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RESOLUTIONS
ON
**MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND
MINORITIES
IN NON-OIC MEMBER STATES**
ADOPTED BY THE
THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
*(SESSION OF SHARED VISION
OF A MORE SECURE AND PROSPEROUS
ISLAMIC WORLD)*

DUSHANBE – REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
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RESOLUTION No. 1/37-MM
ON
SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS
OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES
IN NON-OIC MEMBER STATES

The Thirty-seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Shared Vision of a More Secure and Prosperous Islamic World), held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, from 4 to 6 Jumadal Thani 1431H, (18-20 May, 2010),

Recalling Resolution No. 1/36-MM adopted by the 36th session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, and all the resolutions adopted by the Ministerial and Summit Conferences in this regard,

Recalling that Muslim Communities and Minorities living in non-OIC Member States constitute over one-third of the Muslim Ummah,

Recalling also the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the OIC Summit Conference and the Conference of Foreign Ministers as well as international covenants, declarations, and conventions, in particular those which call for the respect of political, social, cultural, economic, and religious human rights,

Recalling also the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation of Muslim Communities and Minorities (Document No. OIC/CFM-37/2010/MM/SG.REP),

1. **Reiterates** its commitment to the Muslim Communities and Minorities living in non-OIC Member States, and to offering them assistance and contributing to the settlement of their problems in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries to which they belong, through cooperation with the governments of these States;

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2. **Emphasizes** the necessity to respect the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States; **denounces** the problems they face, resulting from discrimination, oppression and persecution; and **insists** on the importance of continued coordination between the Member States in order to find ways to assist them to solve their problems, protect their religious, cultural, civil, political, economic and social rights and preserve their identity and Islamic heritage;
3. **Emphasizes** that the protection of the rights and identity of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States is primarily the responsibility of the Governments of those States, in accordance with the principles of international law;
4. **Commends** the efforts exerted by the Secretary General in supporting the causes of the Muslim communities in Non-Member States, and **urges** him to continue those efforts in this regard, in implementation of the relevant ministerial resolutions within the established principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States to which they belong, in accordance with international law and international agreements in general, and in implementation of the relevant OIC Summit and CFM resolutions;
5. **Requests** the General Secretariat to continue its contacts with the Governments of States in which Muslim communities and minorities exist to apprise them of the resolutions issued by the OIC in this regard, and to identify the problems faced by those communities and their needs, with priority being given to contacts with the Governments of non-OIC Member States where Muslim communities and minorities are enduring grave difficulties; and **urges** the Member States enjoying solid relations with those States to put those relations to beneficial use in advancing the Secretary General's efforts;
Also request the General Secretariat to co-operate with the Member States in order to bring up such important issue of Muslim Minorities to the attention of the United Nations and its subsidiary and affiliated bodies inter-alia; and the Human Right Council;
6. **Calls on** the Member States and Muslim institutions in general and OIC subsidiary, specialized and affiliated institutions, including the IDB and ISESCO, as well as Islamic NGOs to provide further support and assistance to these Muslim communities and minorities, in coordination with the General Secretariat;

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7. **Reiterates** that education is a legitimate right for every member of society, without any discrimination, in accordance with all relevant international covenants; and **calls on** the Member States to provide every assistance to support education, including by providing instructors to the children of Muslim communities, allocating scholarships to study in schools and universities and inviting Islamic NGOs and civil society organizations to contribute to this endeavor in coordination with the States concerned;

8. **Reiterates its calls on** the General Secretariat to maintain contacts with Muslim communities in Africa, in implementation of the Ministerial resolutions, and to undertake field visits to Angola, South Africa, Namibia, Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Madagascar, among others, as soon as possible, in order to identify their difficulties and gain information on their conditions; and **invites** the General Secretariat to continue holding symposia and conferences in countries with Muslim minorities in order to learn of their problems and issues and foster and promote relations between States with Muslim communities and OIC Member States;

9. **Invites** Member States and Specialized Islamic NGOs to provide further assistance and care to Muslim communities in Africa, especially in the least-developed countries, with a view to addressing the pressing difficulties which impede their progress and development;

10. **Expresses its concern** in the face of the rising activity against Muslims in India perpetrated by extremist Hindus who are trying to build a Hindu temple on the ruins of the historical Babri Mosque; **expresses concern** also about the unnecessary delay in determining the responsibility for demolition of the Babri Mosque; and **urges** the Indian Government to ensure the reconstruction of the Babri Mosque on its original site;

11. **Expresses its deep concern** at the condition of the Muslim minority in India and **urges** the Government of India to take effective and immediate measures to end all violence and policies of discrimination against Muslims. **Notes with concern** the plight of the victims of the Gujarat riots; **condemns** the environment of fear that the victims are constantly obliged to live in; **demand**s that the culprits be immediately brought to justice; and **urges** the Secretary General in this regard, to report on the situation of Muslims in India to the next CFM meeting;

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12- **Invites** the General Secretariat to monitor the situation of Muslims in India and to collect further information on the challenges and difficulties they are facing, politically, socially and economically with a view to offering them the required assistance, and to report on the matter to the next ministerial conference;

13- **Urges** the Indian Government to take steps to improve the economic conditions of Muslims in India in line with the recommendations of the Sachar Committee Report.

14- **Welcomes** the invitation addressed to the Secretary General to pay an official visit to the People's Republic of China, with a view to developing relations between the OIC and the People's Republic of China and observing the situation of Muslim, and urges Member States to support the Secretary General's efforts in this regard;

15- **Expresses** satisfaction on the successful outcome of the visit of the General Secretariat's delegation to the People's Republic of China from 17-21 August 2009, **and renews** its desires to deepen relations between the Muslim world and the People's Republic of China.

16- **Welcomes** the contacts and discussions held by the Secretary General with representatives of the Government of Thailand during which the Government's plan to seek peaceful settlement for the southern provinces was discussed; and **commends** the stance of the new Government on giving maximum priority to peaceful resolutions of the problem, and stresses that the basic elements for achieving a successful settlement should include the recognition of the cultural peculiarities of the inhabitants, doing justice to them and giving due respect to their traditions and customs, while working for economic and social development of the region;

17- **Affirms** that these objectives are achievable through a process which would involve the representatives of Muslims in Southern Thailand and relevant segments, such plan be accompanied by a national reconciliation;

18. **Requests** the Secretary General to continue his contacts with the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand to develop bilateral relations and to urge it that the Government's plan for the improvement of the situation of Muslims in Southern Thailand include the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the Muslims there with a view to implementing the Government's plan to address the root causes of the problem as contained in the

Joint Press Statement issued at the end of the visit of the Secretary General to

Thailand on 1st May 2007, and calls upon the Member States enjoying close relations with Thailand to support the efforts of the Secretary General in this regard;

19. **Decides** to defer consideration on the adoption of a resolution on the situation of the Muslim Community in Southern Thailand until the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers to allow ample time for contacts between the Secretary General and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand;

20. **Calls** on the Eminent Muslim personalities and all parties involved in consultation with the Thai Government to forge a coordinated platform to complement the efforts in search of peace and stability in Southern Thailand.

21. **Welcomes** the proposal of the Secretary General to hold a workshop on conflict resolution in Southern Thailand in consultation with the Thai Government, and to consider similar successful resolution models in other regions of the world and discuss how to benefit from them.

22. **Welcomes** the Secretary General's appointment of Ambassador Qassim Al-Masri as his Personal Representative for the management of dialogue with the Government of Thailand;

23. **Reiterates** the need to respect the human rights of the Turkish Muslim community in Bulgaria and to safeguard the properties of Muslim endowments there; and **calls on** Muslims in Bulgaria to unite their efforts and work together to enhance the position of their Grand Mufti's office in furtherance of the interests of Muslims there;

24. **Appeals** to Muslim communities in the West to embrace moderation as encouraged by our orthodox Islamic religion, which supports openness towards scientific and technological achievements, and **calls** on them to shun bigotry and to fight intolerance which creates unjustified sensitivity.

25. **Urges** affiliated and specialized Islamic organization and institutions of the OIC and other Islamic organizations to provide more assistance to Muslim minorities in Latin America, including Islamic books in their local languages, especially for the children and the youth.

26. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Thirty-eighth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 2/37-MM
ON
QUESTION OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

The Thirty-seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan (Session of Shared Vision of a More Secure and Prosperous Islamic World), from 4 to 6 Jumadal Thani 1431H, (18-20 May, 2010),

Bearing in mind the resolutions of the OIC and the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee of Eight on the question of Muslims in Southern Philippines,

Recalling the Tripoli Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), signed on 23 December 1976, under the aegis of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and accepted by the signatory parties as the basis for a permanent, just, and comprehensive political solution to the question of Muslims in Southern Philippines within the framework of the national sovereignty and territorial unity of the Republic of the Philippines,

Paying tribute to the role of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, under the wise leadership of H.E. Colonel Moammar Gaddafi, in achieving the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 and hosting the first preliminary talks in Tripoli on 3-4 October 1992 as well as the Unity and Solidarity Meeting of the MNLF leaders on 6 April 2003,

Also paying tribute to the role of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in facilitating the peace process culminating in the signing of the Final Peace Agreement on 2 September 1996, and **expressing satisfaction** for the efforts of the Ministerial Committee of Eight in this regard,

Recalling that, in accordance with the two Memoranda of Understanding under which the GRP and the MNLF concluded two rounds of preliminary talks, held successively in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 3-4 October 1992, and in Cipanas, Western Java, Republic of Indonesia, on 14-16 April, 1993, the two parties agreed to conduct official peace negotiations for the full implementation of the letter and spirit of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement,

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Recalling also the results of the four rounds of formal peace talks held in Jakarta, Indonesia, including the subsidiary mechanisms, between the GRP and the MNLF, thanks to the facilities made available by the OIC Peace Committee,

Noting that the gains achieved by the Peace Agreement concluded between the GRP and the MNLF and existing cooperation between them need to be generalized and maximized in order to achieve comprehensive peace and development for the benefit of the people of Bangsamoro,

Also paying tribute to the role of the Republic of Indonesia as Chair of the OIC Peace Committee in Southern Philippines, and all members of the Committee, as well as to the Secretary-General's efforts aimed at facilitating the peace process and helping both the GRP and the MNLF to reach a formula of joint proposals aimed at ensuring the full implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement,

Pays tribute to the efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Colonel Moamar Kadafi, Leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the OIC Secretary General to ensure the release of Prof. Nur Misuari, Chairman of the MNLF, and to support peace efforts in Southern Philippines; and commends H.E. Gloria Makabajal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippine for responding to these efforts,

Commending the role of Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, in the name of its President Saif Al-Islam Kaddafi through his visit in December 2007, and the visit a delegation from the Foundation in April, 2008,

Reaffirming Resolution No. 2/10-MM (IS) on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines adopted by the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 16–17 October 2003, as well as Resolution No. 2/11-MM (IS) adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference,

Reiterating Resolution No. 2/34-MM on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines adopted by the 34th CFM held in Islamabad from 15 – 17 May 2007, and all previous ministerial resolutions in this regard,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines (**Document No. CFM/37-2010/MM/SG.REP.2**),

1. **Renews** its support for the Peace Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which was initialed on 30 August 1996 in Jakarta and officially signed in Manila on 2 September 1996;
2. **Calls** on both the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front to preserve the gains achieved since the signing of the Peace Agreement and **encourages** both sides to continue their efforts in finding further solution for their differences to ensure the full implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement;
Also Calls for the cessation of all ongoing military operations in Southern Philippines to enable relief agencies to assess the quantity of assistance required by those in need;
3. **Renews** the mandate of the OIC Peace Committee for Southern Philippines (PCSP) and the Secretary-General to continue to make the necessary contacts with the GRP and the MNLF with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement;
4. **Welcomes** the progress made at the sessions of the tripartite meeting between the OIC, the Government of the Philippines and Moro National Liberation Front with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the Final Peace Agreement; and **urges** the parties to work together in order to finalize the work of the joint legal committee, in particular the contentious issues and find ways to resolve the difficulties stalling the full implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement;
5. **Welcomes**, in this regard, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the parties in Tripoli, Libya, 20 April 2010 as a step forward in that direction;
6. **Calls upon** the Secretary General to convene another round of the Tripartite Meeting between the GRP, the MNLF, and the OIC in order to review the progress of the work of the joint legal committee and the resolution of the difficulties impeding the full implementation of the peace process;
7. **Expresses** regrets at the failure to sign the already initialed Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain which was already initialed by the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), in Malaysia on 5 August 2008;

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8. **Welcomes** the resumption of negotiation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the agreement to establish an international contact group (ICG), invitation to membership of which has been extended to Turkey, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and Japan. **Urges** the two sides to continue negotiating until they reach a peace agreement that would cover all issues with a view to achieving stability and peace in Southern Philippines;

9. **Urges** the MNLF and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to unite their efforts for the peace and development of the Bangsamoro people; **It takes note** of the content of the Secretary General's additional report on the meeting held between the two Fronts, **welcomes** their principle agreement to establish a mechanism for consultation and coordination between them, and **expresses thanks** to the Secretary General for his fruitful efforts in this regard.

10. **Appeals** to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to undertake the early resolution of the reported environmental problems resulting from the failure on the part of power and electricity plants in Lake Lanao and its surroundings to observe environmental standards, which has had a serious and adverse impact on the environment, which affected the local population's health and economic and social conditions;

11. **Urges** OIC Member States, subsidiary organs, and specialized and affiliated institutions as well as benevolent Islamic organizations in the Member States to increase their medical, humanitarian, economic, financial, and technical assistance for the development of Southern Philippines with a view to accelerating the pace of social and economic development and **urges** the Government of the Philippines to agree to the General Secretariat's request to send a joint delegation of the OIC, IDB and other Islamic NGOs willing to offer assistance in order to assess the needs;

12. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Thirty-eighth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No.3 /37-MM
ON
THE SITUATION OF THE TURKISH MUSLIM
MINORITY OF WESTERN THRACE, GREECE

The Thirty-seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan (Session of Shared Vision of a More Secure and Prosperous Islamic World), from 4 to 6 Jumadal Thani 1431H, (18-20 May, 2010),

Recalling Resolution No. 3/36-MM on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, Greece,

Reaffirming its commitment to Muslim communities and minorities living in non-OIC Member States,

Fully aware that the Muslims in Greece, in general, and the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, in particular, are an integral part of the Muslim World,

Recalling the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter, the Resolutions adopted by OIC Islamic Summit Conferences, Conferences of Foreign Ministers, and international agreements, declarations, and conventions calling for the respect of human rights, including political, social, cultural, and economic rights and freedom of worship, and most particularly the Lausanne Treaty which guarantees the rights of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace by virtue of which they have the right to use their Turkish language, practice their religious rites, and freely elect their representatives in all fields,

Further recalling the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Realizing that the basic rights and freedoms of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace are defined and protected by multilateral and bilateral treaties and conventions to which Greece is a party,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority of Western Thrace in Greece (Document No. OIC/CFM-37/2010/MM/SG.REPS),

1. **Invites** Greece once again to take all measures to respect the rights and identity of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace emanating from the bilateral and international agreements;

2. **Demands** that Greece recognize the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini as the official Muftis;
3. **Calls on** Greece to take the necessary steps for the election of the Awqaf administration boards by the Turkish Muslim Minority with a view to ensuring their self-governance, enabling the elected Muftis to supervise the Awqaf properties, and putting an end to the expropriation of the Awqaf properties and to the heavy taxes levied on them. **Calls on** Greece therefore to introduce the necessary amendments in its laws on each of these aspects in consultation with the Muslim Minority representatives there;
4. **Regrets** Greece's practice regarding the appointment of 240 imams/religious instructors by a commission of Orthodox public employees, despite reactions from the Turkish Muslim Minority and urges Greece to abolish the related legislation;
5. **Regrets** the ban imposed by the Greek Supreme Court on the activities of the Turkish Muslim Minority's oldest Non-Governmental Organization in Western Thrace, namely the "Turkish Union of Xanthi", and urges Greece to implement the three verdicts issued by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) concerning the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) of the Turkish Muslim Minority, which lifted the discriminatory ban that had been imposed by the Greek Supreme Court on NGO activities under the pretext of containing in their names the words "Turkish/Minority";
6. **Urges** Greece to reinstate the citizenship rights of tens of thousands of Turkish Minority members who were stripped of their citizenship under the now-repealed Chapter of Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Law No. 3370/1955;
7. **Calls on** Greece to consult with the representatives of the Turkish Muslim Minority, concerning the new Greek plan for administrative restructuring of the regions so that fair political representation of Muslims in Western Thrace does not become further imbalanced.
8. **Invites** Greece to take necessary and urgent steps, in consultation with the Turkish Muslim Minority, to address their educational problems which is also directly linked to the socio-economic development of the region they live in.

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9 **Requests** the Secretary-General to initiate a fact-finding inquiry to ascertain the veracity of repeated reports of acts of vandalism and desecration targeting mosques and Muslim cemeteries in Western Thrace, and to present a report thereon to the Thirty-eighth Session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers;

10. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Thirty-eight session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 4/37-MM
ON
THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN MYANMAR

The Thirty-seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan (Session of Shared Vision of a More Secure and Prosperous Islamic World), from 4 to 6 Jumadal Thani 1431H, (18-20 May, 2010),

Reaffirming Resolution No. 4/11-MM (IS) adopted by the 11th Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, in March 2008; and Resolution No. 4/35 adopted by the 35th Session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Muslim Community in Myanmar Document No. OIC/CFM-37/2010/MM/SG.REPS,

1. **Calls upon** the Government of Myanmar to put an end the practices of displacement, expulsion, and exile of Arakan Muslims and the continued attempts to eradicate their Islamic culture and identity, and **urges** government authorities to respect the texts of international legitimacy on human rights;
2. **Calls on** Member States to continue their efforts in conjunction with those of the international community and the United Nations in order to ensure the return of all Myanmar refugees displaced from their homes, particularly the Muslims of the Arakan region of Myanmar;
3. **Expresses** concern over the continued deprivation of thousands of Rohingya Muslims citizenship right, and **requests** the Secretary General and States that have ties to the Government of Myanmar to intensify contacts in order to gain recognition for Rohingya as one of its ethnic minorities and to stop all forms of violence, expulsion and violation of human rights against them, and to remove all restrictions imposed on their freedom to move, learn and to own property;
4. **Commends** the efforts of the Secretary General aimed at coordinating the work of the Rohingya Muslim organizations and uniting their ranks under a united coordination council and calls on him to continue these efforts to reclaim their rights;

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5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to contact the Government of Myanmar to urge the latter to receive an OIC Mission to visit Myanmar in order to examine the conditions of Muslims there and persuade the Government of Myanmar to create conducive conditions for Arakan Muslims to return to their home and to report thereon to the next CFM;
6. **Calls on** the Member States to continue to extend all possible forms of support and assistance to Myanmar Muslims and to those among them living as refugees outside their homeland;
7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and report thereon to the Thirty-eighth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.
