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REPORT

OF

11TH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
OF INFORMATION MINISTERS

(SESSION OF NEW MEDIA TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA)

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
21 DECEMBER 2016

Report of the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers
(Session of New Media to Counter Terrorism and Islamophobia)
Jeddah – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
21 December 2016

The Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, upon the kind invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, held its 11th Session in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 21 December 2016, on the theme "Session of New Media to Counter Terrorism and Islamophobia".

The Conference opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Afterwards, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chair of the 10th session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, H.E. Mr S. M. H. Hashemi, made a statement in which he expressed deep thanks and appreciation to the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for generously playing host to this session, commending the efforts of the OIC Secretary General and the General Secretariat to translate into action the previous session's resolutions which were a testament to the immense challenges posed to the Muslim Ummah.

The 11th ICIM, held in the land of the Two Holy Mosques and cradle of revelation, throws in stark relief the vital role the new media plays as an effective global public opinion shaping tool, Mr Hashemi pointed out, stressing the need for the media to counter campaigns smearing Islam and playing into the hands of its enemies. He also stressed the necessity to engage in a joint cultural and intellectual action to contain extremist ideology, while inviting western media to reconsider its attitude to Islam and Muslims. At the end, the Iranian delegate handed over the chairmanship of the Conference's 11th session to the Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr Adel bin Zaid Al Turaifi.

For his part, OIC Secretary General Dr Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen made an address wherein he welcomed their Excellencies the Ministers of Information and Communication and Heads of Delegation to this session. He expressed utmost gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting this session, which he said is expressive of the great attention the Saudi leadership, represented by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, his Crown Prince and the Deputy Crown Prince, accords to all that leads to the greatness of Islam and Muslims and the defense of their legitimate causes, as well as for the Kingdom's continued support -being the headquarters State- to the OIC.

He went on, "Our conference for which is chosen the theme 'New media to counter terrorism and Islamophobia' addresses the role of traditional and modern media with their means, types, content and impact on countering the dual phenomena of terrorism and Islamophobia which target the pillars of international peace and security."

The OIC Charter, Dr Al-Othaimeen pointed out, stresses the necessity to contribute to preserving peace and security and has as an objective to cooperate in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, protect and defend the true image of Islam, counter campaigns of defamation of Islam and the distortion of its image, and encourage dialogue among civilizations and religions.

The Secretary General also called on the media in the OIC Member States to rise up to the challenges and issues of concern to the Muslim Ummah in a professional manner and with a

conscientious, modern and appealing discourse, keeping away from simply seeking to gain attention and scoop and without ridiculing or incitement to and provocation of discord.

Also addressing the Conference was Saudi Arabia's Culture and Information Minister, Dr Adel bin Zaid Al Turaifi. He started by welcoming in the name of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and on behalf of the Saudi people, their Excellencies the ministers and heads of delegation to Saudi Arabia, pointing out that the session was held at a critical regional and international juncture for different parts of the Muslim world. This, he underlined, requires combined efforts and unity to safeguard the security and safety of peoples and nations and cater to their aspirations. On the terrorist acts targeting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Muslim sanctities, Dr Al Turaifi hailed the efforts exerted by his country and the OIC General Secretariat in the combat against terrorism. Saudi Arabia presented to the 11th ICIM a draft resolution on the role of the media in combating terrorism which was welcomed by all delegations, he pointed out, inviting countries and organizations in the Muslim world to step up efforts and gear human and material potential effectively to reduce the digital gap between the OIC Member States and the advanced world. He also invited them to participate actively in the information society, address tendentious media message and project the true image of Islam and Islamic civilization.

Members of the bureau of the 11th session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers were elected as follows:

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	-	Chair
Republic of Togo		
Republic of Turkey	-	Vice-Chairs
State of Palestine		
Islamic Republic of Iran	-	Rapporteur

Participants adopted the draft agenda and draft work programme for the 11th ICIM (**OIC/ICIM-11/2016/DA**) and (**OIC/ICIM-11/2016/WP/DRAFT**).

The Conference discussed a set of important issues and draft resolutions on media affairs submitted to its 11th session. Having considered the report of H.E. the OIC Secretary General to the session in which he reviewed the projects implemented in the information sector and the efforts exerted to develop media action since the tenth session. Following examination of the report of the head of Senior Officials' Preparatory Meeting for this session, their Excellencies the Ministers of Information and Communication and Heads of Delegation held lengthy discussions on the issues placed on the Conference's draft agenda. They adopted the draft resolutions presented to them on the following matters:

1. Role of the Media in the OIC Member States in Supporting the Cause of Palestine and Al Quds Al-Sharif.
2. Anti-Islamophobia Media Strategy and its Implementation Mechanisms.
3. The OIC 2025 Comprehensive Media Strategy.
4. Women Empowerment in and through the Media.
5. Internal and External Media Action in Partnership with OIC Member States' and International Media Institutions.

6. Supporting the Implementation of the Special Media Programme Highlighting Africa's Position and Role in the Muslim World and its Extension to Other Regions.
7. Progress on the Launch of the OIC Satellite Channel.
8. Supporting the Work of Joint Islamic Media Action Institutions.
9. Establishment of an International Prize to Media Outlets and Media Professionals.
10. Promoting Media Visibility for the OIC's Lead Role in Cultural Exchange, Development and Peace Issues.
11. Strengthening the Capacity and Productivity of Media Professionals and Media Outlets in the Member States and Enhancing Cooperation among them.
12. Role of Information in Combating Terrorism.

The Conference condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack at the Jordanian city of Karak, expressing its appreciation for the Jordanian security authorities' sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and extremism and their defense of the causes of our Muslim Ummah. Further, the Conference offered its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the victims and to the Jordanian government, stressing full solidarity with the King, government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in countering terrorism and extremism.

The 11th ICIM adopted the OIC Media Strategy to Counter Islamophobia along with its implementation mechanisms, and the OIC-2025 Comprehensive Media Strategy. It also adopted the Jeddah Declaration.

The Conference welcomed the offer by the Republic of Turkey to play host to its 12th Session in 2018.

Jeddah, on 21 December 2016