



OIC/47-CFM/2020/REPORT/FINAL

**Report of the 47<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM)**

**(Session: United against Terrorism for Peace and  
Development)**

**Niamey, Republic of Niger**

**27-28 November 2020  
(12-13 Rabi' II 1442 A.H.)**



## Report of the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM)

*(Session: United against Terrorism for Peace and Development)*

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1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Niger, the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session: *United against Terrorism for Peace and Development*), was held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabii II 1442 A.H.).
2. The Meeting was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
3. In her speech at the meeting, Mrs. Reem Al-Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates, extended her congratulations to the Republic of Niger on assuming the chairmanship of the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the CFM, as well as her appreciation of the benevolent efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the OIC host country and the Chair of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Islamic Summit Conference, in order to strengthen the bonds of unity and solidarity in the Muslim world. In her speech, the head of the Emirati delegation emphasized the importance of continuing to work on combating terrorism, ensuring that religious symbols are not subjected to blasphemy, and respecting religions and cultures. She stressed the importance and centrality of the Palestinian cause as a historic *sine qua non* requirement for peace. Referring to Covid-19 pandemic, the Emirati Minister called for increased solidarity among the Muslim peoples to face the repercussions of this pandemic, and considered that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its various organs have an important role to play to face the current challenges.
4. The Meeting then approved the composition of the Bureau as follows:

- Republic of Niger		Chair
- Sultanate of Oman		
- Republic of Kazakhstan	}	Vice-Chairs
- State of Palestine		
- United Arab Emirates		Rapporteur
5. His Excellency Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad of the Republic of Niger, delivered a speech in which he thanked the United Arab Emirates for its successful chairmanship of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the

CFM), and pointed out the importance that his country attaches to its membership in the OIC, noting that Niger is hosting the CFM meeting for the second time. The Nigerian Minister stressed the need to intensify work to promote the values of tolerance and moderation and to renounce hate speech, extremism and exclusion. He also explained that the continuation of conflicts in the Muslim world increases the risk of the spread of the phenomena of terrorism and poverty. He referred to the security challenges that the Sahel region is witnessing, and which calls for unification of efforts aimed at eliminating terrorist groups and more support for humanitarian work, especially for the benefit of the victims of terrorism. He also stressed the importance of strengthening economic cooperation among member states and promoting the education and health sectors. He valued the efforts of the Islamic Development Bank Group and the development programs and projects it offers to member states. In closing, the Minister stressed the need for solidarity to ensure the distribution of a vaccine to all member states in order to eradicate completely the Covid-19 pandemic.

6. His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delivered a speech on behalf of the Kingdom in its capacity as chair of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Islamic Summit Conference. He too expressed his appreciation to United Arab Emirates for the valued efforts it made during its chairmanship of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the CFM. He expressed his country's support for promoting the values of moderation, tolerance, and acceptance of difference, recalling the adoption of the Makkah Document during the International Conference on the Values of Moderation, organized by the Muslim World League, which was held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 30 May 2019. The Saudi Minister announced that his country donated a piece of land for the construction of a headquarters for the Organization's General Secretariat in Jeddah. He also stressed the importance of concerted efforts among member states to combat terrorism and extremism, and renewed Saudi Arabia's support for the Palestinian cause and the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, and looked forward to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on peaceful solutions. With reference to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's presidency of the G20 summit, the Saudi minister affirmed the importance his country attaches to ensuring sustainable development and achieving peace and security in the region and the world. His Highness congratulated the Republic of Niger, wishing it success in chairing the 47<sup>th</sup> CFM.
7. Her Excellency Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, delivered a speech on behalf of the African Group, in which she thanked the UAE for its chairmanship of the previous session of the CFM, and congratulated Niger on its assumption of the chairmanship. The Minister stressed the importance of strengthening solidarity among member states, especially with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. She expressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, which particularly threatens security and development in the Sahel region, and in this context, she called for intensifying cooperation between the OIC and other regional and international organizations to find comprehensive solutions to curb this phenomenon. The minister also affirmed her country's commitment to finding a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue, and stressed the importance of establishing periodic consultations between the OIC and the African Union, and looked forward to developing and strengthening the role of the Organization's office in Niger.

8. His Excellency Mr. Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad of the Republic of Tunisia, delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab Group, in which he expressed his congratulations to the Republic of Niger for assuming the chairmanship of the CFM, while appreciating the initiatives and efforts of the UAE during its chairmanship of the previous session of the CFM, and praised the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as chair of the Islamic Summit Conference and the host country of the OIC in supporting joint Islamic action. The minister expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Islamic Development Bank Group for the benefit of the member states, especially considering the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. In another context, the Tunisian minister stressed the need to continue working to combat terrorism, promote the culture of tolerance and reject all forms of hatred and defamation of religions, calling for the establishment of Muslim-West dialogue to strengthen dialogue between religions and civilizations. Referring to the Palestinian issue, the minister renewed firm support for this just cause according to Arab and international references, stressing the need for intensified efforts to build a just and comprehensive peace and enhancing the values of solidarity among member states.
9. In his speech on behalf of the Asian group, His Excellency Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, expressed his thanks to the UAE as the previous chair of the CFM, and expressed his congratulations to the Republic of Niger on its assumption of the current chairmanship of the CFM. The Turkish minister said that 2020 was a year full of challenges for all due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent developments in a number of issues of concern to member states, especially the Palestinian issue. He stressed the importance of continuing to support just causes of the Muslim world and achieving security and peace in the Sahel region. He also noted the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia, particularly in Europe, and the need to address it.
10. Mrs. Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union, delivered a speech on behalf of Mr. Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, who was invited to the meeting as a guest of honor. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of cooperation between the two regional organizations in matters of common interest, strengthening international solidarity to face the economic, social and health repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and working to provide a vaccine for everyone.
11. His Excellency Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimen, the OIC Secretary General, delivered a speech in which he praised the UAE for its chairmanship of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the CFM, and congratulated the Republic of Niger on assuming the chairmanship of the 47<sup>th</sup> session. The Secretary General paid a special tribute to the Republic of Niger, its leadership, government and people, for the hospitality and warm reception it provided in hosting this session. He reviewed the Organization's efforts to mitigate the effects faced by member states, especially the least developed ones, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. He reaffirmed the Organization's stances on issues of concern to the member states, especially the Palestinian issue, combating extremism and terrorism and addressing the phenomenon of Islamophobia.
12. The 47<sup>th</sup> session was opened by His Excellency President Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger. At the outset, he called the meeting to observe a minute of silence as a tribute to the former Nigerian President Mamadou Tandja. He then delivered a speech in which he emphasized the importance Niger attaches to the Islamic identity, given

Niger's long-standing link to Islam. He also expressed his country's adherence to the tolerant values of Islam and its commitment to respecting the culture of moderation, tolerance and peace. In reference to the theme of the current session, His Excellency stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation among member states to combat the phenomenon of terrorism. In this context, he valued the existing cooperation with international and regional organizations and other international partners to eliminate terrorist groups and thwart extremist terrorist thought. His Excellency also renewed his country's support for the Palestinian cause, based on the Arab Initiative and international references. He urged further strengthening of economic cooperation and boosting of inter-investment, appreciating the programs carried out by the Islamic Development Bank Group in the region. He also expressed his hope that the Organization's office in Niamey would be transformed into a regional representative mission covering the entire Sahel region and tasked with a more effective role.

13. The CFM adopted the report of the preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for the current session held in Jeddah on 9-11 February 2020, the Agenda and Work Program submitted to it by the SOM and the reports of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS), as well as the Supplementary Agenda distributed to Member States in the opening session.
14. The ministers and heads of delegation delivered statements in the meeting in which they highlighted the various challenges facing the Islamic world. They insisted on the need to promote intra-OIC solidarity and joint Islamic action to overcome these challenges.
15. The CFM discussed the issues and matters on the agenda and adopted resolutions in the various domains, including the cause of Palestine and Al Quds Al-Sharif; Political Affairs; Statutory, Organic and General Matters; Legal Affairs; Conditions of Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States; Information Affairs; Administrative and Financial Affairs; Humanitarian Affairs; Economic, Science and Technology, Cultural, Social, and Family Affairs.
16. A special brainstorming session was held on 28 November 2020 on the topic "*Security and Humanitarian Challenges Facing Sahel Countries Members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation*". The session was chaired by Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad, with the participation of ministers and heads of delegations of the Member States. In their interventions, the participants renewed their condemnation of all forms of terrorism and extremism, exchanged views on ways and means to combat terrorism and stressed the importance of adopting preventive policies to curb the spread of terrorist groups. Appreciation was extended to the states which provided humanitarian aid to the Sahel countries to strengthen their capabilities in this area. The meeting urged further strengthening of cooperation among the Member States for the benefit of the Sahel region, in order to implement programs and plans aimed at addressing this phenomenon. The role of the Islamic Development Bank Group in providing aid to the countries of the region was also commended.
17. The chairman of the CFM, Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad, announced the consensus of the African Group concerning the election of His Excellency Mr. Hiseini Brahim Taha, the former Minister

of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chad, for the position of the OIC General Secretary. The resolution on his appointment was adopted unanimously.

18. His Excellency Mr. Hiseini Brahim Taha, the new OIC Secretary General, took the oath in front of the CFM; it was determined that he will assume his duties starting from the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.
19. The Chairman of the CFM, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, announced the consensus of the African Group concerning the candidacy of His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, for the position of Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, to succeed the late Ambassador, Mr. Ahmed Ssenyomo. He will serve in this position until 30 June 2024. Mr. Sengendo took the oath in front of the CFM.
20. The delegation of the Republic of Tunisia considered that a number of the terms of the OIC Declaration on Human Rights fall far short of the regulations of the Republic of Tunisia and the content of its Constitution of 2014, as well as of its international obligations considering its accession to all international human rights instruments.
21. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran handed a list of reservations to the General Secretariat, as follows:
  - On resolution No. 48/47 – POL on the ‘Attack against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Embassy in Tehran and consulate in Mashhd’, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran points out that the original text of the Resolution was adopted in Makkah Summit in the absence of the Iranian delegation. Iran expresses its strong objection to the resolution as an unbalanced and one-sided text and categorically rejects it.
  - The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects the text of resolution No. 16/47 – POL on the ‘solidarity with Yemen’. Iran believes that the resolution is not the objective reflection of the situation on the ground in Yemen, and also believes that it needs deep and serious reconsideration.
  - Concerning the resolution No. 63/47 POL entitled ‘Adoption of the Cairo Declaration of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Human Rights’, Given the absence of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the last meeting of the OIC intergovernmental Working Group to review the Draft Cairo Declaration on Human Rights due to the non-issuance of entry visas for the members of the Iranian delegation by the host country, Iran was not able to submit its comments and amendments on the draft text of the ODHR. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not in a position to join consensus on the resolution No.63/47 POL and put on record its reservation on the whole text of the resolution, in particular, its operative paragraph 2 which reads: “Decides to adopt the attached final version of the ‘Cairo Declaration on Human Rights’, and encourage all Member States to effectively implement it”.
  - The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses that its support for the resolution should not explicitly or implicitly be construed in any way as recognition of the Zionist regime of Israel. Iran expresses its reservation to any reference, within these resolutions, that may signify the recognition of the Zionist entity.

22. The General Secretariat received reservations on the following draft resolutions:
- The Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Lebanese Republic, and the United Arab Emirates expressed their reservations on draft resolution 21/47-POL on the “*Situation in Cyprus*”.
  - The Arab Republic of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed their reservations on draft resolution 3/47-MM on the “*Situation of the Muslim Turkish Community in Western Thrace and the Muslim Community in the Dodecanese*”.
  - The Arab Republic of Egypt expressed its reservation on draft resolution 12/47-POL on the “*Aggression of the Republic of Armenia on the Republic of Azerbaijan*”.
23. On the resolution 6/47-POL on the Situation in Syria, Lebanon reaffirmed its position, which consists of disassociating itself of internal disputes in brotherly countries. It also registered its reservation on the resolution 12/47-POL on the “*Aggression of the Republic of Armenia on the Republic of Azerbaijan*”, the resolution no. 12/47-POL on the “*Situation in Kosovo*” and the resolution 51/47-POL on “*Solidarity with the Victims of the Khojaly Massacre of 1992*” and on the expression “*including the Lebanese Hizbullah*” in paragraph 6 of resolution 48/47-POL on “*The Attack against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Embassy in Tehran and Consulate in Mashhad*”.
24. The CFM welcomed the generous offer made by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers at an appropriate time in 2021.
25. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania offered kindly to host the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.
26. On behalf of all the participants, H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimen, Secretary General of the OIC, sent a message of gratitude to H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, for hosting of the 47<sup>th</sup> CFM by his country and for the excellent organizational arrangements and the generous hospitality extended to the delegates, which contributed significantly to the success of its 47<sup>th</sup> Session.

**Niamey, 28 November 2020**