

ICFM/32-2005/FC/FINAL

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ
OF THE
THIRTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF INTEGRATION
AND DEVELOPMENT)

SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
21-23 JUMADA AL-UWLA 1426H
(28-30 JUNE 2005)

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1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Yemen, the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (*Session of Integration and Development*), was held in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, on 21-23 Jumada I 1426H (28-30 June 2005).
2. The Conference was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. His Excellency Abdullah Gul, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the 31st ICFM delivered a speech in which he referred to the most important challenges facing the Islamic World. He stressed the wish of the people of the Islamic Ummah to achieve peace. He also referred to the most outstanding efforts which have been exerted during the chairmanship of Turkey of the 31st Session of the ICFM. He expressed his confidence that such positive efforts will continue in the forthcoming phase.
3. The inaugural session was addressed by H.E. Hamid Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, representing the Chair of the 10th Islamic Summit. He reiterated the objectives of the Islamic Ummah of realizing peace, combating poverty and backwardness in their respective countries and confronting the policies of double standards. He stressed the need for the Islamic World to constitute a prominent economic power which is committed to the morals of Islam in the international arena.
4. H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference delivered a speech in which he addressed the most important issues of the Islamic Ummah and focused on the necessity of reforming the OIC to enable it to tackle such issues. Afterwards His Excellency the Secretary-General and Their Excellencies the Assistant Secretaries General, representing the geographical groups, took the oath of office.
5. The Conference listened to the speech of H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, which was delivered by H.E. Abdul Qadir Bajammal, the Prime Minister (Annex – Text of the Speech).

6. In conformity with the recommendation of the Senior Officials' Meeting, the Conference unanimously elected H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Al Qirabi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, as Chairman of the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. It approved the composition of the Bureau as follows: Republic of Gambia, the State of Palestine and the Republic of Azerbaijan as Vice Chairs, and the Republic of Turkey as Rapporteur.

7. The Conference adopted the report of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Preparatory to the current session held in Jeddah from 21 to 23 Jumada I 1426H (30 April – 2 May 2005). The Conference adopted the Draft Agenda and Work Program that the SOM submitted to it, as well as the reports of the Islamic Committee on Economic and Cultural Affairs and the Financial Committee.

8. The inaugural session was addressed by the representative of the UN Secretary-General who expressed his wish to continue cooperation, between the OIC and the organizations of the UN in order to preserve international peace and security.

9. After considering the reports of the Secretary-General and in light of the brilliant statements made and the constructive discussions that took place among the Ministers and Heads of Delegations at the Plenary Session and in the Committees, the Conference adopted a number of resolutions as follows:

10. The Conference reiterated that the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif is the central cause of the Islamic World and stressed the necessity of countering the perils of judaization to which the sacred city is subjected as a consequence of the policies and measures carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at isolating Al-Quds Al-Sharif from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories by building the racist-separation wall, confiscating lands, demolishing houses and expanding colonies around the holy city. The Conference invited the Member States to support and strengthen the potential of the steadfastness of Palestinian cities in the occupied city of Al-Quds.

11. The Conference affirmed its full support and backing for the Palestinian people in strengthening their national unity and unifying their internal front; and expressed its support for the Palestinian national dialogue efforts and for its steadfastness in the face of the practices of Israeli occupation authorities

12. The Conference constituted an Islamic Ministerial Committee headed by the Kingdom of Morocco in its capacity as Chair of Al-Quds Committee, and membership of Malaysia, Chair of the 10th Islamic Summit; Senegal, Chair of the next Islamic Summit; Republic of Turkey, Chair of the 31st ICFM; Republic of Yemen, Chair of the 32nd ICFM; the State of Palestine and the General Secretariat of the OIC. This Committee shall carry out contact with the European Union, USA, the Russian Federation, the UN Secretary-General, the Members of the Security Council and the Vatican in order to state the dangers which threaten the holy city and to seek implementation of the UN resolutions on the occupied city of Al-Quds.

13. The Conference affirmed the necessity of ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Eastern Al-Quds, the occupied Syrian Golan and the other occupied Lebanese territories.

14. The Conference affirmed the necessity of reaching a just solution to the Palestinian issue in all its aspects on the basis of international law and legitimacy and the terms of reference agreed upon, embodied in the relevant UN resolutions, the principle of land for peace and the inadmissibility of acquisition of others' territory by force, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Roadmap, such as to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their national independence and exercise their sovereignty in their Palestinian State and its capital Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

15. The Conference affirmed the illegality of the Israeli laws and practices in Eastern Al-Quds, aimed at annexing, judaizing and changing the demographic constitution of the city. It requested States and international institutions and bodies to abide by international resolutions on the City of Al-Quds as an integral part of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967; and called on them also to not participate in any meeting or activity that serves Israel's objectives in establishing its occupation and annexation of the Holy City.

16. The Conference reaffirmed the necessity of finding a just solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948), and reiterated its rejection of all forms of resettlement.

17. The Conference called upon the QUARTET to resume serious work in order to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with the Roadmap and the Arab Peace Initiative, and to affirm that any Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and parts of Northern West Bank should be complete and a step toward full Israeli withdrawal to the line of 1967, under the Roadmap and a first step toward its implementation, which will require similar steps to be taken all over the West Bank. The Conference emphasized the Palestinian territorial unity and integrity, including Eastern Al-Quds, rejected any changes in the legal status of only a part of this territory, excluded the option of a State with temporary borders, and stressed, on the other hand, the need to agree on the final form of comprehensive resolution and settlement.

18. The Conference affirmed its condemnation of Israel for continuing to colonize the Palestinian territories through all forms of settlement activity, and requested the UN Security Council to work toward their immediate ending and prohibition and to remove the existing Israeli settlements in accordance with UNSC Resolution 465 and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The Conference called on the UN Security Council also to reinvigorate the International supervisory and Monitoring Committee in order to prevent settlement in al-Quds and the occupied Arab territories in accordance with UNSC Resolution 446.

19. The Conference called on the Member States to commemorate the criminal attempt to burn down the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and to dedicate the twenty-first of August every year as the Day of Islamic Solidarity with Al-Quds and Palestine.

20. The Conference requested the international community to counter the construction of the wall and its damaging impacts on the Palestinian people and their land, waters and borders, and the need to stop the construction of the wall and removing the existing parts thereof. It invited all States of the world to impose punitive measures against the bodies and companies contributing to the construction of the wall and against settlers, settlement products and all those making profit of any settlement activity on the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds, in implementation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/15.

21. The Conference condemned Israel for the excavation works around and beneath the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque and for willfully destroying cultural and heritage sites in Al Quds, Nablus and Al-Khaleel (Hebron), and commended the initiative of the Director General of UNESCO concerning the preservation of the historical heritage of the city of Al Quds. In this regard, resolved to coordinate between the OIC General Secretariat and UNESCO, and invited the Member States to support this initiative and help implement it.

22. The Conference strongly condemned the continuous threats against Islamic and Christian holy places, particularly the threats to storm and damage the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque; and held Israel, as the “occupying power”, fully responsible for the consequences of these aggressions, particularly as they happen under the guise and protection of Israeli occupation forces. It condemned terrorism exercised by settler gangs against Palestinian civilians and peace activists.

23. The Conference affirmed its firm support and backing for the Syrian Arab Republic’s demand and right to restore the totality of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, on the basis of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy, building on what has been accomplished in post-1991 Madrid Conference negotiations. It reaffirmed the previous Islamic resolutions which reject all the actions taken by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at changing the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, considering these actions null and void and a violation to international agreements and to UN Charter and resolutions.

24. The Conference reaffirmed its support for Lebanon in its efforts to complete the liberation of all its territories up to the internationally recognized borders, and in its demands to release Lebanese prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons. Also demanded the UN Security Council to act toward preventing the repeated Israeli violations of Lebanon’s sovereignty in land, air and sea, and to force Israel to pay damages for all the losses sustained by the Lebanese territories as a result of its continuous aggressions against Lebanon. It supported Lebanon in its demands for the removal of the mines left behind by the Israeli occupation, as Israel is responsible for laying and removing these

mines, and for the need to hand over full mine location maps. It also supported the inalienable rights of Lebanon to utilize its waters in accordance with the international law, condemned Israel's designs on these waters, and held Israel responsible for any action that would infringe upon Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence, safety of its people and integrity of its territories.

25. The Conference adopted the recommendations of the Eighth Conference of the Liaison Officers of Islamic Regional Offices of Boycott of Israel, which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah from 14 to 16 March 2005.

26. The Conference strongly reaffirmed its keenness on Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity and political independence and to be ruled by its own people through a broad-based, all-inclusive and fully representative government, in conformity with a nationally endorsed permanent constitution. While welcoming all the recent political developments, the Conference emphasized the importance of international support for the security, stability, political transition, national reconciliation, rehabilitation and economic reconstruction of Iraq during its ongoing crucial transitional period.

27. The Conference emphasized the right of the Iraqi to freely determine their future as well as to exercise full control over their natural and financial resources. It called on the Iraqis to maintain peaceful co-existence with their neighbouring states. The Conference requested all States not to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq or allow any entity to infiltrate across their borders to carry out activities against Iraq.

28. The Conference expressed its firm support for the rightful cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots; reiterated its decision to put an end within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary-General in his Report of 28 May 2004 as well as the previous OIC Resolutions to the unjust isolation of Turkish Cypriots and strongly called upon the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. Recalling that the UN Plan aimed to establish a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, it acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. Through the resolution it adopted by consensus, the Conference once again urged the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and expand their relations in all fields; encouraged the Member States to exchange high – level visits with the Turkish Cypriot side. The Conference also urged the Member States to inform the Secretariat of the actions taken regarding the implementation of the OIC Resolutions and in particular Resolution No. 2-31/P.

29. The Conference reiterated its determination to preserve Somalia's unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. While welcoming the formation of the Transitional Somali Government, it called upon all Somali sides to fully support the establishment of the three state structures of legislature, executive and judiciary. The Conference urged all states, particularly neighbouring states, to respect the

sovereignty of Somalia and refrain from interfering in its internal affairs. It also called upon the international community to extend urgent financial support to the Transitional Somali Government so as to enable it to consolidate security and stability, complete national reconciliation and establish the remaining basic structures for a central government.

30. The Conference reaffirmed its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. It called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the ending of their continuous violations, and urged India to allow international human rights organizations to verify the conditions of human rights in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

31. The Conference expressed its strong support to the ongoing peace process between Pakistan and India, which envisages a peaceful settlement of all disputes through the “Composite Dialogue” being pursued by the two countries. It appreciated Pakistan’s commitment to the ongoing Composite Dialogue process with India. The Conference called for the dialogue process to be purposeful and result-orientated and lead to a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, thus, ensuring durable peace in the region.

32. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It also took note of the memorandum presented by the true representatives of the Kashmiri people to the Contact Group and reaffirmed the OIC’s commitment to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

33. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and expressed its support for the presidential elections which were held in October 2004 and which led to the establishment of a standing Afghan government representing the totality of the Afghan people seeking to achieve security, stability and comprehensive and sustainable development.

34. The Conference requested the Member States that have pledged donations to the Assistance Fund for the Afghan people to remit the said donations in order to strengthen the Fund’s resources to help it achieve its noble humanitarian goals for which it was established.

35. The Conference appealed to the international community to provide the assistance it pledged to Afghanistan during the Tokyo Donor Conference held in January 2002 and the Berlin Donor Conference held on 31 March and 1 April 2004.

36. The Conference emphasized its full solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in laying the foundations of peace and stability all over the country, to achieve national reconciliation, and to defend its sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity. It requested Eritrea to respect the rights of neighbourliness and stop interfering in the internal affairs of the Sudan.

37. The Conference commended the Sudanese government and the SPLM for honouring their international commitments by signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and called on the international community to honour its commitments in the Oslo Conference for Reconstruction of The Sudan with a view to establishing the foundations of peace in the country. It called on the General Secretariat to speedily implement the resolution of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference on the Establishment of a Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of War-Stricken Regions in the Sudan. It also urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and financing institutions of Member States to contribute to the Fund. The Conference also called on the Member States to provide urgent assistance to The Sudan in order to support its efforts aimed at addressing the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

38. The Conference decided to support the African Union's efforts to end the dispute in Darfur, and stressed the OIC's readiness to contribute to these efforts. The Conference hailed the cooperation of the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations and the African Union in addressing the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur. It also commended the peaceful efforts of the Sudanese government and its willingness to find a peaceful solution to the dispute in Darfur. The Conference welcomed the resumption of negotiations in Abuja between the Sudanese government and armed movements in the province.

39. The Conference emphasized the need to strengthen dialogue, cooperation and confidence among OIC Member States, adopted the relevant principles and guidelines, and mandated the General Secretariat and an intergovernmental group of experts to formulate a Code of Conduct on the Promotion of Dialogue, Cooperation and Confidence among the Member States. It called for the development of cooperation and coordination and consultation and for the adoption of a unified stand in international fora.

40. The Conference reiterated its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The Conference supported the efforts of Azerbaijan to build on the results of the meetings held within the framework of the Prague process on the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

41. The Conference reiterated its determination to support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan aimed at removing the obstacles to the peace process, which have emerged as a result of the illegal activities of Armenia carried out in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, such as the transfer of settlers of Armenian nationality, practices of artificial geographic, cultural, and demographic alterations, illicit economic activity, and exploitation of natural resources in those occupied territories. The Conference urged all Member States to continue strengthening their solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan and to extend their full support to its endeavors aimed at utilizing the potential of the United Nations, including through the cooperation of the latter with relevant regional

international organizations, to achieve soonest restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

42. The Conference reaffirmed the need for total nuclear disarmament and for the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. It called on Member States to actively take part in all related international initiatives and conferences. It called on all Member States to ratify fair and non-discriminatory international conventions and to encourage the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. It strongly condemned Israel for developing nuclear weapons and persistently refusing to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency access to its nuclear facilities in contravention of all international agreements on nuclear proliferation.

43. The Conference expressed concern over the proliferation of light and small-caliber weapons and the manufacturing, use and trafficking of anti-personnel mines since such activities hamper economic development and lead to instability, insecurity and internecine conflicts in Member States.

44. The Conference emphasized that the important question of reform and expansion of the UN Security Council continues to be the primary preoccupation of the UN membership, including all OIC member states. It, therefore, called on its Member States to actively and effectively take part in the UN reform process, in accordance with the relevant declarations and statements issued by the OIC.

45. The Conference reiterated its support for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, in order to make it more broadly representative, transparent and accountable as well as to enhance the legitimacy of its decisions and its effectiveness.

46. The Conference highlighted that in the current era of regional blocks, the OIC is the largest institution after the United Nations, which brings together 57 Muslim states and almost one-fifth of Mankind. Keeping in view the significant demographic and political weight of the Muslim world, the reform of the Security Council also bears particular importance, not only from the perspective of increased efficiency, but also to ensure the representation of the main forms of civilization, including the adequate representation of the Muslim world in any category of an expanded Security Council.

47. The Conference reiterated its condemnation of unilateral economic measures and attempts to impose economic sanctions on Member States. It expressed solidarity with Member States that are affected by such unilateral sanctions and requested that they be lifted immediately.

48. The Conference reiterated the necessity of paying due attention to the final lifting of the embargo against the Libyan people and compensating them for the losses resulting from the application of Security Council Resolutions 848/93 and 883/99. It demanded the release of the Libyan citizen and political hostage Abdul Baset El-Migrahi.

49. The Conference, while recognizing the inalienable right of all member states to develop their nuclear capabilities for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Statute of the IAEA, welcomed the continued cooperation extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the IAEA in order to peacefully resolve all remaining outstanding issues.

50. The Conference expressed satisfaction with the major developmental and humanitarian activities of the OIC Funds in Bosnia Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone in furtherance of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the Ummah. It urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the Funds and make use of them when it comes to implementing their projects meant for the above-mentioned countries.

51. The Conference appreciated the efforts exerted by the OIC Commission of Eminent Persons and for fulfilling the role entrusted to it. It hoped that the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference later this year will consider and adopt the Commission's recommendations so as to enable both the Secretary-General and the OIC Member States to faithfully and expeditiously implement them.

52. The Conference commended the close cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the High Commission for Refugees concerning the preparation for the Ministerial Conference on the Problem of Refugees in the Muslim World, and urged Member States, humanitarian organizations and specialized institutions to contribute to covering the costs of the conference to ensure its success.

53. The Conference called on all states to respect the rights of Muslim minorities in non-Member States, not to infringe upon their freedom and religious belief or subject them to detention or tyrannical imprisonment, and, when tackling "terrorism", to give them fair trial so as to defend themselves.

54. The Conference stressed that the discriminatory measures directed against many charitable societies and Islamic relief organizations throughout the world, and which have led to the suspension of their activities in many countries, are not related to combating terrorism. It called for those measures to be abolished so that extension of assistance and relief to needy Muslims in the world can continue.

55. The Conference called for coordination of efforts of the Muslim world and of the international community to discuss the problem of Islamic charitable societies and consider the possibility of organizing an international conference in collaboration with the United Nations to find solutions to the problems and difficulties currently hampering their work.

56. The Conference called on Member States to support economic and social development directions, to encourage Islamic savings and investment institutions, particularly in non-OIC Member States with Muslim minorities, to pay close attention to

developing Islamic groups and institutions, and to introduce contemporary sciences in their educational curricular.

57. The Conference called on the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to preserve the gains of the Peace Agreement signed and move on to the full implementation of this Agreement, particularly the items on representation of the Autonomous Region in the Philippines government, in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and the Judicial and Bar Council, and to implement the aspect concerned with the establishment of an Islamic banking unit in the Philippines Central Bank (PSB) so as to finance and develop the Muslim Mindanao Autonomous Region so that the Autonomous Region would gain financial and administrative independence stipulated in the Peace Agreement.

58. The Conference adopted the recommendations of the Ministerial Committee of Eight on the Question of Muslims in southern Philippines, which met alongside the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM). The recommendations, inter alia, urged the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to take additional steps to implement the 1996 Peace Agreement; and provided also for dispatching a delegation to be constituted from the committee and the General Secretariat to southern Philippines in order to take stock of conditions there, assess progress so far, and help surmount existing difficulties.

59. The Conference, while reiterating its commitment towards Muslims in Non-OIC Member States, stressed that the Turkish Muslim Community in Western Thrace in Greece is an integral part of the Islamic World. In this context, it called for an end to the harassment of the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini. The Conference also stressed that the interests, rights and ethnic identity of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace should be respected and upheld.

60. The Conference welcomed the positive outcome of the visit of the OIC delegation headed by Ambassador Sayed K. El Masry to Thailand between 2-13 June 2005 to observe the situation in the three southern provinces of Thailand as well as the livelihood of the Thai Muslims as reflected in the report of the mission and the Joint Press Statement issued during the visit.

61. The Conference, noting that the situation in the southern part of Thailand was not a religious conflict, was of the view that the constructive results of the mission provided a basis for further dialogue and cooperation between the OIC and the Thai Government to support the latter's effort to achieve a peaceful settlement to the consequences of the unfortunate incidents in the three southern provinces of Thailand as well as to enhance the well-being of the Thai Muslim community as a whole. The Conference requested the Secretary-General of the OIC to work in close collaboration with the Thai Government in this regard, and report thereon to the next ICFM.

62. The Conference urged the Government of Myanmar to stop its killing, displacement and forced emigration of Arakan Muslims and its continuous attempt to

obliterate their Islamic culture and identity. It requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of sending a delegation to visit Myanmar neighbouring countries and the ASEAN countries to discuss this issue and find ways to stop the tyrannical and barbaric acts perpetrated against Arakan Muslims in Myanmar. The Conference also urged the Government of Myanmar to review its policies towards its Muslim citizens and to repeal the discriminatory laws against them, since they contravene human rights and human dignity.

63. The Conference emphasized the importance of following up the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and endorsed the draft Rights of the Child in Islam. It called on the Inter-governmental Group of Experts concerned to continue its work and to commence the formulation of other Islamic charters on Human Rights, to take the form of (covenants) each of which would fully address one or more issues in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration, starting with the preparation of a covenant to combat racial discrimination. It also called on the sub-committee that is assigned to draft international covenants on human rights in Islam to continue its work.

64. The Conference called on Member States to continue the existing positive coordination and cooperation among them in the field of human rights, especially at international conferences and meetings on the issue in order to strengthen Islamic solidarity and counter any attempt to use human rights as a means of exerting political pressure on Member States. The Conference also supported the efforts exerted by the OIC group in Geneva on issues of concern, especially those related to human rights.

65. The Conference, conscious that terrorism and the fight against it are certainly among the most important contemporary issues, especially in the Muslim world, strongly appealed to the Member States that the 13 member OIC Ministerial Committee chaired by Malaysia may resume its activities as soon as possible to adopt its plan of action.

66. The Conference commended the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General to tackle the campaigns against Islam and Muslims in various Western media organs trying to distort the image of Islam and Muslims in the world.

67. The Conference called on Member States to contribute to the resources of the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC) which is aimed at upgrading the media of countries in need of such modernization so that these media can assume their role in promoting the causes of the Islamic Ummah by allocating funds to finance projects submitted by information institutions. It also requested the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), at its next session, to consider extending financial assistance to projects submitted under the Islamic Programme for Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC).

68. The Conference called on Member States to pay their annual contributions and arrears to the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Organization's (ISBO) budgets to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities. It urged Member States to support IINA with editorial and technical staff, as well as with news

and information about Islamic activities and development programmes so that its objectives of service to the Islamic media can be achieved.

69. The Conference emphasized the importance of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, following the first phase held in Geneva in December 2003, and the importance of integrating the two phases of this Summit as interrelated stages in the examination of optimal ways to bridge the digital gap between developing countries and industrial ones. It called on Member States to participate actively in the preparatory work for the second stage of this Summit and to prepare an effective partnership plan to establish a balanced information society. It also urged the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the 6th ICIM to prepare a draft information society charter and plan of action to be submitted on behalf of Member States at the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society.

70. The Conference affirmed the pivotal role played by the private sector and civil society in formulating visions and developing practical resolutions in order to bridge the digital gap, and urged all governmental and civil parties in the Member States to contribute actively in defining the trends and themes of the Tunis Summit.

71. The Conference called on the international community to take appropriate measures to ensure that the benefits of globalization are shared by all countries on an equitable basis so as to ensure balanced advantages and obligations of developing countries, including OIC Member States. It also called upon the developed countries for further liberalization and increased access of products and services of the developing countries.

72. The Conference called on Member States to increase their share of world trade by enhancing their competitiveness at the international level. It further underscored the fundamental importance of expanding intra-OIC trade.

73. The Conference called for speedy accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) underlining that no political consideration should impede this process. It rejected all attempts to include non-trade issues, such as labour and environmental standards, into the working programme of WTO, or to link such issues with trade deals. It also reiterated its appeal to the WTO to strengthen the development dimension in the various multilateral trade agreements through a wide range of measures, including the application of the provisions on special and preferential treatment for the developing countries and due consideration to the special needs of Least Developed Countries.

74. The Conference noted with dismay the lack of progress in the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003 and called for immediate resumption of the trade negotiations under the auspices of WTO.

75. The Conference called on the international community to put an end to agricultural subsidies, which penalize the producers of developing countries. It underlined the necessity of taking all possible measures within OIC to support the

least-developed cotton-producing countries in their legitimate demand of securing greater added value in the processing of this project. It also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Burkina Faso, the OIC General Secretariat, IDB and ICDT for successfully organizing the Forum on “Energizing Trade and Investment in the Cotton Sector of OIC Member States” on 18-19 April, 2005 in Ouagadougou.

76. The Conference expressed its support for the initiatives taken to ensure promotion of the basic products of the Member States with a view to increasing the added value of these products as well as the revenues of producers.

77. The Conference stressed the importance of developing an orderly and strengthened international financial system with a view to addressing the fundamental weaknesses of the present system and stemming possible repercussions of any future financial crises.

78. The Conference commended the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) for its key role in strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among Member States. It also appreciated the commendable stewardship of H.E. Mr. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

79. The Conference appreciated the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Turkey in its capacity as the Chair of COMCEC in holding the high-level ministerial meeting focusing on promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment which was held concurrently with the 20th Session of COMCEC on 23-27 November 2004 to commensurate the 20th anniversary of COMCEC.

80. The Conference stressed the urgency of accelerating the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States. It took note, in this connection, of the approval of COMCEC of the six project proposals made by the Republic of Turkey as well as designation of some of the subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions of OIC to coordinate the work needed for implementation of these projects.

81. The Conference, welcoming the entry into force of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States and the formation of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), noted with appreciation the results of the First Round of trade negotiations among the participating countries held during the period from April 2004 to April 2005 in Antalya, Turkey and urged the participating states to give due consideration to the Draft Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme with a view to finalizing it for signature during the 21st Session of COMCEC in November, 2005. It also thanked the Republic of Turkey for hosting the First Round of Trade Negotiation under the Agreement.

82. The Conference renewed its appeal to the international community to fully and expeditiously implement the Programme of Action for 2001-2010 adopted by the Third

UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels in May 2001. It also endorsed the Cotonou Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou, Benin in August 2002.

83. The Conference expressed concern over the widespread poverty in the LDCs leading to their marginalization in the global economy. It further reaffirmed the common objective of Member States of eradicating poverty before the end of the next decade and the need for incorporating Micro Credit Programmes in the strategy for poverty eradication.

84. The Conference renewed its call to the international community to significantly reduce the indebtedness of the African countries and secure fresh flow of substantial funds on easy terms to these countries.

85. The Conference called for effective implementation of the OIC/IDB/CILSS Programme for the Sahel and for providing assistance to the Inter-governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought control in the Sahel (CILSS).

86. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the debt relief initiative for the Heavy Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and called for its accelerated implementation in order to enable more eligible countries to benefit from the initiative and welcomed, in this connection, the decision adopted recently by the G8 at its 10-11 June 2005 meeting to write off debt owed to the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank beneficiary of which are mostly African LDCs.

87. The Conference welcomed the initiative of Malaysia to establish a Capacity Building Programme aimed at poverty alleviation in less-developed and low-income countries and welcomed the launching of the Programme on 29th March, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, with three pilot projects having been identified for implementation in the first phase, one each in Bangladesh, Mauritania and Sierra Leone.

88. The Conference stressed the role of the private sector in providing impetus to intra-OIC economic and commercial cooperation and further emphasized the role of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the industrial development of Member States. It noted in this connection the progress made by the OIC Task Force on SMEs in working on a strategy for development of SMEs.

89. The Conference commended the role of the Islamic Development Bank Group in supporting development programmes in Member States and invited the latter to make full use of the various services offered by the Group.

90. The Conference commended the role played by the subsidiary organs and the affiliated institutions of the OIC, active in economic and commercial fields, namely the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries,

the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Organization of the Islamic Shipowners' Association and called on Member States to support their activities.

91. The Conference called for the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action for the Development and Promotion of Tourism in the OIC Member States as adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2001 and endorsed by the Third Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Riyadh in October 2002. It also thanked the Republic of Senegal for hosting the Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on 28-30 March, 2005 in Dakar.

92. The Conference condemned the acts of demolition and destruction of Palestinian houses, institutions, facilities and lands causing severe losses to the Palestinian economy and expressed its deep concern over the disastrous economic repercussions of these ongoing aggressive practices of the Israeli government and called for their immediate cessation. It also appealed for assistance to the Palestinian people to help them rebuild their national economy and strengthen their national institutions; and establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. It reiterated its commendation in this connection of the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the creation of two funds to support Palestine with its donation of USD250 million to them and called for financial support to these funds.

93. The Conference strongly condemned Israeli practices and their impacts on the environment in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories, and the formerly occupied Lebanese territories, and stressed the need for cooperation and adoption of effective measures to protect the environment which is essential for the sustainable development of the Member States.

94. The Conference took note of the programmes and the deliberations held during the Second Meeting of the Consultative Council for Implementation of the Strategy for Development of Science and Technology in the Islamic Countries.

95. The Conference reaffirmed the need to share science and technology among Member States and to harness them for peaceful purposes for the good of humanity and for the socio-economic development of Member States.

96. The Conference welcomed the establishment of an ISESCO Center for the Development of Scientific Research and urged the Member States to support it.

97. The Conference commended the activities of COMSTECH and ISESCO for their efforts in the service of the Islamic Ummah and called for their support.

98. The Conference praised the activities of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Dhaka and urged it to continue its efforts to mobilize the human resources that the

Member States need in the field of science and technology. It urged the Member States to lend financial assistance to Islamic University of Technology (IUT).

99. The Conference discussed and adopted the resolutions adopted by the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Postgraduate Education and Scientific Research Ministers (ICPEM), which was held in Libya in October 2003.

100. The Conference discussed and adopted the resolutions adopted by the First Session of the Islamic Conference of Science and Technology Ministers (ICSTM) for industrial development, which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 10 October 2003, and welcomed the 1441 Hijri Vision.

101. The Conference commended the report of the First Meeting of the OIC Working Group on the 1441 Hijri Vision and urged all the Member States to lend full support to the 1441 Hijri Vision in letter and spirit so as to make science and technology more established and entrenched in order to usher in an era of prosperity in the OIC countries.

102. The Conference endorsed the resolutions adopted by the Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), Algeria, December 2004, and the reports which were adopted by earlier sessions of the Consultative Council for the implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World.

103. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Group in UNESCO and urged this group to convene regular meetings at the level of ambassadors and experts with the aim of coordinating the positions of the Member States on issues of common interest to the Islamic world, particularly on the International Convention on Cultural Diversity, which is expected to be completed in 2005.

104. The Conference called on the Member States to support the activities of the Islamic Conference of Youth Form (ICYF) for dialogue and cooperation and to encourage their youth organizations to participate effectively and contribute to the work of this forum, which is working to achieve the intellectual development and solidarity of the youth of OIC countries. The Conference decided to grant affiliated status to the Islamic Conference of Youth Form (ICYF) without any financial obligations on the General Secretariat.

105. The Conference entrusted the General Secretariat in coordination with the governments of the Member States to support the direct and continuous relations between Muslim women's associations in the Member States and to cooperate with existing international Muslim women's organizations in Islamic countries.

106. The Conference commended the existing fruitful and continuous cooperation between the OIC Member States, the OIC General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for the survival, protection, and development of the child all over the world.

107. The Conference strongly affirmed its commitment to the eradication of polio in all the OIC Member States so as to enable them to contribute effectively to achieving the objective of the international programme to eradicate poliomyelitis.

108. The Conference commissioned the Secretary-General to identify adequate modalities to establish effective cooperation between the OIC, ISESCO, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and to ensure the effective participation of the OIC in the meetings of the WHO.

109. The Conference urged the Member States and Islamic organizations and personalities on the need to contribute to the Waqfs of the two Islamic universities of Niger and Uganda. It urged donor institutions and bodies to redouble their efforts to achieve this objective and commissioned the Secretary-General and the Board of Trustees to work in this direction in order to secure adequate funds for this Waqf.

110. The Conference commended once again the support extended by the Government of The Sudan to the budget of the Islamic Institute for Translation in Khartoum in order to enable it to assume its role in an optimal manner and its contribution to resolving the Institute's financial crisis.

111. The Conference recommended all forms of material and academic support and assistance to be extended to Palestinian universities so as to enable them to exercise their national educational role.

112. The Conference called on the Member States to lend the necessary support to secure the financial needs to develop the educational process in the occupied territories, generally, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, particularly, in view of the difficulties faced by the educational process in the city of Al-Quds as a result of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, including imposing its educational curricula and closing down schools that are outside their jurisdiction.

113. The Conference requested the Member States to coordinate and intensify their efforts in the various international forums in order to prevent the implementation of the Israeli scheme to partition the Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil; allow Muslim worshippers to enter the mosque; and preserve the Ibrahimi Haram as a Muslim mosque, just as it has always been throughout the centuries.

114. The Conference welcomed the project planned by the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) to organize an "expanded cultural week of Islamic countries" on the occasion of IRCICA's 25th anniversary focusing on the cultures, arts, and handicrafts of the OIC Member States. The cultural week is to be held alongside the 21st Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation (COMCEC), which is to be held under the chairmanship of H.E. President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey in the autumn of 2005. The Conference called

on all the Member States to participate in the series of cultural events covered in this cultural week.

115. The Conference welcomed with appreciation IRCICA's project to devote a new creative and large-scale event to be marked by the creation of "the Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Award to preserve the Islamic civilizational heritage" and to be implemented on a regular basis through an international competition that is sponsored by IRCICA from its budget. The first edition will bear the title "the Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Award to preserve the Islamic urban heritage" and will be implemented in 2005-2006.

116. The Conference commended the excellent standard of scientific publications issued by the Islamic Fiqh Academy and the subjects and studies covered therein, which meet the needs and aspirations of the Islamic Ummah in facing all civilizational, intellectual, and scientific challenges.

117. The Conference called on the Board of Trustees of the ISF Waqf and the committee for the development of resources to redouble its efforts to ensure a better diversification of the investment portfolios of the Waqf funds through investment opportunities and in accordance with Islamic Sharia.

118. The Conference called on the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) to continue to lend assistance to cultural, Islamic and educational projects in the Islamic world, while paying attention to projects established by Islamic summit and foreign ministerial conferences.

119. The Conference took note of the report of the Chairman of the ISF Permanent Council on the activities of the ISF and its Waqf and expressed its appreciation to the Member States which made donations to the ISF and its Waqf, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the State of Qatar. The Conference requested all the Member States to commit themselves to making annual voluntary donations to the ISF budget and called on the Member States to contribute to the capital of the ISF Waqf.

120. The Conference adopted a resolution on Caring for the Tsunami Child Victims and expressed thanks to the States which gave donations to make this noble humanitarian work a success. The Conference urged the Islamic States and the institutions of the civil society in the Islamic world to continue to support sponsoring these children victims in the framework of the OIC Alliance for the Rescue of Child Victims of the Tsunami.

121. The Conference affirmed its support to the initiative of the Secretary-General to organize a voluntary donations campaign through the mass media aimed at ensuring the necessary potentials to continue caring for the Tsunami child victims, and providing funds for the OIC to enable it to extend assistance and relief to face natural disasters which may afflict Islamic countries and communities.

122. The Conference exhorted all the Member States and humanitarian and charitable institutions and organizations to quickly respond to the appeal made by the Republic of Niger and to dispatch relief assistance to this country as it is facing a serious humanitarian disaster due to the drought and famine that have struck there, claiming the lives of many citizens, particularly children and the elderly.

123. The Conference commended the reports submitted by ISESCO on its efforts in the areas of promoting inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue, Arab-Islamic European cooperation, and cultural diversity; implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic world and Activating its Mechanisms; promoting the Islamic view of cultural diversity issues; and exploring ways to deal with international developments. The Conference appreciated ISESCO's efforts and achievements in these fields.

124. The Conference welcomed the resolution of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM) to adopt Makkah Al-Mukarramah as the Islamic cultural capital for 2005 and commended the celebrations and activities being implemented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ISESCO on this occasion. The Conference adopted the list of Islamic cultural capitals proposed by ISESCO up to 2014.

125. The Conference urged the Member States which have not yet signed or ratified the articles of association of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) to accelerate their signature or ratification of their accession instruments so as to enable ICIC to achieve its noble objectives. The Conference called on the Member States and Islamic institutions to lend material and moral support to ICIC's efforts to implement its programs.

126. The Conference hailed the activities carried out by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) in 2005, most important of which was the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM) and the First Edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games.

127. The Conference commended the brilliant results achieved by the First Tournament of the Islamic Solidarity Games graciously hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and expressed its appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its plans to host the Second Tournament of the Islamic Solidarity Games.

128. The Conference commended the role assumed by the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) in coordinating the different activities of Islamic governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions. The Conference expressed its satisfaction for the positive results reached by the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) in building a common platform and a coherent vision of Islamic action in the service of Muslims all over the world and with the aim of protecting the heritage and radiant image of Islam.

129. The Conference praised the results and resolutions of the international conferences and symposia organized by the General Secretariat on Islamic culture, Dawa, and civilization in order to correct the civilizational image of Islam in the outside world.

130. The Conference adopted the recommendations of the 14th Session of the OIC Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) in the Field of Dawa, which was held in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 4 to 6 June 2005.

131. The Conference affirmed the need to meet the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the modern age in all economic, social, and scientific fields. It emphasized the importance of drawing up a comprehensive conception of the work of the experts committee entrusted with the study of the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st century so as to enable it to fulfill its mission in all fields of interest to the leaders and thinkers of the Islamic Ummah. The Conference urged the members of the experts committee to draw up a working methodology to meet these challenges as well as adequate plans to overcome them, particularly by taking into account the new developments that arise on a daily basis and require consistent flexibility, awareness, and presence.

132. The Conference affirmed the importance of incorporating the Strategy for Joint Islamic Action (JIA) in the field of Dawa among the national policies followed by the Member States in the various educational, information, media, and Islamic Dawa fields as a guideline to inspire their action on Joint Islamic Action (JIA).

133. The Conference condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in the Guantanamo detention camp, which the US Administration has recognized has been perpetrated by American soldiers and investigators. The Conference endorsed the declaration issued by the 14th Session of the OIC Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action (CCJIA) held in Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 4 to 6 June 2005, which cautioned against the dangers of the culture of hostility and intolerance. The Conference called on the US Administration to conduct an immediate investigation into these humiliations for Muslims and the denigration of their Holy Book; to bring the people responsible for these acts to justice; and to issue an official apology for these practices.

134. The Conference took note of the reports of the 25th Session of the FCO and the 33rd Session of the PFC and adopted the recommendations therein.

135. The Conference approved the budget of the General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs for the 2005/2006 financial year.

136. The Conference urged Member States to pay their annual contributions to the budget of the General Secretariat and subsidiary organs for the 2005/2006 financial year.

137. The Conference called on Member States with arrears to expeditiously pay them to the General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs so that they can benefit from the preferential reduction approved by the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 5 October 2003.

138. The Conference welcomed the report on the need for a comprehensive review of the OIC General Secretariat's personnel situation and full evaluation of its current staffing, and mandated the Secretary-General to proceed with the necessary steps to that effect, with the support and involvement of the PFC.

139. The Conference approved the Personnel Regulations together with its annexes as amended by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts (IGWGE) set up by the 33rd PFC. The Conference also entrusted the same IGWGE to review the Financial Regulations of the OIC and the Internal Rules and Procedures of the General Secretariat to be suggested by the latter and to report thereon to the 34th PFC which shall submit same to the 33rd Session of the ICFM for approval.

140. The Conference examined the issue of alternatives available for reducing medical expenses for the General Secretariat and recommended that the General Secretariat should adopt a health insurance scheme on an experimental basis for a period of two years with effect from 1st July 2005, assess the advantages and disadvantages of the health insurance scheme, submit its report thereon to the 35th Session of the Permanent Finance Committee meeting, continue to apply the 10% deduction for any medical expenses excluded from the insurance coverage, in line with the existing rules.

141. The Conference took cognizance of PFC's report on Member States' contributions and arrears, and decided in favour of a progressive implementation of a number of steps towards defaulting Member states.

142. The Conference invited the open-ended Inter-governmental Group of Experts (IGGE) to convene as soon as possible for a final consideration of Accenture's report on the reform of the General Secretariat, adopt the relevant recommendations, and submit its findings to the 33rd session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for approval.

143. The conference requested the General Secretariat to re-circulate to Member States the SESRTCIC study in order to obtain their views thereon, deferred the matter to the 34th session of the PFC for further consideration and study, and requested the General Secretariat to submit a report thereon to the 33rd session of the ICFM.

144. The Conference resolved to confine the agenda of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, which is held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York to consultation and coordination of the positions of OIC Member States regarding matters that are of concern to the OIC and included in the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly. It also resolved that the conclusions of its proceedings should be drawn in the form of a communiqué agreed upon by the Foreign Ministers of Member States or their representatives.

145. The Conference requested the Secretary-General to further contacts with international and regional organizations in order to establish, maintain, and strengthen cooperation with them. It also requested him to conduct a study on how to identify the appropriate areas of cooperation that are of common interest and submit it to the next session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for appropriate decision thereon.

146. The Conference considered the Draft Statute on Observer Status and decided to refer back the Draft to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for further study and submission to the next session of the Conference. The Conference decided to consider the other requests for observer status, after finalization of this Statute.

147. The Conference, in response to the application by the Russian Federation for observer status in the OIC, decided unanimously and on an exceptional basis to grant observer status to the Russian Federation.

148. Within the framework of OIC reform, the Conference decided to reactivate the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGGE) established by the 8th Islamic Summit Conference and reaffirmed by the 9th and 10th Islamic Summit Conferences to review the Charter, statutes, and rules of procedure of the General Secretariat and the various committees and, if necessary, to constitute specialized sub-groups.

149. The Conference decided to hold the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in the Republic of Azerbaijan at a date to be determined in coordination between the host country and the OIC General Secretariat.

150. H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qurbi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen and Chairman of the Session, addressed the closing session, commending the brotherly spirit that prevailed during the deliberations of the Conference and hailing the resolutions adopted by the Conference. He called for support for the OIC so that it can perform its mission in promoting joint Islamic action.

151. In response to the statement of H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qirbi, H.E. Mr. Adoum Gargoum, Head of the Delegation of Cameroon, took the floor on behalf of all participating delegations and expressed gratitude to the government and people of Yemen for the generous hospitality extended to the delegates and for the arrangements and facilities put at their disposal. They expressed to H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qirbi their warm congratulations on the wise and skilful way he steered the proceedings.

152. On behalf of all the participants, H.E. Dr. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the OIC, addressed a cable of thanks to H.E. Ali Abdullah Salih, President of the Republic of Yemen, for his country's hosting of the Conference and for the facilities extended to the delegates, which highly contributed to the success of the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

*Sana'a — Republic of Yemen
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