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REPORT

41ST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

SESSION OF EXPLORING AREAS OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

18-19 JUNE 2014

20-21 SHABAAN 1435H

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1. The 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Exploring Areas of Islamic Cooperation) was held on 20-21 Shabaan 1435H (18-19 June, 2014) in Jeddah, at the generous invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
2. The meeting was opened with recitation of the Holy Quran.
3. Mr. Louceny Fall, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea and chairman of the 40th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) delivered a speech that highlighted the significant accomplishments achieved during his country's chairmanship of the CFM.
4. After that, the Meeting unanimously elected His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as chairman of the 41st Session of the CFM. The Meeting also adopted the composition of the bureau as follows: Republic of Afghanistan, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the State of Palestine as vice chairs; and the Republic of Guinea as rapporteur.
5. The participating delegates listened to the statement delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, as he expressed his appreciation for the election of his country to chair the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Minister, and confirmed his country's determination to devote its chairmanship to uplift the OIC to achieve the objectives and purposes of the Islamic Ummah, and strengthen solidarity and cooperation between the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation. He further reiterated the necessity to unite ranks and reconsolidate efforts in order to produce results that contribute to dealing with the crises sweeping through the region, in a manner that would help restore stability and advance the process of social and economic development.
6. His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal reviewed the current developments in the Islamic World, noting that the Palestinian issue was still challenged by the same obstacles, namely arrogance by the Israeli side and the persistent settlement and judaization policy adopted by Israel, in addition to the principle of the judaization of the Israeli State. He noted that the Palestinian national reconciliation process and the subsequent formation of the government was a significant step toward building the Palestinian State, with Al-Quds as capital.

7. On the Syrian crisis, His Royal Highness pointed that the situation was prone to further deterioration with more serious regional spillover effects, if the international community fails to take a firm position to put an end to the atrocities committed and to provide the Syrian people with the means to defend itself and prevent the Syrian cities and institutions from disintegrating. The statement also referred to the grave situation in Iraq which portends civil war that would have immeasurable implications on the region, and that the responsibility for the dangerous situation in Iraq is attributable to the policies of exclusion and sectarian approach of the Iraqi government.
8. The statement reiterated the Kingdom's position on renouncing violence and extremism, and made reference to the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz at the Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in 1426H, and his initiative to conduct a dialogue between Islamic schools of thought during the Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 1433H.
9. His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal expressed to the Member States deep appreciation of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for selecting Jeddah as a host city of the "Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission", and confirmed the Kingdom's willingness to exert all efforts possible to enable the Commission to carry out its mandated tasks.
10. His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine delivered a statement in which he reviewed the developments in the peace process, and the illegal practices by Israel in Al-Quds. He noted that Israel continues its settlement and judaization policy, and demanded the Member States to take a firm stance to protect Al-Quds against judaization and Israeli aggression. He confirmed that today more than any other day, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation is called upon to take a firm position on the Israeli's practices in Al-Quds. He further confirmed that the permanent invitation to visit Al-Quds Al-Sharif was aimed at reestablishing the right of Arabs, Muslims and Christians to visit Al-Quds and perform prayers there to show support to the city's unyielding residents. He noted that visiting a prisoner does not imply in any way establishing contact with the prison keeper or normalization of relations.
11. President Mahmoud Abbas stressed that the Israeli government stopped the negotiations by itself, but that they were ready to go for new negotiations for 9 months, in return for Israel fulfilling its commitments and releasing 30 prisoners. It would then go to intensive negotiations on one point – delineation of borders and the granting of 3 months moratorium within which Israel would stop settlement activities.
12. Mr Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, delivered a statement at the opening session in which he

reviewed the conditions of the Muslim world and highlighted the prominent roles of the OIC. He mentioned its role in dealing with the crisis in Central Africa and pointed out that it was working to convince all the political leadership to sign a document of renunciation of violence, which would form a prelude political negotiation leading to the formation of a national unity government, under which security can be restored, displaced persons would return to their homes, and elections would be held. On another hand, the Secretary General dealt with the OIC's efforts on the issue of Muslim minorities in Myanmar, stressing that the appointment of a special envoy of the Secretary General was aimed at creating movement that would lead to social peace by all the constituents of the community in Myanmar and organize platforms for dialogue between Muslim scholars and intellectuals and their Buddhist adversaries and the civil society organisations in order to emphasize historical commonalities and similar values. On another level, the statement referred to the efforts of the OIC through its special envoy to Mali and its effort to ensure that the political and developmental solution would go hand in hand with the security dimension. (The speech of the Secretary General is attached to this report.)

13. The Secretary General reviewed the dangers surrounding the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Quds, stressing that the General Secretariat would continue to work with all its energy through its organs and channels to serve the Palestinian cause. He noted that this called for openness and encouraging Muslims to visit Al-Quds Al-Shareef and pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in order to support Al-Quds and its inhabitants.
14. On the conflict in Southern Philippines, the Secretary General referred to the efforts of the General Secretariat in bringing together the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to form a united national front that would follow up the implementation of the new agreement and seek to link it with previous agreements closed by the Philippines government.
15. The Secretary General requested Member States to confront sectarian differences and fighting, counter evil campaigns against Islam and defend the rights of Muslim minorities.
16. On the economic front, the Secretary General called for the financing of medium and small scale enterprises. He mentioned that the OIC was working with the Islamic Development Bank to prepare joint strategies among Member States with similar products such as cotton. He also mentioned the effort of the General Secretariat to establish joint investment and production companies among Member States such as multi-national companies and bring about a clearer framework on Halal food standards and the adoption of certificate issuance based on the OIC Halal Food Standards and Rules.

17. On the humanitarian front, the Secretary General called for a review of the role of the OIC funds in the humanitarian and developmental field which are grappling with weak budgetary provisions and lack the General Secretariat's administrative authority.
18. The Secretary General called for support for the universities in Uganda, Niger and Bangladesh to provide support for their academic and administrative activities so that they can keep pace with other world universities and respond to contemporary requirements.
19. The Secretary General called for the protection of the Cyberspace against entities seeking to exploit it for their own gains through High-Level Domain Names with Islamic identity such as (Islam) and (Halal) and similar names that may emerge in the future, which could evoke such sensitivities and considerations as are being deliberated upon at the meetings of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). He referred to the effort of the General Secretariat to establish a specialized work group of Member States to follow up this important matter.
20. The Secretary General emphasized the need for cultural exchange among Member States, pointing out that the General Secretariat was working with the Islamic Development Bank to establish a fund to support cultural activities among Member States.
21. The representatives of the 3 geographical groups (Morocco for the Arab Group, Republic of Mali for the African Group and Bangladesh for the Asian Group) expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants. They also pledged the full cooperation of their groups with the Kingdom to ensure its successful chairing of the meeting.
22. The representative of the Secretary General to Central Africa, Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, former foreign minister of the Republic of Senegal, the representative of the Secretary General to Myanmar, Mr Hamid Bar, former foreign minister of Malaysia, and the representative of the Secretary General to Mali, Mr Djibril Basole, Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, addressed the meeting and reviewed the efforts made by the OIC to achieve peace and stability in those states.
- 23- The President of the Syrian National Council, Mr. Ahmed Al-Jarba, addressed the meeting and warned against Syria becoming a source of threat to the security of the region and of exporting terrorism because of the lack of the necessary means to fight it.

- 24- The Council adopted the report of the preparatory meeting of senior officials for the current session, held in Jeddah from 14 - 16 Rajab 1435H (13-15 May 2014). The Council also adopted the proposed agenda and the plan of action presented by the Senior Officials Meeting, and the reports of the Islamic Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs.
- 25- The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States and Heads of delegation addressed the meeting and presented the key challenges facing the Islamic world, stressing the need to promote Islamic solidarity and joint Islamic action to overcome these challenges.
26. The Council discussed several issues of interest to the Member States and took resolutions on the various issues at hand, including the implementation of the Ten-year Programme of Action; Palestine and Middle East issue; Organizational, Statutory and General issues; legal affairs; the situation of Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; information affairs; administrative and financial affairs; humanitarian issues; economic issues; science and technology; cultural and social affairs; family issues.
27. The Council of Foreign Ministers held a brainstorming session under theme: "Challenges of Peace in a Changing Islamic World: The OIC's vision". The session reviewed the major challenges facing the Islamic world and underlined the need to develop strategies and plans to strengthen the role of the Organization in peacekeeping and conflict resolution (Meeting Report Enclosed).
28. On the margin of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, meetings of the contact groups on the conditions in Mali, Somalia, Jammu Kashmir and the Muslim minority in Myanmar were held.
29. The Council unanimously adopted the "Jeddah Declaration" which addressed the major issues affecting the Islamic World.
30. The Council approved the proposal of the State of Kuwait to host the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in year 2015.
31. The Council took note of the proposal submitted by the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in 2016.

32. The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, extended thanks on behalf of all the delegates to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia, May God protect him, for his kind sponsorship of the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the facilities provided by the Kingdom to the delegates and the hospitality bestowed upon them, which contributed significantly to the success of the 41st Session.

Jeddah – 19 June, 2014