



NIAMEY DECLARATION

**47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of
Islamic Cooperation**

“United against Terrorism for Peace and Development”

(Final version of 27 November 2020)

Niamey, Republic of Niger

27-28 November 2020

(12-13 Rabii II 1442 AH)

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We, the foreign ministers and heads of delegation of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (hereinafter called “the OIC”) taking part in the 47th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Niamey on 27-28 November 2020;

Recognizing the OIC’s prominent role in the efforts to strengthen the mutually beneficial cooperation between the Member States in political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and other vital areas,

Reaffirming the Member States’ commitment to the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter, particularly the provisions on promoting and enhancing the bonds of unity and solidarity among the Member States,

Confirming the necessity of enhancing cooperation for sustainable socio-economic development, conducive to a real integration of our States into the global economy, based on the principles of partnership and equality,

Welcoming the Republic of Niger’s initiative to hold the 47th session of the OIC CFM on the theme “*United against Terrorism for Peace and Development*”,

Recognizing the unprecedented challenge posed by the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) for the OIC Member States and the world at large, which requires urgent and decisive actions and unity at the OIC level as well as at the national, regional and international levels, to protect lives,

Whereas amid growing tensions and instability in various regions of the world, the aggravation of ongoing conflicts, and manifestations of deliberate attempts to tarnish the sacred image of Islam and to undermine the Muslim world’s peaceful coexistence with other cultures and religions, it is more imperative than ever to project to the international community the true humanistic nature and tolerance of Islam,

Taking into account and deeply comprehending the historically charged legacy of prominent scholars and thinkers of the Muslim world, their invaluable role and place in the history of modern civilization and the entire humanity in general, their precious contribution to the development of science, thought, culture and socio-economic progress in the world,

Reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the OIC objectives and principles such as to realize the interests of Muslim peoples, support peace, stability, sustainable socio-economic development, and advance science and education in the OIC countries, in a spirit of Islamic solidarity and coordination of joint action,

Declare as follows:

1. *We commend* the efforts of all OIC platforms working over the past 50 years, in line with the OIC Charter, to preserve and protect our common interests, defend Member States' just causes, coordinate and unify efforts to address the challenges facing the Muslim world in particular, and the international community in general.
2. *We reaffirm* that the OIC has always been a landmark in the contemporary history of the Muslim Ummah, standing the test of time as the only unifying voice of the Muslim world, supporting the right, identity, culture, steadfastness, and the moral and institutional framework.
3. *We emphasize* that since its establishment, the OIC has positioned itself as a prestigious and influential international organizations, thus acting as a key platform of dialogue to maintain peace and respond to new challenges and threats across the OIC space. In this context, we express our appreciation to all OIC Member States and institutions for their efforts to improve the activities undertaken by the OIC to close the ranks of the Muslim Ummah, establish peace and security, and promote sustainable socio-economic development in the Member States.
4. *We condemn* all kinds of interference in the internal affairs of states, considering it a violation of the rules of international law, the principle of state sovereignty and the provisions of the OIC Charter, and affirm the need to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of every member state.
5. *We reaffirm* our unfailing support for the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the right to return to their land. In this context, we express our support for the Arab Peace Initiative, as well as for a just and coordinated solution to the Palestinian refugee problem, in accordance with related UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and with the international law.
6. *We condemn* firmly the illegal policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Al-Quds; and we **call** for complete cessation of all Israeli violations of international law, including the immediate end to the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, all colonial settlement activities, demolition of Palestinian homes, killing, injury and detention of Palestinian civilians, including children, the illegal annexation and Judaization of the occupied East Al-Quds and all attempts to alter

its demographic composition, its character and history, and provocation and incitement at Al-Haram al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli occupying force and extremist settlers. We also **call** for the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and detention centers.

7. We welcome the announcement of the cessation of hostilities between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia; we reaffirm our full solidarity with the government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and rebuild the occupied territories, which were severely affected by the Armenian aggression, and allow safe and dignified return of IDPs; we call on Armenia to halt all its aggressions against Azerbaijan and call for the retreat of the remaining occupation forces consistent with resolutions 822, 853 and 884 (1993) and with the decisions of the OIC on aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan.
8. We reiterate the OIC's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for a peaceful settlement in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.
9. While being deeply concerned over the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), which has so far affected almost all countries and regions of the world and has had devastating global impacts and posed unprecedented challenges, *we commend* the OIC Member States for their proactive and timely actions to prevent the spread of the pandemic and their initiatives in the health, economic, financial, social and humanitarian fields to respond to the challenges and address the effects of the crisis. *We also express* our deep gratitude and support to all frontline health workers and others striving to render essential services to the people and to save lives in this critical time.
10. *We commend* the ongoing efforts of the OIC and its competent institutions to help our countries build their capacities and upgrade their infrastructure to fight Covid-19 pandemic and address its adverse effects; and we **commend** in this regard, in our collective response to the pandemic, the launch by the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) of a US\$ 2.3 billion Strategic Preparedness and Response Programme for the COVID-19 Pandemic, aimed at supporting our countries' efforts to contain, mitigate and recover from the impact of COVID-19. We call on developed countries and international financial institutions to extend to developing countries the assistance necessary in this fight against Covid-19.
11. *We emphasize* the need to ensure the security of Member States and solve current and emerging problems and conflicts peacefully, using international legal, political and diplomatic mechanisms based on universally-recognized principles and norms of international law and the charters of the United Nations and the OIC. To that end, we support the effective efforts exerted by the sessions of the Summit, the CFM and the Executive Committee, the Secretary General and the special envoys in the resolution of conflicts.
12. *We applaud* the achievements of the Sahel Platform in support of the implementation of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, and the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Joint Force; and we **call** on the Member States to pursue their continued efforts for the implementation of the **programs** and realization of the objectives of these coordination and development mechanisms.

13. *We* **express** our sincere thanks to the OIC Member States that have extended financial, technical and material support to the Sahel countries, more specifically to the Joint Force of the G-5 Sahel (JF-G5S), and we **encourage** all OIC Member States to provide and increase support to the Sahel region countries, mainly through strengthening the capacities of defense and security forces and stabilizing fragile areas.
14. *We* **reiterate** the OIC's principled position and its firm support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali, in consistency with the OIC Charter.
15. We **note** that, under the 21st century circumstances -the era of globalization, information and communication technology and the internet, as well as of the mounting race in the conquest of the global space and market- priority attention should be paid to increasing human capital investment and input, focusing on raising an educated and intellectually well-prepared generation, which constitutes the greatest value and a decisive force in achieving the objectives of democratic development, modernization and renewal.
16. We **acknowledge** the significant potential of the youth's proposals for the development of the OIC Member States; and we call on these States and relevant OIC institutions, including the ICYF and the ISSF, to consolidate their youth empowerment efforts.
17. In the context of the theme of the session: "*United against Terrorism for Peace and Development*", we **call on** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to continue and further expand programs and activities for socio-economic development, based on their comparative advantages and in a spirit of cooperation and fraternity.
18. *We* **note** the need to disseminate knowledge of Islam in order to combat the ideology of terrorism, violent extremism and religious fanaticism, and we highly appreciate the large-scale efforts to combat ideological expansion of radicalism through the active promotion of the values of true Islam and the launch of a wide-ranging religious educational process.
19. *We* **emphasize** that a profound respect for one's own history and intellectual heritage makes up the basis of both material and spiritual progress of any state; and we highly appreciate in this regard the work carried out in the Member States for the study and preservation of the rich historical, scientific, cultural and spiritual heritage for future generations. We also appreciate IRCICA's efforts to conduct studies and promote this heritage among the Member States through research projects, publications, conference and exhibitions.
20. We **recognize** the need to deeply comprehend the works of eminent Muslim scholars and thinkers, and assess their role and place in the history of modern civilization; and we **believe** it is important to give a new powerful impetus to further in-depth research and the promotion of their invaluable scientific legacy, providing insight to the urgency and relevance of their discoveries for contemporary science and progress.

21. *We confirm* our support to nuclear-weapons disarmament efforts and the disposal of weapons of massive destruction as a means to increase the promotion of international peace and security; and we **support** the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.
22. *We underline* the need for the speedy stabilization of the situation in the Middle East and North Africa by way of political resolution of crises, in accordance with the principles of the OIC, the UN Charter and universally-recognized international norms.
23. *We reaffirm* that the struggle against terrorism and violent extremism in all their manifestations, illicit drug production and trafficking, illegal trafficking of arms, ammunition and explosive substances, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery remain a priority in the framework of the OIC; and we are convinced that these dangerous phenomena can be defeated and eliminated only by consolidating a joint struggle, addressing both the symptoms and the root causes of these problems; and we continue to advocate for closer cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the dissemination of the extremist ideology, targeting primarily the youth.
24. *We condemn* in the strongest terms all the terrorist attacks perpetrated around the world, namely against OIC Member States, in the Sahel, in the Lake Chad Basin, in the Maghreb, in the Horn of Africa, and in the Arab Peninsula; we express our full solidarity with the member states victims of these attacks and support them in all the measures and decisions they might take to counter terrorism and preserve their security, stability, institutions and interests.
25. *We highly appreciate* the progress achieved in the implementation of “The OIC 2025: Programme of Action” adopted at the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul; and we are confident that its implementation will contribute to further development of trade and investment, transfer of advanced technologies, the promotion of the private sector, industrialization, and scientific and educational spheres in Muslim countries in the 21st century.
26. *We are deeply concerned* at the resurgence in multiple regions of the world of racist movements based on intent to incite phobia, hatred of and hostility against Muslim nations, immigrants and individuals; and we call on all governments to prohibit any discourse, attempt or act that tolerates, encourages or incites hostility against Muslims or defamation of Islam and Muslims, as well as to protect all individuals and groups against hate and violence based on religion and faith, and to ensure the protection of places of worship.
27. *We strongly condemn* the systematic brutal acts and horrendous atrocities perpetrated against the Rohingya Muslim community in Myanmar, especially since 25 August 2017, which constitute a serious and blatant violation of international law, international human rights conventions as well as violations of international humanitarian law and in total disregard by the State of Myanmar of its responsibility to protect its unarmed civilian Muslim minority. In this regard, we urge all Member States to extend further support to the legal efforts for justice and accountability for

the Rohingya people, and the case filed by The Gambia at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

28. *We underline* the importance of sharing experience in addressing the issues of economic slowdown, taking into account innovative technologies by creating a favorable investment and business climate and implementing mutually beneficial structural projects in priority areas of cooperation and infrastructure development.
29. *We support* the OIC Member States' efforts for the implementation of national renewable energy programmes and the creation of an innovative economy; and we **call** for continuing the examination of international best practices in this field.
30. *We commend highly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's generous initiative to pay up the arrears of OIC least developed member states' mandatory contribution to the OIC budget, accumulated until end 2019.*
31. *We condemn* the continued imposition of economic sanctions by certain countries as a means of political and economic pressure, to deprive these countries of the right to decide with their free will on their own political, economic and social systems; and we reaffirm the sovereign right of the Member States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain all goods, under international law, to ensure clean and sustainable development.
32. *We recognize* the central role of science, technology and innovation in Member States' efforts to address global challenges linked to issues of environment, climate change, human health, energy and water resources; and we **commend** the role of the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) chaired by the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E Mr Arif Alvi. In this connection, we **take note** with satisfaction of the "OIC STI Agenda 2026", adopted at the first OIC Science and Technology Summit (September 2017) in Nur-Sultan, capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan, inviting all the Member States and OIC institutions to take the necessary measures to ensure its implementation in an effective and timely manner; and we welcome the UAE's determination to play host to the second S&T Islamic Summit
33. *We call on* the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to continue and further strengthen their programmes and activities in higher education, including efforts for improvements in curricula, faculties, networking among higher education institutions, and promotion of joint research projects, distance learning arrangements, scholarship programmes and vocational training programmes. We also note, with satisfaction, the growing interest in the OIC Educational Exchange Programme.
34. We **invite** the Member States to encourage their higher education and research institutions, in the public and private sectors, to collaborate actively with the OIC to reinforce and further promote this programme.
35. *We acknowledge* the importance of cooperation between the Member States for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision, including access to safe drinking water and sanitation. In this regard, we **take note** of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the OIC Water Council held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 21-22 October 2019, and **affirm** our unwavering commitment to take practical measures to address the challenges faced by Member States in the water sector.

36. *We note* that in the conditions of depletion of natural resources and exacerbation of problems in the field of protection and preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, there is a need for undertaking large-scale scientific research and experiments on a wide range of directions of exploration of the world around us.
37. *We recall* the importance of implementing the OIC Plan of Action of the Advancement of Women and its implementation mechanism, including women empowerment, poverty eradication, improving health and promoting women's role in the development process; we **reaffirm** that achieving gender equality is key to achieving sustainable development goals; and we **support** and **welcome** the success of the OIC Member States' Women Advisory Council in contributing to the progress achieved in this context.
38. *We welcome* the entry into force of the Statute of the Women Development Organization (WDO) in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, following the completion of the required quorum of ratification of the Statute; and we equally **welcome** the first ministerial conference of the Women Development Organization and the results obtained.
39. *We acknowledge* that family assumes the primary responsibility of childcare and protection and the development of the child personality; while underlining the need to promote Islamic values related to children and family in general, improve the situation of children and their welfare, meet the physical and moral needs of displaced and refugee children by assisting in their education and healthcare, undertake the necessary measures to protect them from the dangers of harmful media programs and support the programs that promote ethical and cultural values of children and family.
40. *We affirm* the special importance of the development of tourism, as one of the sectors of economy, which contributes to achieving long-term sustainable growth, socioeconomic development, and enhancement of mutual understanding and promotion of tolerance among peoples and nations.
41. *We underline* the key importance of healthcare in ensuring high living standards and the prosperity of society as a whole; **call** in this context for the effective and full implementation of the "Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023"; and **welcome** the strengthening of cooperation between the OIC and relevant international partners in the domain of health care.
42. *We support* the "Program of Capitals of Islamic Culture", developed by the Islamic Countries Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) as an important factor in preserving and restoring cultural heritage and exchanging best practices in learning and teaching languages, history and culture of Islamic countries.
43. *We commend* the OIC General Secretariat's efforts to create an OIC Web TV streaming channel to broadcast its recorded conferences, activities, and statements of the Secretary-General, together with short thematic videos, cultural and economic programmes, etc., pending the actual launch of the OIC Satellite Channel; and we **call** on the OIC Member States to render logistical and financial support for the launch of this project.

44. *We welcome* the Secretary General’s efforts to boost cooperation and interaction of the OIC with regional and international organizations, especially the UN and its agencies.
45. *We welcome* the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to hold the 48th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC at a convenient time in 2021.
46. *We welcome the election of H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha as new Secretary General of the OIC, for a mandate starting on 17 November 2021.*
47. We, at the close of the 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, **express** our profound gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Niger, President Mahamadou Issoufou, and to the people and government of the Republic of Niger for their warm hospitality and the outstanding organization of this Conference, which contributed to the success of this session held under the theme “United against Terrorism for Peace and Development”.
