

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO OIC ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING  
New York, 28 September 2012**

*To be delivered by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Africa  
Mr. Maged Abdelaziz*

I am pleased to greet all those gathered for the Annual Coordination Meeting between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The United Nations is engaged with the OIC across the full range of our activities – from political and developmental challenges to humanitarian, social and economic issues. We are also working to counter incitement and enhance cultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

I welcome Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu's swift and clear condemnation of the recent violence in Libya, and elsewhere, in the wake of protests over the recent deplorable video. I am grateful for the OIC's leadership in seeking to heal tensions and ensure that the international community is not held hostage by extremists on any side.

I encourage continued collaboration and coordination between the OIC and the United Nations, including through the efforts of the Alliance of Civilizations. Let us work together for reason, responsibility, respect and calm.

We also continue to closely monitor the troubling developments in Syria. I urge the OIC to continue efforts and engagement with the parties in Syria, including through the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Further violence will only lead to more civilian suffering, unsustainable tensions in the delicate fabric of Syrian society, and regional instability with global implications. We must work for a credible political transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. This goal is at the heart of the mission of Joint Special Representative Brahimi. He deserves the unified and full support of the international community.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, I remain deeply concerned about the stalemated peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. As I said in my address to the General Assembly this week, the two-state solution is the only sustainable option. However, I am extremely concerned that the door may be closing. We must all do our best to avoid such a dangerous impasse. The continued growth of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory seriously undermines efforts toward peace. Reconciliation among Palestinians would also go a long way towards strengthening the process for peace.

Right now, the Palestinian Authority needs support; I count on the continued generosity of members of the OIC to help provide additional urgent funds to the Palestinians.

I also want to thank the OIC and its member states for their important role alongside the United Nations and the African Union in supporting the people of Sudan and South Sudan in their efforts to realize sustainable peace. In Darfur, OIC countries have backed the mediation toward the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace. The UN welcomes these efforts.

With respect to Myanmar, I have welcomed the establishment of a commission to investigate recent violent incidents in Rakhine State. This could help advance efforts to tackle the underlying causes of violence, including the condition of Muslim communities. This is integral to the reconciliation process which has made such important progress.

In coordination with the UN, the OIC has also significantly contributed to humanitarian efforts in Somalia through Islamic charity organizations, and provided technical assistance for Somalia's new Parliament.

There are many more examples of the need for the OIC and the UN to continue our important work together to advance peace and security, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Developments throughout the OIC region have underscored the importance of coordinated and effective action to meet people's aspirations for dignity, democracy and opportunities. Let us continue to exchange information, share experiences and best practices, and deepen practical avenues of cooperation.

You can count on my full commitment to further strengthen our strategic partnership in the years ahead.