

OIC/CFM-39/DJIBOUTI-DEC./FINAL

Djibouti Declaration

**The 39th Session of the Council of
Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the
Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

(Session of “Solidarity for Sustainable Development”)

**Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti
1-3 Muharram 1434 H – 15-17 November 2012**

Djibouti Declaration

The 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Session of “*Solidarity for Sustainable Development*”

**Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti
01-03 Muharram 1434 H – 15-17 November 2012**

We, the Foreign Ministers and the Heads of delegation of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation participating in the 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, convened from 1 – 3 Muharram 1434H (15 – 17 November 2012) in Djibouti, under the slogan “Solidarity for Sustainable Development” declare as follows:

- Recognizing that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is the second biggest international organization after the United Nations, and reiterating our full commitment to its aims, goals and principles, and our support for its elevation to enable it to face current and future challenges, we express our full appreciation of its efforts to strengthen Islamic solidarity and joint Islamic action. We call upon it to exert further efforts to achieve the welfare of the Islamic peoples, and promote coordination and collaboration with international and regional organizations to serve the defining issues faced by the Ummah.
- Knowing that Djibouti is one of the countries in the Horn of Africa, this Session holds a historical importance in that it is held in the region to which the companions of the Prophet of Allah (PBUH) migrated twice during the dawn of the Islamic call to safeguard their great religion, where they found warm shelter offered by a kind King. The Conference is therefore a historical and cultural indicator and a new welcomed return at a critical time when our Islamic world is facing tremendous challenges in political, socio-economic, cultural, scientific and security fields. As such, this gathering of the Foreign Ministers in Djibouti reinforces the spiritual and strategic bond between the peoples of this region and Islam, and highlights the interest of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its Member States in the Horn and East of Africa, a bastion of prosperity and strategic depth to Islam.
- Considering that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation was established more than 40 years ago in the wake of the wanton Zionist attempt to burn the Al-Aqsa Mosque, we reiterate our condemnation of all measures taken by the Zionist entity with respect to Al-Quds al-Sharif, aimed at Judaizing the city and its Arab-Islamic character and warns the Zionist occupying State against continuing its aggression on the Islamic Ummah through its attacks on the Al-Aqsa Holy Mosque and other holy sites in the city.

- We renew our full support for the just cause of Palestine and the rights of Palestinian people to mobilize international support for their inalienable legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and return; we affirm our full support to the Palestinian move to seek observer status for the State of Palestine at the UN and call upon friendly and sisterly countries to support that. We also condemn the continued inhuman and illegitimate blockade of the Gaza Strip and demand Israel as the occupying power to immediately seize this illegal collective punishment of the Palestinian people, to lift the blockade fully and abide by the terms of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law. We further affirm that the issue of Palestinian detainees held in detention centres and occupation prisons is a central issue, which serves as a practical benchmark for achieving a just peace in the region. We condemn the occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanese territories and call upon the international community to assume its full historical and humanitarian responsibility by standing firm in the face of such abominable intransigence.
- We strongly condemn abuse and insolence against the person of our Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings be upon Him and His kindred and companions) and declare our passion and love for Him and defence of His graceful honour.
- We call for resistance of all forms of the repugnant Islamophobia against our noble Islamic religion; and appreciate the efforts of the General Secretariat in this regard, particularly the unanimous adoption by the Human Rights Council of resolution 16/18 sponsored by the OIC, and call upon it to continue its initiatives to face up actively to the propaganda campaigns against Islam and Muslims. We call upon all Member States and the international community to oppose, through international means mechanisms and institutions, the promotion of media content inciting hatred and contempt of religions, and for the need to respect religious and cultural diversity around the world. We reaffirm the principles contained in the inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, which was adopted by the World Conference on Dialogue of 2008 in Madrid against defamation of religions and their symbols.
- We welcome the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, announced at the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference of Makkah al-Mukarrama on the Night of Majesty during the month of Ramadan, to establish a centre for dialogue among Islamic religious schools. We consider this a practical way of reconciling juristic opinions among Muslims for the sake of safeguarding the unity of the Islamic Ummah. We call upon the Islamic Group in New York and Geneva to keep the issue alive at the United Nations and mobilize international support to adopt decisive resolutions by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in order to stop the bloodshed and collective genocide of Muslims.

- We condemn the repression and atrocious massacres of Rohingya Muslims in Arakan Province, Myanmar; call upon the international community to stand firmly in face of this humanitarian issue which stigmatizes mankind and all the measures and resolutions taken by the Organization and the Member States and call for decisive action against the perpetrators of this abominable massacres; and request the Member States to provide further adequate political and material backing in support of Rohingya Muslims and help them recover all their legitimate rights.
- We support the resolution adopted on the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea, and request Eritrea to immediately abide by the resolutions and respond positively to the mediation of His Highness the Emir of Qatar by releasing the Djiboutian detainees and seriously acting to settle this conflict as quickly as possible for the sake of realizing security and stability in this strategically important region.
- Based on the recent achievements in Somalia, a founding Member State of the Organization, including constitution ratification and the democratic election of the new President in a democratic and honourable civilizational manner, and the formation of a new ambitious government, thanks to several concerted factors, most importantly the Somali popular will and the excellent stand of the African Union Forces in cooperation with the government to repel the Somali armed groups, undermining security and peace, in the capital and its suburbs as well as in some other cities, we call upon the international community to support this government to put an end to the tragedy of the Somali people that lasted for more than two decades.
- We reaffirm our principled position of safeguarding the unity of the Republic of Mali as well as its sovereignty and territorial integrity; condemn strongly the armed groups actions which threaten the safety of the country, renewing our total solidarity with the Sahel countries in combating all forms of insecurity and destabilization, and support the peace initiative sponsored by the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS) and the African Union. We also condemn the activities of the terrorist armed groups in the north of Mali and Sub Sahara, including cultural terrorism and the demolition of cultural and human heritage, in particular in the Islamic ancient city of Timbuktu.
- At a time when we are gathering with Syria's empty seat because of the suspension of its membership in the Organization, we are not forgetting the innocent blood that is being shed in the country and call upon the international community to take a firm stand in face of the violence and the devastation of the economic infrastructure as well as the systematic destruction of people's properties in this deeply rooted Islamic country and a founding member of the Organization, the country was the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate, from where the Islamic conquests started, and call for the immediate cessation of the bloodshed and the killing. We support, to this end, the efforts of the joint international and Arab envoy. We welcome the agreement reached

by the various segments of the Syrian opposition on 11 November 2012 in Doha under the high patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to form the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces; and we express our thanks to the State of Qatar for its laudable efforts to implement the Doha Agreement and to invite the other opposition forces to join this national coalition to be truly representative of all Syrian opposition segments without any exception. We also express our solidarity with Syria's neighbours.

- We strongly condemn the Israeli attack on Yarmouk factory in the Sudan, which is a blatant violation of the UN Charter and the international law, and a threat to international peace and security, and express solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan -in the face of the heinous Israeli aggression- in taking the measures it deems appropriate, consistent with international laws and customs, to preserve its territorial integrity and the security of its citizens, and to hold Israel accountable and compel it to assume its responsibilities arising from this aggression, including compensation for the damages it caused.
- We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of perpetrator and place, and reiterate our commitment to enhance joint cooperation in combating terrorism through various means, including the formulation of an appropriate and agreed-upon definition of terrorism, the exchange of information, capacity building, and addressing the root causes of terrorism such as the still unsettled conflicts and the continued oppression, marginalisation of peoples and the deprivation of their right to self-determination in the case of foreign occupation; and denounce all attempts to link terrorism either with Islam or with an Islamic country, an ethnicity, a religion, a culture or a nation.
- We confirm our continued support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East, and demand Israel, the only Middle East country that has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to join the Treaty unconditionally and without further delay, and to place its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- We underline the importance of the security, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and legal rights of all OIC Member States, and stress the need for peaceful settlement of conflicts in accordance with the UN and OIC Charters and based on international law; we have issued resolutions in which we expressed our full solidarity with the Sudan, Union of the Comoros, Yemen, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Jammu Kashmir, Turkish Cypriot State and Kosovo. The Conference condemns Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and call for immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories.

- We welcome the Framework Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) as a first step towards fulfilling the legitimate demands of the Muslim Bangsamoro people in Southern Philippines; call for the full implementation of previous agreements, particularly those of 1976 and 1996; welcome the meeting between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the MILF on the sidelines of this Session in the presence of the Chairman of the Session, H.E. the Foreign Affairs Minister of Djibouti, and H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC; and call upon the two fronts to unify efforts and coordinate positions for the benefit of the Bangsamoro people, asking Allah to grant success to these efforts.
- Sustainable development, which is the motto of this Conference, could not achieve its objectives without solidarity and concerted efforts by all Muslims on the grounds that "a Muslim to a Muslim is like a brick to another brick in a building - each one supports the other" and "the Hand of God is with the group". Islam has established great economic values including Zakat and endowments to cater for the needs of Muslims and provide a decent livelihood for them. Therefore, we call to devote attention to this great Islamic ritual and promote its role in funding international Islamic cross-border megaprojects for an overall integration among Member States. We also call for greater coordination and integration as well as for more efficient economic and trade exchanges and investment between the Member States in order to achieve sustainable development and make transition from poverty and destitution to honorable Islamic self-sufficiency and lasting prosperity.
- We invite IDB Board of Governors to start to implement, as soon as possible, the instructions of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit, particularly as regards increasing the capital of the Bank and the private sector's contribution to the development process, and reinforcing mechanisms for resource mobilization to reduce poverty.
- Ensuring reasonable food security reserves in more than one Islamic regions will have a positive impact on the good management and rapid intervention aimed at combating waves of drought, desertification and environmental disasters that afflict several regions in which our countries are located.
- The necessity for effective Islamic participation in scientific discoveries in order to provide adequate alternative energy resources, the consolidation of scientific research, the exchange and provision of scholarships and knowledge-sharing so as to contribute to the establishment of the conditions for the success of Islamic peoples' sustainable development.
- We welcome the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's nomination of H.E. Minister Eyad Bin Amin Madani to the post of Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and urges all Member States to extend the needed support to this nomination, particularly in these critical circumstances the Islamic world is going

through, and in line with Makkah Al Mukarramah Pact adopted by the Fourth Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Nukarramah in Ramadan 1433 H. (August 2012), and the *Final Communiqué* of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda in 2008 on the term of office of the OIC Secretary General.

- The Council noted the declaration by Uganda to cede its bid for the position of the Secretary General of the OIC to Saudi Arabia and proposed the creation of the position of Assistant Secretary General for African Affairs, to take care of Africa's aspirations.
- We express our deepest gratitude to the Secretary General, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, and his assistants for the efforts they exert in order to advance the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in regional and international arenas and to consolidate joint Islamic action and cooperation in the various political, cultural, humanitarian and scientific fields.
- We express our appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, for his profound Islamic sentiments and words expressed in his opening address, and extend thanks, through His Excellency, to the Government and people of the Republic of Djibouti for the great efforts they made for the organization of the conference and for their generous hospitality and warm reception in order to ensure the success of this 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held under the motto "Solidarity for Sustainable Development".

Djibouti, 03 Moharram 1434 (17 November 2012)