSAGE OF H.E. DR. AZEDDLNE LARAKI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Hon'ble President of the Republic of Turkey, Chairman of the COMCEC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Distineuished Delegates

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege for me to attend this important session of the COMCEC. Incidentally, this is the first session of the COMCEC which I am attending since assuming the responsibility of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. I extend to you all, my warm greetings and fraternal sentiments.

At the outset, *I* would like to address my very sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Süleyman Demirel, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) for gracing this occasion. His Excellency's presence amidst us testifies his abiding interest in the work of the COMCEC which under his wise and inspiring stewardship is making commendable efforts for the realisation of the objective of strengthening economic cooperation among the Member States of the OIC.

I take this opportunity to thank the government of the Republic of Turkey for the warm reception and hospitality extended to the delegates ever since their arrival in this beautiful city. I also thank all the OIC bodies, including the General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office for their contribution to hold this meeting in an efficient manner.

Mr. Chairman,

The Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC is being held in the juncture of two important events in the OIC activities. It is being held in the wake of the holding of sectoral Expert Group Meetings which heralded the commencement of the process of implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States. The holding of the sectoral Expert Group Meetings is an important milestones in the long and arduous way to concretise the intra-Islamic cooperation in the economic domain for the benefit of over one-fifth of the global population which constitutes the Islamic Ummah. We can congratulate the COMCEC in this respect and renew our commitment to push ahead with the implementation of the objectives of the Plan of Action in a speedy and effective manner.

The Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC is also taking place on the eve of the Eighth Islamic Summit which is scheduled to be held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from December 9-11, 1997. I am sure **that** the deliberations of the current session of the COMCEC would provide important inputs for the work of the forthcoming Summit and contribute to its success.

Hon'ble Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

As we stand at the threshold of the 21st Century, we not only need to look back and take stock of the state of the economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States, we also need to focus our attention on the next millennium which offers both prospects and problems for our economies. With necessary reflection and introspection based on our experience of the last quarter of a century, we shall, insha Allah be able to chart our way forward for the coming millennium with confidence and in unison.

New trends are emerging in the world economic scenario and new complexities and compulsions are developing with foreseeable implications for the economies of the Member States. These developments must be monitored closely and we have to put our heads together so as to be able to withstand any adverse effects emanating from them. Close cooperation, consultation and conservation are necessary also

to enable our economies to reap whatever benefits the new world economic order holds out for them.

In this context, I am happy to note that a mechanism for regular consultations among the Member States on WTO matters and deliberation on this important on annual basis have been provided for within the framework of the COMCEC activities. This, along with the practice of holding regular exchange of views on pre-selected issues during each COMCEC sessions will help close monitoring of developments so vital for the economies of the Member States and in taking appropriate actions in an informed manner.

This brings us to the importance of accelerating intra-Islamic economic cooperation which has assumed greater relevance and added importance in the context of devising ways and means to ensure survival and growth of our economies in the emerging world order. Intensification of Intra-Islamic economic and Commercial cooperation will not only enhance the image of the Ummah as a viable and vibrant economic entity, it would also help mitigate the dislocating effects of some of the emerging trends of the new world economic order on the economies of the Member States.

Hon'ble Chairman,

As we ponder over the best possible way of moving forward with the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the Islamic Summits and other OIC for a as well as the OIC Plan of Action relating to strengthening economic cooperation among member states, we can not overlook the vital need to proceed with much greater speed, determination and necessary political will. To be honest to ourselves it must be recognised that we must improve our track record in these areas if any concrete and specific result in this respect is to be achieved in the near future.

In this context, I would like to underline the importance of urgent response of the Member States to the concrete project proposals and project ideas which have been identified by the Sectoral Expert Group Meetings and circulated among all Member States. This will help moving to the next phase of the activities for implementing these projects without further delay.

To conclude, Hon'ble Chairman, once again I would like to stress the importance of the current session of the COMCEC. I am confident that the deliberations of the distinguished delegates will throw light on all relevant contemporary issues as well as impending problems having direct bearing on our basic objective, namely, invigoration of the economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States. I am sure, the quality of their deliberations will help us to move from the stage of visualisation of plans and programmes in this respect to achieving concrete results so far as implementation of these plans and programmes is concerned. We seek the help and blessings of Allah *Subhanat 'aala* for success of our endeavours.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. NASIR ABDULLAH AL-ROUDHAN,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Original : Arabic

**STATEMENT BY H.E. NASIR ABDULLAH AL-ROUDHAN
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Your Excellency Süleyman Demirel,
President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of the COMCEC,
Your Excellencies the Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon you.

May I be permitted, Your Excellency, as I take the floor on behalf of the Arab Group, who honoured me with this pleasant duty to express to Your Excellency, and to the fraternal Turkish people our profound appreciation and gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this historical city.

I cannot fail at this juncture to commend your great role and sustained efforts to promote the bonds of cooperation among our Member States, through your chairmanship of the Standing Committee for economic and commercial cooperation (COMCEC).

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend my welcome to His Excellency Dr. Azzedin Laraki as he occupies his post as Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and wish him success.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Delegates,

We meet today amidst accelerated developments and events on the world scene. The balance of powers has charged, regional interests have differed and the world is rotating in the orbit of globalization, that made it imperative to constitute economic blocs to meet such challenges.

As the world proceeds towards the globalization of trade, we note the weakness of intra-Trade among OIC Member, as it does not exceed 10% of their trade with other nations. This undoubtedly proves that problems and obstacles still exist which counter the flow of trade among Member States. We must therefore seek appropriate means and solutions likely to facilitate trade among Islamic countries.

It is noteworthy that it is possible for us to concert our efforts, in the framework of the WTO, and coordinate stands to secure as much gains as possible amidst the immense challenges facing us. I wish in this connection to express my profound thanks to the IDB for the efforts made to coordinate and unify stands within the WTO in the face of such challenges and, to that end, organized a Seminar entitled "Accession to the World Trade Organization and Implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements", in order to benefit from the New Trade Order and facilitate accession to the WTO:

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Delegates,

I wish to express my satisfaction at the steps taken by the COMCEC to implement the New Plan of Action that it approved at its Tenth Session, organizing experts meetings on the economic sectors of the

Plan of Action to strengthen economic cooperation, namely the trade, monetary and financing sectors.

I also wish to thank the states that offered to host experts groups on other sectors, such as agriculture, development, industry, technology, technical cooperation, transport, tourism and health, notably all economic sectors. This can definitely achieve the hopes and aspirations of Member States.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Delegates,

We have an agenda containing important items that call for concerted efforts, and I wish to refer to some of them, such as the constitution of sub-regional groups within the framework of the OIC. I believe that such proposal is likely to disperse efforts, weaken the unity and centrality of supervision that is carried out by COMCEC, which always seeks to maintain this important standing committee as the central supervisory organ.

I believe that "the implications of Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union, for the economies of Islamic States" as a topic for an exchange of views and experiences is most opportune in present regional and international circumstances. The paper prepared by IDB entitled: "Preparation of the Islamic Ummah for the 21st Century in the Areas of Economic Trade and Financial Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries" calls for utmost care and attention on our part in the face of existing changes, and shall help implement the Plan of Action to Strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among our Islamic States.

I cannot fail to refer to the excellent steps taken by the COMCEC to give a greater role to the private sector, through the convening of the Fourth Meeting of Private Sector representatives, in cooperation with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in order to have an exchange of information and experiences among the representatives of the public sectors of Member States.

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Brothers,

Before concluding, I wish to reaffirm the strong support of my country to cooperation among Islamic States in the various domains, and it shall continue to honour her support and steadfast commitment, in abidance by the teachings of Islam, convinced of the importance of joint Islamic action.

May I further be permitted, before concluding, to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to Your Excellency and to the fraternal Government and people of Turkey for the kind amenities put at our disposal. May God Almighty guide us and bless our endeavours in the best interests of our Islamic Ummah.

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HARTARTO SASTROSOENARTO,
COORDINATION MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Original : English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HARTARTO SASTROSOENARTO,
COORDINATION MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION AND
DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Your Excellency, Mr. Süleyman Demirel,
The President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the
COMCEC
Your Excellency, Mr. Azeddin Laraki,
The Secretary General of the OIC
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalaamu Alaikum Wr. Wb.

First of all, allow me to extend on behalf of the Asian Regional Group our heartfelt appreciation and profound thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to our delegation ever since our arrival in this beautiful and historic city of Istanbul.

Especially I would like to express our highest regard and appreciation to the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Süleyman Demirel, the Chairman of the COMCEC for the very thoughtful and visionary opening address that will guide us in our deliberation in the course of our meeting.

I would like also to convey my appreciation for the fine arrangement of the meeting conducted by the Secretariat and for endless efforts to ensure the successful outcome of the 13th Meeting of the COMCEC.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Colleagues,

When we cast our eyes across the globe, hardly a corner of it is left devoid of some kind of cooperative economic arrangement or integration schemes. Today, almost every country in the world has become interlinked within sub regional and or regional groupings. Indeed, those that still have not, will certainly be increasingly sidelined, and even isolated. Within Europe, both West and East, where regional processes have been well developed, and also within the Western hemisphere, both North and South, many new economic organizations have sprung up and numerous existing ones have deepened their integration. Throughout Africa, regional and sub-regional arrangements of entities are in the ascendance.

In Asia and the Pacific, the process is also in the fast lane. New regional economic groupings have mushroomed while existing ones continue to consolidate and strengthen. ASEAN, the Association of the Southeast Asian Nation, for instance, is a good case in point. After gradually developing over a period of 29 years, ASEAN has now embarked on a whole new generation of economic integration arrangements and structures. The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation or APEC is another excellent example of quickening pace of regionalism in the world.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Colleagues,

This Thirteenth Meeting of the COMCEC is being held at a very important and crucial moment. Today the world is entering a new era, where the globalization and liberalization have increasingly become dominant factors in the world economy. I think we should regard these not merely as realities to be accepted but also as constituting a springboard of opportunities for the economic growth that will bring us to prosperity. It is doubtful, however, whether the promises of globalization will fully be

fulfilled and that everyone will automatically share its benefits, as some of our partner in the North seems to think. They forget another reality prevailing in the world economy, namely the inequality in economic strengths and levels of development of nations.

A more open and globalized economy tend to sharpen competition, from which we, developing countries, will not be able to escape. Whether we like it or not, ready or not, our economies will be drawn into the competitive atmosphere of economic globalization and trade liberalization. We have no other choice but to do our best in enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of our national economies both at the public and the private sector.

The establishment of the WTO more than two years ago raised our hopes that it would, apart from posing challenges, create unprecedented opportunities for its member countries. Indeed, the developed countries with highly trained manpower and advanced technology have greatly benefited from the opportunities occasioned by the opening up of the world market. On the other hand, the developing countries, particularly the least-developed ones, have been saddled with the problems in the implementation of their commitments by virtue of the Uruguay Round agreements. They have found it extremely difficult to drive substantial benefit from multilateral trading system. Some developing countries are even at risk of getting further marginalized as new rules embodied in the agreements are being enforced.

Our reading of the current trends prevailing in the global economy has thus let us to our stronger belief in the continuing relevance of South-South cooperation and the enduring validity of the concept of collective self-reliance. In the midst of the profound transformation taking place in the world today, there is a continuing need to strengthen our economic and trade cooperation and solidify our solidarity to help the OIC member

countries to accelerate their economy and social development and avoid further marginalization.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Colleagues,

We have greatly benefited from its constant endeavor to engage in mutually beneficial economic relations, not only with developed countries but also with other developing countries. Within a setting of the regional stability of Asia and the Pacific and adhering to a strategy of national resilience.

Effort of many members from OIC of the Asian Regional Group to integrate themselves with the global economy are carried out within the context of ASEAN cooperation. We are pleased to note that bold economic measures have been made by ASEAN member countries. AFTA is well now on the way to its realization by the year 2003. A number of activities have been directed towards trade facilitation exercises. At the same time, the ASEAN countries, aware of the growing and progressive integration of the world economy, have found it expedient to engage in wider and more intensive cooperation with economies within region and beyond.

In the larger region of Asia Pacific, APEC, to which my country belong, has grown at phenomenal rate during the last five years. APEC is bound to become an effective regional instrument for trade and investment liberalization and technical cooperation. Inspired by Blake Island vision, its objective clearly set by the Bogor Declaration of which the member economies adopted the achievement of free trade and investment in the region no later than 2010 for developed countries and 2020 for developing countries. Guided by the Osaka Action Agenda and the Manila Action Plan (MAPA), APEC is now ready to embark on its implementation phase.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Colleagues,

For the Asian Regional Group countries, the OIC is a group of Developing Countries which is equipped with the most complete array of institutional and operational instruments for the conduct of economic cooperation. We have policy making bodies in the highest level. We have operational centers for cooperation in many strategic fields. We even have something not possessed by other groups, an Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support our cooperation. And yet we have not achieved a significant level of economic cooperation or investment relations. The intra-OIC trade, for instance, represents only ten percent of the total trade volume of the OIC members, while 60 percent of our trade is still oriented toward developed countries. Thus there is a great potential to reorient and intensify the interregional trade among the OIC member countries.

To enhance our interregional trade, the OIC needs to reinvigorate and mobilize the instruments we already have, and operate them in a coherent and effective manner so that they would bring more benefits to our member countries. Likewise, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) could also play a pro-active role in enhancing and facilitating financial resources to expand our interregional trade. We do hope that the Bank will continue to discover and develop "a trade and investment financing system" which is in line with the Shariah of Islam and moreover the system will be easily carried out and adopted by certain Member Countries which practice their respective monetary and banking systems.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Colleagues,

Allow me in this opportunity to share some of thoughts on how to activate our economic cooperation :

First, let us launch effective trade liberalization and investment facilitation programmes. In this regards, the Agreement on Preferential Trading System, concluded under the auspices of the OIC should be made effective and fully adhered to member countries. I believe that these steps can substantially enhance the prospect of increased trade, investment and economic growth in the OIC member countries. They can help build experience and habit of cooperation among the Members. They can reinforce the process of market driven integration of the OIC. However, the trade liberalization and investment facilitation programmes should be carried out in a flexible manner.

Second, let us make good use of the existing database at the Trade and Information Network of Islamic Countries (TINIC) and the OIC Information Network System (OICIS-NET).

Third, let us mobilize the private sector in our economic cooperation endeavours, and

Fourth, let us apply the "evolutionary approach" so that we do not have to wait for all members countries to be ready to participate in a project before we could launch and pursue it.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Colleagues,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the Asian Regional Group's keenness to contribute diligently to every genuine effort made in the service of our great Islamic Faith, and to participate in developing and expanding cooperation amongst the Member Countries. We will continue to pursue its constructive policy with the objective of encouraging and developing the fields of understanding, while minimizing the areas of differences and disagreements. We call for periodical programs to be established for expanding the areas of economic cooperation among the member states.

Allow me in this opportunity to inform the Meeting that the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has decided to host the First Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Jakarta on 11-12 November 1997 proceeded by an Expert Group / Senior Officials Meeting on 7-9 November 1997, also in Jakarta. We do hope that this Ministerial Meeting on Tourism will be able to find ways and means in promoting cooperation among Member Countries in the field of tourism and identifying concrete projects of cooperation. On behalf of the Government of Indonesia and also on behalf of my colleague, the Minister for Tourism, Post and Telecommunication, I look forward to seeing the Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Countries in Jakarta.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wr. Wr.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MOHAMADOU LABARANG,
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CAMEROON TO RIYADH,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Original : French

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MOHAMADOU LABARANG,
AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON TO RIYADH,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Bismillahil-Rahmanul-Rahim

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh

May I be permitted, at the outset, on behalf of my peers who did me the signal honour of assigning me the pleasant duty of taking the floor, on their behalf, before this august assembly to respectfully express to His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, to his Government and great people of Turkey our sincere thanks for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to our delegations since our arrival in this beautiful and great country, where the century-old values of Islam meet with modernity and where industrious Europe meets the Orient, mysterious and wise.

The least that can be said is that Turkey, to-day, is one of the inescapable poles around which the destiny and future of the Islamic Ummah are shaped.

We are even more appreciative of the extremely positive role of this great country in its search for original solutions to the numerous and

various challenges posed to our countries at the threshold of the Third Millennium.

The commitment of Turkey is a relentless action aimed at bringing closer together the views and policies of our States and its unfailing determination to ensure that our efforts converge in harmony to constitute a common front in the face of the threads posed to our still fragile economies by the present tendencies towards regional groupings dictate the admiration and support of our governments, which encourage it to proceed forth in the interests - most certainly - of our countries most of which are poorly endowed.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For our African economies, more than for any others, exposed, as you know, to the repercussions of globalizing logics still reach threaten to further impoverish large sections *of* our population mainly rural, the policies and strategies which the COMCEC and other OIC specialized institutions decided to implement are of paramount importance, as they not only reflect a lucid vision of what is at stake and of the challenges of our contemporary world, but reflect as well the firm commitment of Member States to stand up to them with a constructive spirit and solidarity.

It is on this solidarity that our African countries, fully aware of this common destiny, and involved in developmental efforts, would like to rely so that, together, in a truly fraternal and Muslim spirit, we can take up the challenge of co-development.

In this connection, it is only the structural adaptation of our economies to the requirements of the New World Economic Order that will enable us to avoid the risk of being marginalised which looms over

our countries. Hence, while further efforts are extended to ensure a better integration of our economies and an increased volume of trade, our countries must endeavour at best to derive maximum benefit from the newly established structures, such as the WTO or the various regional economic groupings. In this regard, the measures already taken by specialized institutions such as the IDB must be supported, encouraged and pursued.

If the OIC Plan of Action to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among Member States is a valuable asset, it is most obvious that only through appropriate sectoral programmes and soundly targeted and implemented training and information activities that concrete objectives can be achieved, in terms of a tangible improvement of the daily life of our people.

Mr. Chairman,

The unfailing action of Turkey in this connection, whether within the context of the COMCEC or at other OIC bodies, is at the level of the determination of this great Muslim country and its commitment to the full support of the lofty causes of the UMMAH. That is why Turkey is, for all the Muslim peoples of Africa, an example and a symbol.

An example of efficiency and success in the economic domain and a symbol of faithfulness to the heritage and century-old and noble values of our Holy Religion.

For all those efforts and other sacrifices made to translate into concrete facts the requirements of Islamic solidarity, we are proud to say once again: Thank you to our brothers the people of Turkey and to their Government.

Wa Salamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI
PRESIDENT OF
THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY H. E. DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim!

*All due Praise be to Allah, and Peace and Blessings be upon
His Messenger, our Prophet Muhammad, his Family and all his
Companions!*

Your Excellency Mr. President Süleyman Demirel,
President of the Republic of Turkey,
Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for
Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC),
Your Excellencies, Heads and Members of Delegations,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh!

In continuation of our series of auspicious meetings, it is indeed a source of great pleasure and a distinguished honour for me, Mr. President, this August Assembly on behalf of your Institution, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), to express profound appreciation and highest tribute to the President, Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the good arrangements and excellent preparations to which we have become used, and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all of us. All these are factors which will contribute to the success of this Meeting. This is a clear evidence of the support and patronage extended by the Republic of Turkey, and Your Excellency, in particular, to joint Islamic action in order to

strengthen and promote cooperation among member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which are continuously growing in number. On this occasion, I would like to welcome, on behalf of the Islamic Development Bank, the accession of the Republic of Suriname to the OIC, thus extending membership of the Organization to beyond the Atlantic Ocean. While welcoming the accession of this Republic, the IDB is indeed looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with it.

Mr. President,

Your keynote address at the Opening Session of this Meeting indeed contained a number of pertinent views and valuable ideas about the items on the agenda. I am confident that Their Excellencies will devote particular attention to the proposals you have made and the views you have expressed. What Your Excellency has said will indeed enrich the deliberations of this Meeting which shall be guided by your views to reach conclusions beneficial to the Ummah.

Allow me, Mr. President, to refer to the valuable address of His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, its review of the situation regarding joint economic cooperation as well as the principles and the ideas it contains to guide our Organization in its joint Islamic activities in the future.

Mr. President,

The agenda of this Meeting is full of items of utmost significance for the strengthening of joint economic action and an enhancement of its effectiveness. One of the most important means your esteemed Committee has adopted to achieve this is a Plan of Action to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among OIC member countries; it was welcomed and endorsed by the 7th Islamic Summit Conference. Since the very beginning,

the IDB has been keen to participate in developing this Plan, and it is having the same concern to implement it. It is indeed gratifying to note that the sectoral meetings stipulated in the Plan to outline the executive steps have actually started and the first sectoral meeting was held in the Republic of Turkey in September this year. It discussed the "monetary, financing and cash flow" sectors; it was followed by the second sectoral meeting in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan a few days ago to discuss the "foreign trade" sector.

It is hoped that these sectoral meetings will follow in quick succession and we also entertain high hopes in the outcome of their deliberations. The IDB would like to renew its undertaking and readiness for cooperation with this Committee and the host countries to ensure the success of these meetings because of their significance in the implementation of the substance of the Plan of Action and the achievement of its desired targets now that we are on the threshold of the 21st Century.

Mr. President,

In March this year, an Extra-ordinary Islamic Summit Conference was held to mark the Golden Jubilee of the independence of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Its motto, as you know Mr. President, was "Preparing the Muslim Ummah for the Twenty-first Century". Your Institute, the IDB, decided to activate this motto by inviting a group of Prominent Muslim Personalities to prepare a Memorandum on "Preparing the Muslim Ummah for the Twenty-first Century in the field of Economic, Commercial and Financial Cooperation". The Memorandum was distributed in its preliminary form to participants in the Extra-ordinary Summit. The IDB undertook a step to further enrich the document as its contribution towards a study on how to face future challenges in the field of economic, commercial and financial cooperation.

The IDB has invited muslim scholars to review and further improve the document. The IDB is therefore grateful to your esteemed Committee for agreeing as an Agenda item this crucial issue and we hope that it will must item approval and further guidance. The document represents an effort to identify some challenges with which the Ummah will be faced in the 21st Century in the field of economic, commercial and financial cooperation; it also contains some proposed strategies and programmes to meet these challenges. I hope to present this document in further details when the item will be discussed on your agenda.

Mr. President,

The world to-day which is characterized by a trend towards globalization and economic blocs. The globalization of trade has been associated with the Uruguay Round Agreements which led to the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO). You have devoted a specific item about its implications and how to deal with it as an evidence of the significance of the subject, and to confirm that our member countries cannot - and should not - lag behind the world pace. At the same time, it should not be driven nor should it be just a recipient of the rules of how to deal with it. On *the* other hand, it should take part in the formulation of these rules. Moreover, our member countries should acquire the necessary tools to play their role in minimizing the adverse effects of trade globalization and maximizing its gains.

In view of this, the IDB has tried to identify what member countries need in order to play this role through coordination meetings and workshops to develop technical assistance packages aimed at providing assistance to member countries willing to join the WTO, besides helping those countries which have already joined on how to deal with the Organization. As the issues raised at the WTO Ministerial meetings often require consultations among member countries to explore stands to be taken, besides understanding and thoroughly grasping the issues raised, the IDB is ready to participate in

making preparations for such consultations among member countries at the time you may deem appropriate before the 2nd WTO Ministerial meeting in Geneva in May 1998, as was the case before the first Ministerial meeting in Singapore upon the directives of your esteemed Committee.

Mr. President,

The IDB is monitoring with great concern the currency and stock market turmoil in a number of member countries in South East Asia, although the economic conditions in the member countries concern do not justify this turmoil. We have been pleased with the way in which these countries are tackling this problem, namely, by way of a combination of austerity measures, slowing down of big investment projects, sound control on the banking system and support by the international institutions.

The EDB is also trying, in association with other Islamic banks, to make a token contribution in order to show its solidarity with these countries and its full confidence in their ability to overcome this crisis in the near future, by the Grace of Allah.

Mr. President,

The IDB cooperation with your esteemed Committee which goes back to its first meeting in 1984 spreads over the past 13 years during which it has participated in all its meetings in efforts to achieve its noble objectives. Your esteemed Committee has assigned to IDB a number of projects for implementation, and, by the Grace of Allah, the Bank has completed all these assignments.

With regard to the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), which became operational in July 1995, thirty-three countries have signed its Articles of Agreement and 19 countries have

completed their membership requirements. The Corporation has so far issued 13 insurance policies for trade operations. Among these is one in favour of the Islamic Banks' Portfolio, which is run by the Bank, for an amount of US\$ 104 million. The IDB would like to invite Their Excellencies to use their good offices so that countries which have not yet completed the terms for joining this Corporation may take the necessary steps along this line, because the success of this Insurance Corporation very much depends upon the increase of its membership and an expansion of the scope of its activities.

Mr. President,

The past few years have experienced the emergence of information systems and networks for the extremely rapid flow and exchange of information. These systems and networks are now linking and bringing closer continents, countries, institutions and individuals, besides promoting cooperation and coordination in the field of economic and social progress through a better sharing of resources. In this connection, the Bank has implemented, pursuant to a Resolution of the 5th Islamic Summit Conference which was held in Kuwait in 1987, the OIC Information Systems Network (OICIS-NET).

I am pleased to inform you that the OICIS-NET is now operational and provides numerous facilities, including messaging services (transfer of files and access to data bases, besides connection to the Internet). Linkage has so far been established with 25 member countries (16 African countries, 6 Asian countries and 4 newly independent countries from the former Soviet Union), and with 3 regional institutions involved in the fields of agriculture, science and technology.

I would like to request member countries which have not yet participated in the services of the OICIS-NET to do so, and to benefit from it, besides contributing towards its development. I invite all the participants in

this Conference to see a live presentation on the services provided by the network. The presentation will be given during the days when this meeting will be held, and you may assess by yourselves some of the advantages of the OICIS-NET.

Mr. President,

Many achievements have been made in the framework of cooperation between the IDB and your esteemed Committee, but they are not up to the level of the aspirations of the socio-economic development of the member countries. This calls for a multiplication of efforts and an intensification of cooperation to face the challenges and overcome the difficulties. The Islamic Development Bank would always be pleased to meet the requirements of cooperation with your esteemed Committee to ensure the success of resolutions adopted and initiatives taken.

Once again, I would like to reiterate IDB appreciation to Your Excellency and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) Meeting for giving the Islamic Development Bank this opportunity to address you and express its concerns to you. I am also pleased to express once again highest appreciation and profound gratitude to the President, Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for their warm welcome and generous hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for this Meeting.

I pray Almighty Allah to bless all of us to work for the welfare of the Ummah and to crown with success the deliberations of this Meeting, for He is the Best to protect and the Best to help.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

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**AGENDA
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

Original : English

**AGENDA
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF
THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

1. Opening Session.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Reports of the OIC General Secretariat.
 - Background Report.
 - World Economic Development with Special Reference to OIC Member Countries.
 - Report of the Follow-up Committee.
 - Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.
4. Matters Relating to WTO.
 - Technical Assistance by IDB in matters relating to accession to WTO.
 - Mechanism for Consultation Among Member States.
5. Report by ICCI on the Fourth Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member Countries, for the promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investments.
6. "Preparation of the Islamic Ummah for the 21st Century in the Areas of Economic, Trade and Financial Cooperation among the OIC Member Countries" by the Islamic Development Bank.
7. Draft Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries.

8. Exchange of Views on the "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union, for the Economies of Member Countries"
9. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.
10. Date of the Fourteenth Session of the COMCEC.
11. Any Other Business.
12. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC.
13. Closing Session.

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**TEXT OF PRESENTATION BY H.E. PROF. DR. ORHAN GÜVENEN,
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE STATE PLANNING
ORGANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE
"IMPLICATIONS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPINGS,
PARTICULARLY THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON THE ECONOMIES OF OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES"**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Original : English

**TEXT OF PRESENTATION
BY H.E. PROF. DR. ORHAN GÜVENEN,
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE STATE PLANNING
ORGANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE
"IMPLICATIONS OF THE REGIONAL GROUPINGS,
PARTICULARLY THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON THE ECONOMIES OF OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES"**

(Istanbul, 3 November 1997)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

In my capacity as the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, I will now submit to you a summary of the proceedings of the exchange of views we had on the "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings, Particularly the European Union, on the Economies of the Member Countries".

Deliberations of the Senior Officials on the subject were based on the paper submitted by Ankara Center and contribution made by UNCTAD representative.

In their contributions, these institutions gave valuable information and evaluations about various aspects of the subject.

The papers submitted to the Meeting by the OIC and other international organizations are available to the honorable delegates.

While considering the subject, the Senior officials have considered in detail, the evaluations contained in the Report of the Workshop on

"Implications of Globalization and Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union for the Economies of the Member Countries" on 18 - 19 September 1997, in Ankara. This workshop was jointly organized by Ankara Center and the Islamic Development Bank, to guide the discussions we had on the subject, as decided at the last session of the COMCEC.

During the discussions, many distinguished delegates from the member countries commented on these contributions with special reference to their experiences regarding regional economic groupings.

Following extensive discussions on the subject, Senior officials noted a number of peculiarities and characteristics of globalization and regionalization and shared certain views on the implications of these trends for the member countries.

Now, I will try to bring to your kind attention some of these trends and implications.

During our deliberations we have noted that:

- i) Globalization and regionalization or regional economic and/or trading groupings (REGs) are two powerful and interrelated forces currently shaping the World Economy;
- ii) Globalization is a multi-faceted process which includes rapid growth of international trade and capital flows, the increasing importance of services in both trade and foreign direct investments, the global integration of production processes, and institutional harmonization among countries with regard to trade, tax and investment policies and other regulations;

- iii) Those who do not seek to take an active part in the globalization process would be relegated to the margin;
- iv) Globalization created increased opportunities for trade, much larger foreign direct investment flows, technologies, skills and market access for developing and transitional countries;
- v) For the least developed member countries where the globalization process has not progressed as much as in other countries. It should be kept in mind that they represent a special challenge that needs a very special attention from the international community;
- vi) Despite the strengthening of the multilateral trading system through GATT/WTO, the Regional Economic Groupings have assumed even greater importance in recent years. They are growing in number and are expanding, and there are tentative moves to link them together;
- vii) Most of the major Regional Economic Groupings, such as NAFTA, and especially the EU, which have created a large economic bloc or space, are intensifying not only their vertical integration by enlarging their scope of activities, but also their horizontal integration through the launching of a process aimed at expanding their borders;
- viii) Regional Economic Groupings would create prospects of enhanced economic growth, stemming from the opportunity to exploit economies of scale, regional specialisation and learning-by-doing, as well as attracting investment by expanding the regional market;

Senior Officials then concluded that:

- i) OIC member countries should forge ahead with their existing sub-regional integration arrangements while increasing cross ties with other sub-regional groupings in the region. This may particularly be effective for the existing sub-OIC Regional Economic Groupings, such as Economic Cooperation Organization, Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab-Maghreb Union, since their members would stand to gain from deeper forms of integration. This sub or intra-regional co-operation may serve as the nucleus for broader and wider economic integration;
- ii) OIC member countries should try to create strong economic units capable of facing the challenges emanating from the emergence of large economic blocs as one of the means to ensure fuller participation in the globalisation process.

The points, together with others, which I have brought to your kind attention, are included in the Draft Resolution number one already made available to the honourable delegates in three languages.

This completes my presentation of the summary of the deliberation on the "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings on the Economies of Member Countries" held at the Senior Officials level.

Thank you.

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RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

Original : English

**RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

The Thirteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 1 to 4 November 1997;

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed at the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Also recalling the resolutions of ministerial meetings held under the auspices of the COMCEC in different areas of cooperation;

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted at the twelve previous Sessions of the COMCEC and the recommendations made at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Follow-up Committee;

Reaffirming the commitment to remove all obstacles to closer economic cooperation among OIC member countries with a view to promoting their economic integration;

Taking into consideration the Resolution adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC calling for an exchange of views on important world economic developments concerning member countries at the annual COMCEC sessions;

Taking cognizance of the need to follow-up the outcome of the exchange of views sessions and to coordinate in relevant international fora the positions of Member Countries in the areas covered at these sessions;

Noting with appreciation the holding of the Workshop on "Implications of Globalization and Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union, for the Economies of Member Countries", jointly organized by SESRTCIC and IDB on 18-19 September 1997 in Ankara, the results of which constituted a major input for the exchange of views conducted during the Session;

Noting the progress reports submitted by the General Secretariat and related institutions of OIC on the agenda items;

Reports of the General Secretariat

Background Report

1. **Expresses appreciation** for the Background Report by the General Secretariat on the progress achieved by the COMCEC;
2. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme and the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investments and Export Credit, established by the Islamic Development Bank, in pursuance of a decision of the first COMCEC Session, are functioning successfully, and urges the Member Countries who have not yet done so, to join these schemes as early as possible;
3. **Also notes with satisfaction** that IDB has established the OIC Information Systems Network (OIC-ISNET) and invites member countries to make necessary arrangements to secure maximum benefit from it;
4. **Appreciates** that ICDT has established TINIC which is accessible either through Internet or through OIC-ISNET;

5. **Urges** Member Countries that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify at an early date various agreements and statutes in the field of economic cooperation, drawn up or concluded by OIC;

6. **Appreciates** the efforts of OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely SESRTCIC, ICDT, IIT, IDB, ICCI, IMB and ISA and appeals to member countries to give the needed support and assistance to these institutions so that they continue to perform their functions effectively.

World Economic Developments With Special Reference to OIC Member Countries

7. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to SESRTCIC and ICDT for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, an "Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries" containing up-dated information concerning economic and trade developments in member countries within the context of world economic developments;

8. **Takes note** of the promising prospects of the world economy that might positively affect OIC Countries, and of difficulties facing the OIC Countries reflected in fluctuating growth rates, unsatisfactory growth of per capita incomes, deteriorating trade balances and mounting debt problems of the majority of member states, despite the favourable developments in their economies during the period 1995/96.

9. **Requests** SESRTCIC and ICDT to continue monitoring Developments in OIC Countries and regularly report on these developments to the COMCEC.

Implementation of The Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries.

10. **Appreciates** the holding of the Sectoral Experts' Group Meeting on "Money, Finance and Capital Flows" from 1-3 September 1997, in Istanbul, and thanks the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting it;

11. **Also appreciates** the holding of the Sectoral Experts' Group Meeting on "Foreign Trade" on 24-25 October 1997, in Karachi, and thanks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting it;
12. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to closely follow-up the results of the two sectoral experts' group meetings, held in Istanbul and Karachi, with a view to forming the "Project Committees" for the project proposals tabled during the meetings, as stipulated in the Plan of Action;
13. **Urges** member countries to forward to the OIC General Secretariat their responses to the project proposals put forward at the sectoral experts' group meetings held in Istanbul and Karachi for the formation of the above mentioned project committees at the earliest possible date;
14. **Notes with appreciation** that the Republic of Senegal has organized, with the financial assistance of EDB and in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC and ICDT, a regional workshop for African member countries on the Plan of Action, on 28-29 April 1997, in Dakar, and urges that similar workshops be held in other parts of OIC Member States;
15. **Welcomes** the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host sectoral experts' group meetings in the areas of "Transport and Communications" and "Food, Agricultural and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action;
16. **Welcomes** the initiative of the Republic of Indonesia to host a sectoral Experts Group Meeting on Tourism from 8-10 November 1997, in Jakarta, to be followed by a Ministerial Meeting on Tourism on 11-12 November;
17. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host a sectoral experts' group meeting in the area of "Technology and Technical Cooperation" from 6-8 May 1998, in Ankara;
18. **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an experts' group meeting in 1998 on health and sanitary issues to be followed by a ministerial meeting on the same topics;

19. **Welcomes** the offer of Burkina Faso to host, in 1998, a regional workshop on Industry, for east, west and central African OIC member countries, in cooperation with IDB and other related OIC institutions;
20. **Favourably Welcomes** the offer of Gabon to organize, in February 1998, a sub-regional seminar for the OIC States of Central and East Africa on "the role of IDB in the promotion of the private sector". This seminar will be organized in cooperation with IDB and the other institutions concerned of the OIC.
21. **Invites** Member States to host sectoral or intersectoral experts' group meetings in other areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action;
22. **Welcomes** the offer made by the Republic of Lebanon to host the 7th Islamic Trade Fair, in 1998, and the offer of the United Arab Emirates to host the 8th Islamic Trade Fair in the year 2000;
23. **Invites** member states to continue to participate actively in the Islamic Trade Fairs.
24. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to continually submit to the Annual Sessions of the COMCEC a periodical review of the Plan of Action, taking into account the rapid developments in world economy.

Matters Relating to WTO, Trade and Development

Technical Assistance by the Islamic Development Bank in Matters Relating to Accession to WTO

25. **Appreciates** the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank to assist OIC Member Countries in their endeavours to become active members of WTO, and the initiative taken by IDB to organize consultations among member states at the WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore in December 1996;

26. **Takes note with appreciation** that IDB has organized a number of seminars and workshops on the accession to WTO as well as on matters dealing with URA for member countries to discuss their problems in regard to their accession to WTO;

27. **Requests** IDB to pursue its assistance to member countries in their efforts to become members of WTO and to benefit more efficiently from the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

Mechanism for Consultation Among Member States

28. **Concurs**, after consideration of a proposal submitted by the OIC General Secretariat, with the following:

- The Uruguay Round, as well as other issues raised in WTO, may be a permanent item on the agenda of the COMCEC and its Follow-up Committee,

The General Secretariat and the concerned institutions of OIC, namely, ICDT, ICCI, SESRTCIC, IDB shall monitor and report on the activities of WTO and other relevant organizations, particularly UNCTAD, the UN General Assembly, UNIDO and WITO in their respective fields of competence, which are of importance and interest to Member States, and to the COMCEC and other OIC bodies,

- Meetings of OIC Member States shall be convened with regard to WTO Meetings and related issues, for consultation and coordination of positions. IDB shall take the initiative for arranging such meetings, in close cooperation with ICDT and other related OIC institutions.

Cooperation Among the Private Sectors of OIC Member Countries

29. **Appreciates** the efforts of ICCI to organize annual Private Sector Meetings, prior to the annual COMCEC sessions and calls for their continuation;
30. **Takes note with appreciation** of the report submitted by ICCI on the Fourth Private Sector Meeting which shows a growing interest of the private sector representatives in these meetings, reflected in the number of participating countries, business transactions made and joint venture projects agreed upon through bilateral and multilateral contacts;
31. **Expresses appreciation** to the ICCI for hosting and organizing the Fourth Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Board of Investment and Export Promotion Bureau, which was held from 27 to 29 October 1997, in Karachi;
32. **Notes with appreciation** the recommendations contained in the Report of the Fourth Private Sector Meeting which focused on steps to be taken to strengthen the role of the private sector in the Economic Cooperation process among Member Countries and requests governments to implement them.
33. **Encourages** the federations of chambers of commerce and industry of the member countries to develop a framework for closer cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programs aimed at enhancing trade and investments among Islamic countries;
34. **Appreciates** the offer of the Republic of Lebanon and the UAE to host the fifth and seventh Private Sector Meetings in 1998 and the year 2000, respectively.

"Preparation of the Islamic Ummah for the 21st Century In the Areas of Economic, Trade and Financial Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries."

35. **Notes with appreciation** the paper, an earlier version of which was also submitted by IDB to the extraordinary Summit Meeting held in Islamabad on 23 March 1997, entitled "Preparation of the Islamic Ummah for the 21st Century in the Areas of Economic, Trade and Financial Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries" which contains useful insights and implications for economic cooperation among member countries;

36. **Agrees on** the request of IDB to submit the document as a general framework to the senior officials of the 8th Islamic Summit for their consideration and further guidance; and urges the IDB to undertake in consultations with the relevant OIC organs, to draw up in the light of the directives of the Summit, a comprehensive implementation plan.

Draft Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries.

37. **Expresses appreciation** for the preparation of the Draft Statute at the Experts' Group Meeting on Standardization, held in Istanbul, on 3-4 September 1996;

38. **Agrees** that the Draft Statute needs to be further examined from a legal and technical points of view;

39. **Urges** member countries to communicate to the OIC General Secretariat by the end of December 1997 at the latest, their comments and suggestions on the Draft Statute;

40. Requests that the Experts' Group on Standardization meeting be convened, with the presence of OIC General Secretariat, in Turkey, by the end of March 1998 at the latest, to review and improve the Draft Statute of the Institute, in conformity with legal and technical concepts and norms. The new draft should take into consideration comments and suggestions of Member States as well as remarks expressed at the 13th Session of COMCEC. This revised text shall be submitted to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee for appropriate action.

Exchange of Views on "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings, Particularly the European Union, for the Economies of Member Countries"

41. Takes note with appreciation of the conclusions contained in the Report of the Workshop on "Implications of Globalization and Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union, for the Economies of the OIC Member Countries" held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on 18-19 September 1997, jointly organized by SESRTCIC and IDB, with the contributions of ICDT and ICCI and prominent scholars and experts from universities and research centers as well as from international institutions;

42. Expresses appreciation to SESRTCIC for the submission of the conclusions of the Workshop on various aspects of the implications of regional economic groupings particularly the European Union for member countries;

43. Also thanks the representative of UNCTAD for his contribution which shed further light on the effects of the European Union on the foreign trade and economies of OIC member countries;

Observes and concludes, after extensive discussions, that:

- i) In Africa and the Least Developed Member Countries, gains from globalization has not progressed as much as in other regions which poses a special challenge that requires the special attention of the international community;
- ii) Despite a stronger multilateral trading system through GATT/WTO, the REGs have assumed even greater importance in recent years. They are growing in number and are expanding, and there are attempts to link them;
- iii) Most of the major REGs, such as NAFTA, and especially the EU, which have created large economic blocs or entities, are intensifying not only their vertical integration by enlarging their scope of activities, but also their horizontal integration as well as expanding their membership;
- iv) REGs could create prospects for enhanced economic growth, through opportunities to exploit economies of scale, regional specialisation, learning-by-doing, and attracting investment by expanding the regional markets;
- v) REGs have also enhanced prospects for sustained domestic policy adjustments, including unilateral trade liberalisation and the promotion of an environment conducive to the maintenance of macroeconomic stabilisation, particularly in developing countries and in the economies in transition;

- vi) Non-tariff measures such as technical barriers, health and quality regulations, antidumping actions and rules of origin, as well as problems associated with market accession and distribution channels constitute effective hurdles to the exports of OIC members to the EU and other markets, and they are becoming more significant than tariff barriers;
- vii) In cooperation with relevant international organisations such as UNCTAD, specific ways and means should be identified for economic cooperation and the establishment of joint ventures among member countries to overcome these hurdles and, concurrently, contribute to the structural transformation of member countries, in particular those dependent on commodity exports;
- viii) The enlargement of regional economic groupings outside OIC has, and will continue to have, both positive and negative impacts on the international trade of OIC member countries. It is important to understand these impacts on a product basis for important export items of member countries. It would be desirable to adopt a platform based on substantive analyses so that negotiations with such groupings would alleviate the negative impacts on affected member countries;
- ix) The OIC member countries cannot remain indifferent to regional schemes, (to which they do not yet have access and which virtually cover all their major export markets), including those in Europe and north America;
- x) The main impact of regional schemes will be on trade, investment and technology;
- xi) OIC member countries should forge ahead with their existing bilateral relations and integration arrangements while increasing cross ties with other groupings within OIC. This may particularly be effective for groupings, such as ECO, the League of Arab States, GCC and AMU,

since their members would stand to gain from closer forms of integration. This may serve as the nucleus for broader and wider economic cooperation;

- xii) OIC member countries should try to create strong economic units capable of facing the challenges emanating from the emergence of large economic blocs, as one of the means to ensure fuller participation in the globalisation process.

Organizational Matters

45. **Agrees** that the Fourteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and the Fourteenth Session of the COMCEC be convened, from 9 to 11 May, in Ankara and, from 1 to 4 November 1998, in Istanbul, respectively;

46. **Decides** that "Intra-OIC Trade and Investments and Economic Stabilisation and Structural Reforms in Member Countries" be the theme for the exchange of views sessions to be organized during the Fourteenth Session of the COMCEC, and encourages SESRTCIC and ICDT, in collaboration with related OIC and other international institutions, to organize a workshop on the topic, prior to the 14th COMCEC and submit its report to the Session;

47. **Invites** Member Countries to submit to the 14th Session of the COMCEC country reports reflecting their experiences in the subject matter of the exchange of views;

48. **Requests** the Follow-up Committee, at its Fourteenth Meeting, to draw up the draft agenda of the Fourteenth Session of the COMCEC and recommend alternative themes on which exchange of views would take place during subsequent COMCEC sessions;

49. **Requests** SESRTCIC and ICDDT to continue to submit to subsequent COMCEC sessions, reports on world economic developments with special reference to member countries;
50. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to communicate to Member States the dates of the Fourteenth Session of the COMCEC and the Fourteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee;
51. **Also requests** the OIC General Secretariat, in cooperation with the COMCEC Coordination Office, to submit to the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 9-11 December 1997, a detailed progress report on the activities of the COMCEC.

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**RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME COUNTRIES**

(Istanbul, 1-4 November 1997)

Original: English

**RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME COUNTRIES**

(Istanbul, 14 November 1997)

The Thirteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in Istanbul, 14 November 1997;

A. Economic Measures in Support of Palestine

Recalling the resolutions adopted by Islamic Summits in support of the Palestinian people,

Recalling also the previous resolutions adopted earlier by the Standing Committee at Ministerial Meetings and at meetings of other committees,

Recalling Further the resolutions adopted by the 24th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in support of Palestine,

Noting with great interest the role played by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-rule regions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with a view to improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and building up the national economy,

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. **Reaffirms** the previous resolutions advocating the provision of all forms of economic support as well as technical, material and moral assistance in support of the Palestinian people and the Palestine National Authority so that they may implement the Palestinian development programmes.

3. **Commends** the efforts made by the Palestine National Authority in the realm of economic development despite the unchanged policy of the Israeli government which seeks to destroy the Palestinian economy and prevent the implementation of the Palestinian economic development programs.

4. Urges Member states and OIC relevant bodies to extend as early as possible material assistance to the Palestine National authority programmes in the context of the economic development plan in Palestine for the three coming years.

5. **Reaffirms** its support to the Palestine National Authority in its confrontation with the unchanged and continued Israel policy which violates all agreements signed during the peace process, exposing it to total collapse, because of this Israeli policy which seeks to destroy the Palestinian economy through various measures, primarily imposing a siege and isolation as well as starving the Palestinian people.

6. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at implementing the previous resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and submit a progress report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

B. Assistance to Lebanon

Taking cognizance of the difficulties encountered by Lebanon as a result of the continued occupation by Israel of part of its southern territory and western areas and of recurrent Israeli aggressions as well as of its devastation of Lebanese, cities, villages, installations and public utilities

Realizing the extent of Lebanon's crucial need to finance the reconstruction of its infrastructure and the development of its economic sectors,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Lebanese authorities to secure the funds needed to finance the implementation of its plan for urban reconstruction and economic development through all available means, including assistance and loans,

1. **Expresses** its appreciation for the assistance provided by some Member states and by the relevant subsidiary organs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference;
2. **Reaffirms** its previous resolutions calling for financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon, in the light of its needs in the economic, cultural and training fields;
3. **Reaffirms and Reiterates** the appeal made by the Twenty-Second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to the International Community calling for its contribution to the International Fund for the Reconstruction of Lebanon to ensure the effectiveness of this Fund;
4. **Calls** again on OIC Member States and on all regional and international organizations to provide Lebanon with all forms of urgent financial and in kind assistance so that it may reconstruct what was destroyed by Israel and consolidate the steadfastness of the Lebanese people in the regions occupied by Israel.

C. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Expresses** its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy;
3. **Urges** OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and International Organizations to grant generous economic assistance to Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.

D. Economic Measures in Support of Uganda

Aware that the Government of the Republic of Uganda is currently experiencing serious constraints on its meager resources as a result of the influx of refugees from neighboring countries who flock into the country;

Recognizing that Uganda is hosting large numbers of refugees whose number will increase if the state of unrest continues to escalate,

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Invites** Member States and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugee problem and other related consequences.
3. **Requests** that this resolution remain on the COMCEC agenda until the problem is solved.

E. Economic Measures in Support of Afghanistan

Taking into account that Afghanistan is currently faced by serious constraints due to 17 years of war;

Noting that about 70 to 85 % of its economic and social infrastructures were destroyed;

Aware that over 1.5 million Afghans were killed, about 1.5 million disabled and more than 5 million displaced;

Recognizing that about ten million mines were planted in different parts of the country;

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Urges** Member Countries to provide assistance to Afghanistan to solve its problems.

F. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Somalia

Deeply concerned at the critical situation in Somalia and expressing the desire for early restoration of peace and order in that sister member country,

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia to end the human suffering in this Muslim country.

3. **Commends** those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.

G. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Recalling relevant Resolution 18/23-E of the Twenty-Fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan after attainment of independence and sovereignty;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

Expressing its sympathy towards the consequences of the natural disasters which struck the territory of Kyrgyzstan, thus affecting the socio-economic level of the brotherly people;

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. **Appeals** to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyzstan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organizations so as to enable Kyrgyzstan to fulfill its economic programme;

3. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan.

4. **Requests** the secretary general to follow up this matter and to report to the ICFM and the COMCEC.

H. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Recalling the Resolutions adopted at the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers regarding the situation in Azerbaijan resulting from aggression by neighboring Armenia;

Confirming the full solidarity of the Member Countries of the OIC with the Government and people of Azerbaijan at this grave and very critical time of the country's history;

Expressing its deep concern at the aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan seeking to secure territorial gains while causing great loss of innocent life and property;

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding the conflict.

Deploring the Armenian hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh district of Azerbaijan followed by the occupation of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which forced almost one million Azeri people to flee their homes in the face of the brutal attacks and gross violations of human rights by this aggression;

Attaching primordial importance to the immediate evacuation of the occupied Azeri territories and to the return of the refugees to their homes.

Recognizing the need to demonstrate in more concrete terms the solidarity of the OIC Member Countries with the Government and people of Azerbaijan;

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. **Urges** the international community to make serious and tangible efforts and take immediate action to end the occupation of the Azeri territories by Armenian forces and ensure their unconditional withdrawal thus restoring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

3. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic assistance with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Azeri people.

4. **Requests** the international organizations to maintain urgent humanitarian and financial assistance to Azerbaijan.

I. Economic Measures in Support of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Inspired by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference emphasizing the common goals and destiny of the peoples of the Islamic Ummah and their commitment to the consolidation of international peace and security.

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina who were victims of the brutal aggression by the Serbs.

Taking also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the Special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th Meetings of the OIC Foreign Ministers which were held in Karachi, Casablanca, Conakry, Jakarta respectively and the Seventh OIC Summit.

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilization Group for Bosnia-Herzegovina, formed 1995 during the Kuala Lumpur meeting of the OIC Contact Group Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to Member States, Islamic institutions and philanthropists to make generous donations as well as provide financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB Programme aimed at providing humanitarian and material assistance for reconstruction purposes to the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
3. **Also appeals** to the International Community as well as to the OIC Member States to fulfil the Pledges made during the Third Donors Conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina held in Brussels early in 1997.
4. **Expresses** its appreciation for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
5. **Calls** upon the International Community to take immediate efficient measures for full implementation of the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement and particularly to create conditions for free return of refugees to their homes, as well as to provide every economic support and assistance to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. Demands that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected along its internationally recognized borders.

J. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea

Noting that the Republic of Guinea has been facing for long years the influx of refugees on its territory of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone, due to the civil wars raging in these two countries,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question,

1. **Makes an urgent appeal** to the international community and Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with a substantial financial and material assistance to enable it to overcome the implications for the environment and her economy resulting from the presence on its national territory, of hundreds of thousands of refugees, whose majority are Muslims.
2. **Underlines** the urgent need for such assistance in order to enable the efficient organization of the return of refugees to their respective countries.
3. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank to extend financial assistance in the form of grant or soft term loans to the Republic of Guinea to enable the latter build the required social infrastructure for these refugees while reducing the degradation of the environment resulting from the presence of so many refugees.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and to the COMCEC.

K. Assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone

Recalling the pertinent Resolution of the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling also relevant resolutions adopted by the 23rd and 24th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking note of the recent political developments in Sierra-Leone the disruption of economic activities and the displacement of the most productive section of the local population, including the mining areas which have resulted in a complete loss of revenue to Government and to the private sector as a whole,

1. **Urgently appeals** to the International Community and to Member States to extend substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone so as to enable her to cope with this critical situation resulting from the Political Uncertainties in the country.
2. **Urges** Member States and the International Community to provide Sierra Leone with emergency aid to help it attenuate the suffering of her people through the Internationally recognized Government of Sierra-Leone, taking into consideration the letter and spirit of the Conakry Accord.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

L. Assistance to the Kashmiri People

Having taken cognizance of the resolution of the 24th ICFM, held in Jakarta, in 1996,

Having taken note of the Resolution adopted on the question by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 13 to 15 December 1994,

Recalling relevant Resolution of the Twenty-Fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Philanthropists, to contribute generously towards providing relief and humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.
3. **Invites** the General Secretariat to follow up the question and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the COMCEC.

M. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Yemen

Having taken cognizance of the recommendation of the 24th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, in December 1996.

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen which arose from the burdens of reunification and the big losses caused by the aborted secession attempt in June 1994;

Appreciating the efforts exerted by the Yemeni Government to rebuild what was destroyed by the war and the development of the Yemeni economy;

Taking into consideration further burdens borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighboring African countries;

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries;

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States and the other regional and international organizations to extend all kind of economic assistance to help the reconstruction efforts of the Yemeni Government.

N. Economic Assistance to Countries Affected by Drought and Natural Disasters.

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by natural disasters, drought and desertification, and the ensuing damaging effects on economic and social conditions specially in the sectors of agriculture and food, economic and social infrastructures as well as public services and utilities;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by some Member States and the Islamic Development Bank which have extended and continue to extend technical and financial assistance as well as aid to Member States stricken by drought and natural disasters;

Fully aware that afflicted Member States, most of them belonging to the category of the Least-Developed, cannot by themselves, bear the growing burden of anti-drought and anti-desertification campaign and the implementation of major related projects;

Having taken cognizance of the report and recommendations of the 20th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Expresses** its gratitude to Member States, which have provided and are still providing assistance and food aid to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.
3. **Urges** the international community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.
4. **Appeals** to Member States to extend assistance to OIC countries of IGADD to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which is threatening them.

O. Assistance to Sahelian African States Afflicted by Desertification, Drought and Locust Invasion

Having taken cognizance of resolution (27/7-IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit on Islamic Solidarity with the Peoples of the Sahel;

Taking into account the need for the urgent implementation of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel, which could be compromised if not implemented as soon as possible.

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Urges** Member States to provide emergency assistance to Sahelian countries so as to allow them face the critical situation arising from food deficit and threat of Locust invasion in the region.

3. **Expresses** its appreciation of the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, CILSS and the IDB in the elaboration and finalization of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.
4. **Reaffirms** the necessity of giving priority to the rapid implementation of the Special OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.
5. **Appeals** urgently to Member States to contribute generously and substantially to the funding of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme in favour of the Sahel Populations so as to crystalize the OIC Member States solidarity with these populations, alleviate their sufferings and ensure sustained development for the Sahel region.
6. **Appreciates** the invitation of the State of Kuwait to host the meeting of the Expert Group entrusted with the consideration of the new programme of the African Sahehan Countries and urges the States who wish to attend to participate effectively in any forthcoming meeting, with a view to expediting the implementation of the programme.
7. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to follow up this matter and report to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and to the COMCEC.

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**MESSAGE OF H.E. DR. AZEDDINE LARAKI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

(Istanbul, 4 November 1997)

**MESSAGE OF H.E. DR. AZEDDENE LARAKI,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 4 November 1997)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Hon'ble President of the Republic of Turkey, the Chairman of COMCEC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Distinguished delegates,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

As we come to the close of the Thirteenth Session of the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, we express our gratitude to Allah Subhanut'aala for the successful conclusion of our work. The deliberations of the last two days at ministerial level, which was preceded, by deliberations for two days at senior official's level, have been fruitful and constructive. I am sure, it will make positive contribution to the overall work of the COMCEC.

It is indeed a matter of satisfaction that the Standing Committee assiduously dealt with the various aspects relating to its prime concern i.e. the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States. As the Thirteenth session of COMCEC was held soon after the holding of the Sectoral Expert Group Meetings heralding the commencement of the process of implementation of the objectives of the Plan of Action, it had the opportunity to deliberate on the work of these Expert Group meetings and ponder over the next phase of activities in this respect. This will provide necessary guidance and impetus to the follow-up activities, which lie ahead.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

It is equally important that the Committee has addressed the very important issue of holding regular consultations among the Member States on WTO matters to be organised during future WTO Ministerial meetings. Adoption of a concrete mechanism for holding these consultations is an important step forward. This will help effective coordination of position of Member States on issues of common concern.

The decision to keep the issue of monitoring the developments concerning the WTO matters as a regular item in the agenda of future COMCEC Sessions, is a step in the right direction as the decisions of the WTO are destined to heavily influence the economic performance of the Member States for many years to come.

The exchange of views session held on the issue of implications on the regional economic groupings has been a useful exercise. This helped to bring out the pertinent issues under the focus. The outcome of the deliberations on the matter, particularly the in-depth analysis of all relevant factors undertaken at the workshop preparatory to the holding of the exchange of views session will help member States to appreciate the nature and extent of the implications of regional economic groupings for their respective economies and enable them to plan necessary measures to protect their interests.

To conclude, Hon'ble Chairman, let me stress that the contributions made by the successful holding of this, or for that matter, any session of the COMCEC can be translated into concrete results if the required political will of the Member States are forthcoming in the form of their effective participation in the various programmes and activities that are planned at the level of the Standing Committee to implement the provisions of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States. A coordinated approach to this issue will, insha-Allah help reach our goal in a speedy and satisfactory manner.

To end, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciations to all those who have actively contributed to make this Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC a success.

Wassalarnu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatah

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. ROBBY KOESMAN DRAGMAN,
MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 4 November 1997)

Original: English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. ROBBY KOESMAN DRAGMAN,
MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM
DELIVERED AT THE
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

(Istanbul, 4 November 1997)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahiem

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies Distinguished Ministers,
H.E. Assistant Secretary General of the OIC
H.E. President of the Islamic Development Bank,
Secretary General of the ICCI
Honourable delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamo Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.

I feel honoured to express the appreciations and feelings on behalf of all the delegates participated in this august meeting of the COMCEC being held in this metropolitan city of Istanbul.

First of all I would like to thank Allah Almighty, the Beneficent, the Merciful for His blessing which has bestowed on this gathering and gave guidance and wisdom to the leaders of the Islamic countries to identify the economical problems faced by the Ummah and to strive for their resolutions . On behalf of all of us here present and especially on behalf of our respected Governments and people I would like to express our

deepest appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Süleyman Demirel President of the Republic of Turkey for his kind patronage to this meeting.

I also convey the gratitude of the respective countries to the Government of Turkey and the people of Turkey for their warm hospitality and excellent organizing capability.

We also express our sincere thanks to the Chairman of this meeting for his inspiring and excellent leadership, the Rapporteurs of this meeting and the Secretarial Services of the supporting staff who have put the scattered work on a proper forum by working day and night. In total approximately 6750 men hours have been spent to prepare and to implement all the secretarial work.

We furthermore wish to voice our thanks to the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference and his staff, the President of Islamic Development Bank and his staff, the Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industries and his staff, and all the involved leaders and workers of the SESTRIC, the ICTD, the IIT, the IRCICA, the IRTI, the ICIEC and all the other relevant organizations and institutions of the OIC for their substantial contribution to the highly satisfactory performance of our Organizations.

We also convey our deepest appreciation to the contributions made by the Ministers and delegates of about more than 40 countries which are progressing under the golden principles of Islam.

I must congratulate all the participants of the various countries for the produced quality work. By the grace of the Almighty and with the cooperation of brothers and sisters in Islam the conference has been able to prepare and produce various resolutions and valuable documents which will pave the way to meaningful cooperation among Islamic countries and

will bring them closer to each other. This will enable us to be more successful in all our efforts to serve the interests of our nations.

The most encouraging aspect of the conference has been the expression of tolerance of the delegates against different views of others which is an expression of the principles of Islam and the need of to day. While entering the new millennium we need to understand each others point of views, remain united and work out a common strategy to encounter the threat from outside our global Ummah.

Mr. Chairman,

While this conference has been a great success ,the delegates from various countries have made excellent contributions to identify problems, faced by the Ummah and have given valuable recommendations to resolve the issues.

We do hope that the output of this conference will be taken as an action Plan and the papers submitted by certain countries on special matters would be taken as "Identified Project", I am very confident that by doing so our work will remain dynamic and progressive.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Delegates,

In the end I would like once again to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciations to the Government and the kind people of Turkey, all of you and all those who have been directly or indirectly worked with us during this very successful meeting.

I avail myself this opportunity to pray to Almighty Allah to crown with success your ceaseless efforts to serve the causes of the Muslim Ummah and to improve its condition.

May Allah SWT bestow His devine blessings upon you all and grant you a safe and peaceful journey home and may Allah SWT in His infinite wisdom constantly guide our hearts in the spirit of Islamic brotherhood, today and always.

Ameen.

Wassalaam

I thank you Excellency.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. İŞİN ÇELEBİ,
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

(Istanbul, 4 November 1997)

Original : Turkish

**STATEMENT BY H.E. İŞİN ÇELEBİ,
MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY,
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

(Istanbul, 4 November 1997)

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

I first wish to express my satisfaction at the successful conclusion of another COMCEC Session.

We owe this successful conclusion to the active participation of the distinguished delegates, that of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and of other international institutions participating in our Session. I thank each and everyone for his valuable contribution.

During our deliberations, we have considered some important issues relevant to the development and promotion of economic and trade cooperation among our sister countries.

It is gratifying to note that concrete steps have been taken towards the implementation of the Plan of Action with the convening of two sectoral experts group meetings this year. One on "Money, Finance and Capital Movements" hosted by Turkey, and one on "Foreign Trade" hosted by Pakistan. I believe that the project proposals made at these meetings will be translated into concrete action through effective action taken by member countries.

The mechanism we agreed upon for consultation among member countries, on matters related to the World Trade Organization, will create new opportunities for cooperation. It is gratifying to note that the Islamic Development Bank has initiated a programme to extend technical assistance to member countries aspiring to accede to the World Trade Organization.

Another satisfactory development is the Information Systems Network project (OIC-ISNET), carried out by the Islamic Development Bank operational . As you are aware, the project also includes the Trade Information Network, a COMCEC project carried out by the Casablanca Center.

I am confident that the OIC-ISNET Project will fill a vast gap in this age to cope with the ongoing revolutionary progress in the field of communications.

The exchange of views we had on "The Implications of Regional Groupings, Especially the European Union, on the Economies of the Member Countries" has been most useful, since regional cooperation, one of the most significant world trends, together with globalization, affect all countries and will remain as important in the future.

The choice of "Foreign Trade and Investments in Member Countries and Economic Stabilization Measures", which is a current and interesting issue, as the theme of the exchange of views for the next COMCEC Session, is a pertinent decision.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Despite favorable developments resulting from the work of the COMCEC since its inception, there is still need for a more powerful

political will and a cooperation approach, in conformity with developments in the World, in order to bring the economic cooperation among our sister countries to a satisfactory level.

Moreover, measures to increase intra-OIC trade, which is still at a low level, and to facilitate the flow of labor, capital and goods are priority objectives in this context.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding, I would like to suggest that we consider ways and means to celebrate, here in Istanbul, in the year 2000, the advent of the Twenty-first Century as "The Century of Islamic Countries".

The Follow-up Committee shall consider this proposal, at its 14th meeting to be held next May, and submit their recommendations to us for further action.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all delegations participating in this session for their contributions and extend my best wishes to the people and governments of the sister Islamic countries.

Hoping that you will, once again, carry good memories of Istanbul, I wish you all a safe journey to home.

I declare The Thirteenth Session of the COMCEC closed.

