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Report of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina

UN Headquarters, New York 22 September 2010

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- 1- The OIC Ministerial Contact Group on Bosnia Herzegovina convened on 22 September 2010 in New York.
- 2- The OIC Secretary General HE. Prof Ekmeleddin Ihasnoglu and other members of the OIC Contact Group addressed the meeting.
- 3- The meeting was briefed by the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the current situation in Bosnia Herzegovina.
- 4- The meeting discussed in depth the developments in Bosnia Herzegovina and reiterated the OIC support to preserve unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and international personality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within internationally recognized borders, as a fully functional and self-sustainable state capable of carrying out its powers and fulfilling its international obligations without absolute blockade mechanisms as well as its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious structure. The OIC Contact Group, in this respect, emphasized the importance of the decision making powers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina legal structures of the proper functioning of the state and stresses the need to tackle any existing mechanisms that may hamper theses powers, as part of the constitutional reform process.
- 5- The meeting condemned recent open call for secession of one part of Bosnia and Herzegovina coming from the Highest State-level officials of the Serb nationality and considers these statements to be a threat to the peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region.
- 6- The OIC Contact Group, as part of the international community, carefully monitoring the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and recalling the report of its previous meetings that took place on 12 October 2010 and 9 November 2010 in Turkey, reiterated its determination to contribute to the international efforts to ensure Bosnia and Herzegovina's advance towards integration with the European and Euro Atlantic structures.
- 7- The meeting expressed its deep concern over inadequate implementation of the key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement, particularly relating to the building of the state institutions, regulatory framework, and return of refugees & displaced persons of their origin.
- 8- The meeting observed that the lack of implementation of some key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement have been found to obstruct the process of the reconstruction, democratization, and the reintegration of the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina . The meeting expressed its concern that these violations,

particularly relating to the right of the refugees to return, have solidified blockades and prevented the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina from rebuilding a multi-cultural society. The meeting stressed the need for more efforts and work to implement these elements and to fully respect other key aspects of Dayton, particularly regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina's rights over state property that had been confirmed in Dayton and subsequent international agreements.

- 9- The OIC Contact Group called on the international community to take these issues in serious consideration as part of the constitutional reform process
- 10-Since the 5+2 objectives and conditions (state defence property) rule of law, financial adequacy, status of Brcko, signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU decision by the Peace Implementation Council on stable political situation) identified by the Peace Implementation Council and its February 2008 meeting for the closure of the Office of the High Representative have not been fully implemented and the constitutional reform package by the international community have not been endorsed by Bosnia and Herzegovina stakeholders, the OIC Contact Group underlined that in early step from the transition of the Office of the High Representative(OHR) to the EU Special Representation(EUSR) should be carefully considered to allow for the functioning of the Bosnia and Herzegovina central state satisfactorily.
- 11-The OIC Contact Group underlined the importance of the rule of law as part of any settlement impacting on the future of the country and invites all local and international actors to focus on the need to fully implement the existing legal obligations when presenting solutions for the future.
- 12- The meeting reaffirmed that the role of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in bringing justice to the region is of significant importance in preventing the reoccurrence of any tragic incidents in the future in this sensitive region.
- 13-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 37th meeting of the Council of Foreign Affairs 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.
- 14-The meeting expressed once again its thanks and appreciation to the OIC Secretary General for reactivating the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and called for the regular convening of the Contact Group to continue the OIC support to the Bosnian people.
