



Nouakchott Declaration

**49TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
NOUAKCHOTT, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA
(*MODERATION: KEY TO SECURITY AND STABILITY*)**

**16-17 MARCH 2023
(24-25 SHABAAN 1444H)**

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We, the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) participating in the meetings of the 49th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16-17 March 2023, corresponding to 24-25 Shaaban 1444;

- **Recalling** the Islamic bonds that unite us, on the basis of which the OIC was established as an organization that seeks to enhance cooperation and solidarity among Muslim countries and peoples;
- **Recalling** the teachings of our sublime Islamic religion, the religion of moderation, golden mean, affection, tolerance, peace, proper argumentation, and dialogue among cultures and peoples;
- **Reaffirming** our commitment to all the principles and goals spelled out in the OIC Charter, especially with regard to strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and solidarity among our countries and peoples;
- **Noting** the persistence of hotbeds of tensions, conflicts and wars in some OIC countries and in other regions around the world, and the resulting multiple effects on our countries and peoples and on global peace and security;
- **Recognizing** the importance of security and stability in the life of States and societies, and the need to defuse tensions and resolve disputes by peaceful means, in line with the principles contained in the OIC and UN Charters;
- **Expressing** our deep concern about the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia, through campaigns of hatred and hostility to Islam that seek to undermine and distort its true and good image;
- **Expressing** our appreciation of the United Nations' designation of March 15th as "International Day to Combat Islamophobia", which we have commemorated with a special event held on the sidelines of the present CFM session;
- **Realizing** the importance of cooperation and integration in strengthening relations among our countries, as a duty dictated by Islamic solidarity and common brotherhood;
- **Recognizing** the leading role played by Muslim scholars in publicizing Islam and spreading the message of love and harmony across the world;
- **Recognizing** the pioneering role played by all groups of our Islamic Ummah, especially youth, in promoting the advancement of Muslim countries and societies;
- **Commending** the great efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for hosting the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, and the means and conditions it has provided to ensure its success;

- **Proceeding from** the significant resolutions and recommendations that have come out of this session, being designed to strengthen Islamic solidarity, promote joint Islamic action, and push it forward to new horizons;

Declare the following:

1. **Affirm** full commitment to respecting the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and security of Member States, and the need to resolve conflicts and disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiations, mediation, good offices, and other diplomatic means, in line with the OIC and UN Charters, and the principles of international law, as well as the OIC peace and security mechanisms and the OIC Secretary-General good offices;
2. **Affirm** our principled commitment to the Cause of Palestine and *Al-Quds Al-Sharif* as the central cause of the Islamic Ummah, and our support to the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the realization of the independent Palestinian State on the 1967 borders, with *Al-Quds Al-Sharif* as its capital;
3. **Reaffirm** that *Al-Quds Al-Sharif* is an integral part of the land of the Palestinian State, and that the Palestinian people have exclusive sovereignty thereof; and call on the international community to assume its responsibilities in accordance with international law, and take whatever measures necessary to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to refrain from all illegal actions and practices, to abide by all international resolutions in the city of *Al-Quds Al-Sharif*, including all actions and practices aimed at altering the character, stature and legal status of the Holy City;
4. **Condemn** the repeated violations and crimes committed by the Israeli colonial occupation authorities and by the Zionist settlers against the Palestinian people, and particularly the colonial settlement activities aimed at undermining international efforts to reach a two-state solution and achieve comprehensive and just peace; and reaffirm our unwavering support to the steadfastness of the heroic Palestinian people in their just struggle to gain their freedom and independence;
5. **Propose** to keep pressure on the United Nations to accept the State of Palestine as a fully-fledged UN Member State. Currently, the State of Palestine has an Observer Status in the United Nations since 2012;
6. **Renew** our commitment to preserving the sovereignty of Yemen, Syria and Libya; and express our solidarity with Azerbaijan, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti, Comoros, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Turkish Cypriots and the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace;
7. **Stress** our commitment to promoting the rights of Muslim minorities and communities in non-OIC Member States, and urge the Organization to continue its constructive efforts in pursuit of this goal;
8. **Reiterate** the OIC's principled position on the peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;
9. **Reaffirm** our solidarity with the Afghan people, express our confidence that they are capable of overcoming the challenges facing the development process in Afghanistan, consider that sustainable peace can only be achieved through forming an inclusive government and promoting inclusive policies for all components of the Afghan community, and stress the need to respect the human rights of Afghans, especially

women and girls, and their legitimate right to education and work based on the teachings of our true Islamic religion;

10. **Express** our deepest solidarity with the victims of the devastating earthquake disaster that struck Turkey and Syria last February, and offer our sincere condolences and sympathy to them. We also appreciate the humanitarian efforts that have been made to face this disaster; call for placing humanitarian action high on the agenda of future OIC meetings whenever possible, and call for developing a practical plan through cooperation among Member States to achieve rapid response to disasters and humanitarian crises, and holding a high-level brainstorming session on humanitarian action as part of the upcoming 50th OIC Summit, in light of the worsening humanitarian crises in many of our Member States.
11. **Welcome** Egypt's successful hosting of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, and commend its historic outcomes, including the incorporation for the first time, of the issues related to climate change loss and damage financing mechanisms in developing countries into the COPS's agenda, as well as the decision to establish financing arrangements involving the launch of a Loss and Damage Fund.
12. **Welcome** the hosting by the United Arab Emirates of COP28, which will be held from 30 November to 12 December 2023, and **invites** Member States to participate actively in this Conference.
13. **Welcome** the offer made by the State of Qatar to host the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in 2023, in parallel with the Horticultural Expo 2023 Doha.
14. **Reiterate** our commitment to continue working on the reform of the OIC with a view to developing its working mechanisms to keep pace with regional and global changes, and modern-time realities;
15. **Recall** the previous OIC resolutions and declarations adopted by the Summit conferences and the CFM meetings on the reform of the United Nations and expanding the membership of the UN Security Council, by granting a permanent seat to the OIC countries to ensure a fair and equitable representation of the Islamic Ummah;
16. **Reaffirm** our rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, condemn all attempts to link it to a particular country, religion, race, ethnicity or civilization, and renew our call for the activation of solidarity and integration mechanisms to prevent terrorist acts, in accordance with the principles of international law, and the UN and OIC Charters;
17. **Express** our deep concern at the escalation of Islamophobia, hatred of Muslims and deliberate abuse of Muslims and Islamic symbols and sanctities, including the defamation of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and the recent incidents of burning the Holy Qur'an;
18. **Express** our concern at the growing phenomena of refugee and humanitarian displacement in various parts of the world, especially in some OIC countries, and stress the need to provide support to countries hosting refugees and displaced persons, and extend our thanks to the countries that have made efforts in this regard;
19. **Underline** the need to protect the fundamental rights of women, including the right to life, security and dignity; and **welcome** the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host an international conference on Women in Islam, in coordination with the OIC General

Secretariat, with the aim of clarifying women's rights and responsibilities, especially the right to education and work, as prescribed by the teachings of the sublime Islamic religion, with a large participation of Muslim scholars;

20. **Urge** Member States to continue their endeavors in international fora in the UN system, including the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, as well as relevant international organizations, to address widespread human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims and provide protection to them;
21. **Recall** the Kuala Lumpur Declaration adopted at the 8th Annual Independence Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) International Seminar on 5-6 October 2022 which call on Member States, international community and other stakeholders to grant refugees the right to access to education.
22. **Welcome** the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the auspices of the People's Republic of China.
23. **Commend** the resolution proposed by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, calling for establishing a Youth Support Fund in the Sahel and the Lake Chad region, as part of an integrated strategy to combat extremism and promote the true, moderate understanding of Islam. The Fund would be financed by voluntary contributions from Member States and the private sector, in accordance with the rules and procedures followed in the Organization; and call on the OIC General Secretariat to coordinate with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Chair of the 49th CFM, to establish the Fund's Statute and mechanisms;
24. **Appreciate** the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in the service of Islam and the causes of the Ummah, following in the footsteps of the *Shanaqta* scholars who have contributed to spreading the eternal message of Islam throughout the world;
25. **Extend** congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the selection of Nouakchott as "Capital of Culture of the Islamic World" for the year 2023, and commend the activities and initiatives it is undertaking in this field.
26. **Call** on the OIC Member States as well as its competent financial institutions to provide greater aid to the countries of Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, plagued by a surge of terrorism coupled by a humanitarian crisis.
27. **Welcome** the offer of the Republic of Cameroon to host the 50th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States.
28. **Welcome** the end of the armed conflict between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia; Reaffirm full solidarity with the Government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and reconstruct the liberated territories severely affected by the Armenian aggression with a view to enabling the earliest safe and dignified return of IDPs; and call on Armenia to abandon its aggressive rhetoric, cease infringing upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and establish good-neighborhood relations with Azerbaijan based on the mutual respect for and recognition of each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders.
