



OIC/46-CFM/2019/REPORT/FINAL

**Report of the 46th Session of the
Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM)**

**(Session: 50 Years of Islamic
Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity
and Development)**

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



Report of the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM)

*(Session: 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap For Prosperity And Development)
held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
24-25 Jumadah Al-Thani 1440 H (1-2 March 2019,*

At the kind invitation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session: 50 Years of Islamic Cooperation: Roadmap for Prosperity and Development), was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates 24-25 Jumadah Al-Thani 1440 A.H (1-2 March 2019).

2. The Meeting was opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
3. During the formal opening session, the outgoing Chair of the CFM, H. E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, M.P, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, thanked the Member States for the support extended to his country during their mandate and congratulated H.H. Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates for assuming the Chairmanship. He reaffirmed the commitment of Bangladesh to the ideals of the OIC and pledged their determination to remain an active member of the Organization by fostering tolerance, fraternity, solidarity and the peaceful resolution of disputes. He called upon the UAE Chairmanship to provide necessary leadership to take on board the many issues unfinished by Bangladesh, notably in the areas of reform, regional economic integration, humanitarian priorities and the implementation of OIC 2025 Programme of Action. He finally appealed to all member states for sustained support to address the issue of accountability and justice to end the culture of impunity in Myanmar and stop recurrence of forcible displacements of Rohingya brethren. In this regard, he commended the conclusions of the first Adhoc Ministerial Committee meeting in Banjul.
4. The session was addressed by His Highness Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates. In his speech, he stated that the Palestinian question remains the pivotal issue for the OIC. He underlined that Islam is a religion of tolerance and in this regard, 2019 has been declared a year of tolerance in UAE. He underlined that the recent visit to the UAE by the Pope is a testimony of tolerance that Islam teaches. The Minister called on the countries of the world to adopt measures to combat terrorism and emphasized on the necessity for the OIC to play an important role in preserving international peace and security in accordance with the OIC Charter.
5. In his address to the meeting, H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimen, the OIC Secretary General, commended the People's Republic of Bangladesh for its leadership of the 45th CFM and congratulated the United Arab Emirates for assuming the Chairmanship of the 46th Session. The Secretary General paid a special tribute to the UAE, its leadership, Government and people for

hosting the 46th session of the CFM with warm hospitality. He further expressed concern with regard to the cause of Palestine and the prevailing situation of Al-Quds, reaffirming the support of OIC to the Palestinian as well as to their rights of sovereignty as determined by the relevant International Conventions. He emphasized the importance of Muslim communities in non-Member States as well as the pressing need to combat Islamophobia through the consolidation of the concept of dialogue, which was entrusted to “the Voice of Wisdom”. He expressed the need for intensifying cooperation with the international community with regard to economic, cultural, social and security related aspects by striving hard to implement the OIC 2025: Programme of Action. He also pointed out the activities pertaining to the 50th anniversary of the OIC including the organization of the first OIC Festival, successfully held in Cairo – Arab Republic of Egypt on 5-9 February 2019. The Secretary General also spoke of the comprehensive reform of the OIC to improve performance. He informed that arrangements are underway for holding another brainstorming session in this regard in Dhaka, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. He finally called on Member States to sign and ratify OIC agreements and to settle their financial contributions.

6. The Meeting then approved the composition of the Bureau as follows: United Arab Emirates, as Chairman and Afghanistan, Palestine and Republic of Uganda as Vice-Chairs. The People’s Republic of Bangladesh was elected as Rapporteur.

7. The representatives of the three geographical regions, the Republic of Gabon for the African Group, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Arab Group, and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the Asian Group, thanked the United Arab Emirates for hosting the Conference and for its generous hospitality. They also pledged the full cooperation of their respective regional groups for the success of UAE’s chairmanship.

8. The Foreign Minister of India, Her Excellency Madam Sushma Swaraj, as special guest also addressed the meeting. In her remarks, she stated that India is a diverse society and home of over 185 million Muslims, which maintains linkages with the Muslim World. She emphasized the new momentum of cooperation India is pursuing strong partnership with different parts of the world in the spirit of one world.

9. The Council adopted the report of the preparatory Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) for the current session, held in Jeddah from 20-22 January 2019, the Agenda and Work Program submitted to it by the SOM as well as the reports of the Islamic Commission on Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs.

10. The Ministers and Heads of delegation addressed the meeting in which they highlighted the numerous challenges facing the Muslim World and stressed the need to enhance intra-OIC solidarity and Joint Islamic Action to overcome these challenges.

11. A wide range of issues of interest to the Member States were discussed by the Council leading to the adoption of resolutions in the various domains, including the cause of Palestine and Al Quds Al-Sharif; Political Affairs; Statutory, Organic and General Matters; Legal Affairs; Conditions of Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States; Information Affairs;

Administrative and Financial Affairs; Humanitarian Affairs; Economic, Science and Technology, Cultural, Social, and Family Affairs.

12. The Council conducted the swearing ceremony of the Assistant Secretaries General-elect.

13. A special brainstorming session was held on 2 March 2019 on the topic “Role of the OIC in Promoting Development among its Member States” and agreed on the urgent need to hasten economic integration and implementation of OIC 2025: Programme of Action.

14. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan requested to reflect in the report of the CFM that it boycotted the inaugural session to register its disapproval to the participation of the Indian Foreign Minister. Pakistan registered its reservation on the Abu Dhabi declaration and stressed the necessity for the OIC to formulate rules for the issuance of CFM declarations in the OIC meetings. Likewise, for inviting special guests/guests of honour from a non-Member State.

15. The Islamic Republic of Iran notified to the OIC General Secretariat, its reservation on paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 of the Abu Dhabi Declaration.

16. The Arab Republic of Egypt sent a diplomatic note to the OIC General Secretariat conveying its reservation on Resolution No. 3/46-MM on the “Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim Population of the Dodecanese” adopted by the 46th CFM.

17. The Council accepted the generous offer made by the Republic of Niger to host the 47th Session of the CFM in 2020.

18. On behalf of all the participants, H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the OIC, sent a message of gratitude to the Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for hosting of the 46th CFM by his country and for the excellent facilities and the generous hospitality extended to the delegates, which has immensely contributed to the success of its 46th Session.

Abu Dhabi, 2 March 2019