



**OIC/ACM-2018/FR-MEDIATION/REP
ANNEXE - IV**

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
OIC CONTACT GROUP OF FRIENDS OF MEDIATION**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

24 SEPTEMBER 2018

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1. The OIC Contact Group of Friends of Mediation, established under Resolution No. 53/45-POL on Strengthening the Mediation Capacity of the OIC, held its first meeting on 24 September 2018 in New York on the margins of the 73rd UN General Assembly.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries-members of the Group and the OIC Secretary General attended the inaugural meeting, which demonstrated the strong will of the Member States to reinforce the role, functions and capacity of the OIC in mediation.

2. H.E Dr. Youssef A. Al-Othaimen, OIC Secretary General, in his opening speech, underlined that the Muslim world is one of the world's most conflict and instability-ridden areas, and that there is need to make better use of mediation in peaceful resolution of conflicts. The OIC Secretary General reminded that mediation is recorded in the OIC Charter as one of the methods of peaceful settlement of disputes. He stated that despite the numerous successes recorded by the OIC in the area of mediation there was still need to build more capacities, thus the establishment of this Group is highly welcomed. He continued that this Contact Group would contribute to the key role that the Organization and Member States can play in the field of mediation and would provide benefit in strengthening their mediation capacities. The Secretary General informed that he received requests from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain expressing their interests to chair the Group.
3. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu thanked H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC for his support. He stated that the OIC Contact Group of Friends of Mediation could function to promote and advance the use of mediation in conflict prevention and resolution. In this respect, he shared his views about the future functions of the Group. He proposed that a meeting of the Contact Group should be organized at the level of senior officials on the sidelines of the Istanbul conference on 27th November 2018.
4. Members of the Contact Group expressed their commitment to work together to enhance the role, functions and capacity of mediation within the OIC. In their interventions, they underlined that mediation is a useful tool in conflict prevention and resolution, it is wider, and more effectively contribute to peace and security. In this respect, they highlighted the need to raise the visibility and profile of the Organization and its Member States in mediation in view of the persistence of several conflicts in and around the OIC states.

5. Differences of opinion emerged during the meeting regarding the chairing of the Group in view of the requests made by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain to chair the Group.
6. Turkey underlined that it was not opposed to co-chairing the Group with Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and the Secretary General. Meanwhile other states such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain stressed the importance of equitable geographical distribution with representation from the African, Arab and Asian Groups and the operationalization of the principle of rotation of the chair. Another view came up that the Secretary General should continue to chair the Group until the issue of chair is decided.
7. Member States underlined the importance of creation of this Contact Group to complement the OIC Contact Group on Peace and Conflict Resolution. Many of the member states suggested the necessity of further studying the modalities of the Contact Group in order to clarify its mandate in detail, to decide on the chair of the Group and agree on the ways of implementation of this important initiative. In this context, it was proposed that discussions of the Contact Group should continue at the level of permanent representatives in a meeting to be convened by the General Secretariat.