

## **REPORT**

## OF THE OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF

# THE AD HOC MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE ROHINGYA

HELD ON THE SIDELINES OF

THE 49TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

NOUAKCHOTT, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

17 MARCH 2023

## Report of the Open-Ended Meeting of the OIC Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Accountability for Human Rights Violations against the Rohingya

#### Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania 17 March 2023

- 1. The OIC Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on Accountability for Human Rights Violations against the Rohingya, held an open-ended meeting, chaired by H.E. Mr. Dawda A. Jallow, Attorney General, Minister of Justice of The Republic of The Gambia, on 17 March 2023 in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on the sidelines of the 49th Council of Foreign Ministers.
- 2. The Meeting reiterated the central role of the OIC Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee and the staunch commitment of OIC Member States to bring justice and accountability for the Rohingya Muslims.
- 3. The Meeting reaffirmed that The Gambia, in its capacity as Chair of the Committee, has the mandate from the Islamic Summit Conference and the Council of Foreign Ministers to file the case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- 4. The Meeting welcomed the Statement made by the OIC Secretary General, in which he reiterated the firm position of OIC to defend the rights and interests of the Rohingya and underlined the need to strengthen dialogue with key international actors to tackle the underlying causes of this complex crisis and find a durable solution to it.
- 5. The Meeting was briefed by the Attorney General, Minister of Justice of the Republic of the Gambia on the latest developments related to the case against Myanmar at the ICJ.
- 6. The Meeting was also briefed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on the recent developments pertaining to the Rohingya issue.
- 7. The Meeting expressed serious concern over the fact that the Rohingya community continues to face systematic discrimination in Rakhine state, including killing, rape, eviction and forced expulsion of inhabitants and persistent blatant violations of the human rights of the Rohingya Muslims, including after Myanmar's military coup on 1 February 2021;
- 8. The Meeting expressed deep indignation at credible reports and assessments of various international and human rights organizations that recent atrocities are part of a systematic strategy and plan of ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims of Rakhine State;
- 9. The Meeting urged Myanmar to address the underlying causes of the conflict and restore the legitimate rights of the Rohingya Muslims, especially the right to citizenship, protect the rights of Muslim minorities in Myanmar and take concrete actions to ensure the voluntary, safe, dignified

- and sustainable return and resettlement of the Rohingya to their legitimate homeland in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.
- 10. The Meeting underlined the importance of holding accountable all those responsible, including instigators and perpetrators, for brutal acts and crimes against the Rohingya Muslims, in order to deliver justice to victims using all legal instruments and international judicial mechanisms.
- 11. The Meeting commended the leading role of the Gambia, Chair of the Ministerial Committee, for filing a legal case before the ICJ, on behalf of the OIC, to end the culture of impunity by bringing all those responsible to justice for gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws and principles.
- 12. The Meeting expressed full solidarity with the People's Republic of Bangladesh and other OIC Member States for hosting and sheltering the Rohingya refugees and called on OIC Member States and the international community to further support Bangladesh in providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees until their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation to their homeland in Myanmar.
- 13. The Meeting underlined the collective efforts that had led to the historic and unanimous Order of the ICJ, in January 2020, on Provisional Measures, urging Myanmar to cease all actions that could amount to genocide and to preserve any evidence related to any acts of genocide. It further urged Myanmar to fully comply with the Order of the Court and take all measures to prevent the commission of all acts of genocide against the Rohingya.
- 14. The Meeting welcomed the UN Security Council Resolution 2669 (2022) regarding the grave situation in the country, which is the first ever UNSC Resolution on Myanmar, and underscored the need for concerted efforts by all relevant stakeholders towards the implementation of this resolution and previous UN General Assembly Resolutions adopted on the Rohingya crisis.
- 15. The Meeting welcomed the ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on July 22, 2022, rejecting Myanmar's preliminary objections to the case and further urged Myanmar to fully comply with the ruling of the Court.
- 16. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the strong support to the case by Canada, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Germany. It also commended the declaration of the United States that Myanmar committed genocide and the evidence provided to The Gambia to support the case.
- 17. The Meeting commended the recent efforts of the OIC Secretary General to invite all OIC Member States to contribute to the special account established to cover the legal fees pertaining to the Case.
- 18. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the OIC Member States and OIC Institutions that have contributed to the special account related to the case and requested them to consider increasing their contributions.

- 19. The Meeting appreciated the generous contribution of one Million USD provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia amounting in addition to the previously paid US\$ 300,000 to the special account of the case and commended the People's Republic of Bangladesh for its additional contribution of USD 200,000 in addition to the earlier contribution of USD 500,000.
- 20. The Meeting urged OIC Member States, which have not contributed yet, to join this collective effort in support for the case, in accordance with the principles of shared responsibility, and in the spirit of Islamic solidarity.
- 21. The Meeting renewed its request to the Chair to reach out to OIC Member States, through official channels, in order to consider the possibility for Member States to mobilize required funds from the private institutions, and invited the General Secretariat to coordinate this effort.

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