



**OIC/49-CFM/2023/REPORT**

**Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM)**

*(MODERATION: KEY TO SECURITY AND STABILITY)*

**NOUAKCHOTT, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA  
16-17 MARCH 2023  
(24-25 SHABAAN 1444H)**

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At the kind invitation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (*Moderation: Key to Security and Stability*), was held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania on 16-17 March 2023 (24-25 shabaan 1444h)

1. The Meeting was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
2. H.E. Mr Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, chair of the 48th session of the CFM, extended his congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on assuming the Chairmanship of the 49th Session of the CFM, and expressed his appreciation for the support extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the OIC host country and Chair of the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference. He affirmed that Pakistan has directed its efforts and actions, as chair of the Council's 48th session to steer the Organization and promote joint Islamic action, despite the global political environment threatened by use of force and dangerous situation created through occupation and tense security challenges. In this regard, while highlighting some of the initiatives of the OIC during Pakistan's chairmanship, he urged Member States to redouble their efforts towards promoting harmony, peace and security and sustainable development.
3. The Meeting then approved the composition of the Bureau as follows:

- Islamic Republic of Mauritania		Chair
- State of Palestine	}	Vice-Chairs
- Federal Republic of Nigeria		
- People's Republic of Bangladesh		
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan		Rapporteur

Following the announcement of the composition of the Bureau, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan handed over the Chairmanship to H.E. Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

4. Upon assuming the Chair, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritania welcomed the participating Ministers, delegations and invited guests to the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM. He

thanked Pakistan for the dynamic steering of work of the OIC during the 48<sup>th</sup> session. He further thanked the OIC Secretary General for the support extended to Mauritania in hosting the present session.

5. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Bin Abdullah Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delivered a speech in his capacity as the Chair of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Islamic Summit Conference. He highlighted some of the recent initiatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in promoting joint Islamic action, notably the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Combating Corruption and the Fourth Mediation Conference. He further highlighted the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support key OIC agenda items, such as, the cause of Palestine, the peace process in Yemen and the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. He briefed the Ministers on the positive development of dialogue between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, facilitated by the People's Republic of China, which resulted in an agreement to resume diplomatic ties between the two countries.
6. H.E Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, the OIC Secretary General, delivered a speech in which he praised the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its Chairmanship of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM and congratulated the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on assuming the Chairmanship of 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their unwavering support for the OIC and its General Secretariat. He noted the 49<sup>th</sup> Session is taking place at a time when the world is commemorating the First Anniversary of the UN General Assembly Resolution designating 15<sup>th</sup> March as the International Day against Islamophobia. He commended the resumption of diplomatic ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran; the State of Qatar for hosting successful 2022 Football World Cup; and the United Arab Emirates for convening the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28). Reviewing the Organization's activities since the 48<sup>th</sup> Session, the Secretary General highlighted the recent Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, developments in Afghanistan, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, Central African Republic, Guinea, and Mozambique, Nagorna Karabakh, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Cyprus. He further raised the issues of extremism and terrorism, humanitarian crises, human rights and the conditions of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States, including the plight of the Rohingya Muslims. He touched upon the work of the OIC in promoting interfaith dialogue, women and youth empowerment. He emphasized OIC's commitment to uplift, at the global level, its profile as the collective voice of the Muslim Ummah.
7. On behalf of H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Special Guest of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM, H.E. Mr. Khalid Khiari, Assistant Secretary General for Middle-East, Asia and the Pacific delivered a statement. He highlighted the

close cooperation between the UN and the OIC in dealing with global issues in particular, peace and security, mediation, combating intolerance, Islamophobia, Palestine, Rohingya Muslims and the Sahel region. He also assured the UN Secretary General's keenness in further collaboration between the two organizations towards promoting global peace and development.

8. H. E. Mr Mohamed Ould Cheikh El-Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, delivered the keynote address to the Council session. Noting that Mauritania is a hub of tolerance, solidarity and peace, the President underlined a need to instill the OIC's work in promoting the values of peace, moderation, solidarity and harmony towards achieving people's aspiration for sustainable development. He further highlighted the importance of advancing the Joint Islamic Action, economic integration between OIC Member States by developing intra-trade, promoting and creating an environment that encourages Islamic capital towards building sustainable development. The President in his address called for the State of Palestine to obtain full membership in the United Nations.
9. On the Special Session to commemorate the first anniversary of the International Day to combat Islamophobia, a short documentary video was displayed, which was followed by the statement of the OIC Secretary General, statement of the UN Alliance of Civilization, message from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its capacity as Chair of the Islamic Summit, statements from Republic of Djibouti and Republic of Turkiye, and a statement from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in its capacity as the Chair of the 49<sup>th</sup> CFM.
10. In the event, the Secretary General thanked the Republic of Mauritania for allowing the OIC to organize the Special Session within the programme of the 49<sup>th</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers. The Secretary General mentioned that the event represents an opportunity to raise awareness of the actual situation related to Islamophobia while calling for concrete global actions needed to combat menace of incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence based on one's religion. He also emphasized that the International Day to combat Islamophobia should be regarded as a universal day to counter measure any forms of religious hatred and intolerance. He also called upon all countries as well as international and regional organizations to commemorate 15<sup>th</sup> March as International Day to Combat Islamophobia and for stronger commitment to fighting xenophobia and to promoting the values of tolerance, understanding, interfaith harmony, dialogue and peaceful co-existing among different religions.
11. The CFM discussed and adopted its draft agenda and work program.
12. A Special Committee was convened to deliberate on pending draft resolutions.
13. The Committee of Six on Palestine held a meeting on the sidelines of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers under the Chairmanship of the OIC Secretary General who, in his speech, called for joining efforts to undertake effective diplomatic and legal steps on the international arena, in order to support the Palestinian Cause. He also stressed the need for Member States to present written and oral statements and provide financial contributions to support the current action at the International Court of Justice.

14. A Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was held on the sidelines of the CFM. The OIC Secretary-General in his capacity as the Chair of the Group, reiterated OIC's unwavering commitment in support of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.
15. The OIC Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Accountability for Human Rights Violations against the Rohingya held an open-ended meeting on the sidelines of 49<sup>th</sup> CFM Session. During the Meeting, the OIC Secretary General reiterated the OIC's firm position in support of the Rohingya and the need to continue its efforts to mobilize international support to find a lasting solution to this complex crisis.
16. A Ministerial Brainstorming Session entitled "Countering Violent Extremism" was held during the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers. In his opening remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, as the Chair of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, introduced the theme. The OIC Secretary General, in his remarks, expresses his appreciation to Mauritania for organizing the Brain Storming Session on a topic, i.e., most timely given the threats posed by extremist and terrorist groups within the OIC region for the last many decades. To root-out the menace, he urged the importance of combining securities strategies with preventing measures, promoting education, good governance, development, equality and justice. In this regard, he enumerated various measures for the Member States to consider during their deliberations. Participants highlighted strategies to counter extremism and terrorism.
17. 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.
18. Draft Resolution No. 3/49-LO on "Establishment of a permanent organ for the settlement of investment-related conflicts, within the OIC Agreement on Promotion, Protection, and Guarantee of Investment" was adopted with some amendments.
19. The Council decided to postpone the discussion of Draft Resolution No. 11/49 LO, concerning the establishment of an OIC Group in non-OIC Member States and International and Regional Organizations, to the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, in order to allow a more in-depth discussion of the matter and facilitate consensus among Member States on a unified formulation of the draft resolution.
20. The Council decided to postpone the discussion of Resolution No. 12/49 LO, concerning the legal documents to be signed by the Secretary-General, to the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and asked the General Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive legal study featuring the relevant international best practices and submit it to Member States for review before the next Ministerial Meeting.
21. The elections of the Assistant Secretaries-General for the three Geographical groups: Arab, Asian Groups and Africa, and the Election of the Assistant Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial Affairs were held in Nouakchott. As for the African Group, they agreed to choose a unified candidate. Saudi Arabia nominated its candidate for the

Headquarters Country, and the State of Palestine nominated its candidate for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs. Accordingly, the Council appointed the proposed Assistant Secretaries-General whose names were listed in the adopted resolution, for a five-year term, effective as from July 1, 2024.

22. Draft Resolution No. 1/49-MM on Safeguarding the Rights of Muslim Communities and Minorities in Non-OIC Member States was adopted.

23. Draft Resolution No.3/49-MM on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim Population of the Dodecanese was adopted.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq and Bahrain made reservations on this Resolution.

24. Draft Resolution No. 5/49-ICHAD on “Strengthening Cooperation and Solidarity in Confronting the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Islamic World” was adopted with reservation of Morocco on PP 26.

25. Draft resolution No.19/49-POL on the Situation in Cyprus was adopted with reservations from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq and Bahrain.

26. Draft Resolution No.30/49-POL on the Reform of the United Nations and Expansion of UN Security Council’s Membership was adopted.

27. Draft Resolution No.33/49-POL on Sawt Al-Hikma (Voice of Wisdom) for Anti-Extremist Rhetoric was adopted with the reservation by Algeria on operative paragraph 17.

28. Draft Resolution No. 41/49-POL on Countering Terrorism and Extremism was adopted. Morocco made reservation on operative paragraphs 8. Algeria made reservation on operative paragraph 37.

29. Draft Resolution No. 54/49-POL on “Combating Human Trafficking, especially modern slavery and sex trafficking in women and children” was adopted. Algeria made reservation on operative paragraph 7.

30. Draft Resolution No. 63/49-POL on “Strengthening Cooperation against Extremism” was adopted with the reservation by Morocco on operative paragraph 3.

31. Draft Resolution No. 69/49-POL on “supporting the outcomes of Tashkent international Conference Afghanistan Security and Economic Development” was adopted.

32. Draft Resolution No.45/49-POL on the Attack against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Embassy in Tehran and Consulate in Mashhad was withdrawn at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

33. Draft Resolution No. 2/49-PAL on the Capital of the State of Palestine Al-Quds Al-Sharif was adopted with the reservation of Algeria on OP 38 and OP 39.

34. “The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses that its support to the resolutions adopted on Palestine and those on the peace and security in the Middle East should not explicitly or implicitly be construed in any way as recognition of the Israeli Zionist regime or any support to the normalization of relations with this illegitimate and fake regime. The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly holds that any move towards recognition of the Zionist occupiers of Palestine and normalization of relations with this regime should be considered as attempts with negative consequences against the Palestinians ending up undermining the cause of Palestine”.
35. Draft Resolution No. 22/49-POL on the Strengthening of the Security of Non-Nuclear Weapon States Against the use or Threat of use of Nuclear Weapons was adopted with the reservation of Pakistan on OP 4.
36. “The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects the text of the resolution No.14/49-POL on the “Solidarity with Yemen and Support for Constitutional Legitimacy”. Iran believes that “the resolution is not the objective reflection of the situation on the ground in Yemen and that it deliberately ignores the main cause of the current security and humanitarian crisis in this country”.
37. “The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly rejects the resolution No.68/49-POL entitled “The Attack against the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran”. The draft resolution was adopted in contravention of the provisions of the OIC Statute and the rules of procedure of the OIC CFM and is based on false assumptions of one party to the incident while completely ignoring the explanations, arguments, and rule-based suggestions of the other party.”
38. On behalf of all participants, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), conveyed a message of thanks to H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ould Cheikh Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, for his country’s hosting of the 49th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations, which has largely contributed to the success of this event.

**Nouakchott, Mauritania, 17 March 2023**