

FINAL DECLARATION

1. The Seventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, convened in its Seventh Session held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 13-16 Jumad al Awal, 1396 H (12-15 May, 1976), in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Jeddah, and at the invitation of the Government of Turkey in the City which has served as the capital of Islam for half a millennium and whose historic monuments proclaim the matchless glory of Islam.

2. The Conference was preceded by a preparatory meeting of Senior Officials of the participating delegations on 9-10 Jumad al Awal, 1396 (10-11 May, 1976), .

3. The following Member States took part in the Conference: Republic of Afghanistan, Algerian Democratic and Popular Republic, Republic of Bangladesh, State of Bahrain, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Chad, the State of the Comoro Islands, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Gabon, Republic of Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Indonesia, Empire of Iran, Republic of Iraq, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Niger, Oman Sultanate, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Senegal, Democratic Republic of Somalia, Democratic Republic of Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uganda, State of United Arab Emirates, Republic of Upper Volta, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen's People Democratic Republic, Palestine Liberation Organization.

4. The following Organizations attended as Observers or Guests:

1. The United Nations,
2. The League of Arab States,
3. Rabitah Al Alam Al Islami,
4. Muslim World Congress,
5. Muslim Youth Organization.

5. The Conference unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey as its Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Hashem Al Shawwa, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, and His Excellency Mr. Mustapha Ramedhan, Minister of Cooperatives and Marketing of Uganda as Vice Chairman, and His Excellency Mr. Adam Malik, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia as its Rapporteur. His Excellency Mr. Aziz Ahmed, Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs of Pakistan was elected as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and His Excellency Mr. Thierno Nabika Diallo, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea, as the Spokesman of the Conference.

6. The Conference heard with deep attention a message from H.E. Mr. S. Fahri Koruturk, the President of the Republic of Turkey, in which he cordially welcomed the participating delegates. Recalling Turkey's past and present pivotal role in the Islamic World, the President of Turkey expressed his great satisfaction with the efforts being made to further develop the close relations between Muslim countries. On behalf of the members of the Conference, H.E. Mr. Aziz Ahmed, Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, conveyed deep gratitude to the President of Turkey for his gracious message as well as the warm hospitality extended to the members of the delegations by the people and Government of Turkey.

7. The Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Suleyman Demirel addressed the Conference at its opening session. He traced the historical background of Istanbul as a centre of the Islamic World for centuries. Throughout history, the Turkish people had sacrificed a great many lives for the glory of Islam. He made special mention of the Cyprus problem and the difficulties being faced by Turkish Cypriot Muslims.

8. His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia delivered a speech of thanks on behalf of the Conference for the address made by the Turkish Prime Minister.

9. The Conference received a message conveying fraternal greetings and best wishes for its success from H.E. Moammar El Qaddafi, President of the Revolutionary Council of the Libyan Republic.

10. The Secretary General of the Conference read out a message of good wishes from H.E. Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations.

11. The Conference welcomed Turkey's decision to formally ratify the Charter of the Islamic Conference.

12. The Conference decided by acclamation to admit the State of Comoro Isles as a member.

13. His Excellency Dr. Amadou Karim Gaye was sworn in as the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference.

14. The Conference listened with sympathy and great interest to the statement of His Excellency Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus, who voiced the struggle of his oppressed people for their legitimate rights, justice and dignity. The Conference adopted a resolution on Cyprus recognizing the equality of rights of the two Cyprus Communities in an independent and non-aligned Republic of Cyprus, and their right to be heard in all international forums

where the Cyprus problem comes up for discussion. It was also agreed that the representatives of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus be invited to attend future meetings of the Islamic Conference.

15. The Secretary General of the Conference submitted his annual report on the activities of the Organization during the previous year in the political, economic, Islamic and cultural fields. He also called for the strengthening of the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference so as to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities.

16. The Heads of Delegations, while addressing the Conference, reviewed in detail the present world situation, particularly the problems which principally affect Islamic nations. All such issues of interest to the Islamic World in the political, economic and cultural spheres were discussed by the Committees of the Conference which submitted their reports to the Plenary for adoption. The discussions both in the Plenary and at the Committees were held in a spirit of brotherliness, cooperation, understanding and mutual confidence which made it possible for the Conference to reach constructive resolutions.

IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE

17. The Conference hailed the struggle of the Palestinian and Arab peoples in the Arab and Palestinian lands occupied since 1940 to 1967. It affirmed its solidarity and support for their struggle, and for ending Zionist occupation, and the liberation of the occupied territories and the restoration of the full national rights of the Palestinian people in the defence of the Islamic, Arab and spiritual status of Jerusalem. It confirmed that the Palestinian cause was the core of the Middle East problem and that a just and lasting peace can only be based on the total withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to establish an independent State in Palestine. The Conference stressed that the Zionist entity must comply with the principles of the UN Charter and expressed grave concern at the serious situation arising from Israel's human rights which constitute an increasingly serious threat to peace and security in the Middle East. The Conference noted that the situation in the Middle East is steadily deteriorating and bringing the world to the brink of an explosion which might lead to an all out and bitter conflict. The Conference called on all states to assume their responsibilities and especially to refrain from supplying Israel with any form of support and to sever all ties with it. It confirmed its resolution adopted at Jeddah for the expulsion of Israel from the UN and all other international Organizations. The Conference further called for the extension of all forms of assistance to the Palestinian and Arab peoples, in their legitimate struggle, until the liberation of the occupied territories is achieved and the Palestinian people return to their homeland and exercise their rights, especially to self-determination and the establishment of a national independent State. The

members of the Islamic Conference undertook to support and uphold the cause of the Palestinian people and the Arab people until victory has been attained.

The Conference decided to establish an "Al Quds Fund" with the dual aim of countering the policy of Judaization in the Occupied Arab territories and sustaining the heroic resistance of the Palestinian Arab People in Jerusalem and other occupied territories. It also decided to allocate a part of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for the consolidation of this struggle.

18. The Conference affirmed the close link which attaches Muslims to the Al-Quds Sharif (Jerusalem) and the responsibility of Islamic States to secure its liberation and restoration to Arab sovereignty. The Conference declared that all measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities to alter the status of the Arab territories, and the religious rites and Muslim rights in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al Quds, and Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron are null and void. It considered these measures as an infringement upon the inalienable rights and heritage of the Islamic nations besides being a provocation to Islamic sentiments throughout the World. The Conference decided to jointly repel this aggression and force Israel to rescind all these measures.

19. The Conference condemned Zionism as a colonialist, expansionist, racist and imperialist doctrine, which poses a direct threat to international peace and security. It also condemned Israeli oppression in the Occupied Arab territories and declared full support for the struggle of the PLO to restore the national rights of the Palestinian people.

20. The Conference reiterated the commitment of the Islamic countries to the struggle against racism in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Occupied Palestine. It condemned the growing military collaboration between these racist regimes and the overt and covert support received by them through imperialist regimes. The Conference called upon all Member States and the international community to fully implement UN resolutions regarding the elimination of racial discrimination and decided to expand and intensify support for these peoples and to recommend the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to secure the implementation of the Resolution in this respect.

21. The Conference expressed its full and unreserved support for the just struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and Namibia for liberation and national independence. It welcomed the intensification of support for the liberation movements in Southern Africa and declared its opposition to all forms of external interference which might impede their struggle. The Conference called on all Islamic countries to extend greater moral and material assistance to the liberation movements in these territories and requested the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference to establish direct contacts with these movements to assess their requirements to be

met, inter-alia, through Islamic Solidarity Fund. It condemned the growing collaboration between the racist regimes in Southern Africa, and the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine.

22. The Conference decided to extend its full support to Mozambique and Zambia to enable them to fully apply and intensify the economic sanctions against the racist regime in South Rhodesia.

23. The Conference discussed in detail the question of the Somali Coast and decided to call upon France to grant immediate, genuine and unconditional independence to the people of the Somali Coast in accordance with the Resolutions of the U.N especially Resolution 3480 (XXX) of its 30th Session, dated 11th December, 1975, and to create the necessary atmosphere conducive to genuine and real independence by abrogating all emergency regulations and laws, and providing constitutional guarantees and rights which will enable the people to exercise their full political rights without any restrictions.

24. The Conference examined the problem of Mayotte. It declared its support for the independence and territorial integrity of the Comoro Isles composed of the Islands of Greater Comoro, Anjouan, Moheli and Mayotte. While condemning French occupation of Mayotte, it called upon France to withdraw from the Island immediately and requested the United Nations to take all necessary measures for this purpose.

25. The Conference reiterated its call on nuclear states not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances against non-nuclear states not covered by nuclear guarantees, and requested Islamic countries to take a joint initiative at the United Nations to secure acceptance of this proposal.

26. The Conference noted with great concern the danger of introducing nuclear weapons into Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and the Indian Ocean. It called for the early implementation of the proposals for the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, and the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace free from nuclear weapons. The Conference urged all parties to refrain from any action contrary to the objective of establishing these proposed Zones. It called on the nuclear powers to respect the denuclearisation of these zones and urged Member States to take joint initiative at the United Nations and other international forums to secure the early establishment of these zones.

27. The Conference considered the situation of the Muslims in the Philippines and called on the Philippines Government to halt its military operations against Muslims, adopt necessary measures for the immediate withdrawal of its troops and honour its commitment to grant autonomy to Muslims in South Philippines within the State

of Philippines. It appealed to the Philippines Government and the Moro Liberation Front to resume negotiations for a solution of the problem in accordance with the resolution of the Jeddah Conference and the Plan of Action approved by that Conference. It expressed an appreciation to the Ministerial Committee of Four for its efforts and renewed its mandate to pursue contacts with the Philippines Government and the Moro Liberation Front for a settlement of the problem..

28. The Conference took note with appreciation of the report submitted by its Secretary General regarding Muslim minorities and communities in the world. It expressed concern at the inhuman treatment meted out to Muslim minorities in some of the countries. It requested the Secretary General, as recommended in the report, to carry out a new and extended survey on this subject to be submitted to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

29. The Conference, noting the positive steps that have been taken in the process of normalization among the countries of the South Asian Sub-Continent, expressed deep concern at the impediment to this process posed by the problem of sharing equitably the waters of the international river Gange resulting in the aggravation of economic hardships and the retardation of the process of national reconstruction in Bangladesh. The Conference expressed the hope that this problem will be resolved expeditiously and satisfactorily through discussion among the countries concerned in the larger interest of peace and stability in the region.

30. The Conference, having heard with appreciation the statement by the Indonesian Delegation on the question of East Timor, affirmed that the solution of the East Timor question will, in the final analysis, remain in the hands of the East Timor people themselves, as this will ensure the people of that territory the exercise of their right to self-determination and thereby contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the entire region which is the home of about 150 million Muslims.

31. The Conference considered that the recovery of antiquities illegally removed from the countries of their origin, could be conducive to the establishment of the cultural heritage which reflects the historic civilisation of the nation and, therefore, called for the return of antiquities to the countries of their origin. It invited the UNESCO to hasten the measures required to assist in this respect.

32. The Conference acknowledged that the development plans of some developing countries have been jeopardized by left over war material, particularly mines, and held the imperialist colonialist forces as fully responsible for material and moral damage incurred in countries where minefields have been planted and for compensating for such damage. It welcomes the efforts being made in this connection in the Conference of Humanitarian Law and the Disarmament Committee and called on the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference to

ensure the holding of an international conference to consider this question

33. The Conference considered the report on the Dialogue between Moslems and Christians, and while expressing satisfaction at the Seminars held on this subject requested the Secretary General to follow up these Seminars so as to make sure that they are not abused.

34. The Conference examined the new international circumstances resulting from the emergence of the group of the Third World countries as a force that should play its role in directing international politics in order to realize international peace and justice.

The Conference underlined in this connection that the time has come to revise the United Nations Charter in accordance with these new circumstances in a manner that would secure justice and equality among States regardless of their political, military or manpower potential. This can be achieved by rescinding all privileges enjoyed by any of these States whether at the Security Council or any other Organizations.

35. The Conference took note of the report on the World Islamic Festival and the International Islamic Conference in London and considered them a valuable contribution to the Islamic cause.

36. The Conference noted the great importance of the negotiations on a new and comprehensive convention on the Law of the Sea and the need to support sovereignty of Islamic countries and to promote their economic security and development in these negotiations. In this context, the Conference welcomed the formation of a consultative group of Islamic countries at the recent New York Session of the Third Conference of the Law of the Sea to enhance the coordination of their positions and the protection of their interests. The Conference decided to convene a meeting of the experts of the Islamic countries on the Law of the Sea in New York immediately prior to the next session of the Law of the Sea Conference and requested the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference to coordinate activities for the holding of this meeting.

a. The Conference recommended that efforts be pursued in order to bring about a just solution to the problems of Muslims in Eritrea. To this end, it was recommended that close contact be ensured with the parties concerned and the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference as well as with the Organization of the African Unity, in accordance with the basic principles of the Charters of both Organizations.

b. The Conference noted the candidatures of Sudan, Turkey and the Democratic Republic of Yemen to posts in international organizations and recommended that

Member States give the necessary directives to their representatives in international organizations, in general, and at the United Nations, in particular to consult each other and support the candidatures of those sister countries in the spirit of Islamic solidarity.

IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE

37. The Conference affirmed the commitment of the Islamic countries to establish a new and equitable international economic order. It noted with regret that so far no progress has been made on issues of fundamental interest to the developing countries and called on the developed countries to accede to the reasonable demands of the Third World in the fields of trade, finance, industrialization and technology. The Conference reiterated the importance of maintaining the unity and solidarity of the Islamic countries and of the Third World.

38. The Conference approved the activities and financial disbursements made by the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund during the previous year. It called upon Member States to consolidate the Fund at the financial, material and manpower levels. The Conference reaffirmed the decision requesting Member States to designate one day every year as the Islamic Solidarity Day for the collection of contributions to the Islamic Solidarity Fund. It referred a recommendation of the Permanent Council to set up an Endowment Fund of 100 million dollars to Member States and expressed the hope that the States subscribing to the Islamic Solidarity Fund will commit themselves to contributions.

39. The Conference welcomed suggestions from Member States to the effect that their budget allocations for Islamic activities similar to those of the Fund, or part thereof, be merged with the Islamic Solidarity Fund to ensure greater coordination of such activities. The Conference elected a new Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund composed of United Arab Emirates, Republic of Afghanistan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Gambia, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Iraq, State of Kuwait, Libyan Arab Republic, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Niger, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Upper Volta, and authorized it to examine requests for project aid and to formulate its disbursement program within the resources available to it.

40. The Conference, noting that due to various reasons the Secretary General was not able to submit to the Seventh Conference, the report on the special needs and problems of Islamic landlocked countries, directed the Secretary General to prepare the report and to submit it to the Eighth Conference.

41. The Conference, in order to give a proper direction and impetus to its economic activities as well as to coordinate them, decided to expand its Committee of

Economic Representatives and Experts so as to comprise 18 members and decided to change its nomenclature to the Islamic Commission for Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs. The mandate of the Commission would be the same as that of the Committee of Economic Representatives and Experts and would include the formulation, implementation and follow up of programs of economic cooperation among the Muslim countries.

42. The Conference, while reviewing the progress in promoting economic cooperation among Islamic countries, adopted a recommendation to circulate a study on the subject prepared by Pakistan to Member States for their views and comments. These along with the study, would be submitted to the Islamic Commission for Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs.

43. The Conference, conscious of the accelerated economic and social development in member states and the ever increasing requirements in many Islamic countries for skilled labour and know-how to sustain this development, called on these member states to give priority to obtaining the necessary labour and know-how from Islamic States whenever required.

44. The Conference decided to refer the Multilateral Draft Agreement on Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation among Member States of the Islamic Conference, to the Islamic Commission for Economic and Social Affairs for finalization and submission to the Eighth Conference for adoption.

45. The Conference accepted the invitation extended by the Turkish Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange to the leaders of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of member states for a meeting in Istanbul in 1977 to discuss the question of trade and industrial cooperation among Islamic countries.

IN THE ISLAMIC AND CULTURAL SPHERE

46. The Conference considered the report of the Director General of the International Islamic News Agency and decided to invite the General Assembly of IINA to hold a meeting within a period of three months to study in collaboration with the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, the technical and financial aspects of the report and inform Member States of the outcome of the study well before the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. The Conference also called upon Member States to offer donations to the Agency and urged them to pay their regular contributions promptly.

47. The Conference considered the report of the General Assembly of the Islamic

Broadcasting Services Organization and decided to refer it to Member States of the Organization.

48. Having studied the report of the group of Experts composed in pursuance of a resolution of the Sixth Islamic Conference relating to the establishment of an Islamic Science Foundation, the Conference decided to forward the recommendations of the group of Experts to Member States for their views and comments.

49. The Conference decided to establish a Preparatory Committee to draw up a detailed plan and the budget estimates for the celebration of the advent of the 15th Century of Hijra. The Committee would be composed of Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

50. The Conference, recognizing the need for economic and social research in Islamic countries, welcomed a proposal by the Government of Turkey for the establishment of a Statistical, Economic, and Social Research Centre for the Islamic countries. It requested that the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference undertake the necessary measures for the early establishment of such a centre at a site to be determined later, and to report to the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in this regard.

51. The conference considered a proposal by the delegation of Turkey and decided to establish a Research Centre on History, Art and Islamic Culture in Istanbul. It also requested the Turkish Government to present the details of this project to the Islamic Solidarity Fund for financing.

52. The Conference adopted a recommendation to call on Member States to issue a special stamp entitled Palestine Stamp in aid of families of war veterans and martyrs of the Palestine cause at a date to be chosen for its historic significance to the struggle of the Palestinian people.

53. The Conference, recognizing the need for the establishment of Arab Islamic schools all over the world to provide education for Muslim children whose parents might be working in foreign countries, decided to give moral and educational assistance to the Federation of International Arab Islamic Schools established recently in Saudi Arabia and to any other organizations that may be undertaking similar projects. It also called on Member States to consider the desirability of introducing Arabic as one of the compulsory languages in the curricula of their schools and other educational institutions.

54. Under the items, coordination of activities between States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in their efforts for diffusion and propagation of Islamic

faith, the Conference adopted a resolution calling on Member States to offer financial assistance to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for the establishment of an Islamic Research Centre.

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SPHERE

55. The Conference approved the Budget of the General Secretariat for 1976. It also decided that the Budget shall come into effect as of 1st July, 1976, for one year.

56. The Conference further decided to request the Secretary General to submit a proposal through the Permanent Finance Committee on the re-assessment of the scale of contributions by Member States to the budget of the Organization to the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

57. The Conference called on Member States to fulfill their financial commitments to the budget of the Organization.

58. The Conference approved the Agreement on Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

59. The Conference decided to approve nomination for the posts of Assistant Secretaries General of candidates from the following Member States:

1. Kingdom of Morocco
2. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3. Republic of Turkey

60. The Conference accepted with gratitude the invitation by the Government of the Libyan Arab Republic to hold its next Session in Libya.

61. The Conference placed on record its deep appreciation and thanks to the people and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for their warm and generous hospitality extended to the delegations throughout their memorable stay in the beautiful and historic city of Istanbul.