



*OIC/CFM-40 /2013/DECLARATION*

## **CONAKRY DECLARATION**

*ADOPTED BY THE*

**40<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF**

**THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF  
THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

*(SESSION OF DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS,  
FACTOR FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)*

**CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

**09-11 DECEMBER, 2013**

**CONAKRY DECLARATION**  
**ADOPTED BY THE**  
**40<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF**  
**THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF**  
**THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

**CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**  
**09-11 DECEMBER 2013**  
-----

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) participating in the 40th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC meeting in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, under the theme "*Dialogue of Civilizations as a Factor of Peace and Sustainable Development*".

Welcoming the holding, for the second time, of this conference in the Republic of Guinea, a country that has made an invaluable contribution to the development of Islam and has been a symbol of harmony, tolerance, solidarity and peaceful coexistence among the various religions;

Recognizing West Africa as one of the cradles of Islamic civilization;

Cognizant of the important role of the OIC as the largest intergovernmental organizations next only to the United Nations in peace building, security and international cooperation;

Consistent with the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti from 15 to 17 November 2012 and with the Final Communiqué of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers held in New York on 27 September 2013;

1. We hail the very high perceptiveness of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for his welcome initiative to convene the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Islamic Summit on 14-15 August 2012 in the holy city of Makkah.
2. We express our gratitude and appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for having hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference in Cairo on 6-7 February 2013 under the theme "*The Islamic world: New Challenges and Expanding Opportunities*"
3. We welcome the OIC's decision to hold the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference in Turkey in 2016.
4. We reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of our faith which upholds the values of peace, compassion, tolerance, equality, justice and human dignity for the Islamic Ummah and humanity as a whole. We further reaffirm our determination to promote global peace, cooperation and development.

5. We express our firm determination to invigorate the OIC and to consolidate its role as a means of promoting cooperation among our countries in order to meet the aspirations of our peoples and prepare the Islamic Ummah to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
6. We reaffirm that the cause of Palestine and al Quds al Sharif are core issues for the Islamic Ummah as a whole and reiterate the OIC's full support for the just cause of Palestine and the rights of the Palestinian people.
7. We reiterate our unwavering support for the efforts of the State of Palestine to mobilize appropriate support to foster the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their inalienable rights to self-determination and to return, and to a wider recognition by the international community, including the United Nations and its agencies, of the State of Palestine on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders.
8. We welcome the United Nation General Assembly's decision to upgrade the status of the Palestine to that of Observer State. We hail the important decision recently taken by many States to recognize the State of Palestine on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and urge States that have not yet done so, to fulfill, as soon as possible, their responsibilities under the United Nations Charter by recognizing the State of Palestine and supporting efforts aimed at ensuring that Palestine achieve full membership of the United Nations, and that it regain its rightful place in the international community.
9. We reaffirm our strong condemnation of all Israel's illegal policies and actions in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, particularly the current activities to open new Israeli settlements, construction of the annexation wall, demolition of Palestinian homes and expulsion of Palestinian families, with the ultimate aim of changing the demographic set-up and concealing the Arab-Islamic identity of occupied East Jerusalem in particular, all of these in flagrant violation of international law including International Humanitarian Law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.
10. We condemn the acts of provocation, violence, and incitement to terrorism by the Israeli settlers against the civilian Palestinian population, including damage to their farms and desecration, as such illegal acts will only fuel tension and religious sensitivities, which may further destabilize the situation on the ground.
11. We appeal for the protection of the holy Islamic and Christian places in the occupied Palestinian territory, in particular AL Quds al Sharif and for the respect of their sacred character and the right of freedom of access for all the Faithfull.
12. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the maintenance by Israel of the illegal and inhuman blockade against the Gaza Strip. We demand Israel, the occupying power, to put an end to its illegal collective sanctions imposed on the Palestinian people, to lift the blockade against the Gaza Strip and to fully comply with its obligations under the humanitarian international law and the human rights law.

13. We express our deep concern over the decision made by the Israeli government in 2012 to suspend all form of cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its refusal to meet with the UNESCO mission which was dispatched to consider the status of the old city of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage site.
14. We express our deep concern over the fate of thousands of Palestinians including at least 300 children imprisoned and detained by Israel, the occupying power. This inhuman practice is a blatant violation of the Geneva Convention. We underscore that the issue of Palestinian prisoners is a primary issue and constitute an important element in the achievement of a just peace in the region.
15. We welcome the efforts made by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, current Chairman of Al-Quds Committee and Beit Mal al-Quds Agency, for the preservation of the identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and support for the resistance of the Palestinian people in the holy city.
16. We pay tribute to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for having convened in June 2013 in Baku the Donors Conference for the strategic development Plan of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Conference for the Establishment of an Islamic Financial Safety Net in the State of Palestine.
17. We welcome efforts made by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the preservation of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and support for the resistance of the Palestinian people confronted with the Israel attempts designed to obliterate the Arab-Islamic-Christian identity of the city of Al Quds and to remove the Palestinian people from that city.
18. We reiterate our strong appreciation for the efforts made by His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Al-Hussein in the reconstruction of Islamic holy places in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in particular for the reconstruction of the Saladin Historical pulpit, the reconstruction works of the Dome of the Rock and the Islamic Museum, and safeguarding Islamic Endowments (Waqfs), Islamic works and Christian charitable works of Al-Quds.
19. We acknowledge the need to safeguard the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Syria. We condemn the continuing bloodshed and violence in Syria. We underscore the primary responsibility of the Syrian government in the pursuit of violence and the destruction of goods and properties. We express our deep concern over the deteriorating situation, the growing frequency of assassinations and killings which have claimed the lives of thousands of unarmed civilians.
20. We demand the immediate cessation of violence, killings and destruction, and compliance with Islamic values and human rights, the safeguard of Syria against the risk of a civil war with serious implications for the Syrian people, the region and international peace and security.
21. We condemn the use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people and demand the total elimination of the weapons of mass destruction.

22. We appeal for the immediate initiation of the process of establishing a peaceful transition mechanism that would bring about the building of a new Syrian State based on a pluralistic, democratic and civilian system that guarantees equality for all, on the basis of law, citizenship and respect for fundamental freedoms.
23. We reaffirm our solidarity with Lebanon in the face of the Israeli acts of aggression, and call for the need for Israel to respect the UNSC resolution 1701, and to desist from its violation of the Lebanese airspace and territory.
24. We reaffirm our appreciation to and solidarity with the neighboring countries for hosting and taking care of the Syrian refugees, and calls for Member States to provide support and assistance in this effort in order for the host countries to continue meeting the humanitarian needs of our Syrian brothers on their territories.
25. We take note of the important efforts of consolidation of peace by the new Somali authorities, ever since the successful transition achievement in the country and underscore the need for consolidating political progress, in order to guarantee the stability of the country. We welcome in this regard, the commitment of the Somali federal government to finalize the constitution through dialogue, power and resources sharing among the regions and the holding of democratic elections in 2016.
26. We exhort all OIC Member States and international partners to give effect to their commitment made at the London Conference on Somalia on 7th May, 2013, by providing for a coordinated and sustainable assistance in the implementation of the federal government plans. We welcome the sacrifices and success of the Somali armed forces and AMISOM in their struggle against the Al Shabab militants, and thank the countries which have contributed troops and police forces. We appeal to the UN Security Council to lift the arm embargo in order to boost the capacity of the Somali State in the area of security.
27. We commend the peaceful and transparent conduct of the presidential, legislative and local elections in Mali, which confirm the return of constitutional order in this country. We congratulate the Malian people for the maturity they displayed and urge them to keep up this momentum in order to achieve the reconciliation and reconstruction of the country in a spirit of unity.
28. We call upon the international community to provide its support in order to eradicate the armed terrorist groups and drug traffickers. We commend the role played by the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (MISMA), the Malian National Army and friendly countries who contributed to the restoration of stability, unity and territorial integrity of Mali.
29. We also welcome the transformation as of 1 July 2013 of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (MISMA) into the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and invite other OIC Member States to join

it, in order to help stabilize Mali and facilitate the country's recovery and long-term development.

30. We take note of the offer by Turkey to host the second meeting of the OIC Ministerial Contact Group on Mali, established in accordance with the resolution of the 12<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the first session of which was held in Jeddah on 13 May 2013. We express our support for the international efforts meant to rehabilitate Timbuktu mosques and shrines, all listed as world heritage by UNESCO.
31. We are delighted at the positive development of the situation in Guinea Bissau and encourage the government and all stakeholders to pursue their efforts in order to restore the rule of law, state authority and democracy in the country. We congratulate Prof. Alpha Condé, President of Guinea and Mediator for Guinea Bissau, for his commitment to the swift resolution of the crisis. We call upon ECOWAS, the international community and OIC Member States to continue their firm support to Guinea Bissau in its reconstruction and economic development process.
32. We reaffirm our solidarity with Cote d'Ivoire in its efforts to restore peace and revitalize its war-ravaged economy. In this context, we urge the OIC Secretary General to continue his efforts in order to convene a donors' conference, as mandated by the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the CFM, and urge Member States to take part actively in the effort and contribute generously to the reconstruction of the country.
33. We reiterate the determination of all OIC Member States to keep up their long-term commitment in Afghanistan, to help bring peace, stability and socio-economic development in the country. We condemn terrorism, violence and extremism in Afghanistan and reaffirm our support for the Government in combating these scourges. We stress the importance of genuine regional cooperation aimed at restoring peace and stability, and stimulating development in Afghanistan and the region. We reiterate our support for the inclusive peace process, conducted by and for the Afghan people, with a view to reaching a sustainable political solution in the country.
34. We express our deep concern and condemn the pursuit of violence and human rights violations perpetrated against innocent unarmed Muslims in Myanmar in 2013. We call upon the Government of Myanmar to abide by the standards and principles of international law. We stress the importance of restoring the right of the Rohingya to citizenship, socio-economic and cultural development in peace.
35. We emphasize the need for the Islamic World to continue to monitor the development of the situation of Muslim communities and minorities in South East Asia, particularly in the Philippines and Thailand. We also urge all parties concerned to pursue their efforts in order to reach a satisfactory and sustainable settlement of these issues, through peaceful and direct means under the OIC's patronage.
36. We express our support for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and encourage the pursuit and rapid completion of the negotiations, on the basis of equality of rights between the Turkish and Greek communities.

37. We encourage both Pakistan and India to resume dialogue and work towards the settlement of all differences including the central issue of Jammu and Kashmir.
38. We condemn the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and call for the immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.
39. We reaffirm that Islam is a religion of moderation and openness, which rejects all forms of intolerance and extremism and stress, in this regard, the importance of combating negative stereotypes, stigmatization and discrimination.
40. We condemn the rise of Islamophobia, directed towards Muslims and invite the international community to take effective measures to combat the defamation of religions and negative stereotypes, based on belief and ethnic background. We call upon the OIC Secretary General to pursue his efforts in order to stem Islamophobia, through increasing debates and deliberations within the various international bodies.
41. We commend the clear-sighted initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to inaugurate in November 2012 in Vienna, Austria, the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue and reiterate our support for his incessant efforts to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development through dialogue between civilizations and religions.
42. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its perpetrators and places. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in combating terrorism through a series of measures, including the adoption by consensus of an appropriate definition of terrorism, information exchange, capacity building and the elimination of the root causes of terrorism, such as long-lasting conflicts, continued repression, the marginalization of peoples and nations, and denial of peoples' right to self-determination. We reject and condemn all attempts to associate terrorism with Islam or with a given Islamic country, race, religion, culture or nationality.
43. We express our concern towards the disastrous humanitarian situation in the African Sahel region and call upon OIC Member States and the rest of the international community to contribute to the existing funds and mechanisms, in order to help the governments respond to the needs of their populations in terms of food security.
44. We reaffirm the importance for OIC Member States to fully achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by the year 2015. We launch an urgent appeal to donor countries and international institutions to honor their commitments. We stress the necessity for the rapid adoption of the post-2015 agenda.
45. We reiterate our support for the recent actions meant to strengthen cooperation in the fields of agricultural development, labor, productivity and employment. We commend the resolution of the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the CFM to establish an OIC Food Security institution in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of OIC Labor Ministers, held in Azerbaijan from 23 to 26 April 2013, in particular the adoption of the

OIC Cooperation Framework in the Areas of Labor, Employment and Social Protection. We encourage the creation of similar institutions in other regions of the Islamic Ummah.

46. We welcome the decision adopted by the Conference of OIC Ministers of Labor, held in Baku, on 25 - 26 April, 2013, relating to the establishment of the OIC Centre for Labor, as proposed by His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan; and we also welcome the initiative taken by this country to host the said Centre.
47. We positively welcome the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States that will be held in November, 2014, in Azerbaijan and call upon all Member States to actively participate in that Conference.
48. We urge OIC Member States to promote youth education by developing in them the lofty values of Islam and encourage their access to a decent employment.
49. We reaffirm the necessity to develop intra-OIC trade in order to diversify our respective economies and promote growth, taking into account the considerable resources available to the Member States. We urge economic decision-makers to promote public-private partnership and encourage direct investments in the OIC region in order to increase production, create jobs and stimulate growth.
50. We express our appreciation for the partnerships, established with regional and international organizations for the implementation of the OIC economic programs as well as for the progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan for Central Asia. We call upon Member States to pursue their collaboration with the regional groups in the implementation of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, West Africa Tourism Project and OIC Cotton Action Plan.
51. We reassert the right of developing countries to promote research on, production and use of nuclear energy, including the right to the full fuel cycle for peaceful purposes without any discrimination whatsoever.
52. We express our support for greater cooperation at all stages in the fields of science, technology and innovation (STI) including joint efforts towards the establishment of STI policy structures, promoting research and development (R&D), and technological and scientific exhibitions and seminars among OIC Member States and relevant institutions.
53. We welcome the United Arab Emirates' successful bid to host Expo 2020 in Dubai. In this connection, we thank all Member States for supporting the selection of the United Arab Emirates to host this substantial exhibition.
54. We note that this conference is the last to be held under the tenure of His Excellency **Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu** in his capacity as Secretary General of the OIC. In this respect, we deem it our duty to acknowledge his role and dynamism that made it possible to operate a substantial reform and to contribute to increasing the OIC's prestige and initiatives on the international scene. We express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his tireless efforts to strengthen joint Islamic action and promote cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, social, humanitarian and scientific fields.



55. We welcome the election of His Excellency **Iyad Bin Amin Madani** of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Secretary General of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation and reassure him of our full support in the discharge of his duties.
56. We express our deep gratitude to His Excellency **Professor Alpha Condé**, as well as to the government and people of Guinea for their generosity and hospitality as well as for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**Done at Conakry, Republic of Guinea  
On 11 December 2013**