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ON
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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***(SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC UMMAH
IN THE 21ST CENTURY)***

DAKAR, REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL
6-7 RABIUL AWWAL 1429H
(13-14 MARCH 2008)

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**RESOLUTION No. 1/11-E (IS)
ON THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DECISIONS OF THE COMCEC**

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from 6 to 7 Rabiul Awwal 1429H (13-14 March 2008),

Recalling the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December, 2005;

Recalling also the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member States of the OIC, approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference.

Recalling the resolutions adopted by Islamic Summit Conference and Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Recalling the resolutions adopted at the twenty-three previous sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among the Member States;

Also recalling the resolutions of the Ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC;

A. Activities of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC):

Recalling Resolution No. 30/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference; and Resolution No. 2/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling also Resolution No. 8/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994) which endorsed the Strategy and the Plan of Action;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, affiliated and specialized institutions of OIC, working in the field of economy and trade, to implement the resolutions of the COMCEC;

Noting with appreciation that the Strategy for Economic and Commercial Cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member States and is based on the principles giving emphasis to private sector, economic liberalization, integration with the world economy, with due respect to the

economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member States and their international obligations;

Appreciating that, starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy of the Member States could exchange views on current world economic issues;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. **Stresses** the need for COMCEC to continue to pay utmost attention to coordination and cooperation among Member States with regard to the membership of new countries that wish to join the World Trade Organization, and to the clarification of positions on the new issues and agreements under consideration within the framework of the WTO with a view to strengthening the negotiating position of these countries at the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations especially with respect to the built-in agenda and to the new ones.
2. **Emphasizes** the need to implement the revised Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States the OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
3. **Invites** the Member States to host sectoral Expert Group Meetings in priority areas of cooperation in the Plan of Action, such as "Transport and Communications", "Food, Agriculture and Rural Development", "Health and Sanitary Issues", "Energy and Mining" and "Human Resources Development".
4. **Requests** the coordinators and the owners of the COMCEC projects to make necessary efforts for early implementation of these projects and also **calls on** all the member states and OIC Institutions to propose new projects and programmes to enrich the agenda of the COMCEC through the Sessional Committee.
5. **Welcomes** the successful conclusion of the first and second rounds of trade negotiations for establishment of the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC (TPSOIC) which produced the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin and **expressed** its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting these rounds.

6. **Adopts** the TPS-OIC as the basis for reaching the 20 percent intra-OIC trade level set by the Ten-Year Program of Action as well for enhancing and deepening trade liberalization within the OIC Community.
7. **Endorses** the target date of January 1st, 2009, taken at the First Meeting of the Ministers of Commerce of the Member States of The Trade Negotiating Committee on November 24th, 2006, in Istanbul, for the establishment of the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC (TPS-OIC) and **urges** the Member States of the Trade Negotiating Committee to finalize the signature and ratification of the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin at their earliest convenience in order to make the TPSOIC operational by January 1st, 2009.
8. **Calls upon/Mandates** the Chairman of the COMCEC and the Secretary General of OIC to coordinate their efforts, with a view to achieve the required number of ratifying countries for the PRETAS and the TPSOIC Rules of Origin, in order to make the TPS-OIC a reality by the target date.
9. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host a TNC meeting in the year 2008 to consider the last preparations undertaken by the TNC Member States before the implementation of the TPSOIC system and **recommends** a Meeting of the Ministers of Commerce of the Member States of The Trade Negotiating Committee be held in 2008 to review the work of the Trade Negotiating Committee and evaluate the progress towards a fully operational TPS-OIC.
10. **Expresses its appreciation** to the COMCEC Coordination Office and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) for their performance as the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee and **thanks** the Islamic Development Bank for contributing to the financing of the First and Second Round of the Trade Negotiations launched on April 6th 2004 and November 24th, 2006 respectively.
11. **Welcomes** the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman as new members of the TNC.
12. **Notes with appreciation** that the 23rd Session of the COMCEC was held from 13-16 November 2007, in Istanbul under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey and the 24th Session of the COMCEC will be held from 21-24 November 2008, in Istanbul and 24th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC will be held on 13-15 May 2008 in Antalya and **calls upon** the Member States to effectively and actively participate in these meetings.

13. **Underlines** the crucial importance of the active participation of the private sector in economic cooperation among the Member States and **expresses** its appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Economic Conference and the Business Forum on the sidelines of the 20th COMCEC and **welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Trade Fair and International Business Forum by Turkish Independent Businessmen and Industrialists' Association (MUSIAD) bi-annually as a sideline activity of COMCEC.
14. **Recognizes** that the Exchange of Views organized during the annual sessions of the COMCEC would be utilized to coordinate the positions of the Member States vis-a-vis major world economic issues and **welcomes** the initiatives of COMCEC on a new mechanism for the preparation and implementation of the exchange of views sessions. **Also welcomes** the decision taken by the 23th Session of the COMCEC that “improving investment climate” be the theme for the exchange of views at the 24th Session of the COMCEC.
15. **Notes with appreciation** that the 11th Trade Fair of Islamic Countries was successfully organised in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from 21st to 25th November 2007 under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Senegal.
16. **Welcome** the offers of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Guinea to host the 12th and the 13th editions of the Trade Fair of Islamic Countries.
17. **Thanks** the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Experts Group Meeting on Tourism Development in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 9-11 May 2007.
18. **Welcomes** the holding of OIC Forum on Enhancement and Promotion of Trade and Investment in Cotton Sector which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 12-13 November 2007 and **thanks** the Republic of Turkey for hosting it and **calls upon** the Member Countries to support the OIC Cotton Plan of Action and deepen cooperation in this important sub-sector.
19. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host 9th Meeting of OIC Standardization Expert Group in April 2008 with the task of studying and developing OIC Halal Food Standards.
20. **Welcomes** the initiative of the COMCEC to develop cooperation with relevant international organization like ITC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, WTO, FAO, IFDA, etc. with a view to develop specific projects for trade promotion and capacity enhancement in the member countries.

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B. Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System:

Recalling Resolution No. 3/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference; and Resolution No. 3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the related decisions of the COMCEC which have the subject on its agenda as a permanent item;

Appreciating the efforts of IDB and ICDT in assisting and appraising the Member States on matters related to WTO.

Recognising that the effective functioning of the multilateral trading system is pivotal in contributing towards enhancing growth and development;

Taking note with appreciation of the reports submitted by SESRIC and ICDT;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

21. **Calls** on OIC Member States who have acceded to the WTO to support and facilitate negotiations for the accession of the other Member States which have not yet joined the WTO.

22. **Urges** the WTO and its Member States to:

- i. **facilitate** the accession of all States to the WTO to ensure its universality in decision-making, emphasize the importance of clarity and transparency of membership procedure, and avoid requiring states wishing to adhere to meet unfair requirements or conditions beyond the commitments of member states with equal status on the development scale;
- ii. **ensure** that the agenda for further negotiations remains focused, balanced and manageable, taking into account the limited resources and the level of development of many developing countries, in particular the LDCs;
- iii. **rejects** the inclusion of non-trade issues, such as labour and environmental standards, into the work programme of the WTO, given its detrimental effects to the evolution of a just, free and fair trading environment as reiterated by most WTO members;
- iv. **ensures** the availability of sufficient resources for technical cooperation activities to assist developing countries implement WTO agreements and decisions

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- v. **review** the structure of the decision making process of the WTO to ensure greater transparency of the WTO process and ensuring effective participation of WTO members in this process;
 - vi. **ensures** that technical assistance by WTO shall also contribute to capacity building in developing countries, in particular the LDCs.
23. **Commends** the IDB and ICDT for its sincere efforts in raising awareness among OIC Member States of the wide-ranging impact of the Uruguay Round agreements on their economies, and in reinforcing the capabilities of Member States, including its negotiating capabilities, preparing them fully for the negotiations in the context of the WTO, and calls on IDB and ICDT to continue in this efforts.
24. **Appreciates** also the technical assistance programmes of the Islamic Development Bank to assist Member States which are either member of the WTO or in the process of accession to the Organization.
25. **Requests** IDB and ICDT to continue their efforts and submit periodic reports to the COMCEC and related OIC fora.

C. Promotion of Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Countries:

Recalling Resolution No. 38/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 2/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting that in the context of current world economic situation the OIC member states require developing their economic structures and consolidating economic relations among themselves and with other countries by creating the appropriate climate to attract and stabilize investments;

Taking note with appreciation the study prepared by SESRIC on the establishment of an Islamic Stock Exchange Union;

26. **Urges Member States** to continue to take the necessary steps to mobilize internal resources in the form of stocks and shares and to facilitate the optimal utilization of such resources in profitable investment projects both in public and private sectors.

27. **Invites Member States** to press on with undertaking the necessary steps to develop their stock markets through appropriate legislations so as to enable their markets to be open to the outside world facilitating the in-flow of capital available in foreign markets, while taking into consideration the economic and monetary interests of these States.
28. **Urges** Member States to make every possible effort to expand the establishment of private companies facilitating wide subscription of shares among large numbers of individuals;
29. **Invites Member States** to set up a comprehensive database on their respective stock exchange and investment regimes and to explore the possibility of concluding regional agreements among themselves to establish links among their stock exchanges;
30. **Notes with appreciation** the creation of a platform for cooperation among the OIC stock exchanges called “Islamic stock exchange forum” as an outcome of the Round Table Meeting on “Promotion of Cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the OIC Member States” and **calls upon** the Member States to inform their Stock Exchanges about the Forum and **invite** them to join it.

D. Establishment of an Islamic Common Market:

Recalling all resolution of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conference, the most recent of which were resolutions No. 36/10-E(IS) and No. 2/34-E;

Also recalling the provision of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States;

Taking into account that the formation of Islamic Common Market is a long-run process and requires comprehensive studies and at the same time requires its own implementation and follow up arrangements;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the matter;

31. **Emphasizes** also the need to reinforce economic cooperation establishing free trade zones and common markets among the Member States through their regional groupings as a positive stage towards the ultimate goal of creating an Islamic Common Market.
32. **Takes note** of the recommendations contained in the report of the Second Meeting of the Experts Group (EGM), and **requests** the COMCEC to
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examine the recommendations contained in the report of the EGM, particularly convening the meeting of the relevant working group.

33. **Requests** the COMCEC to coordinate the efforts and studies undertaken or to be undertaken in this regard by ICDT or the other relevant OIC institutions and centres, with a view to taking necessary practical steps to reach the objectives related to the establishment of an Islamic Common Market.
34. **Welcomes** the efforts undertaken by the COMCEC for the establishment of the Trade Preferential System among the member states of OIC (TPS-OIC) as of January 1st, 2009, as a very concrete and important step for the liberalization of trade among the OIC member countries as well as the ultimate goal of the Islamic Common Market.
35. **Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report on each item appearing from A to D to the Twelve Session of the Islamic Summit.**

RESOLUTION No. 2/11-E(IS)
ON THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO MEMBER STATES AND NON-OIC COUNTRIES
AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 6 to 7 Rabiul Awwal 1429H (13-14 March 2008),

Recalling the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December, 2005;

A. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan:

Recalling Resolution No.19/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference; and Resolution No.3/34-E adopted by the Thirty Fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking into account that Afghanistan is still facing serious constraints due to more than two decades of war and its aftermath consequences which resulted in the demolition of its economic and social infrastructure;

Taking also into account the participation of the Member States and the Secretary General of the OIC in the Donors Conference held in on 21-22 January 2002 in Tokyo; and in March 2004 in Berlin;

Highly appreciate the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for his valuable efforts made in the political, economic and social sectors of Afghanistan, in particular his initiative to hold OIC Organs' Assistance Conference for the Reconstruction of Afghanistan in Jeddah;

Noting that about 70% to 80% of its economic and social infrastructures have been destroyed during the two decades of war; **Encourages** the Member States to actively participate in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Bearing in mind the importance of the voluntary and sustainable repatriation and reintegration of the Afghan refugees and displaced people to their homeland and place of origin;

Recognizing that about 10 million mines were planted in different parts of the country, taking the lives of thousands of people annually, and disabling many others;

Taking cognizance of the OIC Trust Fund for the assistance of the people of Afghanistan, and the importance of the continuation of its activities;

Noting also that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan still needs critical international support and assistance in its efforts at stabilization and reconstruction of the war-ravaged country;

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Keeping in mind the 17th meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which was held in Herat, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, on 20 October 2007, aimed at enhancing economic and trade cooperation among the ECO member countries and to achieve sustainable economic growth;

Recalling the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) meeting, which was held on 5-6 February 2008, in Tokyo, Japan, to reassess the achievement made in the field of service delivery and the fulfillment of the commitment made for the reconstruction of Afghanistan;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. **Calls** for a major international effort to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.
2. **Urges** the Member States who have pledged to contribute to the OIC Trust Fund for the assistance of the people of Afghanistan to fulfill their commitment and **further urges** all other Member States to donate to this Fund in order to enhance its capacity and ensure the continuation of its activities;
3. **Urges** the OIC Trust Fund for the assistance of the people of Afghanistan to expeditiously implement its commitment to the people of Afghanistan.
4. **Urges** Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and to the internally displaced Afghans as well as to the existing Afghan refugees in neighboring countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure their voluntary and sustainable repatriation, reintegration and resettlement in their homeland.

B. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan:

Recalling Resolution No. 21/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No.3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Confirming full solidarity of the Member States of the OIC with the Government and people of Azerbaijan at this very critical time of the country's history;

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding this conflict;

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Deploring the Armenia-backed aggressive separatism instigated in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, followed by aggression and occupation by Armenia of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories and resulted in violent displacement of almost one million Azerbaijani people from their homes, which, as such, resembles the terrible concept of ethnic cleansing;

Conscious of the fact that economic damage inflicted upon Azerbaijan in its territories currently by Armenia already exceeds US\$ 60 billion;

Welcoming and appreciating the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies, United Nations institutions and international organizations;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

5. **Appeals** to the Member States, International Community and Islamic Institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the economic and humanitarian assistance with a view of alleviating the suffering of the Azerbaijani people.
6. **Calls upon** the international organizations to continue to grant humanitarian, financial assistance to Azerbaijan.

C. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Chad:

Recalling Resolution No.3/34-E adopted by the 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Considers the massive presence of refugees on the Chadian territories on the one hand, and the continued situation of the displaced Chadian population who are living under drastically deplorable conditions on the other hand;

Takes note of the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter and the commitment of the member states to the strengthening of international peace and security.

7. **Invites** Member States, Islamic institutions and the international organizations to extend urgent financial and economic assistance to Chad in order to face the multiple problems of refugees and the displaced who are living on its territory and to implement its socio-economic programs.
8. **Appeals** to Member States, Islamic institutions and humanitarian organizations to provide the necessary assistance to the population of East Chad.

D. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire:

Recalling Resolution No.3/34-E adopted by the 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Considering particularly the decision to create a Special Fund to assist in the reconstruction efforts of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire;

Considering also the role played by the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to establish peace and security in some member countries, and economic stability in the sub-region;

9. **Expresses** its support and solidarity to the people and government of Cote d'Ivoire;
10. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to take appropriate measures required to urgently establish the Special Fund to bring about disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in the socio-economic fabric as well as enhance post-reconstruction efforts in Cote d'Ivoire;
11. **Appeals** to the Member States and the international community to provide the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire with substantial financial and economic support to enable it to redress current difficulties faced by the country;
12. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to establish as soon as possible the Contact Group on Cote d'Ivoire;

E. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Guinea:

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference and resolution No. 3/34-E adopted by the 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Considering the role played by the Republic of Guinea, within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to establish peace and ensure stability in some Member States, victims of armed conflicts;

Considering that the presence of a huge number of refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire constitutes an unbearable burden for the economy of the Republic of Guinea;

Considering the need for the Republic of Guinea to reconstruct its country and ensure the survival of the refugees and their return to their respective countries;

13. **Calls** urgently the international community and Member States to provide substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Guinea so as to

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enable it to face this situation created by the aggressions which victimized her and by the presence on its territory of hundred of thousands of refugees most of whom are Muslims.

14. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its assistance to the Republic of Guinea so that it may create the social infrastructures needed for the displaced population and the refugees, and overcome the deterioration of the environment brought about by this massive presence of refugees.
15. **Appeals** to the international community and the Member States to provide substantial economic and financial support to the programme of reconstruction of refugees' countries of origin to ensure their effective return to their countries.

F. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Lebanon:

Recalling Resolution No. 13/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, its consequent damages and losses of life and property, and its repercussions for the political and economic conditions in Lebanon;

Appreciating the efforts exerted by the Government of Lebanon in order to achieve security and stability, extend its sovereignty, under resolution No. 1701(2006) of the UN Security Council, over its territories, complete the reconstruction process, and provide the needs of Lebanese citizens in the regions hit by the Israeli aggression;

Taking into account the difficulties faced by the Lebanese citizens resident in the regions hit by the Israeli aggression;

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on this subject;

16. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Member States which promptly provided urgent assistance to Lebanon during the Israeli aggression and **welcomes** the readiness of these countries to continue to provide relief assistance to the victims of the aggression, achieve the reconstruction, and support and develop the Lebanese economy.
17. **Expresses also its appreciation** to the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and its Subsidiary Organs for promptly providing their assistance to Lebanon in the areas of relief of victims and

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reconstruction, and **welcomes** the Putrajaya Declaration on the Situation in Lebanon, which was adopted on 3/8/2006 by the Special Meeting of the OIC Expanded Executive Meeting at the Ministerial Level.

18. **Hails** the International Conference to support Lebanon (Paris III) held on 25 December 2007, which was graciously hosted by the French Government; the important results reached there, and the paper on the economic and social reform and development programme submitted by the Lebanese Government to modernize and develop the Lebanese economy, strengthen sustainable development growth rates, and improve the living conditions of all Lebanese people; and **expresses its appreciation** of the support pledged for Lebanon by the OIC Member States and specialized funds during the conference (Paris III).
19. **Condemns** the deliberate Israeli assaults on public facilities and infrastructures in Lebanon and **charges Israel with the full responsibility** of this aggression and its consequences; **charges Israel also with the responsibility** of compensating the Republic of Lebanon and Lebanese citizens for the heavy losses inflicted on the Lebanese economy; **condemns also** the persistent Israeli refusal to withdraw from parts of the Lebanese territories, including the Shebaa farms, behind the internationally-recognized Lebanese borders.
20. **Condemns also** Israel's refusal to hand over the maps of landmines it planted in the different agricultural and vital areas in the south of Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley as well as its refusal to hand over the maps of cluster bombs it dropped during its aggression in the summer of 2006, which constitute a major threat to the life of citizens and prevent them from going on with their daily lives; **also condemns** Israel for its continued detention of Lebanese people in its prisons.
21. **Reiterates** previous resolutions on the need to provide all forms of financial, material, and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon in order to meet its economic, technical, and training needs; and **renews its call on** the OIC Member States and all international and regional organizations to undertake urgent and effective initiatives for the reconstruction of Lebanon in the aftermath of the devastation wreaked by the Israeli occupation.
22. **Encourages** Member States to consider ways and means for trade facilitation for Lebanese products.

G. Economic Assistance to the People of Jammu and Kashmir:

Recalling Resolution No.30/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No.3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling also previous resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference on assistance to the Kashmiri people, particularly Resolution 23/30-E of the Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing deep sympathy to the victims, their families and people of Jammu and Kashmir who suffered huge losses of life and socio-economic and environment damage from the massive earthquake that struck South Asian on 8 October 2005;

Expressing gratitude for the assistance, contributions and pledges of the international community, particularly the Member States for the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the earthquake victims, which reflect the spirit of Islamic solidarity and cooperation to meet the challenges of unprecedented natural disasters;

Welcoming the appointment of Ambassador Ezzat Kamel Mufti as Special Representative of OIC Secretary General on Jammu and Kashmir and hoping that this appointment would also facilitate implementation of OICs decision regarding economic assistance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

Expressing deep appreciation for the assistance extended to the Kashmiris by some Member States and relevant OIC bodies;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General,

23. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic Institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Islamic Development Bank and Charitable Institutions, to grant generous humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people whose plight has been aggravated by the devastating earthquake of October 2005.
24. **Encourages** the international community, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations from the Islamic World to continue to provide necessary funds and assistance to support the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction work, in the affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
25. **Appeals** to Member States to contribute whenever possible to the rehabilitation of people affected by the earthquake disaster in order to facilitate the economic and social well-being since many means of livelihood has been damaged or destroyed.

26. **Also appeals** to Member States and the Islamic Institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in the OIC countries.

H. Economic Assistance to the Togolese Republic

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference (Resolution 24/1-EC), of the 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and of the 22nd session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation;

Considering the socio-economic difficulties facing the Togolese Republic on account of the smallness of the contribution of its traditional partners who have suspended their assistance from 1992 to 2007;

Taking the measure of the damages suffered by infrastructure such as roads, bridges, electrical and hydraulic networks, as well as basic public services such as schools and hospitals as a result of the devastating floods which have ravaged the northern and southeastern parts of the country in the recent months;

Appreciating the efforts made by the Government of the Togolese Republic and the success achieved in the implementation of the political, economic reforms policy and of the programme on the struggle against poverty;

Recalling also that Togo is listed among the least developed countries;

27. **Expresses its** total solidarity with Togo to meet the major challenges it must take up.
28. **Expresses also** its appreciation of the assistance extended by some Member States and by the relevant bodies of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.
29. **Recognizes** the efforts made by the Government of the Togolese Republic in order to overcome the economic difficulties it is facing and to implement its comprehensive programme of political, economic, and financial reform.
30. **Recognizes also** the need for economic and humanitarian assistance to alleviate the impacts of the floods which have devastated the northern and southeastern parts of the country.
31. **Calls on** all the Islamic Member States and institutions, in particular the Islamic Development Bank through the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development to extend economic and financial assistance to the Togolese Republic.

32. **Requests** the General Secretariat to follow up this issue and to report thereon to the next session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

I. Economic Assistance to Member States Stricken by Drought and Natural Calamities:

Recalling Resolutions Nos.10/10-E (IS), 28/10-E(IS) and 26/10-E (IS) adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No.3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-Fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by natural disasters, drought and desertification, with their damaging effects on economic and social conditions of the affected countries especially in the sectors of agriculture and food, economic and social infrastructures as well as public services and utilities;

Fully aware that afflicted Member States, belonging as they do to the category of the Least-Developed, cannot by themselves bear the growing burden of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work;

Recognizing the importance of disaster preparedness and management for mitigating the impacts of natural calamities and the need for continued efforts by the international community to enhance awareness in this regard.

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

i) The Republic of Djibouti

Deeply concerned at the recent floods in Djibouti causing an important loss in livestock, as well as serious damage to roads and health establishments thus causing cholera and malaria epidemics;

33. **Appeals** to the Member States to provide substantial financial and material support to the Republic of Djibouti for the consolidation of peace, the reconstruction of the country and the implementation of its structural adjustment programme.

34. **Calls on** the Member States to assist the Republic of Djibouti in its struggle against the disastrous consequences of the recent drought at both the social and economic levels.

ii) The Republic of Mozambique:

Appreciating the efforts being made by the Government of Mozambique in the implementation programme for eradication of poverty and for economic development;

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Regrets the natural disasters which have taken place recently in Mozambique;

35. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank, all Islamic Institutions and the International community in general to continue rendering their assistance in order to ensure the socio-economic development of Mozambique.
36. **Urges** the developed countries to write off the external debt of Mozambique in the light of its current effort to eradication of poverty.
37. **Calls upon** all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique.
38. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and relevant OIC institutions.
39. **Urges** the international community to render assistance for setting up national, sub-regional, regional and international disaster prevention, preparedness and management mechanisms, including early warning systems.

J. Economic Assistance to Member States Affected by Regional War, Civil Insurgence, or Political Crises:

Recalling Resolutions Nos. 13/10-E (IS), 27/10-E (IS), 24/10-(IS), 15/10-E(IS), 16/10-E (IS), 17/10-E (IS), 18/10-E (IS), 22/10-E (IS), 21/10-E (IS) and 20/10-E (IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No.3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking into account the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter as well as members' commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Confirming full solidarity of the Member States of the OIC with the Government and people of the affected countries at this very critical time of the country's history;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

i) The Republic of Albania:

40. **Expresses** its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy.
41. **Urges** OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and International Organizations to grant generous economic assistance to Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.

ii) The Republic of Guinea Bissau:

Noting the political and military situation that Guinea Bissau experience since June 7, 1998 until recently and its consequences on the economic activities of the country, namely the loss of agricultural and export products, the mass displacement of the population and the devastation of the basic socio-economic infrastructure, such as schools, dispensaries, hospitals, markets, residential areas, etc;

42. **Urges** Member States and the International Community to provide Guinea Bissau with urgent aid to facilitate the reintegration of its people in active life.
43. **Appeals** to Member States and to OIC institutions to participate in the rehabilitation and economic revival programme of Guinea Bissau.

iii) The Kyrgyz Republic:

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Kyrgyz Republic after attainment of independence and sovereignty and taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

44. **Appeals** to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and to contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyz Republic either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organizations so as to enable Kyrgyz Republic to fulfill its economic programme.
45. **Appeals also** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyz Republic.

iv) The Republic of Somalia:

Deeply concerned at the critical situation in Somalia and expressing the desire for early restoration of peace and order in that sister Member country;

Concerned at the adverse economic effects of the serious drought being experienced by the Republic of Somalia;

46. **Urges** OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia to end the human suffering in this Muslim country.

v) The Republic of Sierra Leone

Expressing appreciation for the sustained concern and interest of the leaders of the West African Sub-region, for peace to prevail in the Republic of Sierra Leone;

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Expressing appreciation for the assistance rendered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Arab Republic of Egypt and other friendly nations for the donations of food items, clothing and medicines for the refugees and displaced inhabitants of Sierra Leone;

Considering that the armed conflict in Sierra Leone caused considerable damage to life and property and for several years disrupted all economic activities particularly in the Mining, Agriculture and Industrial sectors, resulting in substantial loss of revenue to Government and the private sector;

47. **Appeals** to the Member States and the international community to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone so as to enable its people to undertake the much needed process of rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of returnees and displaced inhabitants of about 1.5 million.
48. **Urges** the OIC Trust Fund for Sierra Leone to continue to facilitate the flow of much-needed financial assistance to Sierra Leone in order to expedite its post-conflict recovery.
49. **Requests** the Secretary-General to use his good offices to accelerate the process of approval for projects already identified for Sierra Leone.

vi) The Republic of Tajikistan:

Deeply concerned at critical situation which Tajikistan has faced in the light of 5 years of bloody civil war resulted in the death, injury spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and diarrhoea and displacement of thousands of people as well as destruction of its economic and social infrastructures;

Noting the return of about 200 thousands Tajik refugees to their homeland which necessitates a great financial and technical support;

50. **Appeals** to all members and Islamic financial institutions to make their generous contributions to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Tajikistan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organizations so as to enable Tajikistan to fulfill its rehabilitation programmes.
51. **Urges** the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Tajikistan.

vii) The Republic of Yemen:

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen and the losses incurred in the tourism sector in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001 in New York;

Appreciating the efforts made and success achieved by the Government of the Republic of Yemen in implementing the Economic Reforms Policy and the Fight-Against-Poverty Programme;

Taking into consideration the heavy burdens borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighbouring African countries;

52. **Expresses** its appreciation for the efforts of the Yemeni Government in overcoming its economic difficulties and the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and the Fight-Against-Poverty Programme;
53. **Reiterates its call** to the Member States as well as other international and regional organizations to provide all forms of economic assistance to the Yemeni Government to support its efforts in implementing administrative and financial reform programmes with a view to alleviating the heavy burden resulting from hosting refugees from poor neighbouring states; thanks the states that fulfilled their pledges to donate to the Republic of Yemen at the Donor's Conference in London, at the forefront of which is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other states of the Gulf Cooperation.

viii) The Republic of Uganda:

Aware that the Government of the Republic of Uganda is currently experiencing serious strain on its meagre resources as a result of the presence of refugees from neighbouring countries who flock into the country; and recognizing that Uganda is offering asylum to large numbers of refugees whose number will increase if the state of unrest continues to escalate; and also to assist in alleviating the suffering of the internally displaced people in response to the joint appeal by the World Food Programme and the Government of Uganda.

54. **Invites** Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugee problems and other related consequences. **Also stresses** the need to enable Uganda to implement its relevant economic and cultural programmes in an urgent and effective manner.
55. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and relevant OIC institutions.

K. Continuous Assistance to the Sahelian Member States:

Recalling Resolution No. 3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with concern the difficult situation of the Sahelian Member States affected by drought;

Expressing its appreciation to the OIC Member States that have contributed to the financing of the first programme of assistance to the Sahelian Member States;

Having also taken note of the special emergency aid programme of US\$50 million which was initiated by the Islamic Development Bank in favour of the Sahelian Member States;

Recalling the Resolution of the 6th Islamic Summit Conference deciding to establish a special OIC/IDB/CILSS Programme for Sahel;

Expressing appreciation for the mission undertaken by the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to visit African countries affected by drought, namely Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Gambia, Senegal and Niger during 24-31 March, 2005;

Expresses its appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its continuous support to the Sahelian Member States affected by drought;

56. **Calls for** the effective implementation of the OIC/IDB/CILSS Programme for the Sahel.
57. **Urges** Member States, that could do so and that have not yet contributed to this programme and have not initiated a separate programme, to contribute to the financing of the Programme.
58. **Reaffirms** the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah with the peoples of the Sahel.

L. Economic Assistance to Non-OIC Countries and Muslim Communities:

Recalling Resolutions Nos. 14/10-E (IS) and 29/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference and Resolutions No.3/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Guided by the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter which lay stress on the common objectives and destiny of the peoples of the Ummah, as well as their commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Having examined the report of the Secretary General:

i) Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing full solidarity of the Member States with the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

59. **Appeals** to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations to enable full implementation of the IDB programme aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the reconstruction of the country and to work for the preservation of the Islamic identity of the Muslim inhabitants of Bosnia.
60. **Urges upon** the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina and humanitarian assistance relating to return of the refugees and displaced people to their homes by means of OIC Trust Fund for Bosnia and Herzegovina.
61. **Requests** the OIC Member States to direct the biggest part of their assistance for reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the regions inhabited by Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
62. **Commends** the building of several houses and the provision of support to farmers by the Bosnia Reconstruction Fund and thanks the States that have provided assistance to the Fund namely, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia.

ii) Chechniyar People:

Recalling the concerns and support expressed at the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) in December 1994 regarding the situation in Chechnya which has deteriorated again in 1999;

Referring to the call to all Member States made by His Excellency S. Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chairman of the Eighth Islamic Summit for a rapid humanitarian assistance to the people and refugees and displaced people of Chechnya and its readiness to assist in coordination of this effort;

Expressing deep concern over the plight of Muslim refugees and displaced people of Chechnya and humanitarian and material losses resulting from the Chechnya Crisis in 1999;

63. **Calls on** all Member States, Islamic Philanthropist Institutions and appeals to the international community to urgently provide generous humanitarian assistance to the people and refugees of Chechnya.

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64. **Recommends** to all Member States to encourage their relevant institutions, NGOs and individuals to provide humanitarian assistance for people and refugees of Chechnya.
65. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance provided by Member States and relevant OIC bodies.

(iii) Kosovo:

Expressing concerns over the Muslim community in Kosovo;

66. **Appeals** to the Member States to pay attention to the aggravated economic situation in Kosovo, while this exhausted community is in the delicate moment of its development.
67. **Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report on each item appearing from A to L to the Twelfth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.**

RESOLUTION No. 3/11-E (IS)
ON THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OTHER
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES IN THE ECONOMIC SECTORS

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 6 to 7 Rabiul Awwal 1429H (13-14 March 2008),

Recalling the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December, 2005;

Cooperation in the field of Tourism:

Recalling relevant resolutions of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences, the most recent of which were resolutions No. 32/10-E (IS) and No.4/34-E;

Also recalling the provision of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States in which tourism identified as a priority area for cooperation;

Taking note of the resolutions on “Tourism Development” adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held in Kuala Lumpur on October 10-13, 2001; the Third ICTM, held in Riyadh on 6-9 October 2002; the 4th ICTM, held in Dakar, on 28-30 March 2005, and the Fifth ICTM, held in Baku, on 11-12 September 2006.

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

1. **Thanks** the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Dakar, Senegal, and in Baku, Azerbaijan, in March 2005, and in September 2006, respectively.
2. **Invites** Member States and OIC Institutions to fully implement the Resolutions and Decisions of the Fifth Session of the ICTM.
3. **Appreciates** the offer of the Syrian Arab Republic to host the Sixth Session of the ICTM in 2008, and invites the Member States to actively participate in the Conference.
4. **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to host ministerial-level tourism related events in their countries.

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5. **Thanks** the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Experts Group Meeting on Tourism Development in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 9-11 May 2007.
6. **Takes note** of the Strategic Plan for Tourism Development in OIC Member States, finalized by the 2nd Experts Group Meeting on Tourism Development, and planned to be presented to the 6th ICTM, to be held in Damascus in 2008, with a view to adopting and submitting it to the 24th COMCEC, for final approval.
7. **Thanks** the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the International Scientific Conference on “Role of Tourism in the Economies of OIC Countries” in Baku, on 21-22 June 2007.
8. **Thanks** the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade for its efforts to organize a Tourism Fair, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in Member States, once every two years, and **welcomes** in this connection the offers of the Republic of Lebanon, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic and Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Tourism Fairs in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014, respectively and **calls upon** the Member States to actively participate in the Tourism Fairs.
9. **Calls upon** Member States and OIC institutions to render financial and technical support to the regional project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”.
10. **Thanks** the UNWTO, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the ST-EP Foundation for financing the feasibility study of the project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”.
11. **Takes note** of the proposal of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry to organize in future on a regular basis Private Sector Forum on Tourism.
12. **Thanks** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and organizing the International Conference on Tourism and Traditional Crafts in Islamic Countries and associated activities, held in Riyadh, from 16 to 23 Shawwal 1427 H (7-14 November 2006), in collaboration with the Research Center for Islamic History, Arts and Culture (IRCICA).
13. **Thanks** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and organizing the First Tourism Forum, held in Riyadh, on 30 October - 1 November 2007, in collaboration with the ICCI.

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14. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the OIC Forum for Silk Road Tour Operators, to be held in Sheki, Azerbaijan, on 14-15 April 2008.
15. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the OIC Conference on “Religious and Health Tourism: Organization of Spiritual and Physical Recreation”, to be held in Nakhchevan, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 20-22 May 2008
16. **Welcomes** the offer of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) to organize the Seminar on Development of E-Tourism Technology in Islamic Countries, in cooperation with the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a current Chairman of the 5th ICTM, scheduled to be held at the IUT headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 1-3 April 2008, and **thanks** IDB for contributing to the financing of this Seminar.
17. **Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Twelfth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4/11-E (IS)
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC INSTITUTIONS**

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century) held in Dakar, republic of Senegal, from 6 to 7 Rabuil Awawal 1429H (13-14 March 2008),

Recalling the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December, 2005;

A. Activities of the OIC Subsidiary Organs in the field of Economic and Trade:

Recalling Resolution No. 33/10-E (IS) of the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 5/34-E adopted by the Thirty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the activities of the Subsidiary Organs of the OIC, namely, the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Ankara, and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca;

Appreciating the increasing number of joint activities among the OIC organs and agencies;

Expressing its appreciation at the role played by the subsidiary organs in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States and the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General;

i. Activities of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

Having taken note with satisfaction of the activity report submitted by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, and the change of the acronym of the Centre from (SESRTCIC) to (SESRIC);

1. **Commends** the role the Centre is playing through active contributions to the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States and the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, as well as the various resolutions of the COMCEC and Ministerial Conferences.
2. **Lauds** the SESRIC for the highly instructive technical reports and studies it presented on the most prominent items of the economic agenda of the annual

sessions of the COMCEC, the Islamic Commission and other OIC Ministerial Conferences and meetings and **calls upon** the Member States to endeavour to implement the recommendations and project proposals contained in these reports and studies.

3. **Takes note with satisfaction** the active contributions made so far by the SESRIC relating to the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, particularly in the area of poverty alleviation and **urges** the Member States to actively and effectively participate in the work of the Centre in this area by closely following up the recommendations and project proposals contained in Centre's documents and studies on this vital area, and **encourages** the Centre to implement poverty alleviation projects for the benefit of the Member States, as and when found feasible.
4. **Lauds** the Centre for the highly instructive reports it prepared on poverty alleviation and food security in the Member States of Sub-Saharan Africa as a preliminary contribution to the special programme for the development of Africa stipulated by the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action and **commends** the SESRIC activities on improving the agriculture productivity in the Member States, in particular the Centre's initiative for increasing the productivity of cassava and the potential of cassava processing in some Member States in Sub-Saharan Africa that could be used as a model for poverty alleviation and food security in other member countries in the region.
5. **Commends** the highly constructive efforts made by the Centre, in its capacity as the coordinator institution of the exchange of views sessions of the COMCEC, for the preparation and implementation of the 23rd exchange of views session of the COMCEC under the theme "Micro-Credit Financing and Poverty Alleviation in Member States", **lauds** the Centre for the highly instructive report it presented to the said session on the outcome of the workshop it organised on the said theme, which adopted a set of recommendations and brought together a number of project proposals to be implemented by the Member States, and **encourages** the Centre to continue its work on this vital area for the benefit of the Member States.
6. **Commends** the SESRIC for the quality and relevance of the training programmes, courses and seminars it organises on various subjects of current interest to the Member Countries, particularly the continuous statistical capacity building training courses which the Centre organises for the benefit of the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the Member States and **urges** the Member States to contribute to and benefit from these and other technical cooperation activities of the Centre.
7. **Expresses** its appreciation for the highly useful statistical databases maintained and publications produced by the SESRIC and **calls upon** all Member States to regularly provide the Centre with their statistical data and information online using

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the facilities of the Centre's website in order to enhance the mechanism of collection of the official and up-to-date statistical data and information by the Centre.

8. **Encourages** the Centre to intensify contacts and cooperation with international and regional institutions particularly those working in the framework of the United Nations and others, such as Bretton Woods institutions.
9. **Urges** the Member States, which have not done so thus far, to settle their regular mandatory contributions to the budget of the Centre, and to act for the settlement of their arrears, if any, at the earliest.
10. **Expresses its appreciation and thanks** to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the host country of the Centre, for its generous granting of a highly valuable piece of land in the diplomatic city in Ankara in order to build a new headquarters building for the Centre, and for its promise to make a financial contribution towards the construction of the said building, and **invites** the other Member States to contribute towards this end in order to facilitate the completion of the construction at an early date.

ii. Activities of the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT).

Having taken note with satisfaction the activity report submitted by the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT).

11. **Commends** the role which the ICDT are playing each in their respective fields.
12. **Lauds** the ICDT for the highly instructive reports and studies they presented on the most prominent items of the economic agenda of the Commission and encourages them keep on their excellent performance in this respect.
13. **Commends** the ICDT for the quality and relevance of the training workshops and seminars they organize on various subjects of current interest to the Member Countries.
14. **Expresses** its appreciation for the usefulness of the statistical publications produced by the ICDT, and **calls upon** all Member States to respond to the statistical questionnaires they circulate to them to collect the official and up-to-date information and data.
15. **Expresses** its appreciation to ICDT for the valuable work carried out in the fields of its specialisation in order to implement the "Ten Year Programme of

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Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century”, adopted by the 3rd OIC Extraordinary Summit Conference, notably the objective aiming at enhancing the share of intra-OIC trade in the global trade of Member States by 20% in 2015.

16. **Commends** the role played by the COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDDT in the management of the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee under the framework Agreement on Trade Preferences System among the OIC Member States.
17. **Commends** the ICDDT for holding the 11th Trade Fair of Islamic Countries in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from 21st to 25th November 2007 and other specialised fairs, exhibitions and businessmen forums in various sectors of high trade potential among OIC Member States.
18. **Takes note with satisfaction** the active contributions made by the ICDDT to the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action as well as the various resolutions of the COMCEC and various Ministerial Conferences.
19. **Urges** the Member States to actively and effectively participate in the work of these organs and expeditiously respond to the questionnaires circulated by them, and closely follow up their documents and studies so as to achieve maximum benefit from these organs in the area of economic cooperation among the Member States.
20. **Encourages** these organs to intensify contacts with international and regional institutions particularly those working in the framework of the United Nations and others, such as Bretton Woods institutions and to benefit from the studies and reports produced by these institutions.
21. **Urges** the Member States, which have not done so thus far, to settle their regular mandatory contributions to the budgets of these bodies, and to act for the settlement of their arrears, if any, at the earliest in view of the current financial difficulties being faced by these organs.
22. **Notes that** the Member States are to benefit from the special services offered by the subsidiary organs, above and beyond the tasks assigned to them in their work programmes, on a contractual basis.
23. **Calls upon** OIC institutions to participate actively in the Sessional Committee Meetings for consultation on a regular basis concurrently with the annual sessions of the COMCEC and Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, in order to enhance the existing collaboration among OIC

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institutions, avoid duplication and monitor the progress of the programs assigned to each institution and learn from their respective experiences.

24. **Urges** Member States to consider, when nominating their representatives to the Board of Directors of these organs, persons who are experienced in the activities of the organs, and **expresses** the strong desirability of setting up conditions for selection of such representative to those meetings.

**B. Activities of the OIC Specialized Institutions and Organs:
The Islamic Development Bank (IDB).**

Recalling Resolutions Nos. 34/10-E (IS), 37/10-E (IS) of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference; and Resolutions No. 19/33-E of the Thirty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken note with appreciation of the report on the activities and operations of the Islamic Development Bank Group;

Having taken note also of the report of the Secretary General in this regard:

25. **Expresses** its full satisfaction at the devotion and efficiency with which the IDB President and his staff are running this institution to ensure its good performance, as it continues to make an invaluable contribution for fostering economic development and social progress of member countries and communities.
26. **Commends** the IDB on the steps taken to implement the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held at Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005 concerning: the establishment of the Poverty Alleviation Fund, the Increase in the IDB capital; and the establishment of the ITFC.
27. **Extends** thanks to the Member States which have announced their contributions to the resources of the Poverty Alleviation Fund, with special appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia for the generous contribution of 1 billion US Dollars in favor of this Fund; and the State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Algeria and the State of Qatar who announced a contribution of US\$ 300 million, US\$100 million, US\$50 million and US\$50 million respectively to the fund; and **urges** all the Member States, which have not yet done so, to announce their generous financial contributions in favor of this Fund.

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28. **Take Notes** of the decision of the Board of Governors of the IDB to change the name of the Poverty Alleviation Fund to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, during the 32nd Board of Governors meeting in Dakar Senegal on 29-30 May 2007.
29. **Welcomes** the launching of Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) in Dakar, Senegal on 30th May 2007, by President Abdulaye Wade of Senegal, at a special session convened at the margin of the IDB's 32nd Board of Governors Meeting.
30. **The Conference expresses** its concern over the wide gap between the initially targeted Capital of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) of US\$ 10 billion and the contributions of US\$ 1.6 billion which have so far been announced by 31 of the 57 OIC Member States. The Conference appeals to the Member States to make substantial contributions commensurate with their financial and economic capabilities to reach the full US\$ 10.0 billion capital of the Fund by end of 2009, and at least US\$ 6.0 billion by the end of 2008 in order to enable the Fund to implement its programme.
31. **Thanks** the OIC Secretary General, the IDB President and the President of the Republic of Senegal for conducting high level missions to OIC Member States for resource mobilization for the Fund.
32. **Notes with satisfaction** that ITFC has commenced its business operations on 1st Muharram 1429H (10th January 2008), with a declared capital of US\$3 billion and a subscribed capital of US\$750 Million, and calls upon business community in member states to benefit from ITFC financing programmes and services.
33. **Appreciates** the signing of the Agreement on the establishment of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) by 47 Member States, as well as by 8 financial institutions, and appeals to the signatory states and financial institutions to expeditiously ratify the Agreement.
34. **Commends** the IDB for taking necessary measures to ensure a substantial increase in the its authorized, subscribed, and paid-up capital, so as to enable it to strengthen its role in providing financial support and technical assistance to OIC member countries, as per the decision taken by the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank at its 31st meeting (Kuwait, 30-31 May 2006) to achieve a substantial increase in the authorized and subscribed capital of the IDB in accordance with a decision taken at the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Makkah, 7-8 December 2005).

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35. **Invites** the Member States which have not yet done so to subscribe to the second general capital increase of the IDB.
36. **Welcomes** with appreciation the recently launched IDB Statistical Capacity Initiative (IDB-STATCAP) which primary objective is to assist Member Countries to build and strengthen their statistical capacities and provide technical assistance for development of human resource and institutional framework in the area of statistics as well as financing for physical and statistical infrastructure and regular statistical operations.
37. **Commends** the IDB on the steps taken to implement the Resolutions of the 10th Islamic Summits on Preparation of the Ummah for the 21st Century; and **Expresses** its appreciation of the efforts made by the IDB in the related Task Forces on Intra-OIC Trade, Training, Health and Illiteracy Eradication, and urges the Member States and relevant bodies of the OIC to combine their efforts with those of the Task Forces concerned.
38. **Welcomes** the decision taken by the IDB's Board of Governors at its 27th Meeting held in Ouagadougou (October 2002) for issuing a Declaration on IDB Group Cooperation with Africa. The Declaration reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to the Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs), in within the framework of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
39. **Further takes note** that under this Declaration the Bank pledged a development assistance financing package for Sub-Saharan Member Countries of US\$2 billion over the 5-year period, starting from 1424H (2003-2004) in areas such as social sector, transport, trade, micro-finance and related capacity building measures by the end of the Year 1428H (5th Year of the Declaration), the total utilized amount reached US\$ 2.40 billion (i.e., 19% of the targeted amount).
40. **Welcomes** with appreciation the IDB's efforts for developing of a Five-Year Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA) within the framework of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), for supporting development and poverty alleviation in Africa.
41. **Further notes with satisfaction** that the report of this SPDA was submitted after incorporating the views and observation made by the Ministers of Economy and Planning of African OIC Member States, during the Ministerial Meeting held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 22 – 23 January 2008.
42. The Conference welcomes with satisfaction the orientations of the SPDA which put priority on the fight against poverty, based on a dual approach that aims, on the one hand, at satisfying the most basic needs of the population by

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way of programs geared towards achieving the MDGs through concessional financing provided by the ISFD, and, on the other hand, at accelerating growth by supporting income generating economic infrastructures and development programs through more conventional financing.

43. **Notes with satisfaction** the efforts taken by the Bank's towards the promotion of Intra-OIC trade, including signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the Government of Malaysia (in its capacity as Chairman of the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit) and Turkey (within the framework of the Turkish Government's Africa Development Strategy launched in 2003).
44. **Thanks** IDB for contributing to the financing of the First and Second Round of Meetings of the Trade Negotiations within the framework of the Agreement on Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC) among the Islamic Countries.
45. **Appreciates** also the technical assistance programmes of the IDB to assist Member States which are either members of the WTO or in the process of accession to the Organization, and the role of the Bank in organizing consultative meetings; and **Commends** IDB for its efforts in providing technical assistance to enhance the capacity-building of the OIC Member States in human resources development and institutional sectors such as organizing trade policy courses, seminars, symposiums and workshops on the main topics and providing specific direct technical assistance to the OIC Member States.
46. **Expresses satisfaction** that the IDB has successfully carried out the mandate given by COMCEC in organizing Consultative Meetings for Member States (from 1996 up to present) in order to enable the Member States exchange views and coordinate their stands on issues of common interest in order to prepare for the WTO ministerial meetings and coordinate their positions regarding the issues raised in the Agenda items.
47. **Expresses** appreciation for efforts of IDB to make arrangements for preparatory meetings prior to WTO ministerial meetings for consultations and exchange of views among Member States; also **commends** IDB's support to Member States in their efforts to effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations and its continued provision of technical and financial assistance to Member States in the matters related to WTO.
48. **Thanks** the IDB for organizing in Geneva (February & December 2007, as well as February 2008), consultative meetings of the Permanent Missions of the OIC – Member Countries accredited to the WTO -for exchange of views on the status of the Doha Round on Trade Negotiations, and to discuss possible ways forward.

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49. **Thanks** the IDB for its initiative to provide debt relief to the Member States in the framework of the international initiative to alleviate the debt burden of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).
50. **Appreciates** the effort made by IDB to continue allocating US\$ 1 billion from its ordinary capital resource (OCR) to ITFC and urges member states, banks and financial institutions of member countries to support the effort of ITFC to secure necessary additional funds for its trade financing activities.
51. **Notes with satisfaction** the efforts of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment & Export Credit (ICIEC) in encouraging the flow of foreign investment to the OIC Member Countries and promoting their exports to all the globe; and **urges** the OIC Members who have not yet joined or accomplished their membership requirements to do so expeditiously, in order to benefit from its services.
52. **Expresses** appreciation for IDB efforts to accord preferential treatment to companies and contractors from Member States in the implementation of projects financed by the Bank and calls upon IDB to intensify its efforts in this field.
53. **Underlines** the role played by the IDB in facilitating the implementation of the Capacity Building Program for Poverty Alleviation in the OIC member states with four pilot projects having been identified under phase one of the Programme (Capacity Building for the Development of Fisheries Sector in Bangladesh; Capacity Building in Planning, Negotiating and Management for Exploitation of Oil and Mineral Resources in Mauritania; Capacity Building in Palm Oil Industry, Livestock Breeding and Animal Faltering Technology in Sierra Leone; and Capacity-building in small enterprise and micro-finance development for the Tsunami survivors in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam in Indonesia), with a total cost of nearly US\$31 million.
54. **Expresses its appreciation** for the efforts in the establishment of the World Waqf Foundation, and **urges** the Member States to cooperate with it for advancing the Waqf affairs towards enhancing its economic and social role.
55. **Notes with satisfaction** the efforts of the IDB in providing support to the member states facing natural disasters, drought and desertification, especially in the areas of agriculture and food, rehabilitation, economic and social infrastructures as well as public services and utilities.
56. **Thanks** the IDB for initiating a programme for the development of Cotton and Textiles industries in its member countries, financing the OIC capacity building activities in the area of cotton (visit of experts from certain Member States to

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prepare specialized studies on cotton First & Second Expert Group Meetings on Enhancing Production Efficiency and International Competitiveness in the Cotton Producing Member States, the Forum on Energizing Trade Investment in the Cotton Sector, as well as the Forum on Enhancement & Promotion of Trade and Investment in Cotton sector among the OIC member Countries), as well as incorporating the cotton issue within the framework of its technical assistance programmes on WTO related matters.

57. **Commends** the OIC General Secretariat and IDB for the efforts in establishing a joint Inter-organizational Technical Working Group (ITWG) to follow-up the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held at Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005.

C. Activities of the OIC Affiliated Institutions in the field of Economic and Trade Cooperation:

Recalling Resolution No. 35/10-E(IS) adopted by the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No. 20/34-E of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken note of the activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA);

Expressing its appreciation for the role played by the affiliated institutions in the elaboration and implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States;

Appreciating the role played by these two institutions in their respective fields of action;

i. Activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

Having considered the report on the activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

Appreciating the major role undertaken by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry to reinforce economic and trade cooperation among Member States, as well as the implementation of the OIC 10-Year Program of Action through its Work Plan.

58. **Appeals** to the Member States for their support and encourages their National Chambers of Commerce and Industry to actively take part in the ICCI projects which are aimed for strengthening economic cooperation.

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59. **Welcomes** the ICCI scheme and supports it as the principal representative of the private sector in the OIC Member States.
60. **Welcomes** the World Zakat Authority and the World Public Institution for Waqfs and calls on Member States to authorize these two institutions to open national and city branches.
61. **Endorses** the steps taken by the ICCI in favour of the open visa for the members of the OIC Business Owners Union (BOU) and urges the Member States to sign the relevant agreement.
62. **Urges** the economic entities in all OIC Member States to participate in the proposed companies such as the International Islamic Company for Exploration of Investment Opportunities & Promotion of Intra-Trade (FORAS), Business Owners Union (BOU), Al-Emmar Bank, Company for Development of Infrastructure, Company for Recruitment and Employment of Labor, Company for Promotion of Inter-Islamic Tourism and other such companies acting for the expansion of trade exchange among Islamic States; and **invites** the OIC governments to welcome the establishment of these companies and their branches and to facilitate procedures for them.

ii. Activities of the Organization of Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA).

63. **Expresses** thanks to the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for extending consistent support to the Islamic Shipowners' Association, giving donations and hosting its Headquarters.
64. **Also expresses thanks** to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for allowing the setting up of the Headquarters of the Bakkah Shipping Company (BASCO) in Jeddah.
65. **Thanks** the Government of Dubai (State of the United Arab Emirates) for hosting the 28th Joint Meeting of the Executive Committee and the 30th Meeting of the General Assembly in Dubai, for registering the Bakkah Shipping Company without intermediary or local sponsor, for giving the company 100% ownership right, for providing it with a free piece of land at a convenient location, and for registering the branch of the Islamic Protection and Indemnity Club (a non-profit insurance company) in Dubai.

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66. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Bakkah Shipping Company and calls on the shipping companies, private sector and individuals in the Member States to support the Company in its effort to serve the Muslim Ummah.
67. **Appreciates** the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for extending its support to the Islamic P&I Club enabling it to operate and offering adequate coverage within the Iranian jurisdiction with the minimum legal restriction.
68. **Commends** the initiative of the OISA Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Asian P&I Club (Asian Protection and Indemnity Club) and the Iranian Shipping Companies, especially the National Iranian Tanker Company for their joint efforts and contributions in having the Asian P&I Club to be under the umbrella of the Islamic Shipowners' Association.
69. **Invites** Member States and their maritime companies to register their ships with the Islamic P&I in Qeshm Island in Islamic Republic of Iran, in order the Club meet the level of the existing International P&I Clubs and also to encourage the treatment of the ships under cover of the Club on equal footing with national ships at the Member States seaports; and **urges** all the ports authorities of the Member States to cooperate and offer all supports and facilities to the acceptance of Islamic P&I Club covers ad certificate of entries issued by the Club, and **further urges** the insurance companies in the Member States to facilitate all kind of services to Islamic P&I Cub in accordance with support of the Club covers.
70. **Welcomes** the creation of the Cooperative Information System at the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Shipowners' Association (OISA) in Jeddah to serve the shipping companies in OIC Member States.
71. **Urges** the Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign the Statute of the Islamic Shipowners' Association.
72. **Appeals** to the Member States to continue to extend their support and assistance to the OISA.
73. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report on each item appearing from A to C to the Thirty-fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 5/11-E(IS)
ON
THE DAKAR/PORT-SUDAN RAILWAY LINE

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 6 to 7 Rabiul Awal 1429H (13-14 March 2008),

Referring to the recommendations of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 22-23 June 2006;

Reiterating the economic and social feasibility of the projected railway line between Port-Sudan and Dakar, given the already existing infrastructure as demonstrated in the provisional economic and social feasibility study prepared by the Sudanese Railway Authority's Planning and Systems Department on linking the African States all along the proposed railway line:

1. **Decides** to set up a committee whose membership shall include the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and representatives of the States to be crossed by the proposed railway line between Dakar and Port-Sudan (i.e. Sudan, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Senegal) to start the project's implementation steps. **Further decides** to include the Republic of Djibouti in the feasibility study of the Railway line.
2. **Express** its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Sudan for its initiative in submitting the project and preparing the primary feasibility study.
3. **Decides** to incorporate the Port-Sudan/Dakar railway line in the agenda of the coming meetings of the Ministerial Council, and requests the Secretary General to cooperate with the Committee set up under para (1) of the present resolution and to report on progress achieved in this project.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to extend every possible facility to the Committee for the Port-Sudan/Dakar Railway Line and to report on the issue to the next ICFM and Summit.

RESOLUTION No. 6/11-E(IS)
ON DEBT RELIEF IN FAVOUR OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 6 to 7 Rabiul Awal 1429H (13-14 March 2008),

Fully aware of the pressing need for the OIC, its Member States and donor States, to further contribute to the fight against poverty in Africa and to the development of this continent;

Inspired, in this regard, by the Islamic Solidarity and by the relevant provisions of the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 05-06 Dhul Qaada (7-8 December 2005) as an orientation instrument in which we have underlined the importance to be given to this issue;

Considering, in the framework, the appeal made to the donor States to write off bilateral and multilateral debts of OIC Member States “with limited revenues”;

Have decided to urge the donor States, members of the OIC to take measures for debt relief in favour of African countries, with proportions and deadlines taking into consideration the heavy burden this debt constitutes for African economies.
