

**REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS ON THE ECONOMIC, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AFFAIRS**

**ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS,**

(SESSION OF FRATERNITY AND COOPERATION)

JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

28 RAJAB - 03 SHABAAN 1417H (09 - 13 DECEMBER 1996).

**REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS
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The Economic, Science and Technology Affairs Committee of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) met from 28 Rajab to 1 Shaaban 1417H (9-11 December 1996) to consider agenda items 46 to 55 of the Regular Agenda of the Session.

2. The Committee used the draft resolutions prepared by the General Secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of the 20th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, from September 14 to 18, 1996 as the working document.

3. The meeting of the Committee was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Agus Tarmidzi (Indonesia). The General Secretariat was represented by H.E. Mr. Ousman N.R. Othman, Assistant Secretary General for Economic and Legal Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

4. The representatives of the following subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic conference also participated in the work of the Committee:

- Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
- Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), Ankara;
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca.
- Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhaka.
- Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), Jeddah.
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).
- Islamic Shipowners Association (ISA).
- Representative of the FAO participated in the meeting as an observer.

5. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of the representatives of the same Member States elected to the Bureau of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, namely;

Chairman Republic of Indonesia.

Vice-Chairmen Republic of Gabon.
 Republic of Yemen.
 State of Palestine.

Rapporteur Republic of Guinea.

6. The Committee deliberated on the various important developments in the world economic scene and stressed the importance of ensuring universality of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and emphasized the need for accelerated processing of WTO membership for intending countries.

7. It also expressed satisfaction for the successful holding of a consultation meeting of OIC member states organised by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) as per resolution of the 12th Session of Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) for coordination of their position during the first WTO Ministerial meeting held in Singapore from 9-13 December 1996.

8. The Committee congratulated the FAO for successfully convening the World Food Summit held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996. It called upon the Member States for implementation of the commitments as agreed upon at the Summit on an urgent basis.

9. The Committee decided to refer the specific proposals submitted by the Republic of Turkey with a view to rationalising the economic items for the agenda of the 25th Session of the ICFM to the 21st Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs for necessary action.

10. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Meeting of the Ministers of Health of Member States of the OIC within the framework of the COMSTECH and with the collaboration of all OIC institutions concerned.

11. The Committee expressed the view that the agenda item on "Cooperation in Combatting Drug Abuse, Psychotropic Substances and their illegal production, processing and trafficking" should be handled by the Political Affairs Committee and hoped that in future this matter would be addressed accordingly.

12. On conclusion of deliberations on all items, the Committee adopted a set of Resolutions (text enclosed) and its Report. It was decided that the Chairman of the Committee would submit them to the Plenary of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for adoption.

13. The Committee expressed its deep gratitude and sincere thanks to His Excellency Haji Mohammad Soeharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, for their keen interest in the activities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It also thanked the people and government

of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the Conference and according generous hospitality to all the delegates.

14. The Committee also expressed its deep appreciation for the abiding interest of His Excellency Haji Mohamed Soeharto in the development of private sector in the Islamic world.

15. The Committee congratulated the Chairman H.E. Ambassador Agus Tarmidzi for the efficient manner in which he conducted its meeting.

16. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the General Secretariat and all the subsidiary organs, specialized institutions and affiliated bodies of the OIC for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

17. The Committee also thanked the supporting technical staff for the preparatory work done and efforts made to ensure the success of its deliberations, and the interpreters and translators for their invaluable contributions.

Ambassador Agus Tarmidzi
Chairman of the Committee.

JAKARTA: 13 DECEMBER 1996
3 SHA'ABAN 1417H.



RESOLUTION NO. 1/24-E
ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES.

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996;

Recalling Resolution No. 1/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having also considered with particular attention the results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Negotiations concerning certain sectors of international trade;

Having taken cognizance with appreciation of the studies prepared by the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade on this subject;

Having considered the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Reiterates the need to take serious steps to ensure economic integration among the OIC Member States with the ultimate objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration, on a step-by-step and regional basis, among OIC member countries, in order to help overcome difficulties arising from the formation of global economic groupings.

2. Urges Member States to pursue efforts aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among them so as to maximize the complementarities in their economies and avoid further marginalization.

3. Urges also Member States to coordinating their efforts aimed at making the necessary contacts with the concerned international parties and organizations so as to safeguard the economic interests of Member States and not to prejudice their exports of various commodities and materials.

4. Calls on developed countries to create a more practical, equitable and more transparent environment enabling developing countries to implement their structural adjustment programmes to enable them to achieve sustainable development.

5. Urges Member States to support the Common Fund established by UNCTAD with a view to stabilizing raw material prices.

6. Recognizes that the effective implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements would necessitate a certain measure of adaptation in the economic and administrative structures of the member countries to safeguard their interests and to take maximum advantage from the opportunities to be created thereby.

7. Appreciates the exchange of views conducted during the 11th and 12th Sessions of the COMCEC on "The Implications of the Uruguay Round of Agreements for the Foreign Trade of Member Countries" and "Privatization Experience of Member Countries" respectively and recommends that these exchange of views sessions be taken advantage of to coordinate the positions of the member countries on important world economic issues.

8. Notes with great concern the extraterritorial application of domestic laws which adversely affect the foreign investments in other countries, including the Islamic countries and rejects all coercive measures which may target Member States intending to expand further the area of cooperation in economic and commercial field.

9. Recognizes that if the OIC community is to become an active participant in global economic decision-making and world commercial relations, coordinated efforts would be the most effective means for mitigating losses and turning losses into profits.

10. Agrees on the need to closely monitor the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement and requests the General Secretariat and related OIC Institutions to design and propose for implementation of technical assistance programmes to assist those among the member countries which might have difficulties in responding to the new challenges.

11. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 2/24-E

ON IMPLICATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS ON THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 2/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Appreciating reports submitted by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic countries;

Having examined the Implications of the establishment of regional and international economic groupings and their impact on economic relations between the Member States of these economic groupings and the Islamic States;

Having also taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note with appreciation of the report the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Notes with appreciation that "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union for the economies of the Member Countries" will be the theme for the Exchange of Views Session to be organized during the 13th Session of COMCEC scheduled to be held from 1-4 November 1997 and urges the Member countries to be prepared and actively participate in the Session.

2. Urges Member States to intensify commercial exchanges among themselves and remove any obstacle which may hinder this action and exert necessary efforts to encourage economic and commercial cooperation.

3. Urges the developed States giving preferences to OIC member countries under various schemes to examine the erosion that is likely to occur in these preferences as a result of the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and to consider to restore these losses by other trade concessions or forms of compensation within the framework of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

4. Requests the Ankara and Casablanca Centres to continue to undertake studies on the effects of regional and international economic groupings on the economic conditions of the

OIC Member States and make appropriate recommendations on the same with a view to safeguarding the national interests of Member States.

5. Requests the Secretary General to circulate these studies to Member States as soon as they are ready so as to get their views.

6. Also requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers taking into account the developments in the economic policies of the Regional and International Economic Groupings, including the European Union with a view to fulfilling their commitments towards the OIC Member Countries.



RESOLUTION NO. 3/24-E

ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND LAND-LOCKED MEMBER STATES

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 3/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its profound concern over the serious economic problems faced by the Least-Developed Member States and noting with disappointment the slow progress in the implementation of the new Programme of Action adopted in the Second UN Conference held in 1990 for Least Developed Countries, as well as in the increasing of the Official Development Assistance (ODA);

Expressing concern over the sharp decline in the prices of the raw materials produced and exported by the least developed countries;

Having taken note with satisfaction that, despite the sharp drop in oil revenues in recent years, the Islamic donor countries continued to provide significant external aid and that the amount of aid distributed to the least developed countries exceeded 0.15 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product;

Expressing satisfaction with the IDB's efforts for the extension of assistance to the Least Developed Countries and for the opening of a special account for them as approved by the IDB's Board of Governors at its Seventeenth Annual Session held in Tehran in November 1992;

Appreciating the report submitted by the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries;

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Considering with appreciation the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Appeals to the international community, and particularly to the developed countries to fully and efficiently implement the 1990 Plan of Action in this regard and the provisions of other UN resolutions, in particular those contained in UNCTAD VIII and recommendations contained in the report of the High Level Inter-governmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s held in New York from September 25 to October 6, 1995.

2. Urges developed countries to increase their contributions within the framework of the International Development Strategy and to follow the example of States who converted the debts contracted by the least developed countries into grants in order to facilitate the implementation of the structural adjustment measures undertaken by these countries.

3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts of some Member States to extend assistance in the technical, financial, food and other sectors to the least developed member countries and hope that such assistance will continue.

4. Appreciates the continuous efforts of the General Secretariat as well as those of the IDB, subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions in this direction.

5. Stresses the importance of increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) granted by the developed countries in favour of the developing countries in general and the Least Developed Countries in particular.

6. Expresses concern at the declining trend in the quantity of ODA to the LDCs as well as the trend to attach conditions to the ODA and appeals to all member states for their continued strengthening support to increase the flow of ODA to the LDCs.

7. Calls upon both the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours, in the spirit of South-South Cooperation, including bilateral cooperation, to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with their transit problems.

8. Recognizes the necessity to respond to the needs of Land-locked and transit countries so as to allow them to develop their transport infrastructure.

9. Recalls with satisfaction that the negotiations embodied provisions conferring preferential and favourable terms to developing countries, including special attention to the particular situation of the least developed countries and calls on the international community to implement these provisions effectively and at the earliest.

10. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the evolution of this issue and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 4/24-E

ON ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND LOW-INCOME OIC MEMBER STATES

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 4/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its concern over the prevalence of this phenomenon and its tragic dimensions which should be checked in time;

Reiterating the need to give special attention to the eradication of poverty, notably in the Least Developed and Low-income Islamic countries;

Acting in conformity with Islamic rules and precepts as well as the OIC Charter and moved by the spirit of Islamic solidarity;

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Declares that the eradication of abject poverty in all Member States before the end of the next decade should constitute a common objective of OIC Member States.

2. Confirms the link between the acute nature of the poverty phenomenon and the distortion of the socio-economic development programmes due to the inappropriate international conditions, particularly those relating to the requisites of the infrastructure and the exacerbation of unemployment.

3. Urges Member States and the international community to take specific measures for the fulfillment of the commitments made at the World Social Summit, held in Copenhagen, so as to enable the Least Developed Member States to attain this objective.

4. Reaffirms that a favourable international economic environment taking into account the requirements of developing countries, within the framework of the concessions to be granted to them in terms of financial and technical assistance and investment resources; in terms, also, of their access to international markets, raw materials price stability and appropriate structural programmes, is necessary for the success of the struggle being waged by LDCs and low income countries to help them eradicate poverty.

5. Appeals to developed countries to increase their aid programmes in order to attain 0.7% of the GDP in official aid to development, as fixed by the UN.

6. Urges the LDCs and low income countries to play in a more coordinated manner a more active role in international fora dealing with the eradication of poverty.

7. Requests Member States to intensify implementation of technical cooperation programmes among themselves with a view to improving the sanitary, educational, human and housing conditions as well as other basic needs of their respective populations.

8. Encourages Member States, organs and institutions to support the programmes of OIC least developed countries and the low income ones, with a view to strengthening their local technical capabilities and creating production and job opportunities.

9. Stresses the importance of national policies and effective budgetary policies in the mobilization of national resources making it possible to combat poverty.

10. Reaffirms the need to give special attention to the eradication of poverty in the least developed and poorer Member States.

11. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and Submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 5/24-E

ON EXTERNAL DEBT OF AFRICAN AND OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 5/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its deep anxiety over the external debts of the developing Member States which have been increasing at an alarming rate for the last few years;

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has written off the official debt of a certain number of least developed/landlocked and/or Sahelian Member States;

Appreciating the initiative of His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait, who as Chairman of the Fifth Session of the Organization of the Islamic Summit Conference, declared in his speech to the UN General Assembly on 27/9/1990 that in order to alleviate the burden of indebtedness of the developing States, the State of Kuwait took the initiative of writing off the interests due on development loans extended to developing States;

Also expressing its appreciation for the efforts now being made by His Majesty King Hassan II, Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit and H.E. the OIC Secretary General with a view to implementing the resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit on the debt of OIC Member States;

Having also taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Appeals to international creditors to continue adopting every necessary measure to cut down the debt of OIC Member States, in particular through staggered settlement of debts, deferred amortization, reduced and favourable interest rates or swapping debts for financing various development projects.

2. Reaffirming the urgent need for effective equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, and to help them exit from the rescheduling process.

3. Urges that approach in the debt settlement should cover all types of debt, including multilateral debt, and all indebted developing countries, and incorporate measures aimed at a once-and-for all reduction arrangement to reduce their debt burden to a scale that would allow them to resume their economic growth and development.

4. Expresses its gratitude to Member States which have already responded favourably to the above request and appeals to Member States to continue the transfer of capital through grants and concessionary loans to Member States, especially to the least developed, the land-locked and/or Sahelian countries.

5. Renews the call made to the international community, especially the developed countries, to offer substantial reduction of African debts and lowering of the burden of servicing charges while ensuring that this process is combined with the flow of fresh and considerable finances at soft-terms, to African countries.

6. Appeals to those Member States that have not yet done so and to industrialized countries and international organizations to implement the resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference on the external debt of OIC Member States.

7. Appeals also to Member States which are also donors to use their influence with the International Donor Community with regard to implementing this resolution.

8. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 6/24-E

ON NEED FOR A QUALITATIVE LEAP IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG MEMBER STATES IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 6/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Reaffirming the relevance of both the new Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States, endorsed at the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, and underlining in this respect, the dynamic and constructive role played by the President of Turkey in chairing the COMCEC's proceedings;

Realizing the quick evolution of the world economy towards increased globalization and integration, as well as the challenges embodied in the constitution of powerful economic blocs and by the growing liberalization of world trade;

Bearing in mind the forthcoming implementation of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as the possible impacts of the Uruguay Round Agreements on the developing World in general and on the OIC Member States in particular, and recognizing in this respect the need for more cooperation and coordination among OIC Member States to ensure that growth in world trade will benefit the Islamic countries;

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring universality of the World Trade Organisation and convinced that as a result of the establishment of the WTO, trade relations between Member States should be placed within the framework of the rights and obligations provided for by the new trade rules contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round;

Taking note with satisfaction of the reports submitted by the SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB, and ICCI on the subject;

Having considered the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Also taking note of the Report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Takes note with appreciation of all the decisions taken by the COMCEC relating to the Strategy and the Plan of Action for the strengthening of inter-Islamic economic and commercial cooperation.

2. welcomes with satisfaction, the under-mentioned proposals made by His Majesty King Hassan II to the international community on the occasion of the closing session of the Ministerial Conference of the Uruguay Round in Marrakesh:

a) The implementation of a "genuine Marshall Plan" in favour of Africa, with a view to reducing the tremendous poverty and lessen the recurring tensions from which its populations are suffering;

b) The setting up of a new international negotiations mechanism which will better safeguard the national interests of developing countries in general and particularly those of OIC Member States;

3. Exhorts Member States to take necessary steps on a progressive basis with a view to harmonizing the legal framework of their economic policies in order to adapt them to the new trade rules provided for within the WTO framework and encouraging thus a quick development of trade between Member States, so as to attain the target of 20% by the end of the decade.

4. Invites Member States to revitalize their actions in order to increase their share in the world economy notably by a sustained improvement of their international competitiveness at the level of the goods and services exports, by adopting a series of policies meant to improve their economic infrastructures, master the services sector, increase the value added and the quality of products, diversify the productive base and provide the required conditions likely to attract foreign investments.

5. Mandates the OIC to set up an Islamic Observatory for International Competitiveness within existing competent institutions in order to regularly follow the evolution of the market shares of Islamic Countries in the world economy.

6. Expresses deep concern at the tendencies among some developed countries to link labour and environment related issues with trade deals and emphasizes that such trends are detrimental to the evolution of a just, free and fair trading environment.

7. Emphasizes the growing importance of the services sector in the world economy and calls on Member States to increase technical cooperation in this field.

8. Calls upon Member States to further increase their efforts and their budgetary allocations for Research and Development with a view to support their production of goods and services as well as their competitiveness in international markets.

9. Invites Member States to endeavour to reinforce sub-regional and regional markets and relaunch the existing economic integration projects among Islamic countries, with a view to methodically prepare the establishment of an Islamic Common Market or any other suitable form of economic integration among themselves.

10. Affirms that in order to achieve the above objectives the private sector in Islamic Countries should play a prominent role through giving impetus to inter-Islamic economic relations and in this context invites the Governments of Member States to support the promotional economic actions undertaken by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in particular, concerning the establishment of direct contacts between private investors and businessmen in the Islamic countries.

11. Calls for the expeditious process of accession to the World Trade Organisation of applying developing countries, including the OIC members, and emphasizes that in this process no political consideration should be invoked which may impede the accession of these countries.

12. Invites Member States to strengthen their consultation and coordination mechanisms, particularly within the WTO, as well as in their relations with regional economic blocs, so as to better protect the individual and collective interests of the Islamic States.

13. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 7/24-E

ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, OF THE SYRIAN CITIZENS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN, OF THE LEBANESE CITIZEN IN OCCUPIED SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND THE WESTERN BEKKA AND OF THE ARAB PEOPLE IN OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 7/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Beliving in the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter aimed at strengthening Islamic solidarity among the Member States, and conforming with mass international will that rejects arbitrary Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territory which lead to deterioration of the economic and social conditions of Arab citizens under the yoke of Israeli occupation, on the one hand, and that supports the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region based on the (Land-for-Peace principle) resolutions of the international legitimacy 242, 338 and 425 as well as the authority of the Madrid Peace Conference, on the other;

Underlining the unfailling efforts exerted by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to promote the economic structure; and in view of the escalation of the illelgal and unlawful expanionist settlement policies of the new Israeli government, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the occupied Syrian Golan; and also in view of the serious implications of this escalation on the already difficult economic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and the Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan;

Expressing extreme concern over the grave economic impacts, resulting from the adoption by the new Israeli government of an expanionist settlement policy, on the difficult living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and those of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan as well as the Arab people in the occupied Arab territory;

Appreciating with profound interest the role which the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority (PNA) are playing in all territories under the PNA including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the improvement of the Palestinian people's living conditions and the overhauling of their national economy;

Inviting attention to the danger of Israel's continued occupation of the Syrian Golan, South Lebanon and the Western Bekka region which are daily exposed to huge human, economic and material losses;

Emphasizing the resolutions of the recent Arab Summit in Cairo concerning this matter;

Having considered the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Hails the efforts made by the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Authority to rebuild Palestinian facilities, infrastructure and properties already destroyed and those being destroyed by the Israeli occupation authorities. It commends the strenuous efforts exerted by the Palestinian Authority to rebuild and strengthen Palestinian National economy.

2. Invites all concerned bodies to expedite the extension of the envisaged necessary assistance to help the Palestinian people to establish their national economy, to act for the consolidation of their national institutions and to enable them to establish their independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

3. Reaffirms the earlier OIC resolutions in favour of the extension of all forms of economic, technical, material and moral support and assistance to the Palestinian people, while acting for preferential treatment to be given to Palestinian export products and granting them exemptions from taxes and tariffs.

4. Calls for the necessity of implementing the resolutions of the UN General Assembly on the economic assistance extended to the Palestinian people as well as resolutions of other international organizations and relevant specialized agencies. It also calls for uniting efforts during the Fifty-first Session of the UN General Assembly also as to pay special attention to the economic problems of the Palestinian people.

5. Urges the business people and investors of the OIC Member States to undertake the execution of the economic, industrial, agricultural and housing programmes in the territories of the Palestinian National Authority with a view to supporting and strengthening the Palestinian national economy.

6. Condemns Israel's continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the escalation of its arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people in all of the occupied towns and villages, and building an expansionist infrastructure by establishing more settlements and calls for halting these practices and putting an end to them.

7. Further Condemns the continuing occupation by Israel of Syrian Golan, South Lebanon and the Western Bekka Valley, as well as the arbitrary Israeli practices which have resulted in the deterioration of the economic and social conditions of the Syrian and Lebanese people who are under occupation.

8. Expresses extreme concern about the serious economic implications resulting from the adoption of an expansionist settlement policy by the new Israeli government on the already difficult living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territories as well as those of the Syrian citizens in the Occupied Syrian Golan and the Arab people in the other Occupied Arab territories.

9. Urges the OIC Member States to carry all necessary action at the international level to pressure Israel into lifting the brutal Israeli blockade imposed on the occupied Palestinian territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif. This blockade has resulted into extremely painful economic effects on the Palestinian people and raised the level of unemployment among the Palestinians. It also hampered international efforts aimed at realizing development in the occupied Palestinian territory and the territory of the Palestinian National Authority.

10. Calls on the Member States and the international organizations also to extend every necessary assistance to the Lebanese population in South Lebanon and Western Bekka which are daily and permanently exposed to Israeli aggression causing material losses and resulting in social hardship which paralyse almost permanently, the economic activities of the region.

11. Calls also on the Member States to coordinate as regards the resolutions on the subject.

12. Requests the Secretary General to follow this question and submit appropriate report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 8/24-E

ON ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES STRICKEN BY DROUGHT AND NATURAL CALAMITIES

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 8/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

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

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by some Member States and the Islamic Development Bank which have extended and continue to extend technical and financial assistance as well as food aid to Member States stricken by drought and natural disasters;

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 anti-drought and anti-desertification campaign and the implementation of major related projects;

Having considered the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses its gratitude to Member States, which have provided and are still providing assistance and food aid to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.

2. Expresses also its gratitude to IDB for its continuing assistance to Member States afflicted by drought and natural disasters and encourages the Bank to continue its assistance in this domain.

3. Appeals to the International Community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.

4. Calls upon the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend assistance to OIC countries of Inter-governmental Authority for Development and the Campaign Against Drought (IGADD) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which is threatening them.

5. Requests the General Secretariat, the IDB and the International Islamic Relief Agency to convene a meeting in coordination with UN Specialised Agencies (particularly the Office of the International Decade for the Prevention of Natural Disasters ("INDR") of the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs, in the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Prevention, with a view to organizing a meeting of experts entrusted with examining and recommending appropriate measures aimed at preventing and alleviating the effects of natural disasters in Bangladesh and other Member States affected and threatened by natural disasters.

6. Further Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of the previous resolution and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 9/24-E

ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LOSSES FOR GREAT JAMAHIRIYA AS A RESULT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS NO. 748/92 AND 883/93.

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Having taken note of the negative effects on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of the sanctions imposed on it by the Security Council under Resolutions No. 748/1992 and 883/1993, in the economic, cultural and social fields;

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the various fora of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Organisation of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement;

- Reaffirms the importance of paying due attention to this issue with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Libyan Arab people.



RESOLUTION NO. 10/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

The Twenty-fourth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 9/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Condemning the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the premeditated Israeli attacks aimed at destroying the infrastructure of Lebanon and undermining the efforts of the Lebanese Government for national reconstruction;

Appreciating the release of the audacious report of the UN General Secretariat on the Qana massacre. This is the report that exposed Israel's intention to bombarded innocent Lebanese civilians who took refuge at the Headquarters of the International Emergency Forces in Southern Lebanon;

Commending the efforts made by the Lebanese Government to achieve stability and security, assert its authority and recover its institutions;

Taking into account the difficulties encountered by the citizens living in the areas occupied by Israel and in neighbouring areas;

Appreciating the efforts made by the Lebanese authorities to reconstruct their country and consolidate the steadfastness of citizens living in areas occupied by Israel and taking into account the necessary requirements in this connection;

Having also taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Condemns repeated Israeli aggressions against Lebanon aimed at subverting the process of national reconstruction launched by the Lebanese Government. It also condemns the continued Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon.
3. Commends the UN General Secretariat for releasing the report of the Committee of Enquiry on Israel's direct and established responsibility for committing the Qana massacre.
4. Affirms the previous resolutions aiming at extending financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon in the light of its needs in the economic, technical and training fields.
5. Reiterates the appeal made by the 22nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to the international community calling for a generous contribution to the International Fund for the Reconstruction of Lebanon to ensure the effectiveness of this Fund.
6. Renews its invitation to the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and all international and regional organizations to provide all forms of urgent financial assistance and in kind to Lebanon so that it may rebuild what the Israeli occupation has destroyed and reinforce the steadfastness of the Lebanese in the regions occupied by Israel.
7. Requests the Secretary General to follow this question and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO.11/24-E

ON ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIMS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 10/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the 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;

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina who are still facing a dire situation resulting from the brutal inhuman attacks by the Serbs;

Taking also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the Special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21st and 22nd Meetings of the OIC Foreign Ministers which were held in Karachi and Casablanca respectively and the Seventh OIC Summit, and the Work Programme of the 23rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry on supporting the Dayton Agreement;

Expressing appreciation to the enlarged meeting of the OIC Contact Group held in Sarajivo in April 1996 and stressing the principles contained in the Final Document adopted by the Meeting;

Welcoming the resolutions of the enlarged meeting of the Ministers of the OIC Contact Group which was held in Geneva in July 1996, especially those relating to the establishment of the Revolving Fund to be allocated to medium and small projects in Bosnia;

Also expressing its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilisation Group for Bosnia-Herzegovina, formed during the OIC Kuala Lumpur meeting, towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Having also examined the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

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

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies. It also stresses the importance of the continuation of the activities undertaken by the OIC Assistance Mobilization Group.

2. Commends the contributions of the OIC Member States at the Donors Conference for the Rehabilitation of Bosnia which was held in Brussels in April 1996.

3. Appeals to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations as well as provide financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB Programme aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina for the reconstruction of the country.

4. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

5. Urges upon the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. Demands that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected along its internationally recognized borders, and support the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is open for the participation of the Bosnian Serbs and which represents a solid basis for a just and lasting solution by being a catalyst for restoring confidence among its peoples.

7. Requests the OIC Member States, at the same time members of the Peace Implementation Council in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its Coordination Committee to seek directing the biggest part of international assistance for reconstruction of Bosnia to the regions inhabited by Muslims of Bosnia.

8. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 12/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 11/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

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

Having also taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.

2. 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.

3. Commends those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 13/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA IN THE FACE OF REFUGEE INFLUX FROM LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 12/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Deeply concerned over the negative effects of the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone on the economy, security and environment in the Republic of Guinea as a result of refugee influx from these two countries into Guinea;

Having also considered the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

After considering the report of the Secretary General on the matter;

1. Makes an urgent appeal to the international community and Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with a substantial financial and material assistance to enable it to overcome this difficult situation resulting from the presence on its national territory, of hundreds of thousands of refugees due to the extension of the armed conflict in Liberia to Sierra Leone and the increasing influx into Guinea of refugees whose majority are Muslims coming from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

2. Underlines the necessity for such assistance in order to enable the efficient organization of the eventual return of refugees to their respective countries.

3. Appeals to the Islamic Development Bank to extend financial assistance in the form of grant or soft term loans to the Republic of Guinea to enable the latter build the required social infrastructure for these refugees while reducing the degradation of the environment resulting from the presence of so many refugees.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 14/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

The Twenty-Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 3 Shaaban 1417 H (9 to 13 December 1996),

Recalling the pertinent Resolutions of the Twenty-First and Twenty-Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling also Resolutions 57/19-P and 9/20-E adopted by the Nineteenth and Twentieth Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, respectively;

Having heard the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the situation in Sierra Leone;

Welcoming the results of the Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Sierra Leone;

Welcoming also the Peace Agreement signed in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on the 30th of November 1996 between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group thereby ending the five-year old fratricidal conflict in Sierra Leone which has caused untold damage to the civilian population, and the devastation of the country's social and physical infrastructure;

Considering the very crucial and commendable role played by His Excellency, Mr. Henry Konan Bedie, President of the Republic of the Cote d'Ivoire and the International Community in facilitating the holding of Peace Talks between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group which has culminated in the signing of a Peace Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and RUF on the 30th of November 1996 in Abidjan, Republic of the Cote d'Ivoire;

Expressing appreciation for the sustained concern and interest of the leaders of the West African Sub-region, in particular, His Excellency President Lansana Conte of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency General Sani Abacha of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings of the Republic of Ghana for peace to prevail in the Republic of Sierra Leone;

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 has caused considerable damage to life and property and for five consecutive years has disrupted all economic activities particularly in the Mining, Agriculture and Industrial sectors, resulting in substantial loss of revenue to Government and the private sector;

1. Congratulates the Government and the people of Sierra Leone for successfully signing the recent Peace Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) thereby ending the five-year old conflict in Sierra Leone.

2. 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.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to use his good offices to accelerate the approved process for project already identified for Sierra Leone.

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to follow-up the implementation of this Resolution and to report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO.15/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 14/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note also of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 16/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 15/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Taking into account that Afghanistan is currently faced by serious constraints due to 17 years of war;

Noting that about 70% to 80% of its economic and social infrastructures has been destroyed;

Aware that over 1.5 million Afghans were killed, about 1.5 million disabled and more than 5 million displaced and took refuge in neighbouring countries;

Recognizing that about 10 million mines were planted in different parts of the country;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Urges the Member Countries to provide assistance to Afghanistan to solve its problems.
3. Requests the Secretary General to follow-up the question and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 17/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 16/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Aware that the Government of the Republic of Uganda is currently experiencing serious strain on its meagre resources as a result of the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries who flock into the country;

Recognizing that Uganda is offering asylum to large numbers of refugees whose number will increase if the state of unrest continues to escalate;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. 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 as well as implement its economic, social and cultural programmes.

2. Requests the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 18/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 17/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third 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 grave and very critical time of the country's history;

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

Deploring the Armenian hostilities in the Upper-Karabakh district of Azerbaijan followed by the occupation of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which forced almost one million Azeri people to flee their homes in the face of the brutal attacks and gross violations of human rights by this aggression;

Recognizing the need to demonstrate in more concrete terms the solidarity of the OIC Member Countries with the Government and people of Azerbaijan;

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

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Appeals to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic and humanitarian assistance with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Azeri people.

2. Calls upon the international organizations to provide urgent humanitarian, financial assistance to Azerbaijan.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 19/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KYRGYZSTAN

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 18/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan after attainment of independence and sovereignty;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

Expressing its sympathy towards the consequences of the natural disasters which struck the territory of Kyrgyzstan, thus affecting the socio-economic level of the brotherly people;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. Appeals to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and to contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyzstan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Kyrgyzstan to fulfil its economic programme.
3. Appeals also to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan.
4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 20/24-E

ON ASSISTANCE TO THE KASHMIRI PEOPLE

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 19/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1- Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2- Appeals to Member States and Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Philanthropists, to contribute generously towards providing relief and humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.

3. 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.

4- Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 21/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 20/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen which arose from the burdens of reunification and the big losses caused by the aborted secession attempt which took place in June 1994 as well as the devastating flood which swept Republic of Yemen in 1996.

Appreciating the efforts being exerted by the Government of the Republic of Yemen for the implementation of its policy of economic reform and the success so far achieved in this regard;

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

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of Yemeni Government in overcoming its economic difficulties and implementing its policy of economic reform as well as the success so far achieved in this regard.

2. Also Expresses its appreciation for the assistance extended by some of the Member States and by the relevant affiliated organs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

3. Calls upon the Member States and all regional and international organizations to extend all kinds of economic assistance to the Yemeni Government in support of its efforts directed towards the implementation of the policy of the economic reform and overcoming the effects of floods that have devastated Yemen this year.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 22/24-E

ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF PALESTINE

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference as well as resolutions of the 22nd and 23rd Sessions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers,

Noting with great interest the role played by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-rule regions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with a view to improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and building up the national economy;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Commends the efforts made by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions in order to reconstruct what occupation had destroyed, as well as the efforts exerted to build up and consolidate the Palestinian national economy.

3. Expresses great appreciation for the assistance provided by some Member States to the Palestinian people in order to build up the national economy in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions in the West Bank and the Gaza-Strip.

4. Urges the speedy granting of the required and approved assistance by the concerned Member States and OIC bodies, with a view to helping the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people in the building up of the national economy and the consolidation of their national institutions.

5. Reaffirms the previous resolutions advocating the provision of all forms of support and assistance as well as economic, technical, material and moral assistance in support of the Palestinian people and the Palestine National Authority and Urges that preferential treatment be accorded to Palestinian products as regards importation and exemption of taxes and customs duties.

6. Urges businessmen and investors of Member States to contribute to the implementation of economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions, with a view to building up the national economy and enabling the Palestine National Authority and its national institutions to implement their development programmes, during the coming transitional period, in the various economic, social and health fields.

7. Appeals to Member States, in view of the obstacles raised by Israel in the face of the Palestinian labour force, to provide work opportunities to this Palestinian labour force, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people and putting an end to unemployment.

8. Urges the Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social field, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

9. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the efforts aiming at implementing the previous resolutions on the support to the State of Palestine and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 23/24-E

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 22/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Bearing in mind the recent admission of the Republic of Mozambique to the Organization of the Islamic Conference during the Seventh Summit of Heads of States and Governments held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in December, 1994;

Noting with satisfaction that the process of pacification and democratization in place in Mozambique creates a climate of peace and harmony conducive to a solid platform of a true reconciliation among Mozambicans, a "sine-qua-non" condition for the implementation of economic and social programmes;

Appreciating the efforts being made by the Government of Mozambique in the implementation of the national reconstruction programme;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Calls upon all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique.

2. Appeals to the Islamic Development Bank and all Islamic Institutions to provide the necessary financial assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes of Mozambique, particularly those needed to ensure the social reintegration of returnees and internal displaced persons and demobilized combatants as for the demining programme in course in that country.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 24/24-E

ON ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (COMCEC)

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution 23/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Recalling Resolution No. 2/6-E(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 9-11 December 1991 on the activities of the COMCEC mandating it to formulate new Strategies for the enhancement of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States and to take appropriate action for its implementation;

Recalling resolution No. 8/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994) on the question;

Recalling the resolution of the Ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC.

Also recalling the Resolutions adopted at the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among Member countries, particularly in the area of trade;

Further recalling the deliberations of the recently concluded World Food Summit held in Rome from 13 to 17 November, 1996 and considering the crucial importance for the survival of humankind including the well-being of the people of the Islamic Ummah, of the principles and commitments embodied in Rome declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit.

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 and underlining the pivotal role played by the Ankara Centre in the preparation of the New Plan of Action;

Recognizing the importance for the Member Countries of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of the Single European Market; creation and strengthening of regional economic groupings in the Americas, Asia and Pacific; progress in the Middle East Peace Process, and signing of the Uruguay Round Agreements and creation of the World Trade Organization;

Appreciating that starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy could exchange views on current world economic issues and, that the topic "implications on external trade of Member countries of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade Negotiations" and "Privatization Experiences in Member Countries" were the themes for the 11th and 12th Sessions of the COMCEC respectively.

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note also of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses satisfaction that the Islamic Development Bank has successfully organised a Coordination Meeting for Member States to consult among themselves and better prepare for the WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore during the period 9-13 December and to adopt collectively a common stand regarding the issues raised in the Agenda of that meeting, as resolved by the 12th Session of the COMCEC.

2. Notes with appreciation that the Strategy for Economic Cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member countries and is based on the principles giving emphasis to private sector, economic liberalization, integration with

the world economy, sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member Countries and their international obligations.

3. Also notes with appreciation that the New Plan of Action is a general and flexible policy document open for improvement during its implementation in accordance with the provisions stipulated in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.

4. Appreciates the efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in organizing Private Sector Meetings as directed by the COMCEC for an effective implementation of the Plan of Action.

5. Also appreciates the efforts of the Republic of Indonesia for organizing the Third Private Sector Meeting in Jakarta from 21 to 23 October 1996 in conjunction with the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair organized in cooperation with ICDT from 22 to 27 October 1996 also in Jakarta.

6. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Lebanon to host the 7th Islamic Trade Fair.

7. Emphasizes the need to urgently implement the New Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member Countries of 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.

8. Requests the Member States to take appropriate measures including necessary cooperations, coordination and consultations among themselves to make efforts with the required possible economic and technical support from international community particularly from the developed countries and relevant international organizations and financial institutions to increase their food production capacity with a view to arriving at national food security as well as enhancing the purchasing power of their people.

9. Invites the Member States to host sectoral meetings in the areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action.

10. Welcomes the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host two sectoral experts group meetings in the areas of "Transport and Communications" and "Food, Agriculture and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action.

11. Welcomes the offer of Republic of Turkey to host a sectoral meeting in the area of "Money, Banking and Capital Flows" of the Plan of Action in 1997.

12. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host a sectoral meeting on foreign trade within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

13. Invites IDB to continue its active support in view of ensuring effective and urgent implementation of the New Plan of Action.

14. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Senegal to organize in cooperation with IDB and the COMCEC Coordination Office, Sensetization Seminar to familiarise the African member

states with the Plan of Action, and recommends that similar seminars be held in other regions and sub-regions of OIC.

15. Expresses the opinion 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.

16. Notes with satisfaction that the theme "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings, particularly the European Union, for the Economies of the Member Countries, will be the theme for the exchange of views sessions of the 13th Session of COMCEC to be held from 1-4 November 1997 in Istanbul.

17. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of the resolutions adopted by COMCEC and to continue extending to the latter every necessary assistance and fulfil its tasks and report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 25/24-E

ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution No. 28/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No. 24/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Also recalling that tourism has been identified as a priority area for cooperation in the Plan of Action adopted by the 7th Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca in December 1995;

Convinced that tourism forms a main pivot in economic development, cultural exchange and rapprochement between nations;

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note also of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Requests the Secretary General to convene, as soon as possible, an Expert Group Meeting in the area of Tourism within the framework of COMCEC and the New Plan of Action to Strengthen the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States preliminary to holding a Conference of Ministers of Tourism of Member States.

2. Appeals to Member States to host the Expert Group Meeting on Tourism.

3. Meanwhile Invites Member States to cooperate in the following areas: -

- provision and exchange of publicity and advertising materials on tourism in different languages,
- organizing special tourism and gastronomy weeks and popular art exhibitions in the Member States,
- production and exchange of documentary films on main archeological landmarks in the Member States,
- organizing group travel among Member States, to strengthen bonds among their people,
- encouraging tourist investments in Member States and directing investors to realize tourist projects in these States,
- facilitating contacts among experienced tourist offices in Member States.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 26/24-E

ON STATUS OF THE SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution No. 18/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution No. 25/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Having reviewed the developments in respect of signature and/or ratification of the (i) Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among Member States, (ii) General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States, (iii) Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States, (iv) Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council, (v) Islamic States Telecommunications Union, (vi) Agreement on Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit;

Having also taken cognizance of the resolutions issued by the Eleventh Session of COMCEC on the matter;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses satisfaction at the efforts of the Secretary General, of the IDB and COMCEC to speed up the implementation of the Agreements and Statutes aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among Member States.
2. Also expresses satisfaction over the initiatives taken by COMCEC to effect the signing of the Agreements/Statutes that fall within the framework of cooperation among Member States and recommends that this practice be pursued.
3. Notes with satisfaction that 16 Member countries have already signed the Framework Agreement and that Seven have ratified it and urges those who have not yet done so, to do it as soon as possible so as to enable the required negotiations to start.
4. Calls upon Member States which have not yet signed and/or ratified the above mentioned Agreements/Statutes to do so, at their earliest and also urges Member States that have ratified to take follow up actions and inform the General Secretariat about the progress of implementation.
5. Notes with satisfaction that the Agreements for the establishment of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit have come into effect as of 1 August 1994.
6. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the IDB for its efforts to establish the Corporation.
7. Invites Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Agreement of the Corporation and pay their respective subscriptions to its capital to make it possible to draw the expected benefits at the widest scale possible within the OIC system.
8. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 27/24-E

ON REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY ORGANS ACTIVE IN THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE FIELDS.

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution No. 19/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Also recalling Resolution No. 26/23-E adopted by the Twenty-third 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 (SESRTCIC), Ankara; the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca; the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhaka; and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), Jeddah; respectively;

Having taken note with satisfaction of the activity reports submitted by the representatives of the above-mentioned subsidiary organs;

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 Cooperation Among Member States;

Also expressing appreciation for the role played by the Subsidiary Organs in the elaboration of the New Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States;

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note also of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Commends the role which the Ankara, Casablanca and Dhaka Centres and IFSTAD are playing each in their respective fields.

2. 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.

3. Encourages these organs to intensify contacts with international institutions working in the framework of the United Nations and others, and to benefit from the studies and reports produced by these institutions.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Requests the Secretary General Secretariat to circulate among Member States the reports of the OIC/UN Cooperation Meetings so far as these organizations are concerned.

7. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 28/24-E

ON SUPPORT FOR THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Having taken note of the Resolution No. 6/6-(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 20/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference; and Resolution No. 27/23-E of the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having noted with appreciation of the activity report of the Islamic Development Bank on the subject;

Having noted the recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC;

Noting with satisfaction that the Islamic Development Bank continues to expand its field of operation and activity concerning project financing, trade import and export financing, technical assistance, technical cooperation, special assistance and other fields of cooperation such as food security;

Noting with appreciation that the IDB has played an active role in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action adopted by the Third Islamic Summit as well as of the various decisions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC);

Further noting with satisfaction that within the framework of its commitments aimed at meeting its Member States' needs, the IDB has had to elaborate strategies of new programmes some of which were initiated under the auspices of COMCEC for the promotion of inter-Islamic trade;

Noting with satisfaction that the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) commenced its operations in July 1995, and expressing thanks and appreciation to IDB for its efforts in successfully finalizing the establishment of the Corporation;

Having taken cognizance of the Resolutions of the Twelveth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), held in Istanbul, from 12-15 November 1996;

Having taken note also of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses its deep satisfaction for the devotion and efficiency with which the IDB President and his assistants are ensuring the good functioning of this institution which continues making an invaluable contribution to the development and progress of Muslim populations.

2. Calls on the Islamic Development Bank to keep up its beneficial action and increase the necessary resources for increasing its services to the Member States, and to the Islamic Ummah at large.

3. Congratulates the Islamic Development Bank on having set up the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit.

4. Calls on the Member States to participate in various schemes recently launched by the Islamic Development Bank and to benefit from the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme, Islamic Banks' Portfolio, IDB Unit Investment Fund, the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit along with IDB's other existing schemes, programmes and operations.

5. Appeals to the Member States who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit and to pay their respective shares to its capital so that its benefits would be extended to as wide an OIC area as possible.

6. Requests the General Secretariat, the IDB, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade to jointly organise seminars on regional basis on the various schemes approved by the COMCEC namely the Longer Term Trade Financing System, the Islamic Export Credit and Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and the Islamic Clearing Union with a view of ensuring efficient and the speedy implementation of these schemes for the benefit of business community of the Islamic Ummah.

7. Invites the Member States which have not yet done so to subscribe to the second capital increase of the IDB and to settle their outstanding contributions and other financial commitments.

8. Calls upon the Member States to lend their support to the Bank so as to enable it to fulfil its obligations and commitments towards fostering economic development and social progress of the Member States.

9. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 29/24-E

ON AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS OF THE OIC OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Recalling Resolution No. 21/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference; and Resolution No. 28/23-E of the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking cognizance of the activity reports submitted by the representatives of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI); Islamic Shipowners Association (ISA); and the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB), and appreciating the recent Trade Mission effected by the ICCI to five countries in West Africa;

Expressing its appreciation for the role played by the affiliated institutions in the implementation of the Plan of Action to strengthen economic cooperation among Member States;

Also expressing its appreciation for the role played by the affiliated institutions in the elaboration of the new strategy of the COMCEC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member Countries;

Confirming the important role the Private Sector has to play in the development of Member States and promotion of Intra-Islamic Cooperation;

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

Having taken cognizance of the Resolutions of the Twelfth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC);

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Notes with appreciation the important role which the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Islamic Shipowners Association and the International Association of Islamic Banks are assuming in their respective fields.

2. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce for hosting and organizing the Second Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Islamic Chamber, which was held from 30 September to 02 October 1995 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

3. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Second Private Sector Meeting and in the Cairo Declaration.
4. Congratulates the ICCI for its important initiative aimed at maintaining contacts with businessmen and promoting socio-economic development in Member States.
5. Appeals to the Governments of Member States to encourage their Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to develop a framework of cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programmes to enhance trade and investment among Islamic States.
6. Appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Islamic Chamber to host the Third Private Sector Meeting in Jakarta, in collaboration with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, concurrently with the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair in October 1996.
7. Further appreciates the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Fourth Private Sector Meeting.
8. Commends the current initiatives taken by the Islamic Shipowners Association to establish a Maritime Company and Cooperative Information System (CIS).
9. Urges the Member States which have not done so yet, to sign the Statute of the Islamic Shipowners Association.
10. Appeals to Member States to continue to extend their support and assistance to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamic Shipowners Association, and the International Association of Islamic Banks.
11. Invites the Islamic Shipowners Association to speed up the progress of establishing Islamic Shipping Companies and urges Member States to encourage the participation of national maritime companies and businessmen of their respective countries to join these companies as well as organizing Liner Conferences and/or coordinating their positions in such Liner Conferences.
12. Calls on the institutions concerned in economic affairs to hold an annual coordination meeting in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.
13. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.



RESOLUTION NO. 30/24-E

ON ALLEVIATING THE EFFECTS OF FLOODS AND TORRENTIAL RAINS IN SUDAN

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 03 Shabaan 1417H (9-13 December 1996);

Noting the devastating natural disaster suffered by Sudan as a result of floods and torrential rains in many parts of the country,

Realizing the tragic effects involved, including the sweeping away of farms, the destruction of thousands of homes and the wiping out of infrastructures, which, in turn, led to the displacement of tens of thousands of citizens, the shortage of food and agricultural products, the pollution of environment and the ensuing dangers to public health,

1. Commends the Member States which have already extended prompt relief, namely: the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. Urges Member States to respond to this humanitarian appeal by extending the necessary assistance.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and make a report thereon.



RESOLUTION NO.31/24-E

ON THE ISLAMIC FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT (IFSTAD)

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from 28 Rajab to 3 Shaban 1417H, (9-13 December 1996),

Pursuant to the decision of the 23rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Affairs held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea in Rajab 1416H (December 1995) directing, among others, that the 20th Islamic Commission should examine the situation of IFSTAD and make a recommendation to be submitted to the 24th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for appropriate decision;

Having taken note of the report of the extraordinary meeting between the Secretary General and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of IFSTAD;

Having examined the report of the Secretary General highlighting all the financial and other problems of IFSTAD;

Having considered all the various aspects of the problem;

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

1. Supports (with regret) the option to close IFSTAD as provided in the report of the Secretary General and also the report of the meeting between the Secretary General and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of IFSTAD.

2. Agrees that all the financial implications relating to the closure and liquidation of the Foundation should be adequately addressed.

3. Also agrees that a Special Committee composed of the Secretary General, the Administrator-in-Charge of IFSTAD, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, should be constituted to address all the financial implications and all other matters relating to the closure of IFSTAD and including the reallocation of the duties of IFSTAD to other OIC bodies working in the field of Science and Technology.

4. Directs that the report and recommendations of the Committee be submitted by the Secretary General by 31st January 1997 latest to the Chairman of the 24th ICFM for the necessary consultation and coordination with the host country for the liquidation of the Foundation.



RESOLUTION NO.32/24-E

ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD INCLUDING ISRAELI PRACTICES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN, IN OCCUPIED SOUTHERN LEBANON AND THE WESTERN BEKKA AND IN OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES BY ISRAEL.

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from 28 Rajab to 3 Shaban 1417H, (9-13 December 1996),

Having noted the resolution adopted on this issue by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December 1995),

A) Environmental Problems in the Islamic World.

Recalling previous Resolutions on this subject especially Resolutions 2/19-E, 17/21-E, 22/22-E and 29/23-E of the 19th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers respectively;

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Stressing again the right of all human beings to enjoy a healthy and non-polluted environment, as a basic human right;

Re-emphasizing the right of States to protect their environment from harmful activities, and to cooperate among themselves to that end;

Noting with concern that the condition of the environment has reached a stage that requires taking effective measures to stop its deterioration;

Recognizing that environmental degradation both natural and manmade is a major global concern which requires the strengthening of international cooperation and extending effective contributions for the protection of the environment;

Noting with satisfaction the recent developments towards the finalization of the International Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, which was adopted in Paris in September 1994 and inviting the Member States, which have not ratified all the relevant conventions, including the International Convention on Combating Desertification, to do so, as soon as possible;

Stressing the need for closely and constantly monitoring the global environmental situation and relevant activities and also supporting the establishment of mass-destruction-weapons-free-zones in the Muslim world;

Expressing its deep concern over the devastating effects of hazardous, toxic and radioactive wastes on humankind and the environment and supporting the establishment of mass-destruction-weapons-free-zones in the whole world.

Strongly condemning the attempts by some developed countries to export their hazardous and radioactive wastes for dumping in developing countries, and appealing to Member States to sign the Basel Convention on Dangerous Wastes and the Bamako Convention and relevant international agreements;

Guided by the principles of Islam which enjoin the Muslim peoples to safeguard the bounties that Allah has granted them on Earth;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on this subject;

1- Requests Member States to continue to incorporate environmental considerations in their developmental policies.

2- Urges the Member States which have not ratified all the UN International Agreements on the Environment including the International Convention on Desertification and Drought to do so as soon as possible so that the Convention can come into force.

3- Calls on Member States to mobilize available financial and institutional resources needed for implementing national programmes of environmental protection.

4- Urges the Member States to attach greater importance to the question of the protection of the Environment and Natural Resources and to its relevance to sustainable development.

5- Condemns Israel's continued rejection to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and carrying out uncontrolled nuclear programmes;

6- Appeals to the international community to conduct active scientific research on the rise in sea levels so as to protect wildlife in the territories of the Member States.

7- Urges the developed countries to discharge their obligations under prevailing international agreements on the transfer to developing countries of financial resources and environmentally sound technologies.

8- Reaffirms the determination of the Member States to work for the strengthening of international cooperation in seeking solutions to global environmental problems and requests the donor States and international financial institutions to extend further support to regional networks and national focal points in States stricken by desertification.

9- Stresses that multilateral cooperation for the protection of the environment should include the provision of additional financial resources and access to environmentally sound technologies for the developing countries.

10- Calls for the dissemination of pioneering experiments for the application of environmental development in the Islamic States and the use of the latter's available expertise in this field, whether through bilateral cooperation or multilateral programmes for the exchange of expertise.

11- Requests Member States to promote coordination and cooperation among environment monitoring networks and remote-control sensing centres and coastal control posts and all other environment protection organs in Islamic States.

12- Urges all Member States to continue consultation and coordination among them at all international meetings including consultations relating to environment protection, especially in the field of hazardous and radioactive waste.

13- Expresses its satisfaction at the fruitful cooperation between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations Environment Programme;

14- Calls for the intensification of this cooperation with emphasis on the problem of the remnants of World War II and other wars in the Islamic countries, which impedes development of their societies, and calls on the international community to address the problem immediately and take the necessary measures to remove land mines and war remnants.

15- Appeals to the parties to World War II to expeditiously provide Member States with information, data and maps on mines planted in their territories during the war and commit themselves to extend immediate aid and assistance required for the removal of these mines which still cause huge damage to human lives and obstruct development and construction in vital areas, while taking into consideration the decisions of the UN Conference on the Question of Mines which was held in Geneva this year.

16- Calls on Member States to intensify coordination and consultation among themselves in the framework of the UN and others, particularly specialized agencies concerned, on tackling this subject in an effective and meaningful manner.

17- Expresses solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning its position on the question of the minefields left on in its territory by World War II, their grave effect on the environment and the accidents and grievous damage they cause to thousands of its citizens.

Also appeals to Member States to stand in solidarity with the Jamahiriya in its efforts to overcome this problem and its right to demand compensation for the damage and that the countries responsible for the mine danger finance mine-hunting operations and produce minefield maps to the Libyan authorities concerned.

B) Israeli practices and their effects on the environment in the occupied Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan, the occupied Southern Lebanon and Western Bekkah and other Israeli occupied Arab territories.

Proceeding from the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

Recalling Previous OIC and other International Resolutions on this subject;

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Also recalling resolutions 14/11-E and 15/18-E of the UN Environment Programme with respect to the environmental conditions in the Israeli occupied Palestinian Arab Territories, Syrian Golan, Lebanese and other Arab territories;

Referring to the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC;

Reaffirming the rights of mankind to a dignified life enjoying a healthy environment, free of pollution as a basic human and sacred right;

Expressing deep concern over the escalating brutal and expansionist practices of the Israeli occupation authorities which include seizure of land and water-resources, the demolition of houses, the construction of new settlements in the occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories, especially in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the Syrian Golan, the uprooting of trees, the destruction of crops, the cutting off of irrigation waters, the deforestation of wide expanses of land and the use of toxic gases with the attendant serious effects on the Palestinian and other Arab inhabitants and the economic and social situation in those lands;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on this issue;

1- Condemns and censures Israel for its aggressive policies, the confiscation of Palestinian lands, the setting of forests on fire, the cutting off of irrigation water and the seizure of water resources, thereby causing considerable decay of ecological conditions in occupied Palestine and aggravating the economic and social situation of the citizens.

2- Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied Arab territories, and considers illegal any violation of this right.

3- Requests the Member States to continue to extend help and assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and the Arab

citizens in the Lebanese occupied territories in drawing up the plans deemed necessary for environmental conservation within these territories and stresses that implementation measures be adopted for consolidating such plans and taking steps to expose the policies pursued by Israeli occupation authorities which have led to ecological decay in the occupied Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese territories.

4- Strongly Condemns Israel's persistence in changing the legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its practices aimed at changing its environmental conditions as well as its geographical, demographic and historical features and at imposing Israeli laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan and South Lebanon and its Western Bekkah.

5- Decides to strengthen cooperation among the Member States in the field of earthquake monitoring and establish a mechanism from the Member States on the Red Sea so as to monitor earthquakes in the region and exchange the necessary information on treating this phenomenon.

6- Condemns Israel's continuous rejection to join the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty and to pursue nuclear programmes which are bound to cause serious damage to the neighbouring Islamic States as these programmes are not subject to monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency and calls upon the international parties and bodies concerned to adopt the measures necessary for putting an end to this damage, while stressing the importance of cooperation among the Member States concerned in the field of monitoring radiation fallout in the area.

7- Acknowledges the good quality of the IFSTAD report on the crucial environmental issues affecting Member States and strongly emphasizes the need for similar indepth studies of such issues so that Member States can keep abreast of their future development and implications.

8. Requests that the action programmes recommended in the report of the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development



RESOLUTION NO.33/24-E

ON COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES AGAINST EPIDEMIC DISEASES WHICH AFFECT HUMAN, ANIMAL RESOURCES AND NATURAL LIFE

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from 28 Rajab to 3 Shaban 1417H, (9-13 December 1996),

Referring to the resolution 30/23-E adopted on this issue by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Twentieth Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Expressing grave concern at the worldwide spread of infectious diseases affecting human, animal resources and natural life in recent years;

Considering the gravity of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (ESB) epidemic, its severe current and potential impact on animal and human health, the economy and commercial exchanges in the light of transmissions from one species to another and the economic confrontations sparked by the so-called "mad cow" crisis, and given the enormous social and financial costs of such an epidemic in case it spreads in OIC Member Countries;

Concerned by the alarming progression of the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), its connection with the increase of international travel, and the slow progress in medical research aimed at finding satisfactory and affordable treatments and preventive methods;

Appreciating the preventive and curative health measures taken by the Member States for the pilgrimage season in particular;

Also expressing its deep appreciation of the excellent and efficient health services made available to the Pilgrims by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on this subject;

1- Calls for greater coordination among Member States, other countries and the World Health Organization to combat these dangers by using new vaccines and implementing new immunization programmes against contagious diseases.

2- Appeals for greater coordination and cooperation in the field of health by applying international health regulations such as compulsory vaccination of all Pilgrims coming to the Holy Places and the improvement of sanitary conditions as well as cooperation in health education of the Pilgrims before their departure through the appropriate media available in their countries.

3- Urges all Member States, their competent national and regional institutions, and to international cooperation institution, in particular the World Health Organisation (WHO), to set up immediately a mechanism of early warning, control and rapid exchange of information on the marketing and import of meat and by-products infected with ESB (or "mad cow" disease);

4- Invites Member States to a serious reflection on the reprehensible practices on the part of certain food industrialists, on the import of dangerous foodstuffs, on the urgency and priority of encouraging and supporting scientific, and more particularly medical research in the fields and specialities concerned, and on developing their local agricultural and animal produce in a way as to reach a satisfactory level of food self sufficiency;

5- Invites Member States to collectively organize the fight against the expansion of the AIDS pandemic and to seriously uphold medical research efforts in this field at the national, regional and international levels;

6- Also invites Member States to devote a special attention to highlighting the religious moral values in their educational establishments, their media and their Dawa fora, as those values are the most effective means to prevent the spread of that epidemic.

7- Requests that a meeting of the Ministers of Health of Member States be convened at an appropriate time on the subject of epidemic diseases.

8- Requests the Secretary General to take appropriate steps for the implementation of this Resolution.



RESOLUTION NO.34/24-E

ON COOPERATION IN COMBATTING DRUG ABUSE, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR ILLEGAL PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND TRAFFICKING.

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from 28 Rajab to 3 Shaban 1417H, (9-13 December 1996),

Referring to the resolution 31/23-E adopted on the subject by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit and the other previous resolutions adopted by the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Session of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers on the Control of Narcotics and Drug Abuse;

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Expressing its concern at the manufacture and illegal trafficking as well as the widespread abuse of drugs which endanger the health of millions, particularly among young people;

Noting with concern the new dimensions of the ever growing narcotics problem which is threatening the social and economic fabric of the afflicted countries;

Taking into consideration the results achieved by the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the field of drug abuse, including the declaration and comprehensive multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in drug abuse adopted by the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and illegal trafficking and the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

Noting with appreciation the declaration and global programme of action adopted by the 17th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York in February

1990, and the declaration of the London Conference on Control of Cocaine and restriction of drugs (April 1990);

Reaffirming its conviction of the need to supervise the manufacture, production, trafficking, import and export of drugs and psychotropic substances, in accordance with the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1988 Convention on Narcotic Drugs on ways to strengthen and enhance the cooperation against illegal trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances;

Recognizing the importance of taking measures to control drug materials including chemicals and solvents which are used in the manufacture of drugs and psychotropic substances, the availability of which has increased their illicit processing;

Affirming the guiding principles of the prevailing treaties on control of narcotics and psychotropic substances as well as the control system embodied in these treaties;

Realizing the urgent need for Member States and relevant international organizations to exert concerted and coordinated efforts to eradicate the problem of abuse, trafficking and smuggling into Islamic countries, of narcotics and psychotropic substances;

Reviewing the effects of drug abuse and its illegal production, processing and trafficking on Member States;

Recalling that the teaching of the true Islamic religion categorically forbids the use and trafficking in drugs;

Having considered the Secretary General's Report on the subject;

1. Requests the Member States to diligently follow up the guidelines contained in the recommendations made by the OIC Expert Group Meeting held from 18-20 October 1988 in Istanbul, Turkey, on the effective measures to combat the problem of narcotic drugs in all its aspects and dimensions, including illicit production, trafficking, processing, trafficking and trade.

2. Urges the Member States to coordinate their efforts and harmonize their systems related to the licit production and trade of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances within the framework of the relevant international organizations.

3. Also urges the Member States to give greater attention to the propagation of religious consciousness and discussion within their respective educational institutions and mass media on the gravity of the production, use and trafficking in drugs as well as their illegality.

4. Welcomes the measures taken by some Member States to draw attention to the damaging effect of narcotics and affirms the importance of preventive measures including the need for crop/income substitution and accessibility to international markets for substituted products.

5. Requests the Member States to continue to intensify their cooperation and to exchange information and technical expertise to control narcotic drugs.



RESOLUTION NO.35/24-E

ON ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WAYS AND MEANS TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Fraternity and Cooperation) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from 28 Rajab to 3 Shaban 1417H, (9-13 December 1996),

Referring to the resolution 32/23-E adopted on the subject by the Twenty-third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Acknowledging the close interdisciplinary relationship between the Environment and other developmental sectors including Health;

Considering the importance for Member States to preserve the basic necessities of sustainable development and to continuously assess and monitor their environmental problems and issues including Health;

Noting with appreciation the Member States awareness of Environmental issues and active role during and after the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED);

Recalling the previous relevant resolutions 1/18-E of the 18th Session of the ICFM, 20/21-E of the 21st Session of the ICFM, 10/6-E(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit, 25/22-E of the 22nd Session of the ICFM, 25/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and 32/23-E of the 23rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Conscious of the urgent need for the Member States to avail themselves of objective, independent and unbiased information on their environmental situation and possible remedies that would best serve their interests;

Appreciative of the efforts made by the General Secretariat of the OIC, its Subsidiary Organs and the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation (COMSTECH) to prepare environment-related projects and programmes;

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having examined the Report of the Secretary General on this subject;

1. Welcomes the offer made by the Republic of Tunisia during the Twenty-first ICFM to host the meeting of the Governmental Expert Group to do an exhaustive study of the interconnected issues of the environment, health and sustainable development from a perspective that would serve the interests of Member States better and would lead to the establishment of a closer cooperation between them and the relevant OIC and other international institutions.

2. Renews its request that the Secretary General undertake the above mentioned study by constituting a Governmental Experts Committee comprising at least two Representatives from each geographic region of the OIC in addition to the relevant Representatives of the General Secretariat and COMSTECH to meet in Tunisia in order:

(a) to draft guidelines for the above study;

(b) to discuss the terms of reference of the said study and work out the administrative, logistic and financial details of its implementation.

3. Decides that the requested study should be carried out through COMSTECH in close consultation with the Member States and their relevant institutions and the General Secretariat, and in cooperation with regional and international organizations.

4. Requests the Secretary General to submit the results of the aforesaid study by the Governmental Experts Committee to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for consideration.