

**OIC/ACM-2010/FC.**

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE  
OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING  
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK  
24 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE  
OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF  
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK  
24 SEPTEMBER 2010**

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) held their Annual Coordination Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2010, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General attended the Meeting.
2. The Meeting reaffirmed the determination of the OIC Member States to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations in accordance with its Charter in addressing current numerous global threats and challenges. The Meeting reiterated that the United Nations remains an indispensable global mechanism for the promotion of a shared vision for a more peaceful, secure and prosperous world. The Meeting expressed satisfaction over the increasing scope of relations between the OIC and the UN and the regular contacts between the two Secretaries-General. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the outcome of the bi-annual meeting on cooperation between the OIC and the UN which was held at the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture's (IRCICA's) premises in Istanbul in June 2010.
3. The Meeting urged all Member States to actively participate at the highest level, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 and 17 March 2011.
4. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the OIC Secretary-General for his role in promoting and defending the interests and causes of the Islamic World, and in raising the profile of the OIC as a significant player in the global scene.
5. The Meeting, while reaffirming its full commitment to the new vision, mission and mandate of the OIC as contained in the OIC Charter and the Ten-Year Programme of Action, as well as all previous resolutions adopted at the level of the Summit and the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), recognized that daunting challenges continue to face the Islamic World in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
6. The Meeting reaffirmed the centrality of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the entire Islamic Ummah, and emphasized the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic nature of Occupied East Jerusalem and the need to defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places. It reiterated its strong condemnation of Israel, the occupying Power, for its persistent aggression on Islamic and Christian holy places in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. In this regard, the Meeting expressed grave concern about and condemned in particular Israel's illegal and intensifying colonization measures, including ongoing settlement activities, transfer of more Israeli settlers and construction of the Wall in and around the Holy City, illegal excavations beneath Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as its intensifying demolition of Palestinian homes, eviction of Palestinian families from the City, confiscation of more Palestinian land, homes and properties, revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the City, all aimed at

illegally de-populating the City of its Palestinian inhabitants. The Meeting called for urgent action to bring a complete halt to all illegal Israeli measures aimed at changing the demographic composition, character, geographic nature and legal status of the Holy City.

7. The Meeting commended the efforts made by His Majesty King Mohammad VI, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee and Bayt Mal Al-Quds in order to preserve the identity of the Al-Quds Al-Sharif and support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the Holy City.
8. The Meeting stressed that all such Israeli colonization measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, constitute flagrant breaches of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and relevant United Nations resolutions and blatant disrespect of the 9 July 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Meeting demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement activities, and the construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.
9. The Meeting condemned Israel's continued imposition of collective punishment upon the Palestinian people, including in particular the illegal blockade against the Gaza Strip, which has gravely impacted humanitarian conditions. The Meeting demanded that Israel immediately cease its unlawful collective punishment of the Palestinian people, including by completely lifting its blockade of the Gaza Strip. The Meeting also called for urgent action to advance the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip following the vast destruction caused by the condemnable Israeli military aggression of December 2008-January 2009, and, in this regard, reiterated the demand for serious follow-up measures to ensure accountability and justice for the crimes committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip.
10. The Meeting deeply regretted and strongly condemned the heinous Israeli military aggression on 31 May 2010 in international waters against the Gaza-bound convoy of humanitarian assistance "Freedom Flotilla", which resulted in the death of 9 innocent civilians and injury to many others, and emphasized the need to carry out a prompt, credible, independent, impartial and transparent international investigation of the Israeli attack in accordance with international standards. The Meeting welcomed in this regard the UN Secretary-General's establishment of a Panel of Inquiry as well as the Human Rights Council's Fact-Finding Mission towards establishing the facts of this deplorable incident and ensuring accountability.
11. The Meeting called for the urgent intensification of efforts by the international community, including the Quartet and particularly by the Security Council, to support and promote the resumption and early conclusion of peace process negotiations aimed at ending the occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, in accordance with international law and Security Council resolutions, 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1850 (2008), the Madrid terms of reference, the principle of land for peace, the Quartet Road Map and the Arab Peace Initiative, thus realizing the two-State solution for peace, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and sovereignty in their independent and viable State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, and a just resolution to the plight of the Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948.

12. The Meeting strongly condemned Israel's policy of refusing to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and its policies of annexation, building of colonial settlements, confiscation of land, diversion of water sources and imposition of Israel nationality upon Syrian citizens. It also demanded Israel to completely withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the June 4<sup>th</sup> 1967 lines in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of land for peace, the Madrid Peace Conference terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted by the Beirut Arab Summit on 28 March 2002.
13. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to compel Israel to comply forthwith with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, dated 12 August 1949, and to apply them to the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Meeting also demanded Israel to release all Syrian detainees citizens of the Occupied Syrian Golan, taking into consideration that some of them have been detained for more than 25 years.
14. The Meeting condemned the decisions of the United States Administration to impose unilateral economic sanctions against Syria; it expressed its rejection of the so-called "Syria Accountability Act" and considered it null and void, and constituting a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, the resolutions of the United Nations and its Charter, as well as the resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and blatantly taking the side of Israel. The Meeting expressed its solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic and appreciated the Syrian position that calls to favor dialogue and diplomacy in the international relations in order to solve all disputes; it requested the United States of America to revisit its position with regards to this Act as soon as possible and to abolish all decisions related to this matter.
15. The Meeting reiterated its support for Lebanon to complete the liberation of all its territories, and insisted on the necessity of Israel's withdrawal from Sheba'a Farms, Kfarshouba Hills, and from the Lebanese part of Al-Ghajar village. It called for the strict and full implementation of Resolution 1701 (2006), and strongly condemned Israel's continuous violations of Lebanon's sovereignty, by land, sea, and air, including the spy networks implanted in Lebanon. The Meeting emphasized the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland and rejected any form of resettlement. It valued the important role played by H.E. President Michel Sleiman, in chairing the sessions of the national dialogue. The Meeting took note of the ongoing activity of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and welcomed the efforts exerted to discover the truth about the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and his companions away from any politicization in such a way to bring about justice and establish peace and security in Lebanon.
16. The Meeting reiterated the need for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of all conflicts in the Islamic World. In this regard, the Meeting stressed the need for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to continue to develop proposals on the future role of the OIC in maintaining security, peacekeeping and conflict resolution with a view to submitting further recommendations, particularly in the area of capacity building of Member States and the General-Secretariat. It further called for the intensification of the use of the good offices of the Secretary-General in proactive diplomacy especially through mediation and designation if required, of the high level envoys in consultation with the Member States on conflict situations and in accordance with the Charter.
17. The Meeting urged the Member States and the international community to continue their vigorous support and assistance to the people and Government of Afghanistan in fighting terrorism, counter the drugs problem, achieve security, stability, as well as comprehensive and sustainable

development, and welcomed in this regard the outcome of the International Kabul Conference of July 2010 containing the renewal of international community's commitments for a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan and support for the transition to Afghan leadership through building the capacity of the Afghanistan National Security Forces and through strengthening the economic infrastructure of the country. The Meeting emphasized the importance of effectively involving the OIC in the efforts deployed to promote peace and development, ensure security and stability in Afghanistan and welcomed the decision to appoint a special OIC Permanent Representative for Afghanistan. The Meeting welcomed the Parliamentary elections held in Afghanistan on 18 September 2010 and expressed the hope that it would contribute to strengthen stability in the country.

18. The Meeting welcomed the Parliamentary elections that took place in the Republic of Iraq on 7 March 2010 and stressed the urgent need for the formation of an inclusive government, which will be based on a broad consensus, representing the balance reflected in the elections. The Meeting requested that the Secretariat of the OIC follow up the implementation of Resolution 1/37- POL, on the situation in the Republic of Iraq, adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM, held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, from 18 to 20 May 2010.
19. The Meeting condemned the massive violations of human rights and the killing of Iraqis, Kuwaitis and the citizens of third countries by the former Iraqi regime in contravention of international law and international humanitarian law, and welcomed all measures taken by the Iraqi Government to prosecute the criminals.
20. The Meeting condemned the continued acts of terrorism and violence in Somalia. It also condemned piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Meeting reaffirmed its full support for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) as the only internationally recognized government in Somalia. It welcomed the decision to open the OIC Coordination Office in Mogadishu on the basis of voluntary contributions and appealed to the Member States and the international community to intensify their assistance to Somalia especially in the security and humanitarian fields in line with the outcome of the recent Istanbul International Conference on Somalia held in May 2010 with a view to building the capacities of the TFG.
21. The Meeting expressed its full solidarity with the Sudan under the leadership of H.E. President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir and renewed its unflinching support for the various endeavors to achieve genuine national reconciliation, lasting peace and stability within the context of a sovereign and united country. The Meeting reiterated the OIC principled position on the International Criminal Court's (ICC) indictment against the President of the Sudan and warned of its implications on the ongoing Darfur peace process in Doha. The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the OIC's donors' conference on the reconstruction and development of Darfur, convened in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 21 March 2010, under the co-chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Turkey and urged the Member States to also generously contribute to the forthcoming donors' conference for the development of East Sudan to be hosted by the State of Kuwait in December 2010.
22. The Meeting condemned the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and called for the resolution of the conflict on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Meeting also expressed its grave concern by forced demographic changes, interference with property rights, inadequate

protection of the cultural heritage and sacred sites in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed in this regard its principled support to the efforts of Azerbaijan, including within the United Nations General Assembly, aimed at ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

23. The Meeting reaffirmed its principled support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the realization of their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It emphasized the need for full respect of human rights as well as importance of taking all requisite steps to provide relief and comfort to the Kashmiris. It further called upon India to allow international human rights groups and humanitarian organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir.
24. The Meeting expressed concern at the recent and ongoing indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) by Indian security forces which have resulted in killing scores of innocent and unarmed civilians as well as injuries to hundreds of others including women, children and elderly.
25. The Meeting commended the efforts of Pakistan and its readiness to engage with India to resolve all outstanding issues including Jammu and Kashmir dispute and urged the international community to play its due role to settle this long standing dispute on UN agenda for the overall improvement of the relations between Pakistan and India as well as to promote regional peace and stability.
26. The Meeting called upon the OIC Secretary-General to actively follow up the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the implementation of the resolution adopted by the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM held in Dushanbe. The Meeting also called upon OIC Member States and OIC financial institutions to contribute generously to the OIC Trust Fund for the Return of the Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enable the Fund to continue its reconstruction and development activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Meeting urged all the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise calm and restraint ahead of the general elections of 3 October 2010 and expressed its hope and expectation that the elections will be held in an orderly and peaceful manner, thus serving the emergence of the more conducive atmosphere for cooperation and progress.
27. The Meeting expressed its full and continued support to the unity, stability and security of the Republic of Yemen and denounced all attempts to impinge on its stability, unity and security.
28. The Meeting urged the Member States to support the Union of the Comoros by redeeming the pledges made during the Doha Conference and by making available to the Comoros the resources required to implement the socio-economic development programs.
29. The Meeting reiterated the unquestionable sovereignty of the Union of Comoros over the island of Mayotte. In this regard, the Meeting condemned and considered null and void the referendum of 29 March 2009, organized by the Government of France in the Comorian island of Mayotte that constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the Comorian State and of its territorial integrity and represents a grave breach of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

30. The Meeting urged the Member States to extend their financial, material and logistical support for the organization of general elections in Cote d'Ivoire in October 2010. The meeting also invited the OIC Member States, Islamic financial institutions and donors to extend their assistance for the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire and the rehabilitation of its economy.
31. The Meeting expressed its support to the on-going democratic process in the Republic of Guinea and called upon the Member States to continue to assist the country to achieve sustainable development.
32. The Meeting reaffirmed its full solidarity with the Republic of Djibouti in its territorial dispute with Eritrea. The Meeting welcomed the mediation efforts deployed by the Emir of Qatar to settle the border issue between Djibouti and Eritrea resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding and called upon both parties to engage in the mediation process fully and in good faith, to refrain from the use, or the threat of use, of force, to abide by their commitments in full and to comply fully with the provisions of relevant UN Security Council statements and resolutions.
33. Appreciating the Turkish Cypriot side's continuing efforts to reach a just and lasting comprehensive settlement in Cyprus before the end of 2010 as set out by the UN Secretary-General, the Meeting urged Member States to support the settlement efforts and strengthen effective solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot State by closely associating with them and by increasing and expanding their relations in various fields with a view to helping them materially and politically to overcome the inhuman isolation which has been imposed upon them.
34. The Meeting noted the continued progress made towards strengthening democracy overall in Kosovo. It expressed the continued interest of the OIC and its solidarity with the people of Kosovo. Stressing the importance of the stability in the whole Balkan region the Meeting acknowledged the content of the 22 July 2010 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that the declaration of independence of Kosovo does not violate international law. It further welcomed the resolution A/RES/64/298 adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly and expressed full support for the process of dialogue in order to improve the lives of the people as well as cooperation between the Parties.
35. The Meeting strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomsoever and wherever, and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism through inter alia, evolving an appropriate definition of terrorism by consensus, mutual exchange of information, capacity building and by addressing the root causes of terrorism such as prolonged unresolved conflicts, continued suppression and marginalization of peoples and denial of the rights of peoples to their self-determination in situations of foreign occupation.
36. The Meeting condemned and rejected all attempts to associate Islam or any Islamic country, any race, religion, culture or nationality with terrorism.
37. The Meeting took note of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 and reaffirmed its status as a living document to be updated and called for the subsequent review mechanism of the strategy to take account the root causes of terrorism and draw distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right of self-determination by the people under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination. The Meeting recognized that foreign occupation, state

terrorism, political and economic injustice and denial of the right of self-determination to people are the main root causes of terrorism. The Meeting recognized that a time-structured approach, envisaging short, medium, and long term objectives, to the implementation of the strategy could best accommodate the contentious issues related to the strategy.

38. The Meeting reiterated that the struggle of peoples plying under the yoke of foreign occupation and colonialism, to exercise their right to self-determination and to accede to national freedom, does not in any way constitute an act of terrorism.
39. The Meeting considered that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern to the international community and recognized that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups constitutes one of the main sources of financing of terrorism. The Meeting urged the Member States to cooperate for banning the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist groups.
40. The Meeting welcomed with appreciation Tunisia's initiative calling for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to prepare a code of conduct to combat terrorism.
41. The Meeting noted the High-Level Meeting on "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and taking forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations" on 24 September 2010 in New York, and called for a renewed determination towards urgently achieving, in a balanced manner, the mutually reinforcing goals of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.
42. The meeting believed that disarmament efforts should be promoted in an equitable and balanced manner so as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage. At each stage the objective should be undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces.
43. In this context, the Meeting called for an early convening of the Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-IV). The Meeting also emphasized the imperative of promoting multilateral diplomacy in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns, and, in this context, underlined that treaty-based multilateral institutions established under the auspices of the United Nations are the sole legitimate bodies to verify and ensure compliance with relevant international agreements.
44. While taking note of the 2010 NPT Review Conference's "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on Actions" on the Middle East, the Meeting urged all parties directly concerned to take the practical and urgent steps required for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance also with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and warned against the dire consequences of the continuing rejection of Israel to accede to the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of the Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under the full scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
45. The Meeting welcomed, with appreciation, the Joint Declaration signed in Tehran on 17 May 2010, by the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Brazil on the exchange of nuclear fuel. It strongly called on the international community to support the Joint Declaration and

to build up on the positive atmosphere created thereafter for future comprehensive agreements on all aspects of the issue.

46. The Meeting expressed its deep concern over the continued imposition of economic sanctions by certain powers as tools of political or economic pressure against some OIC Member States, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to decide of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems. It reaffirmed that economic and financial measures should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. It called upon the OIC Groups in New York and Geneva to coordinate and raise the issue under appropriate agenda items and resolutions to highlight its negative impact on Member States.
47. The Meeting urged Member States to implement Resolution No. 41/37-POL on coordination and voting patterns of Member States at the United Nations and other international and multilateral fora.
48. The Meeting reviewed the current activities of the OIC towards addressing development challenges of its member countries, including the implementation of the OIC trade preferential system and establishment of the various poverty alleviation funds. The Meeting commended the ongoing partnership between the OIC and the relevant agencies of the United Nations, particularly, the mission of the COMCEC-FAO Task Force on food security and agricultural development and similar efforts aimed at attaining the Millennium Development Goals. It, therefore, called for support of other international partners and stakeholders for the promotion of its development programmes on transportation, tourism and industrial development, agriculture and energy fields. The Meeting welcomed the current emphasis on enhancing the role of regional economic blocs in the realization of the economic objectives of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action.
49. The Meeting recalled the final documents adopted in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunisia in 2005, and reiterated the importance of their implementation and follow-up, aiming at bridging the digital gap between developing countries and industrial countries.
50. The Meeting commended the efforts of the Republic of Tajikistan in strengthening the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, 2005-2015 and welcomed the initiative of the Republic of Tajikistan to declare the year 2012 – as an International Year of Water Diplomacy, in order to undertake further coordinated efforts on sustainable use and integrated management of water resources at national, regional and international levels.
51. Recognizing that addressing the root causes of persistent and increasing social and economic inequalities remains a significant challenge to fostering a more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future, the Meeting reaffirmed the need for a New Global Human Order aimed at reversing growing disparities and inequalities between rich and poor, both among and within countries. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the report of the UN Secretary-General based on resolution 62/213 assessing the implications of inequality for development during the Sixty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly.
52. The Meeting, while considering the importance of dialogue among civilizations and expansion of relations between the Islamic World and other cultures and civilizations, reiterated the commitment

to continue the efforts in engaging with the West in projecting the true image of Islam. The Meeting commended the Secretary-General for his active role in furthering cooperation between the OIC and the UN Alliance of Civilizations. It urged the Secretary-General to work closely with the UN Secretary-General and High Representative for Alliance of Civilizations towards the success of the UN Alliance of Civilizations and called on the Member States to sustain and enhance their strong support for the Alliance.

53. The Meeting commended the efforts of the UN, UNESCO, ISESCO and Member States in implementing activities within the international Year of Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010, declared by the United Nations on the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
54. The Meeting reiterated the need to counter religious and sectarian extremism, refrain from accusing Islamic schools of jurisprudence of heresy, emphasize dialogue among them, strengthen balance, moderation and tolerance, and ensure adherence to the fundamental methodology of fatwa whereby only those determined by their schools of Islamic jurisprudence to be eligible for such issuance may do so. The Meeting also welcomed the ongoing efforts in this regard, including the Amman Message and the International Islamic Conference held in Amman in late July 2005.
55. The Meeting asserted that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated in nature, taking into consideration the significance of national and regional particularities, and the various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds. The Meeting emphasized the necessity for the international community to address all human rights issues in an objective, impartial and non-selective manner. The Meeting called for the necessity to consider all human rights in their global conception and in all their civil, political, social, economic, and cultural facts within the framework of international cooperation and solidarity, and within the framework of international Human Rights law and relevant international human rights instruments.
56. The Meeting expressed opposition to the practice of submitting country specific resolutions on human rights situations which are selectively targeting developing countries and OIC Member States. It reaffirmed that this practice is one of the main reasons that transforms the work of human rights bodies into an extremely political exercise rather than contributing to the advancement of the cause of human rights.
57. The Meeting, while recalling the adoption of Resolution No. 33/35-POL and reiterated by Resolution No. 37/37-POL of 37<sup>th</sup> Session of CFM held in Dushanbe, welcomed the celebration of the 5th of August of every year as the “Islamic Human Rights and Human Dignity Day” which coincides with the adoption of the Cairo Declaration of Human Rights in Islam, and requested the OIC Member States and the General Secretariat to observe this auspicious day that should be taken as an opportunity to take concrete measures to reinforce human rights and move it to a higher plane of dialogue, cooperation, education and awareness raising according to Islamic teachings and values. The Meeting emphasized that the Islamic World will strive to realize this vision through effective and comprehensive action, in conformity with its own divine values and principles.
58. The Meeting condemned the mounting trend of Islamophobia and systematic defamation of Islam as well as discrimination against Muslims including measures like the ban on constructions of minarets, and other discriminatory measures that incite religious hatred. The Meeting called upon the international community to exert efforts to prevent incitement to hatred and discrimination

against Muslims and to take effective measures to combat the defamation of religions and negative stereotyping of people on the basis of religion, faith or race. The Meeting requested the Secretary-General to continue the OIC initiatives in order to effectively counter Islamophobia through discussions and deliberations in various international fora. The Meeting called for a global awareness on the dangerous implications of the rise of Islamophobia on world peace and security and called on the international community to demonstrate its collective political will to address the issue with all urgency.

59. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the positive position of the US Federal Government and the city of New York with regard to the construction of an Islamic Center in Lower Manhattan. The Meeting also recognized the strong effort of other religious organizations in standing strongly against the heinous act of burning the Holy Koran
60. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction at the timely actions undertaken by the Observatory at the General Secretariat and the Secretary-General personally in monitoring and countering Islamophobic incidents. It commended the Observatory for its Annual Report on Islamophobia.
61. The Meeting attached utmost importance to the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression, as stipulated in international human rights law instruments. It further recalled that international human rights law provides that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities and therefore may be subject to certain restrictions provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, and for the protection of national security or public order, or public health or morals. The Meeting further stressed the need to prevent the abuse of freedom of expression and freedom of press for insulting Islam and other divine religions and the necessity for ensuring that the right to freedom of expression should be exercised by all, in particular the media, with responsibility and in accordance with the law.
62. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the OIC Strategy to broaden support for its resolution on “Combating defamation of religions” at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM held in Dushanbe and expressed satisfaction on the continued efforts of the OIC Groups in Geneva and New York towards achieving a consensus on this resolution. It underlined in this regard the importance of the effective coordination between the two Groups. The Meeting further welcomed the decision of the OIC Group in Geneva to incorporate a detailed Action Plan to combat defamation of religions in the resolution while fully respecting the core interests of the OIC.
63. The Meeting commended the Secretary-General for taking the initiative of convening a two day Brainstorming Session of a Panel of Eminent Persons on the OIC Sponsored Resolution on ‘Combating Defamation of Religions’ at the IRCICA premises in Istanbul from 4 to 5 July 2010, which examined the various aspects of the Resolution with a view to broadening international support for the resolution. The Meeting reiterated the urgency of enhanced coordination with regard to the procedure as well as the substantive content of the Resolution – particularly among the General Secretariat and the OIC Groups in New York and Geneva.
64. The Meeting stressed the utmost importance of the true spirit of solidarity, unity and joint action by OIC Member States on matters of vital concern to the OIC, and in this regards reaffirmed that Member States must vote as a bloc in favor of the resolution of “Combating defamation of

religions” at the Human Rights Council, Third Committee, and the United Nations General Assembly.

65. The Meeting noted, in this context, that the Group’s work is particularly laudable with respect to its efforts; to deploy collective and intensive efforts to enable the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council (HRC) to take concrete measures for the respect and protection of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied parts of Lebanon; to place two crucial issues for the OIC, namely, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied parts of Lebanon, and the incitement to racial and religious hatred, in particular, its contemporary manifestation - i.e. the defamation of religions, at the top of the permanent agenda of the General Assembly and the HRC. The Group has also worked zealously to promote the laudable tenets of Islam i.e. respect and tolerance for all, as central elements for any pluralistic and human rights friendly society.
66. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of resolution No. 2/37-ORG of the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM concerning the adoption of the Statute of the Organization of Women’s Development, based in Cairo, and urged the Member States to expedite the ratification procedure on the Statute.
67. The Meeting commended the OIC General Secretariat for the establishment of the Department of Family Affairs in implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action.
68. The Meeting extended its gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, for his initiative, adopted unanimously in December 2009 by the UN General Assembly, to proclaim the year 2010 an International Youth Year and to organize a world youth conference, under the auspices of the United Nations. The Meeting invited the OIC Member States to participate actively in all activities related to the Year and to the United Nations Conference on Youth.
69. The Meeting commended the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General in supporting the causes of the Muslim communities in non-OIC Member States, and urged him to continue those efforts in this regard, in the implementation of the relevant OIC Summit and CFM 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.
70. The Meeting called upon the Member States to monitor closely the problem encountered by the Muslim community in Bulgaria concerning the usurpation of their right to elect their religious leader. The Meeting strongly emphasized that induction of Nedim Gencev as the Chairman of the Supreme Muslim Council against the will of Muslim community is unacceptable and constitutes direct violation of minority rights.
71. The Meeting expressed its full solidarity with the Muslims in Greece in general, and the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace, in particular, who are an integral part of the Islamic World and whose basic rights and freedoms are defined and protected by multilateral and bilateral treaties and conventions to which Greece is a party. The Meeting called upon Greece to take all necessary measures to respect the rights and identity of the Turkish Muslim Minority.

72. The Meeting commended the partnership between the OIC and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. It called for the strengthening of laws aimed at preserving the rights of children to enjoy and attain the highest possible standards of mental and physical health. The Meeting further appealed to the Member States to coordinate their environmental policies and positions in international fora so as to prevent any adverse effect of such policies on their economic development.
73. The Meeting commended the efforts made by the Humanitarian Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat (ICHAD) in accordance with the constituent document of ICHAD to alleviate the sufferings of the needy people in different OIC Member States struck by disasters and calamities which effectively demonstrates the spirit of solidarity and Muslim fraternity within the Islamic Ummah and invited the OIC General Secretariat to pursue its humanitarian action in coordination with the Member States and to give increasing attention to assist the affected populations through reinforced partnership relations with the relevant United Nations organs, agencies, international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and NGOs accredited to Member States working in the humanitarian field.
74. The Meeting expressed its deep sympathy with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan over the devastating floods affecting the country and appealed to the Member States of the OIC to generously and urgently contribute towards the alleviation of the plight of the flood victims in the country.
75. The Meeting invited the OIC Secretary-General to consider, in coordination with the Member States, taking necessary steps towards timely establishment of an OIC Special Emergency Fund to respond to natural disasters in the Member States as well as a rapid Response Coordination Committee to deal with such disasters. The Meeting called upon the Member States to contribute to this Fund on a voluntary basis.
76. The Meeting expressed appreciation for all the efforts towards early establishment of the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights.
77. The Meeting emphasized the need to develop, at the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, a legally binding international instrument to promote respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and the instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.
78. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the OIC Secretary-General for the work done by the General Secretariat to prepare draft Rules of Procedure for granting Observer Status to States in accordance with the Charter of the Organization and urged the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to expedite its finalization.
79. The Meeting expressed appreciation and full satisfaction for the laudable collective efforts of the OIC Groups in New York and Geneva to coordinate, harmonize and streamline the positions of the OIC Member States in line with the OIC Charter, Summit and ministerial resolutions and declarations as well as to deploy collective and intensive efforts to pursue the Human Rights Council to pronounce itself in an objective and forthright manner on all human rights issues.

80. The Meeting reaffirmed the principled position of the OIC that where there are OIC Member States candidates for senior United Nations positions, or for membership of the main and other UN bodies, including the Security Council, ECOSOC, and the General Assembly subsidiary bodies, the OIC will support them; and urged the Member States to make the necessary arrangements towards agreeing on one candidate in the event of having multiple candidacies for the same post from the OIC Member States.
81. The Meeting welcomed the inauguration of the new OIC premises in New York and expressed appreciation for the performance of the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York in discharging its duties in conformity with the resolutions of the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.
82. The Meeting noted with deep concern the continued difficulties faced by the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York due to the absence of diplomatic status of the Mission. Recognizing the important role of the Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Meeting once again urged the Government of the United States of America, as the host country, to extend full diplomatic status to the Mission. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the efforts of the previous Chairs of the OIC Group for taking up the issue on behalf of the Ambassadorial Level Committee in New York and further requested the current Chair of the OIC Group to pursue the issue with the host government.
83. The Meeting adopted the reports issued by:

- The OIC Six Member Committee on Palestine (Annex-I)
- The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir (Annex-II).
- The OIC Contact Group on Somalia (Annex – III)
- The OIC Contact Group on Sierra Leone (Annex-IV)
- The OIC Contact Group on Iraq (Annex-V)
- The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina (Annex-VI)

\*\*\*\*\*