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**RESOLUTIONS
ON
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**12TH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (COMIAC)**

**{Theme: What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace,
solidarity and tolerance?}**

**DAKAR, REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL
1-3 RABII AL-THANI 1445 AH
OCTOBER 16-18, 2023**

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**RESOLUTION NO. 1/12-C
ON
GENERAL CULTURAL MATTERS**

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 14th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 48th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 11th Session of COMIAC;

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the following subjects:

A) DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS

Recalling the principles of The Tehran Declaration adopted in December 1997 by the 8th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference affirming that Islamic Civilization has always and throughout history been rooted in peaceful co-existence, cooperation, mutual understanding, and constructive dialogue with other civilizations and other ideologies; and also underlining the need to build understanding between civilizations; **bearing in mind** Resolution No. 53/22 adopted by the UN General Assembly, designating the year 2001 as the “UN Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations” which called for taking all measures aiming at enhancing the concept of dialogue among civilizations; and **recalling** also the provisions of The OIC-2025: Programme of Action called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its subsidiary, specialized and affiliated bodies to contribute as a partner to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and related efforts in this regard,

Recalling the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly 73/128 of 12 December 2018 on Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance, initiated by the Republic of Uzbekistan, co-sponsored by 50 States, including 32 Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Recalling the resolution of the United Nation General Assembly 68/127, entitled “A World against Violence and Violent Extremism”

Bearing in mind that States have the primary responsibility to promote human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Underlining the importance of promoting peace, respect on human rights, tolerance, harmonious coexistence, and friendship,

Seriously concerned by intolerance and the existence of discrimination on account of religion or belief, and by the ongoing violence in the world, in which terrorist groups have targeted people for their religion or beliefs,

Convinced that promoting religious tolerance will contribute to the fulfillment of the goals of universal peace, social justice, friendship, the protection of human rights and the elimination of ignorance and practices of violence,

Welcoming the valuable role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in contributing towards a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world by promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs,

1. **Commends** the initiative on Inter-faith and Intercultural Dialogue propounded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was concretized in the Conference of Makkah in 2005 which saw the participation of Muslim Scholars from different schools of thought and which paved the way to the organization of the International conference held in Madrid with the participation of a large number of followers of world civilizations and cultures and insisted on the unity of the humanity and on equality among peoples, regardless of their colors, races and cultures;
2. **Lauds** Pakistan's efforts for adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution on "Promoting Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue", acknowledging significance and respect for religious symbols and revered personalities;
3. **Commends** the convening of the high level Consultation of World Muslim Scholars on Wasatiyyat Islam, held in Bogor, the Republic of Indonesia, on May 2018 by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia;
4. **Welcomes** the "Bogor Message" containing the principal points on "moderation" for promoting peace, tolerance, and harmonious life within the Islamic World as well as among religions;
5. **Commends** the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aimed at activating this initiative through the establishment of a relevant mechanism, namely King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), whose headquarters were established in Vienna, Austria and presently located in Lisbon, Portugal, and **calls on** the Member States to actively contribute with ideas, suggestions, and recommendations of making the Center an effective institution for promoting interfaith and inter-civilization dialogue;
6. **Commends** the OIC General Secretariat for having implemented programs and activities to materialize its cooperation with the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), including through joint-events of interreligious talks on "The role of religious and community leaders in the implementation of the peace agreements in Central African Republic", held in Dakar, Senegal in December 2017; and also through join-project to improve Muslim-Buddhist relationship in East and Southeast Asia, notably the Strategic Workshop on Interreligious Dialogue held in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, in December 2017 and Welcomes the Plan of Action resulted from the Round-table event in Dakar, Senegal on 8-11 December 2017 which aimed at promoting peace and

reconciliation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and, Encourages Member States to provide technical as well as financial supports to the implementation points enlisted in the aforementioned Plan of Action;

7. **Commends** the outcomes of the Strategic Workshop on “Religious Coexistence in South Asia: Addressing the contemporary challenges related to Buddhist-Muslim relationships” held on 18-20 December 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, in cooperation with KAICIID, Interreligious Council of Thailand (IRC)/Religions for Peace (RfP), the Mahidol University, and Fatoni University; and encourages the General Secretariat to continue implementing similar programs and activities to promote peaceful coexistence among religions living in the South and Southeast Asia region;

8. **Welcomes** further activity with KAICIID aimed at finding innovative solutions which may manage and mitigate violent fault lines affecting societies in the South and Southeast Asia, including the ‘Buddhists and Muslim tensions’, through Interreligious Dialogue being held in December 2019 in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia;

9. **Calls** the General Secretariat and relevant OIC Organs to continue developing the scheme of ‘rapprochement’ by taking measures to increase the relations between the Muslim World and multiple cultures and civilizations, mainly through inter-civilization and inter-cultural dialogues with Sino, Russia, Western Societies, Buddhist, and Hindu Civilizations;

10. **Commends** the outcome of the Washington Conference on the “Alliance of Religions” organized by the Forum for Promoting Peace on 5-7 November 2017, with the participation of religious leaders representing different divine religions, and influential academics and researchers from the US, Muslim countries and other countries; which culminated in the establishment of the global “Alliance of Virtue for the Common Good”, for the good of all humanity;

11. **Commends** the efforts of the United Arab Emirates through the Peace Promotion Forum which was established in 2014 under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah and held three sessions in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, and Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco; It also made significant efforts to promote sound Islamic thought and the civilized image of Islam in dealing with others and protecting non-Muslim minorities in Muslim countries;

12. **Pays tribute** to the extensive efforts made by the United Arab Emirates through the Muslim Council of Elders, sponsored by the United Arab Emirates, which was established in 2014 under the chairmanship of Sheikh Al-Azhar Al-Sharif and has made considerable efforts through dialogue of civilizations between East and West in both Italy and France. Several meetings with the Elders of the West were held to bring together the Islamic and Christian perspectives through the common denominators that unite Islam, Christianity and other monotheistic religions for the sake of peaceful coexistence and cooperation among civilizations to the benefit of mankind;

13. **“Commends** the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, signed by Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and Chairperson of the Council

of Wise Muslims, and Pope Francis of the Catholic Church, under the patronage of the UAE, on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates”;

14. **Commends** the UAE’s efforts in sponsoring the new Hilf al-Fudul (League of the Virtuous) for religious coexistence, peace and harmony, which was signed by the representative heads of various religions on 10 December 2019 in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, and **praises** the Emirati efforts to organize a forum for peace;

15. **Welcomes** the hosting by the United Arab Emirates of the Conference of Islamic Unity under the theme: “Opportunities, Concepts and Challenges,” held in Abu Dhabi on 8 and 9 May 2022;

16. **Commends** the High Patronage conferred by His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the Conference on the Rights of Religious Minorities in the Muslim World held in Marrakech in January 2016, during which the Marrakech Declaration was adopted as a cornerstone in the promotion of dialogue and interaction among various religions;

17. **Commends** the great efforts of the UAE through the launch of the Award for World Peace of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, which recognizes individuals and organizations that make outstanding contributions to world peace, the biggest world award of USD 1.5 million, as well as the efforts of the Government of the UAE in promoting moderate Islamic culture in the country and beyond;

18. **Commends** the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in initiating, at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010, The World Interfaith Harmony Week, which has been observed in every first week of the month of February since the year of 2011;

19. **Reiterates** the OIC’s support to the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, convened triennially on the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and **appreciates** all religious leaders of the OIC Member States and the high-rank officials of the General Secretariat who have participated and actively contributed to the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana City, 14-15 September 2022;

20. **Commends** the OIC General Secretariat for successfully organizing a Hybrid Seminar with the theme “Connecting Further at the Post-Covid19 Contemporary World: Enhancing Dialogue between the Islamic World and Other Great Civilizations”, Jeddah, 10 October 2022, with speakers from China, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United States of America, OIC-IRCICA, and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), stressing the importance of dialogue among civilizations in addressing global challenges such as the pandemic and the undeniable role of faith leaders, in collaboration with governments and other actors, in tackling problems on the ground;

21. **Commends** the efforts of the United Arab Emirates in promoting tolerance among peoples and nations through the World Tolerance Summit which was held again in Dubai on 13-14 November 2019 with the participation of more than 3000 participants, including government leaders, academic peace experts, etc. It aimed to highlight the values of constructive co-existence conducive to a world characterized by tolerance. The UAE efforts also included holding Hilf Al-

Fudul Conference (League of the Virtuous) held in the capital city Abu Dhabi on 9-10 December 2019, with the participation of over 1000 participants;

22. **Commends** the United Arab Emirates, which announced the year 2019 as the Year of World Tolerance. The celebration ceremony took place in Abu Dhabi on 3-4 February 2019 in the presence of the Pope, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Chairperson of the Muslim Council of Elders, and all prominent leaders of various religions. This year also included prominent events on tolerance among civilizations;

23. **Commends** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which assumed the Group of Twenty (G20) Presidency in 2020, to have successfully presided the Group and hosted the G20 Summit in Riyadh. In line with it, the Group also hosted the G20 Interfaith Forum that has gathered more than 2,000 participants from all over the world, to have a dialogue on a wide array of issues ranging from hate speech to Covid-19 to gender parity and economic displacement;

24. **Commends** the Republic of Indonesia to have successfully presided the Group of Twenty (G20) in 2021-2022 and hosted its summit in November 2022, in Bali, Indonesia, with the core theme “Recover Together, Recover Stronger”. Through the presidency of Indonesia, the Group has organized a forum namely Religion 20 (R20), with a theme “Revealing and Nurturing Religion as a Source of Global Solutions”, co-chaired by the Nahdatul Ulama of the Republic of Indonesia and the World Muslim League in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

25. **Applauds** the Kingdom of Bahrain for successfully organizing the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue, organized in Manama, 3 – 4 November 2022, under the theme “East-West Dialogue for Human Coexistence” as well as for its efforts in supporting just causes of humanity, spreading the culture of quiet and purposeful interreligious dialogue, advancing opportunities for peaceful coexistence among people and consolidating the principles of tolerance, solidarity and coexistence;

26. **Commends** the Republic of the Gambia for effectively co-organizing, with the Muslim World League, the conference titled “International Inter-Faith Conference on Peace, Harmony, Unity, and Diversity amongst the Muslim Umma and World”, held in Banjul, 6 December 2022, which brought all African and World Religious Leaders/Scholars;

27. **Calls upon** Member States to maintain a common stance in supporting the application of the principles and purposes of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

28. **Urges** Member States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

29. **Commends** the OIC General Secretariat for successfully co-organizing, with the European Union, a Virtual Seminar on Freedom of Religion and Belief, Interfaith, and Intercultural Dialogue, on 24 February 2022, and presenting on “OIC Framework to Promote Tolerance and Interfaith Dialogue”, emphasizing the importance and necessity to chart a more significant road map for the OIC-EU engagement on interfaith dialogue;

30. **Calls on** Member States to support various types of intercultural engagement and peace-building at the national and international levels;
31. **Requests** the relevant OIC institutions to support research activities on enlightenment and religious tolerance;
32. **Expresses** deep concern about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments, including those carried out in connection with incitement to national, racial or religious hatred;
33. **Invites** Member States to implement appropriate communications strategies, such as wide-scale awareness-raising campaigns in national and international media, as well as through the Internet, and to disseminate educational information on tolerance, non-violence and freedom of religion or belief;
34. **Commends** the outcomes of the international symposium on “Promoting the Values of Peace and Dialogue”, held on 18-20 April 2016 in Sousse in Tunisia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in the Republic of Tunisia, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO);
35. **Commends** the Secretary General for engaging in dialogue with the United Nations, and other international organizations, including the OSCE and Council of Europe, political leaders and civil society to underscore the concerns as well as raise global awareness over the dangers of Islamophobia and for his initiative calling for a historical reconciliation between Islam and the Christianity;
36. **Calls on** the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), and the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) to continue to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-civilization dialogue through concrete and sustainable initiatives, conferences and symposia; and appeals to all Member States, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), and the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) to provide with possible financial support for the success of these dialogues;
37. **Commends** the active role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue through hosting numerous international events, especially biennial World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, held within the “Baku Process”, as well as the Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations held on 25-27 April, 2016 in Baku, and 1st and 2nd Baku Summits of World Religious Leaders held in 2010 and 2019”;
38. **Applauds** the initiatives, programs and activities taken by the General Secretariat and those by the relevant OIC Specialized and subsidiary bodies in particular the ICESCO and IRCICA for celebration of 2010 as the International Year for Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for peace;

39. **Calls** upon all Member States to give necessary assistance and support to the Dialogue and Outreach Department in implementing its mandates, considering the important role that the OIC plays in boosting dialogue, outreach and openness with all other cultures and civilizations, as described in the Secretary General's Report at the 45th CFM;
40. **Commends** the International Conference held by Al-Azhar Al-Shareef and the Council of Muslim Elders on 17-18 January 2018 in Cairo, under the patronage of President Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi, which reaffirmed the Arab and Islamic character of Al-Quds and the invalidity of all measures taken by the US President to relocate the US Embassy to Al-Quds;
41. **Commends** the organization, in February 2022, of the 32nd International Conference of the Egyptian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, under the theme of "The Contract of Citizenship and its Impact on Achieving Societal and Global Peace", and HAILS the constructive outputs of this conference;
42. **Appreciates** the organization, by the Arab Republic of Egypt represented by Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, of the International Conference on "Freedom and Citizenship : Diversity and Integration", in February 2017;
43. **Commends** the organization, by Al-Azhar Al-Sharif in cooperation with the League of Arab States, of the International Conference on "Extremism and its Negative Impact on the Future of Arab Cultural Heritage", in December 2017;
44. **Welcomes** the organization by the Egyptian Ministry of Awqaf, in cooperation with the League of Islamic Universities, the University of Alexandria, the Muslim World League, and the Institute of Moderation at King Abdulaziz University, of the International Conference on "the Role of Universities in Serving Society and Consolidating Values", in September 2022;
45. **Commends** Cairo's hosting, in September 2022, of the Second Conference on Peaceful Coexistence, organized jointly with the Islamic Broadcasting Union;
46. **Commends** Cairo's hosting, in June 2021, of the International Conference organized by the World Association of Al-Azhar Graduates for the representatives of Fulani language-speaking countries, under the theme of "Peaceful Coexistence in a Multi-Religious Society";
47. **Commends** the organization, in June 2022, by the "Salam Center" affiliated with the Egyptian Dar Al Iftaa, of the first International Conference on "Religious Extremism: Intellectual Premises and Response Strategies, to discuss the causes of this destructive scourge and ways to confront it;
48. **Welcomes** the hosting, by the Library of Alexandria, in November 2022, of the International Conference entitled: "Coexistence, Tolerance and Acceptance of the Other: Towards a Better Future", designed to open up channels of dialogue between participants on ways of promoting the values of coexistence and tolerance;
49. **Welcomes** the United Nations' "Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites: In Unity and Solidarity for Safe and Peaceful Worship" launched by the UN Secretary General in September 2019;

B) ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

Cognizant of the need to promote greater harmony and understanding between and among different cultures and civilizations,

Referring to the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, particularly the Goal 2.3 that focuses on “Moderation, Inter-Cultural and Interfaith Dialogue and Harmony”, and reemphasizing its premise that inter-civilization dialogue, based on mutual respect and understanding, and equality amongst peoples are prerequisites for international peace and security, tolerance and peaceful co-existence,

Acknowledging, in this respect, the valuable contribution of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), launched jointly by Türkiye, and Spain in 2005 to attaining the goals stated in the OIC’s Ten-Year Action Plan,

Remembering its resolutions 1/38-C, 1/39-C, 1/40-C, 1/41-C, 1/42-C, 1/43-C, 1/44-C, 1/45-C, 1/46-C, and 1/47-C on the Alliance of Civilizations adopted by the 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th and 48th Sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, respectively,

Recalling also the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the General Secretariat of the OIC and the UNAOC, **underlining** the significance of the Conclusions of the various UNAOC global forums in stemming the tide of intolerance, extremism and polarization between the Islamic world and the West as well as **encouraging** greater cross-cultural understanding,

Emphasizing the importance of membership in the Group of Friends of the UNAOC to effectively contribute to the Alliance’s noble goals,

Noting the UNAOC’s adoption of a Regional Strategy for Southern Europe, the Mediterranean, and Latin America,

Also noting the adoption of UNAOC Action Plan 2019-2023 presenting an overview of the Alliance’s vision and priorities in the four-year period.

1. **Commends** the Secretary-General for his efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the General Secretariat of the OIC and the UNAOC, and also for the OIC’s constructive contributions to the UNAOC meetings and for proposing joint projects;
2. **Commends** the General Secretariat for the decision to form a bilateral consultation with the UNAOC on a regular basis, as well as for the establishment of joint OIC-UNAOC team to follow-up and review the annual progress of the implementation of the MoU between the OIC and the UNAOC;
3. **Commends** the efforts of the Republic of Türkiye and the Kingdom of Spain for the inauguration of the Geneva Office of the UN Alliance of Civilization on 8 November 2021 and encourages the Member States to support the activities of the Office;
4. **Welcomes** the progress in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites and calls upon Member States to further cooperate with the UN Alliance of Civilization in this regard;
5. **Calls on** Member States that have not yet done so, to join the Group of Friends of the UNAOC;

6. **Calls on** Member States Members of the Group of Friends to reaffirm support to the UNAOC and express conviction that UNAOC plays an important role as a global platform for sharing good practices for living together in inclusive societies;
7. **Calls upon** Member States of the OIC to actively participate in the work of the Alliance, particularly the development and adoption of the Alliance's regional strategies and related guiding documents, and the implementation thereof;
8. **Encourages** all Member States to utilize their participation at UNAOC's activities to call for wider implementation of Resolution 16/18, as the best way forward for combating incitement to hatred, violence and discrimination based on religion;
9. **Commends** the Kingdom of Morocco for the successful organization of the Ninth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations held in Fez, 22 – 23 November 2022 and **welcomes** the final declaration entitled "Towards an Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity", adopted by consensus;

C) CULTURAL STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION

Taking note of the reports of the Consultative Council on Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Muslim World (CCICS) adopted at its earlier meetings and the importance of the protection of intellectual and cultural heritage against external threats:

1. **Calls upon** the ICESCO to develop a comprehensive action plan to ensure the implementation of the revised Cultural Strategy of the Muslim World adopted at the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan, on 21-23 November 2017;
2. **Hails** the adoption of the Tunis Declaration "Towards the development of current cultural policies in the Islamic world" issued by the 11th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers held in Tunis (17-18 December 2019) and reiterates the call upon Member States and relevant Islamic institutions and bodies to consider the implementation of its conclusions and orientations;
3. **Calls upon** the Member States to implement cultural programs and projects in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and ICESCO in line with the amended Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World;
4. **Commends** the activities carried out by ICESCO and cultural capitals since 2011, and expresses deep gratitude to Member States that actively participated in these events;
5. **Calls** for the activation of the Council of the Ambassadors of the OIC Member States in Europe and the America to hold cultural and artistic activities in order to convey the true message of Islam, aiming to improve the image of Muslims, spread Islamic values and cultures to confront hatred and Islamophobic sentiments and serve joint Islamic causes in these countries;
6. **Calls upon** the Member States to develop action plans on the updated OIC Cultural Strategy with a view to enhancing and projecting the cultural values and strengths of the Muslim world and especially in mitigating and dispelling Islamophobia;

7. **Appreciates** the recommendations and outcomes of the symposium held by the National Center for Archives and Records in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in cooperation and coordination with the General Secretariat in Riyadh on 10 Dhul Qa'ada 1443AH (9 June 2022) on “National Archives in Islamic states: outstanding Experiences and Future Orientation”;
8. **Applauds** the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to convene the first meeting of senior officials in charge of national archives in OIC Member States in 2023 in order to promote cooperation and exchange of expertise and experiences among Member States and to provide mutual support among archiving agencies to keep pace with developments and benefit from best practices and international experiences in the field, given the fact that archives contain huge human heritage and sources of information that should be preserved;
9. **Commends** the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in launching the Culture and Green Future Initiative in partnership with the Arab league Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) during the 23rd session of the conference of ministers in charge cultural affairs in the Arab world hosted in Riyadh in December 2022, and looks forward to similar initiatives being launched with specialized agencies of the OIC, particularly the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) with the objective of serving OIC states in their untiring efforts to spread awareness about the role of culture and support the collective efforts to promote knowledge, skills and practices to make the cultural sector in OIC states more sustainable, environment-friendly and achieve efficiency in the use of Member States' resources in this regard;

RESOLUTION NO.2/12-C
ON
PALESTINIAN CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 14th Ordinary and the 7th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conference, the 46th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 11th Session of COMIAC,

Also recalling the Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016) which stipulated, inter alia, “that it will not recognize any changes to the 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem”; while **stressing** the importance of this resolution in creating better prospects for achieving comprehensive, lasting and just peace,

Taking into consideration the policies and practices of Israel, the authority of illegitimate occupation towards the Arab citizens in the occupied Palestinian territories, aimed primarily at the eradication of their cultural identity, along with Israel’s attempts to obliterate and disintegrate their national and Arab identity at all levels, including their history and heritage, spanning several millennia, and its continued practices to malign the Islamic civilization, distort historical and geographical facts, in addition to the ongoing policy of colonial settlement expansionism and racial discrimination and separation,

Condemning the crimes of aggression perpetrated by Israel, the authority of illegitimate occupation, on the land of the occupied Palestine especially in its capital city Al-Quds Al-Sharif, such as through forced displacement and expulsion of the indigenous Palestinians, construction and expansion of colonial settlements, and building the racist annexation and expansionist wall around the city for its Judaization,

Recalling the Jakarta Declaration adopted by the 5th Extraordinary Islamic Summit, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 6-7 March 2016 on Palestine and Al-Quds Ash-Sharif,

Stressing the importance of empowering the Palestinian people and the OIC Member States’ support to all efforts aiming to promote and develop quality education in Palestine and provide training to all Palestinian people, both in Palestine and in the Member States,

Expressing deep concern at the incessant Israeli threats and attacks against the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic and Christian holy places in the territory of the State of Palestine; and other attacks on Palestinian heritage sites, and other sites registered on the World Heritage List, including Al-Quds, Al-Khaleel, and Bethlehem,

Denouncing in the strongest terms the continued and escalating incursions of the occupation forces, its police, and the extremist colonialists into the courtyards of the blessed Aqsa Mosque,

and assaults on the worshipers, violating the sanctity of the blessed Al-Haram Al-Qudsi and the rituals of worship in it, as well as the calls by extremists, without accountability, to demolish Al-Aqsa Mosque, and their establishment of Talmudic prayers in it, in an effort to change the current legal and historical status, and the religious character of these places, in a blatant provocation to the feelings of Muslims and a continued aggression against the Palestinian people and Al-Quds and its sanctities, and **stressing** that there is no legal, religious or historical legitimacy for such steps, which must be confronted and stopped, Also condemning Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, for preventing tens of thousands of Muslims from practicing in prayers in their Mosque, in a flagrant violation of the freedom of worship of Muslims and their right to practice their religious rites in their city of Al-Quds,

Having considered the Secretary General's report on the following matters:

Decides what follows:

A) TWINNING OF PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITH UNIVERSITIES IN OIC MEMBER STATES

1. **Recommends** that all forms of financial and academic support be provided to Palestinian universities to enable discharge of their national educational role; **calls on** the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) to facilitate and encourage twinning agreements between Palestinian and FUIW affiliate counterparts for stronger cooperation; **invites** partner universities to exchange students via academic training programs; and calls for an annual conference of Palestinian and other universities from the Member States for further cooperation and mutual support in all fields, most notably in scientific research;
2. **Calls on** the Member States to allocate scholarships to Palestinian students in all areas of study; **expresses** appreciation to the Member States that have offered scholarships; and **urges** them to increase these scholarships and reduce tuition fees for Palestinian students;
3. **Calls on the** Member States, Islamic funds, the IDB and other OIC organs to contribute effectively and generously to Al-Quds University, in recognition of the importance of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and in support of education in the city;

B) THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED STATE OF PALESTINE AND SYRIAN GOLAN:

1. **Condemns** the targeting, sabotage, and systematic and widespread destruction, by Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, and its various tools of military, settlers, and politicians, of schools, universities, and cultural and heritage sites, in the land of the occupied State of Palestine, especially in the city of Al-Quds, and the repeated acts of aggression against it and its impact on the cultural and educational life, targeting teachers and students;
2. **Condemns** the distortion of the Palestinian curricula as part of a systematic and frenzied Israeli propaganda campaign to undermine the Palestinian national narrative and identity, and to cut off international aid from the Palestinian education sector, and **affirms** its rejection of all extortion campaigns and conditional support to the education sector. In this regard, **it calls on**

Member States to support all efforts undertaken by the State of Palestine and to provide financial support for this vital sector;

3. **Calls on the** Member States to declare a cultural and academic boycott of Israel the illegitimate occupying power, including Israeli universities, for their subversive role both in misrepresenting and distorting facts and the Palestinian narrative, and in promoting the colonial regime established by the illegal occupation authority;

4. **Condemns strongly** the attempts of Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, to impose Israeli curricula on the schools of the occupied city of Al-Quds to replace Arab Palestinian curricula and attempts to falsify and Israelize the Palestinian curriculum, and imposing sanctions on schools that refuse to comply with its decisions, including closing some of them to impose its version of history on Al-Quds citizens as a prelude to Judaize the city and obliterate its Arab identity, in a blatant violation of international laws and instruments; and **calls** for addressing an international appeal to counter such violations and for the OIC Group at the relevant UN fora to act promptly to compel Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, to stop its egregiously colonial and racial policies;

5. **Strongly Condemns** the continuous restrictions imposed by the occupation authorities on education in Al-Quds, including more precisely the Israeli threats to close UNRWA schools and other schools in Al-Quds Ash-Sharif, which through these measures seek to Judaize the city, undermine the Palestinian presence therein, and prevent Palestinian refugees from benefiting from UNRWA services;

6. **Calls on** the Member States to act on their previous decisions to finance the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan and to provide all necessary financial assistance to secure the funding required for the development of education in the occupied territories, in general, and in the East Jerusalem, in particular, and to actualize the educational aspect of the plan for the development of Eastern Al-Quds, in view of the extreme difficulties faced by the educational process in the Holy City on account of the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities to impose their own educational curricula, prevent the construction of schools or refuse their expansion and restoration, impose high taxes on schools reporting to the Palestinian Ministry of Education, close down schools outside their control, and erect security barriers impeding movement and transportation of teachers and students and prevent access to their places of work, schools and universities. They are also subjected to continuous harassment and attacks by settlers. The Council also **calls on** the Secretary General to continue work towards this end in association with the Member States and in cooperation with the competent parties in the State of Palestine;

7. **Condemns** in the strongest terms, the illegal and illegitimate Israeli measures and policies that target the cultural life in Palestine in general and the Occupied Al-Quds in particular, which specifically include banning the activities and functioning of the Maqdissi cultural institutions and closing them under flimsy allegations, imposing high taxes thereon, targeting the Palestinian intelligentsia, precluding the organization of cultural events, refusing the issuance of the required permits for Arab and Muslim intelligentsia to enter the State of Palestine, all forming part of the cultural blockade, along with other procedures that target the cultural and holy sites in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif through falsifying their history and stealing them;

8. **Calls** for the support of the cultural institutions and schools in the occupied Al-Quds City to enable them to continue their functioning and implement their cultural programmes aimed at protecting the Arab and Muslim identity of the city and countering the incessant Israeli attempts to Judaize and Israelize the City, falsify its history and change its idiosyncratic landmarks;

9. **Invites** the General Secretariat to produce an academic subject about the history of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, so as to acquaint generations of the Muslim Ummah with the historical, religious, and cultural significance of the city of Al-Quds and Al Aqsa Mosque and the coexistence between followers of revealed faiths, show the Palestinian people's suffering under occupation and identify their inalienable rights in their land. The Council also **calls on** the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Muslim World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) and with the State of Palestine, to prepare such materials and translate them into the OIC official languages, and hold in 2022 a symposium of experts to prepare this academic subject;

10. **Calls on** the Member States, in coordination with the State of Palestine, relevant United Nations bodies and international organisations to periodically conduct cultural and academic symposia, meetings and conferences on the question of Palestine and the religious, historical and cultural significance of Palestine with Al-Quds at its centre, with the ultimate aim being to highlight the city's contribution to the Muslim history and to Human civilization, and to introduce generations to its position in universal history;

11. **Calls on** the international community to shoulder its full responsibility in compelling Israel to abide by the rules of international law, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and all relevant international conventions, particularly those related to human as well as religious, cultural and social rights and the UNESCO agreements; and **calls on** the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to implement the measures adopted by the successive conferences of High Contracting Parties, according to the first article of the treaty, and take the necessary steps to end the incessant violations and crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian civilians measures, and work collectively to ensure the perpetrators of these crimes are held to account;

12. **Reiterates** its full support and assistance for the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan in their resistance against the oppressive Israeli practices, and their legitimate struggle to preserve their cultural, national, and Arab identity, and appeals to the United Nations and to specialized international bodies and institutions, particularly UNESCO, to counter these Israeli policies which violate international laws and conventions;

13. **Calls for** support to the steadfastness of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan against the Israeli practices aimed at obliterating their Arab cultural identity and proclaims its support for the preservation of the Syrian Arab educational curricula and the provision of their educational and cultural materials;

14. **Condemns** the unlawful and illegal actions and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against educational and other institutions in the occupied Syrian Golan, that contradict with the UNESCO principles, their cancellation of the Syrian educational curricula in the villages of the Golan, and their substitution by Israeli curricula, their imposition of the teaching of Hebrew instead of Arabic, their replacement of the teaching staff to serve the goals and directives of Israeli

policy, their imposition of measures to deny Syrian Arab citizens access to higher education in Syrian universities and their denying some of those who manage to get education in those universities the right to return to their homes;

C) THE CONTINUOUS ISRAELI AGGRESSIONS AND VIOLATIONS AGAINST ISLAMIC HOLY SITES AND CULTURE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE ISLAMIC CHARACTER, HUMAN HERITAGE, AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF

1. **Reiterates** the necessity of implementing all previous Islamic resolutions on the preservation of the Islamic character and human heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; and calls on the Member States to respect these resolutions, including through supporting and voting relevant resolutions at international institutions;

2. **Affirms** that all practices through which Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, seeks to change the character and status of the city and its demographic composition and annex parts of it are null and void and have no legal validity; and **calls on** the Member States to take all appropriate measures to counter the recognition of the illegal annexation of Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, of Al-Quds or the relocation of their embassies and representative offices to the Holy City;

3. **Calls for** continued urgent and effective action at all Islamic and international levels with a view to compelling Israel to rescind its decision to annex the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; reaffirming the City's Arab character and legal status; and rejecting its annexation or Judaization, in line with the relevant Resolutions of international legality, particularly United Nations Security Council Resolutions No. 465 (1980) and 478 (1980); while exerting all efforts in order to implement these two resolutions in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations and international legality;

4. **Condemns and rejects again** Israel's illegal decision to add Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque in Bethlehem to the Israeli heritage list, which is actually an act of looting Palestinian cultural and heritage sites. the Council also **calls on** the international community and UNESCO to assume their responsibilities of protecting the Palestinian cultural and heritage places, and compelling Israel to abide by international law and Geneva conventions including UNESCO conventions, and confirms that these are Palestinian sites registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and the Palestinian Heritage List and, in this regard, **invites** Member States to support the efforts of the State of Palestine in its quest for the inclusion of its cultural and tangible and intangible heritage sites in specialized world heritage lists;

5. **Condemns** in the strongest terms the ongoing campaign launched by the illegal occupation authorities to alter and distort the history of Islamic and Christian monuments and falsify the Arab civilizational history in Palestine, including those that target heritage and religious sites in historical Palestine, which have affected a number of important historical sites including the Mercy Gate, Bab Al-Khalil (Gate of Hebron), the Armenian quarter, the Al-Youssoufia cemetery and Mamilla cemetery, the largest Islamic cemetery in Al-Quds. The Council also commissions the Muslim Group within UNESCO to follow up on this matter and take the necessary steps thereto pertaining;

6. **Calls on** ICESCO and IRCICA to organize a campaign to restore cultural, heritage, historical and religious holdings stolen since 1947, including books and manuscripts; and **calls on** the Member States to support this campaign, and not to cooperate with institutions that contribute to the theft and distortion of the cultural heritage of the Palestinian people, including the Simon Wiesenthal Foundation and the Rockefeller Museum;

7. **Strongly condemns** the Israeli occupation authorities for building the Annexation and Separation Wall, the so-called Jerusalem Envelope, which seeks to isolate the City of Al-Quds from its Palestinian environment and for its unrelenting attempts to Judaize it by altering its civilizational, historical, and cultural landmarks. The Council also **insists on** the implementation of the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on 9 July 2004 concerning the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory; and **condemns** all states and entities that encourage this illegal behavior, including those states that opened diplomatic and commercial offices in Al-Quds;

8. **Strongly denounces** and decries the continued aggression perpetrated by Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, along with the Israeli attempts to install its temporal and spatial division by allowing settlers to enter and pray in the Mosque's compound; decries the continued excavations carried around and under the Mosque which led to the fall of a large section of the Mosque's fence on the Western Gate and endangered the Palestinians' houses;

9. **Requests** the General Secretariat to continue working with international agencies and institutions, particularly with UNESCO, to implement the initiative of UNESCO's Director General to restore Al-Quds Al-Sharif, preserve the historic buildings of the sacred city and the ancient buildings surrounding Al-Quds Holy Sanctuary; close the tunnels constructed by Israel; stop the excavation works especially on the south and west of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque; and counter any designs aimed altering and obliterating the Islamic character of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and dispatching a special representative of the UNESCO Director-General to Al-Quds, and a UNESCO exploratory mission to examine the devastating impact of Israel's actions on the Palestinian historical and cultural heritage in Al-Quds, especially in the Old City and its walls;

10. **Calls on** the Member States to contribute to the restoration of the old town in Al-Khalil and to safeguard the heritage and culture of this historic city and its Palestinian residents in order to counter Jewish colonialist settlement attack in the city; and **urges** the Member States to strengthen the steadfastness of Al-Khalil (Hebron) population, such as through importing products for which the city is known;

11. **Calls on** the Member States to support the establishment of cultural centers in the State of Palestine, and to develop cultural facilities and infrastructure, especially in Al-Khalil, and in remote and marginalized areas and those targeted by the Israeli occupation authorities through confiscation of lands to build and expand the Israeli settlements and build new sections of the Apartheid Wall, notably in Salfeet and Qalqilya Governorates and Al-Aghwar to solidify the steadfastness of the citizens in this area through the activation of the cultural life in these governorates that lack the infrastructure required by cultural action;

12. **Requests** the Member States to coordinate and intensify their efforts in the various international forums to counter the attempts of Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, to alter the

religious and historical character of Islamic and Christian sanctuaries on the land of the State of Palestine, and also to counter the partitioning of Mosque in Hebron and the settlement campaign at the heart of the city;

13. **Requests** the Member States to support the resolutions related to Al-Quds Ash-Sharif in international fora, while making statements at relevant sessions; **expresses** in this regard its regret at the failure of a number of Member States to support resolutions related to Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Palestinian cause;

14. **Requests** the General Secretariat to devise a plan of action, in coordination with the Member States, to promote religious tourism in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; and **calls** for practical steps to organize cultural weeks in member states, including photo exhibitions, seminars and the projection of documentaries on the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the aim being to raise awareness about the Israeli violations in the city;

15. **Requests** the General Secretariat to constitute an ad-hoc committee of legal and heritage experts from Member States to propose an action plan to face the grave violations perpetrated by Israel, the illegitimate occupying power, in the vicinity of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque in the form of excavations and threat to the Mosque's foundations, make necessary legal recommendations for the protection of the Mosque and other holy places in the city of Al-Quds Ash-Sharif and other parts of Palestine, and ensure follow-up at international forums; and **invites** the General Secretariat to conduct a workshop to accomplish this task;

16. **Calls on** the Member States to boycott all individuals, governments, companies, or institutions that contribute to the imposition of Israeli colonial occupation in the State of Palestine and the judaization of Al-Quds city, such as holding formal meetings in the city of Al-Quds, relocating its embassies in the city, installing projects as part of the Israeli colonial pattern in the State of Palestine, or adopting the fake Israeli narration of the city's history and religious standing. It also **calls** for circulating a nominal list of international companies and individuals contributing to the imposition of the Israeli control over the city of Al-Quds to Member States, in order to boycott of them in line with the relevant OIC resolutions;

17. **Calls on** the Member States to completely boycott all academic, cultural and artistic festivals and activities organized by public or private Israeli institutions – all the more so because these Israeli institutions use art and culture as a guise for incessant Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people, and as this enables Israeli cultural dominion over the Arab culture and arts in Palestine;

18. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and submit a detailed report on ways to support the educational and cultural situation in the State of Palestine to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3/12-C
ON
PROTECTION OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES**

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 14th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 48th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 11th Session of COMIAC,

Recalling the objectives of the OIC, which stress the need for coordinated effort to safeguard the Islamic Holy Places and strengthen the struggle of Islamic peoples for the preservation of their dignity, independence and national rights,

Affirming those objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the OIC aimed at coordinating efforts to safeguard and preserve the Islamic heritage,

Also recalling the Resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, on the unified stand against the desecration of Islamic Holy Places, especially Resolution No. 3/6-C (IS) of the Sixth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference,

Recalling the Resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the unified stand against the violations of the sanctity of the Sacred Muslim Places:

A) DESTRUCTION OF THE BABRI MASJID IN INDIA AND PROTECTION OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES

Noting that the Babri Masjid with its history spanning five centuries was the object of veneration and respect for Muslims all over the world,

Deploring attempts by hardline Hindu extremist organizations, in particular, the RSS, to create a fallacious religious justification for the demolition of the Babri Masjid,

Recalling that 2022 marked the 30th Anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid,

Regretting that India has taken no concrete steps towards rebuilding of the Masjid or punishing those responsible for the sacrilegious act of its destruction and killing of thousands of innocent Muslims in its aftermath,

Deeply regretting that many of the perpetrators involved in the destruction of the Babri Masjid enjoy power and authority in India, and have continued to foment a rabid anti-Muslim sentiment to further their political fortunes,

Recalling that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has consistently urged the Indian Government to prevent any violation of the sanctity of the Masjid and emphasized the responsibility of the Government of India for safeguarding the inviolability of the Masjid and protecting its building against attacks by Hindu extremists,

Rejecting the decision by the Indian Supreme Court in November 2019 blatantly sanctifying the demolition of the Babri Masjid and the construction of a Ram Mandir at the site,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief titled “Countering Islamophobia/Anti-Muslim Hatred to Eliminate Discrimination and Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief” which documents wide-spread and systematic attacks against the Muslim minority in India including their places of worship,

1. **Strongly condemns** the destruction of the historic Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, India, by Hindu extremists on 6 December 1992;
2. **Expresses deep regret** over the failure of the Indian authorities to take appropriate measures to protect this important Muslim holy site;
3. **Condemns** the forced and illegal entry of Hindu militants into the site of the Babri Masjid on 17 October 2001;
4. **Condemns** the failure of the Government of India to resolve the dispute, to provide safety and security to the Muslim minority in India and using Babri Masjid for political gains in favour of BJP and its ideological base RSS by inflaming the Hindu extremism;
5. **Deplores** the decision of the Indian Supreme Court regarding the historic Babri Masjid that allowed the construction of a Hindu temple at the very site where the Babri Masjid stood for about five centuries until it was demolished in an act of bloody political vandalism unparalleled in the modern world;
6. **Expresses deep concern** that the verdict contained several contradictions and failed to uphold the demands of justice and India’s obligations to protect its minorities and their places of worship;
7. **Deplores** the action by the Government of India to lay the foundation stone for the construction of the *Ram Mandir* on 5 August 2020, the first anniversary of India’s illegal actions in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and **underscores** that these actions reflect the systematic attempts by India to rewrite history by obliterating all vestiges of Islamic culture and tradition and to turn India into a Hindu *Rashtra*;
8. **Demands** India to ensure that the Babri Mosque is rebuilt on its original site and to take immediate steps for the protection of hundreds of vulnerable mosques and to ensure the safety and protection of Muslims and Islamic Holy sites throughout India;
9. **Further condemns** Gujarat riots, repugnant schemes like Ghar wapsi and ‘Love Jihad’, Citizenship Amendment Act (CCA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) and rising incidents

of lynching against minorities, resulting in the deaths and injuries to many Indian Muslims, as part of an extremist Hindutva ideology to convert India into a “Hindu Rashtra”;

10. **Further expresses deep concern** at the provocative statements of BJP leaders about Taj Mahal of having been built on the site of a Hindu temple, and views such statements as reflective of sinister plans to desecrate this historical site;

11. **Strongly believes** that such statements are totally against historical facts and are only aimed at denigrating the Muslim minority in India, and urges the Indian government to ensure the protection of this great historical site;

12. **Calls on** OIC Member States to raise the case of Babri Mosque at the UNESCO and the Islamic group at UNESCO to follow it up in a result-oriented manner in order to prevent occurrence of incidents of desecration of Islamic sites in India in future;

13. **Requests** the United Nations Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) to undertake a mapping exercise consisting of all such vulnerable religious sites in India with a view to improving their overall protection;

14. **Recommends** the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation to follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of Resolution 3/11-C (IS) adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Resolution 3/39-C adopted by 39th CFM, Resolution 3/40-C adopted by the 40th CFM, Resolution 3/41-C adopted by the 41st CFM, Resolution 3/42-C adopted by the 42nd CFM and Resolution 3/43-C adopted by the 43rd CFM, 3/44-C adopted by the 44rd CFM, 3/45-C of the 45th CFM, 3/46-C adopted by the 46th CFM, by the 47th CFM 3/47-C and adopted by 48th CFM which call upon the Government of India to:

- a) Ensure the safety and protection of the Muslims and all Islamic Holy Sites throughout India in accordance with its responsibilities and obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments.
- b) Take immediate steps to implement its solemn commitment to reconstruct the Babri Masjid on its original site, to restore it as a Holy Place for Muslims, and to punish those guilty of the sacrilegious act of destroying a revered Muslim symbol.
- c) Take effective measures to prevent the construction of a temple on the site of the Babri Mosque.
- d) Take immediate steps to ensure the protection of the other 3000 Mosques, especially those at Mathura and Varanasi, which have been the targets of threats and destruction attempts by Hindu extremists.

B) DESTRUCTION OF THE CHARAR-E-SHARIF ISLAMIC COMPLEX IN KASHMIR AND OTHER ISLAMIC SITES THEREIN

Deeply concerned that, as a result of Indian armed action on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha in 1415H (1995), over 1500 houses and shops were gutted, holy relics were destroyed and the mosque and the Islamic Complex of Charar-e-Sharif razed to the ground, and deeply concerned at other incidences of damage to: the Dargah Hazratibal in 1993 and 1995, the Shrine of the Shah-e-Hamadan in December 1997, the Jamia Mosque of Safapur in Baramula district in January

1998, the historic Jamia Mosque at Kishtwar in January 2001, Chadora mosque in October 2001 and a mosque in Srinagar with burning of the Holy Qur'an on 14 December 2002, Khanqah-e-Faiz Panah Tral in 2012, Dastger Sahab in 2012, Zarith Zain Shah Wali Ashmaqam in 2013:

1. **Strongly deploras** the destruction of the 542 year old Islamic complex at Charar-e-Sharif which constitutes a serious aggression against the Islamic heritage of the Muslim people of Kashmir;
2. **Expresses its concern** over the loss of life and the burning of over 1500 houses of the civil residents of Charar-e-Sharif;
3. **Strongly condemns** the burning of the Shrine of Shah-e-Hamadan and the desecration of the Jamia Mosque at Safapur, and the burning of the Jamia Mosque at Kishtwar and other incidents of desecration of Muslim Holy places;
4. **Also condemns** the continuing intensified Indian atrocities against Kashmiries including desecration of Mosques and Muslim Holy Places and denial of religious and human rights to the Muslim population in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir;
5. **Urges** the international community, especially the Member States to exert utmost efforts to protect the basic rights of the Kashmiri people, including their right to self-determination according to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions as well as to safeguard their religious and cultural rights and their Islamic heritage;

C) THE DESTRUCTION AND DESECRATION OF ISLAMIC HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RELICS AND SHRINES IN THE TERRITORIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN RESULTING FROM THE AGGRESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Gravely concerned over the continued consequences of the aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Condemned the loss, destruction, removal theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of Islamic historical and cultural relics and shrines in the territories of Azerbaijan during occupation, and acts of vandalism or damage directed against such objects,

Emphasizing that pieces of Azerbaijani history, culture, archaeology, and ethnography affected by the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan are an integral part of Islamic heritage, and, therefore, must be protected,

Strongly urge the Republic of Armenia to recognize and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to take all necessary steps to eliminate the consequences of its armed aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Reaffirming also that the utter and barbaric destruction of mosques and other Islamic Shrines in the territories of Azerbaijan during occupation by Armenia constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity,

Noting the tremendous losses inflicted by the Armenia on the Islamic heritage in the territories of Azerbaijan during occupation, including total or partial demolition of rare antiquities and places of Islamic civilization, history, and architecture, such as mosques, mausoleums, graves, archaeological excavations, museums, libraries, art exhibition halls, and government theatres and conservatories, besides the destruction and smuggling out of the country of large quantities of priceless treasures and millions of books and historic manuscripts,

Stating that such actions by the Republic of Armenia constitute a serious violation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and 1954 and 1999 protocols thereto,

Fully sharing the anguish of the government and people of Azerbaijan in this regard:

Welcoming the report on the visit of the representatives of the OIC Contact Group on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan to Azerbaijan on 5-10 April 2021, including its territories affected by the armed aggression of Armenia, and taking note of the dismay expressed by the visiting delegations about the degree of devastation they had witnessed in those territories caused by the destructive policy of Armenia:

1. **Strongly condemns** the barbaric acts committed by Armenia with the aim of total annihilation of the Islamic historic and cultural heritage in the territories of Azerbaijan during occupation;
2. **Express** also its strong condemnation of the humiliation and desecration by Armenia of the Mosques located in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan by using them as animal stables.
3. **Stresses** the necessity to ensure the protection of cultural heritage, cultural property and sacred sites in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation is temporarily deployed to, through inter alia, the prohibition and prevention of any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property, any archaeological excavation, as well as any alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property which is intended to conceal or destroy cultural, historical or scientific evidence;
4. **Demands** that Armenia cease any attempts to introduce Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage as its own, including at tourism fairs and exhibitions;
5. **Reaffirms** its support for the efforts deployed by Azerbaijan at regional and international levels aimed at protecting, preserving and restoring, as appropriate Islamic cultural values and treasures in its territories affected by the aggression of Armenia;
6. **Reaffirms** also Azerbaijan's right to claim appropriate reparation for the damages it has sustained, and affirms Armenia's responsibility to provide such reparation;
7. **Requests** the relevant OIC subsidiary organs and specialized agencies to explore the possibility of drawing up a program to help rebuild the mosques, educational institutions, libraries, and museums in the Azerbaijani territories liberated from occupation with the help of OIC Member States;

8. **Thanks** the Secretary-General for transmitting the OIC Member States' position on this issue to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNESCO, and other international bodies, and for the coordination measures he has taken within the framework of OIC subsidiary, specialized, and affiliated organs. It also thanks those organs and organizations for their response, especially for the adoption by the IDB and ISESCO of programs to implement projects aimed at protecting Islamic holy places in the Republic of Azerbaijan;

9. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4/12-C
ON
SUBSIDIARY ORGANS**

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 14th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 47th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 11th Session of COMIAC,

Having considered the report of Chairman of the ISF Permanent Council, on the activities of the Fund and the execution of its budget for the financial year 2016, in which he referred to several projects implemented by the Fund in spite of the financial difficulties it faces in financing its budgets and implementing its annual programs,

Emphasizing the need for all relevant subsidiary organs to submit their work programmes and annual report of their activities to the General Secretariat by the month of November of each year with a view to allowing work complementarily and avoiding duplication of activities,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and reports submitted by IRCICA, IIFA and ISF on following the matters:

A) THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)

1. **Notes with appreciation** the Centre’s multifarious activities involving research projects and publications, academic congresses, training programs, art competitions, exhibitions and the diffusion of scholarly and cultural information relating to the history of Islamic civilization and Muslim peoples, history of science, philosophy and scholarship, intercultural and inter-faith relations, cultural and architectural heritage, arts and handicrafts of the Muslim world.
2. **Commends** IRCICA’s program of "Studies on The Holy Quran" involving bibliographical research and publications about the history of the dissemination of the Holy Qur'an across the world through its copies, exegeses and translations, which highlight the clear evidence against any bias and misinformation about the history of the Holy Qur'an and underline its teachings of tolerance and harmony between humanity as a whole; *and takes note in this regard*, of the enlarged edition of the *World Bibliography of the Holy Qur'an- Printed Translations - 1515-2015* published in 2023.
3. **Expresses its appreciation** of the Centre’s research projects and informational activities on the Islamic history and heritage of al-Quds al-Sharif and Palestine; its holding the International Conference on "Al-Quds and al-Masjid al-Aqsa Under the Light of Historical Documents" jointly with the OIC General Secretariat, al-Quds Higher Committee of the Presidency of the State of Palestine, and the Center for Practical Studies and Research on al-Quds attached to Marmara University, at IRCICA headquarters on 22 December 2022; the preparation of the

publication *Al-Haram Al-Quds Al-Sharif in the Light of Ottoman Documents* in 2023, as well as the continuing projects to transcribe and publish the contents of previously unexplored Ottoman documents relating to al-Quds and Palestine including waqf deeds, land and property registers.

4. **Takes note** of the large-scale program on the "History of Islamic Civilization and Muslim Countries" comprising:

- Research projects and publications on the history and cultural heritage of Central Asia based on ancient manuscripts and archeological references, to result in a set of volumes; the series of books titled “History of Arab Countries in Ottoman Documents” which was expanded with new volumes relating to the history of Algeria, Andalusia and Morocco, Kuwait, Tunis, and Jordan;
- International conferences focusing on different regions of the Muslim world,
 - in Central Asia, “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present” (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, October 2020, 2021, 2022); "Islamic Civilization in the Caucasus” (Baku, Azerbaijan, June 2019); “Research on History, Art and Culture in Tajikistan” (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, September 2019); “Saduaqas Ghilmani and the Great Steppe Scholars” (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2019); "Manuscript Collections in Kazakhstan: Preservation and Research" (Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2023); “Current State of Preservation and Research of Ancient Written Sources” (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, August 2022); “Ethnography of Book Collections in the Islamicate World” (IRCICA, April 2023);
 - in Southeast Asia, including the Third and the Fourth International Symposiums on "Religious Literature and Heritage" organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia (online, December 2021, August 2023); the international conference on "The Ottomans and the Malay World, Contemporary Reflections on History, Culture and Economy" (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2023);
 - in Africa, the international conferences on “Islamic History and Civilization in West Africa” (Niamey, Niger, March 2019); "**Islamic History and Civilization in the Central African Region**” (N'Djamena, Chad, December 2019); “Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa. History, Contemporary State, and Future Perspectives, Dedicated to the Legacies of Muslim Leaders Shaykh Ebubekir Efendi and Imam Abdullah Haron” (Cape Town, South Africa, September 2022);
 - in the Caribbean, to also cover part of Latin America, the international conference on "History and Legacy of Muslims in the Caribbean” (Georgetown, Guyana, September 2023).

5. **Commends** the new activity program dedicated to the history of Islamic scholarship in various regions of the Muslim world implemented through

- Studies, editions and bibliographies on the works of prominent Islamic scholars, scientists and philosophers, including the catalogue in preparation on the archive of Khoja Ahmad Yasawi’s Mausoleum (18th-19th centuries, Kazakhstan); Kātip Çelebi's *Fezleketü't-tevārīh* (17th century, Ottoman State); Shigabedin Marjani's *Wafiyatu'l-aslāf wa tahiyatu'l-aḥlāf* (19th century, Tatarstan, Russia); the catalogue of Ibn Sina's manuscripts in Turkish

- libraries; the preparation of a Special Issue of *IRCICA Journal* on “Muslim Thinkers in Africa. Their History and Intellectual Heritage”, among others;
- International conferences, which covered “The Contribution of Oriental Scientists to Islamic Civilization” and “The Maturidiyya Teaching and the Present” (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, May 2022); "The Legacy of Abu Ali ibn Sina" (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, August 2022); “Contribution of Termiz Scholars to the Development of World Civilization” (Termiz, Uzbekistan, July 2022); “Sustainable Tourism, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Heritage: The People Protecting Monuments- The Legacy of Ahmed Yasawi” and “Sufism in Turkistan and the Place of Yasawiya in Central Asia” (Turkistan, Kazakhstan, October 2022 and 2023); the holding of the international conference on “History and Development of Islamic Learning and Scholarship in Africa” (Kaduna, Nigeria, June 2023) as the first of a series to continue in other countries; and also, the planned conferences on the history of Islamic scholarship in the Balkans, Southeast Asia, and other regions of the world.
6. **Expresses its appreciation** of the activities aiming to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding and harmony across the world, such as:
- the studies presented at various forums, including the OIC Hybrid Seminar “Connecting Further at the Post-Covid19 Contemporary World: Enhancing Dialogue between the Islamic World and Other Great Civilizations” (OIC General Secretariat, October 2022); the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions (Nursultan, Kazakhstan, September 2022); the online conferences on “The Role of Religious Leaders in Achieving Sustainable Development of the World” (May 2022) and “Neighborliness of Cultures of Central Asian Countries in the 21st Century” (November 2022, August 2023); the 9th Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (Fez, Morocco, November 2022), and, the Round Table on "Significance of the 7th Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and the Congress' Declaration" (IRCICA, April 2023);
 - the international conference on "The History of Relations Between the Islamic World and China - Oman as an Example" (Muscat, Oman, December 2019) co-organized as the fourth conference in a series jointly with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS); the planned Fifth Conference on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" and other conferences aiming to highlight the history of interactions between the Muslim world and various other civilizations.
7. **Takes note of** the Centre's activities aiming to preserve and promote Islamic cultural and architectural heritage, including the development of the “Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database”; the program of "IRCICA Heritage Talks" consisting of hybrid-format lectures on Islamic arts and architecture; the international symposiums themed "Preservation through Generations - in Memoriam Prof. Arch. Amir Pašić (IRCICA, May 2023) and "Mostar 2024" (Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2024); the English edition of Mitkhat Bulatov's work *Geometric Harmonization in the Architecture of Central Asia - 9th-15th Centuries (Historical-Theoretical Research)*; the report titled *Wara (Ouara), Chad: Methods and Interventions for Conservation of the Ruins*; the field trip conducted in the quake-stricken Southeastern regions of Türkiye and the resulting report titled *Effects of the February 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake on Monuments of Cultural Heritage in Türkiye*; the various research works and photographic albums being published about historical cities of the Muslim world such as Aleppo, Cairo, Istanbul and Konya; the working paper and studies contributed

by IRCICA to the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting for establishing the OIC Platform for Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World (OIC General Secretariat, May 2023).

8. **Takes note of** the diverse programs and projects aimed at promoting Islamic arts and traditional handicrafts, including
 - the 11th and 12th editions of the triennial IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition finalized in April 2019 and May 2022, respectively, and the preparations of the 13th competition to be conducted during 2024-25; the “IRCICA Regional Calligraphy Competition in Central Asia 2023” co-organized with the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan and finalized in May 2023;
 - the training course on Islamic calligraphy conducted online twice a week; the distribution of *Ijaza* – certificates to a group of 15 calligraphers from 9 countries who completed the course during 2021 and 2022 (May 2022); the training course on the art of illumination conducted on weekly basis since March 2023, all attended by students from within and outside the Member States;
 - the festivals, exhibitions and workshops co-organized or actively attended by the Centre, including the "Fourth Tabriz International Festival, for Women Artisans" (Tabriz, Iran, June 2019) and the Fifth Tabriz International Handicrafts Festival (Tabriz, Iran, October 2023); World Expo Dubai (December 2021-January 2022); “Sarir-e Khama” International Conference on Calligraphy (Lahore, Pakistan, March 2022); the Calligraphy Workshop and Exhibition at the Bahrain Contemporary Art Association (Manama, October 2022); the International Forum “Central Asia–Center for Islamic Art” (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, November 2022); the Aqaba International Forum on Calligraphy and Ornamentation in Honour of the Late Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aqaba, Jordan, May 2023); the 6th International Seminar on Halalan Thayyiban Products and Services under the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam (Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, June 2023); the Cultural Program of the OIC held at the Islamic University of Uganda (Kampala, Uganda, June 2022) and the OIC-Indonesia Cultural Week (Kalimantan, Indonesia, July 2023);
 - reference publications and albums of artworks, including the book on the *History of the Art of Calligraphy, the Schools and their Followers* published in Arabic and forthcoming in English; the new edition of the scholarly and artistic album entitled *The Art of Calligraphy in Islamic Civilization* which is in preparation; the albums of award-winning works in the “IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition”; the exercise books of calligraphy masters reproduced by IRCICA for educational purposes, among others.
9. **Praises** the efficacy of IRCICA's website, social media, YouTube channel and podcasts which diffuse information on all its activities and render its various lecture series and training programs permanently accessible world-wide.
10. **Expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the Member States, in particular the Republic of Türkiye, host country of IRCICA, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, host country of the OIC General Secretariat, for their continuous support of the Centre’s activities.
11. **Expresses** its thanks to the Member States which regularly pay their mandatory contributions to IRCICA’s budget and *calls upon* the other Member States to settle their arrears as soon as possible in order to support the Centre’s important activities.

B) INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY (IIFA)

Recalling the resolutions issued by the different sessions of the Islamic Summit conference and other Islamic conferences, in particular, the 14th session of the Islamic Summit, the 48th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and the 44th session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs,

After examining the report submitted by the International Islamic Fiqh Academy:

1. **Expresses** its great gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, and to all Their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, leaders of the OIC Member States, for their support to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in its active role in clarifying the values of tolerance, temperance, and moderation in Islam, while underlining that the International Islamic Fiqh Academy is the reference of the Ummah;
2. **Notes** the performance of IIFA and the effective role it plays in developing the administrative and scientific work through the development of a five-year strategic plan that includes many projects and scientific programs. **calls upon** the member states and subsidiary, specialized and affiliated bodies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to support the Academy because of the realistic vision contained in this strategic plan to make the Academy the first Shariah reference in the Muslim world;
3. **Applauds** IIFA's efforts in implementing the resolution issued by the Extraordinary Session of the Council of OIC Foreign Ministers, held in Islamabad on 19 December 2021, concerning the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, in particular the meetings held between the Secretary General of IIFA and the senior officials of the Afghan Government regarding issues of vital importance such as women's rights in Islam and their roles in development and progress under the principles of Shariah;
4. **Records** with appreciation that the Secretariat General of the Academy has held various symposiums on topics that include emerging calamities, and among these topics is including "Stunning of Poultry and Animals before Slaughter and its Impact on the Legitimacy of Slaughter", which was held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, on 14-15 Dhul Quida 1443, corresponding to 13- 14 January 2022, and urges continued focus on these topics because of their importance to Muslims worldwide;
5. **Takes** note with great appreciation of the participation of the Secretary General of the IIFA in the strategic meetings between the OIC and the United States of America, held in Washington, D.C. on 22-23 Shawwal 1443, corresponding to 23-24 May 2022, that highlighted IIFA's efforts in promoting moderation, balance, tolerance and coexistence through its resolutions and recommendations around the world;
6. **Commends** the performance of the staff of the Secretariat General of the Academy and the activities they have carried out, since the forty-fourth session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;
7. **Takes note** of the meeting of the Supervisory Board of IIFA Waqf Fund, and thanks the Islamic Development Bank for supporting the Waqf and contributing to the investment and development of its funds and assets;

8. **Congratulates** the Secretariat General of IIFA for translating and publishing its Resolutions and Recommendations into English and French after a 22-year hiatus, as well as for their translation and publication in N'Ko (Mandingo) language and distribution in its respective country;
9. **Thanks** the General Secretariat for translating the resolutions of the Academy into a number of important local languages inside and outside the Muslim world, namely Turkish, Spanish, Persian, Hausa, Malay, Urdu, and Swahili;
10. **Thanks** the countries that hosted the Academy's previous Annual Sessions: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (9 sessions), the United Arab Emirates (4 sessions), the State of Kuwait (3 sessions), the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2 sessions), Brunei Darussalam, Bahrain, Qatar, Sultanate of Oman, Malaysia, and Algeria (one session each), which is a real contribution from these countries in supporting the Academy;
11. **Thanks** the headquarters state, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for hosting and sponsoring IIFA's 25th Session to be held in the first quarter of 2023;
12. **Invites** the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to host the upcoming sessions of the Academy, which would help achieve the goals and objectives for which it was established;
13. **Thanks** the member states that have paid their mandatory contributions to the budget of the Academy and renews its appeal to the member states that have not yet paid their contributions to do so quickly, and also recommends that all member states continue their support to the Academy by financing some of its projects so that it can perform its tasks in the service of Islam and Muslims. The Academy also urges the member states to support IIFA's Waqf Fund through in-kind or cash donations as well as contributions from the public and private sectors inside and

**RESOLUTION NO. 5/12-C
ON
SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS**

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 14th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 46th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 11th Session of COMIAC,

Stressing on the need for the Secretariats of OIC Institutions to always adhere to the principle of impartiality and disinterestedness and to abstain at all times from political influence or interfering in or giving opinion about Member States’ affairs without being duly authorized or mandated by Member States concerned,

Taking note of the Report of the 35th Session of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) held in OIC General Secretariat Jeddah on 5-6 January 2022,

Emphasizing the need for all relevant specialized institutions to submit their work programmes and annual report of their activities to the General Secretariat by the month of November of each year with a view to allowing work complementarity and avoiding duplication of activities,

Having considered with appreciation the reports submitted by ICESCO on the activities carried out between the two sessions of the Council and by ICIC:

A) THE ISLAMIC WORLD EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ICESCO)

1. **Commends** the activities, projects and programs launched by ICESCO in 2022 in the fields of education, science and culture; and the efforts of ICESCO to develop its work and expand its fields, in service of the Organization’s endeavors to ensure the sustainability of its services for the benefit of its Member States, as part of the implementation of the programs of the first year of its Two-Year Action Plan and Budget for 2022-2023 and in line with the contents of its document, ICESCO Strategic Orientations by 2025;
2. **Welcomes** the decisions of the 43rd Session of the Executive Council, December 2022, and thanks the members of the Council for their constructive efforts to develop ICESCO's work and enable it to fully discharge its missions;
3. **Commends** the efforts of the Organization to follow up on the implementation of its new strategic vision and adopted action plan through activities that seek to promote partnership and

cooperation with Member States, competent parties, regional and international organizations, civil society bodies and NGOs;

4. **Takes note** of the visits of the Director-General to a number of Member States, in view of developing cooperation relations and exploring new prospects of fruitful partnerships, guided by the new vision, as well as his recent visit to the Vatican;
5. **Takes note and highly commends** the launch of the Exhibition and Museum of the Prophet's Seerah and Islamic Civilization, under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, with the presence of HRH Prince Moulay Al-Hassan, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Morocco, to highlight the Prophet's Seerah and Islamic Civilization and cast light on Prophet Muhammad's noble virtue; and **Commends** the strategic partnership among ICESCO, the Muslim World League and the Mohammedia League of Scholars in organizing this Exhibition;
6. **Commends** the activities ICESCO organized as part of the International Day of Mercy Initiative and the World Tolerance Day, in promotion of universal human values; and **commends** the organization of the Second International Conference on Combating Terrorism and Extremism;
7. **Takes note and commends** the publishing of the first volume of the Encyclopedia of Occidentalism by ICESCO Chair for Civilizational Dialogue at the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University (QU-CSIS), which is the first encyclopedia to highlight the intellectual, scientific, religious, and social aspects of the West;
8. **Commends** the participation of ICESCO in the 9th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, in November 2022, under the theme "Towards an Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity", which aims to promote dialogue and peace among nations;
9. **Takes note**, with appreciation, of ICESCO's participation in the Transforming Education Summit 2022, held concurrently with the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, in September 2022;
10. **Takes note** of ICESCO's participation in the joint periodic meetings between the OIC General Secretariat and the UN, on July 18-22, 2022 in Geneva, which featured a review of the progress in implementing ICESCO's projects and programs;
11. **Welcomes** the signing of a number of new cooperation agreements and action programs with several Arab, Islamic and international organizations and institutions; **commends** the joint activities implemented within their framework, especially international conferences and seminars and development projects; and **invites** ICESCO to sustain its appreciated efforts to create, build and promote partnerships serving its strategic goals;
12. **Praises** ICESCO's sustained communication and consultation with Member States' National Commissions for Education, Science and Culture, given their pivotal roles in ICESCO's working system as a strategic partner in Member States;
13. **Commends** the remarkable activities and programs that ICESCO has implemented in the field of science and technology; and **invites** Member States to support cooperation in science and technology fields, especially among advanced, emerging and developing countries and exchange the best practices in order to establish auxiliary and complementary mechanisms for building capacities, within the framework of SDGs;

14. **Commends** the great roles fulfilled by ICESCO to support space sciences and applications, and **hails** the organization of the First ICESCO Space Science Forum, on July 18, 2022; and **praises** the organization of the First Forum on Building Capacities in the Field of Science and Technology to Promote Scientific Diplomacy, held on July 18, 2022;
15. **Takes note of** ICESCO participation in the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), held in the Arab Republic of Egypt, on November 6-18, 2022;
16. **Commends** the launch of the Second Edition of the Program of Leadership Training for Peace and Security (LTIPS); **takes note** of the closing ceremony of ICESCO Year of Women 2021, held under the presidency of HRH Princess Lalla Maryam, at the Organization's headquarters, and **praises** the activities carried out in this context;
17. **Lauds** ICESCO's efforts to build technical and educational capacities of individuals, institutions, bodies and education systems in Member States as well as in educational institutions of Muslim communities outside the Islamic world to help upgrade the systems of traditional education, improve staff performance and promote their educational, social and cultural roles;
18. **Stresses** the importance of 'Education for All' project, which demonstrates the great importance that ICESCO attaches to the education of vulnerable groups, particularly needy girls, by combating girls' dropout, reintegrating them into the educational system, and using information and communication technology and artificial intelligence in education, as well as building the capacities of education planners;
19. **Commends** ICESCO's efforts geared towards safeguarding the Islamic world heritage and inscribing a number of heritage sites on its Islamic World Heritage List and the training provided for heritage protection specialists and museums staff in the Islamic world on the necessary relevant skills, and **reaffirms**, in this regard, its support for the Organization's efforts to strengthen staff competencies in the field of combating illicit trafficking in cultural property;
20. **Commends** ICESCO's "Roads for the Future" programme, which aims to promote the role of culture, communication, heritage, arts and creativity as key tools for achieving sustainable development, and display and preserve culture in general, including traditional cultural industries, the digital cultural economy, the purple economy, and foster the role of women in national development in the Islamic world;
21. **Commends** ICESCO's Programme of Culture Capitals in the Islamic World for 2022, which included the implementation of 120 activities; **extends thanks** to the respective governments of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Cameroon, and the Arab Republic of Egypt, which hosted and supported the Culture Capitals in the Islamic World Programme for 2022; and **welcomes** the proclamation of Nouakchott as the Culture Capital in the Islamic World for 2023.
22. **Commends** ICESCO's participation in the 27th edition of the International Book and Publishing Fair in the Kingdom of Morocco, held on 2-12 June 2022, as part of the celebration of Rabat as the Culture Capital in the Islamic World, through a pavilion that featured a large number of books and studies published by the Organization in the fields of education, science, culture and communication;
23. **Commends** the publishing of the first volume of the Guide of Museums in the Islamic World (African region museums), which is likely to facilitate communication between museums

officials, encourage the development of tourism and cultural economy, and give new impetus to the network of Islamic world museums;

24. **Takes note** of the Ibn Khaldun Award for Excellence in Global Social Transformation for 2022 that the International Islamic University in Malaysia granted to the Organization and handed by Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Binti Almarhum Al-Mutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj, Queen of Malaysia, for its educational, scientific and cultural efforts in serving and developing human societies,; and **applauds** the honorary doctorate that Dr. Salim M. Al-Malik, ICESCO Director-General, received from the Eurasian National University of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
25. **Commends** the activities that ICESCO implemented in the field of strategic foresight aimed at encouraging and disseminating the culture of anticipation and foresight in Member States to identify major future patterns and monitor indicators likely to help humanity overcome current and future difficulties, create new adequate opportunities for future societies, through strategic decisions, and support ICESCO Member States to meet the challenges of social transformations and natural changes and achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
26. **Praises** of ICESCO's initiative to issue a Charter of Artificial Intelligence in the Islamic World, which was approved by 43rd session of the Executive Council, held in December 2022, and **calls on** the Organization to develop the Charter to help Member States redefine the requirements of new technologies;
27. **Praises and highly appreciates** ICESCO's activities, projects and programmes aiming at promoting and strengthening the position of Arabic language within non-Arabic speaking communities, the establishment of the Arabic language platform (*Mishkat*), and the launch of academic chairs and educational poles; and **takes note** of the inauguration of two new educational poles in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Benin, and the signing of an agreement to establish ICESCO Chair of Arabic in Service of Dialogue and Coexistence at the Russian Islamic University, in Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan;
28. **Applauds** ICESCO for winning King Salman International Complex for Arabic Language Prize for 2022, which came in recognition of the Organization's efforts in spreading linguistic awareness, developing community initiatives in the field of Arabic language, and supporting institutions' initiatives in such a way as to ensure a stronger presence of Arabic language for non-Arabic speakers in international fora;
29. **Takes note**, with appreciation, of ICESCO's obtaining ISO9001 Quality Management System and ISO27001 Information Security Management System, which would help the Organization document its operations and procedures, and ensure its information security, in line with the best international practices;
30. **Commends** ICESCO's efforts in the field of information and communication through the production of various media materials and video clips to publicize Islamic world figures in various fields and from different eras, and show the historical sites and cultural elements inscribed on ICESCO's Islamic World Heritage List, in the three working languages of the Organization;
31. **Commends** ICESCO's support for Member States' students through ICESCO Scholarship Program; and **calls on** Member States' governments, universities and institutions concerned to support ICESCO's efforts in this regard;

32. **Welcomes** the proclamation of “2021 as ICESCO Year of Women”, held under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, and expresses its sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty for his patronage, to Their Excellencies and Highnesses for their constructive support for this initiative, and to the First Ladies of Member States for their participation in the programs and activities of this initiative;
33. **Praises** ICESCO's efforts to coordinate with the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco to follow up on the necessary measures to establish the "Islamic Academy for Environment and Sustainable Development", **commends** its efforts in assuming the general secretariat of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Award for Environmental Management in the Islamic World, and for organizing its award ceremony at the opening ceremony of the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of the Environment;
34. **Expresses** its sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his patronage of ICESCO's initiatives and conferences, and the continuous support provided by the Moroccan government to enable the Organization to fully discharge its missions;

RESOLUTION NO. 6/12-C
ON
THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ISLAMIC AND WORLD
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGES

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 14th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 46th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 11th Session of COMIAC,

Emphasizing the importance of protection and preservation of historical religious sites and various places of worship and ancient historical artifacts in OIC Member States as well as other parts of the world,

Stressing the importance for the Member States to provide the necessary protection to cultural, archaeological and historical monuments and antiquities located on its territory and within its borders, including religious sites, places of worship, educational institutions, museums, and other archaeological, historical and cultural heritage monuments,

Recalling and welcoming the relevant Security Council resolutions, specifically Resolution 1483 (2003) and Resolution 2199 (2015) on combating the trafficking of cultural and scientific property looted from Iraq and Syria and on urging its restitution to the institutions of both countries, along with Resolution 2347 (2017) on the protection of cultural heritage and cultural property in the event of armed conflict,

Noting the decision of the 197th Session of UNESCO Executive Board held in October 2015, to establish a Blue Helmets Cultural Unit to protect or defend important cultural sites before they are destroyed by terrorist attacks, war, or hit by natural disasters,

Recalling the decisions adopted by UNESCO Executive Board at its 197th, 199th, 200th and 201st sessions, regarding the Plan of Action to Implement the Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO’s Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict, which contains measures on which the Member States can build to safeguard archaeological and historical sites, cultural property and institutions involved in cultural activities, in cooperation with the relevant UN bodies,

1. **Welcomes** the establishment by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of a Center on the Conservation of Cultural Heritage named after the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the establishment by the

Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage of a center for national architectural heritage to preserve and rehabilitate national heritage, the recent change of the name of the "Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities" to become the "Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage" to be inclusive of all aspects and components of heritage;

2. **Welcomes** the decisions taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to protect heritage, chief of which is the decision on the preservation of Islamic heritage sites; as well as the Saudi Government's adoption of the law on museums and architectural heritage and the executive rules and regulations thereof;

3. **Stresses** the focus on the two elements of awareness-raising and the importance of cultural heritage among local communities with all their constituents by presenting effective programmes designed to promote the individual's knowledge of his cultural assets, in coordination with specialized educational, vocational and cultural institutions, with a view to building a generation of the Muslim society that is capable of playing its part towards its country and its security;

4. **Commends** the UAE's heritage preservation efforts translating in the launch of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage and the setting up of cultural heritage centers and institutes in the country and the world over;

5. **Commends** Morocco's hosting of the 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, held in Rabat on November 28 - December 3, 2022, and welcomes its outputs and recommendations; **COMMENDS** the signing by Morocco and UNESCO, on the sidelines of this session, of an agreement for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage in Africa, which aims to train experts to protect and inscribe new sites on the World Heritage List, especially African countries that do not have any recognized sites;

6. **Welcomes** the Member States' efforts in protecting cultural and natural heritage; and calls on the Member States in this regard to design the necessary educational and training programmes on the regional and international mechanisms for the protection of cultural and historical property as well as cultural and natural heritage, enlarge scope for scientific research activities, establish museums and stage specialized exhibitions;

7. **Emphasizes** the creation of appropriate mechanisms to activate the charter on the preservation and conservation of Islamic heritages;

8. **Strongly condemns** the crimes committed against tangible and intangible cultural heritage in all its forms in the territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia, and also Iraq, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and in other Member States; and **Invites** ICESCO and IRCICA, to form a group of experts to elaborate a plan for repairing damage to Islamic monuments and historical sites in member States, which were subject to subversive terrorist acts, in coordination with Member States and in cooperation with UNESCO in order to monitor the situation of cultural, civilizational and religious heritages in the Muslim World, and preserve and protect it, and taking part in countering acts of destruction and vandalism against such heritages;

9. **Commends** the successful holding of the Colloquium jointly organized by the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Republic of France on the "Preservation and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the OIC Member States", held on 14-15 May 2017, at the OIC General Secretariat,

within the context of the implementation of the Resolution number 10/43-C on “The Protection and preservation of the Islamic and world historical and cultural heritages”, adopted by the 43rd Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in October 2016, in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, with the aim of contributing to the safeguarding and protection of cultural heritage in Member States;

10. **Welcomes** the convening of the International Conference on Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World by the OIC General Secretariat, IRCICA and ICESCO held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye on 1-2 November 2017, as was decided by the 9th Islamic Conference of **Culture**-Ministers (ICCM), held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, on 2-4 November 2015, and endorsed by the 13th Session of Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye on 14-15 April, 2016; and Urge the Member States to consider the recommendations of the Istanbul Declaration, including the proposal of setting up an OIC Platform for Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage, that was adopted by the said Conference;

11. **Welcomes** the convening and outcome of a workshop organized by the OIC General Secretariat on the “*Establishment of an OIC Platform for Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in the Muslim world*” held on 7-8 October 2019, within the context of the implementation of the Resolution number 10/46-C on “The Protection and Preservation of the Islamic and World Historical and Cultural Heritages”, adopted by the 46th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held on 1-2 March 2019, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with the aim of discussing the proposed project, including the purpose, objectives, role, missions and future actions of this OIC Platform;

12. **Requests** the General Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the workshop in association with the concerned institutions;

13. **Calls upon** Member States together with the relevant OIC institutions, particularly IRCICA, ICESCO, IDB and ISF to develop and support the concrete actions related to setting up of the said platform, including considering the possibility of establishing a special fund to support the projects and activities in the Member States, especially in Least Developed ones (LDCs);

14. **Commends** the efforts of the OIC for protecting cultural heritage among Member States, expresses its deep concern about attack, as well as threat of attackers, in contravention of applicable international law and international conventions, against cultural sites, centers and cultural heritage and invites the member states to strengthen their cooperation in this regard to conserve and protect these cultural sites;

15. **Supports** the call from the OIC Group at UNESCO, for this UN Agency to cooperate closely with experts from OIC Member States in helping to counter the attacks on culture and heritage, as to exert the tolerant principles of Islam and profound respect to human heritage;

16. **Requests** support for the Republic of Iraq to rebuild and rehabilitate Nineveh prophets’ tombs as well as historical and Islamic monuments brought to ruin by terrorist groups and organizations;

17. **Commends** the efforts put in by the State of the United Arab Emirates with regard to its contribution of over 20 million US\$ to support heritage protection projects in conflict region, and take action to fund restoration and rehabilitation of mankind heritage in conflict regions;

18. **Being appreciative** of the efforts made by the United Arab Emirates and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and their cooperation in launching an initiative for the recovery of the heritage and cultural sites in the Iraq city of Mousal, under the theme of “Reviving the spirit of Mousel”, an initiative which aims at rehabilitating the historical landmarks in the city of Mousal which represent crucial milestones in the long track of Islamic civilization; Also paying tribute to the UAE’s initiative for the funding of the reconstruction works of the Nouri Al Kebir Mosque and the Al Hadba Minaret;

19. **Calls upon** Member States, the IDB, and ICESCO to finance the ethno-historical sports (hunting with birds of prey and dogs, horse and camel racing, kok-boru/buzkasi, the national wrestling and intellectual games) and other national, traditional and historical sports in the Member States through opening of the sport centers in the Member States and organizing regular sports competitions on the basis of the World Nomad Games;

20. **Commends** the efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the protection of world cultural heritage and welcomes its generous hosting of the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on 1 July, 2019 in Baku”;

21. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.7/12-C
ON
PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES
IN THE CULTURAL DOMAIN
AND SUPPORTING CINEMATORGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Recalling the outcomes of the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 13-14 April 2016 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye,

Cognizant of the importance of cultural heritage in general and Cinematographic legacy in particular, in shaping international public perceptions,

Reaffirming the necessity to develop a Member States’ cultural policy in which manifestations such as arts, painting, literature, music, etc., will contribute to consolidating the cultural identity and the diplomatic influence of the OIC in the world,

Desirous to foster Member States’ common values of family, living together, sharing, solidarity and peace,

Desirous to support cinematographic production and promote cooperation in the cultural domain with a view to reinforcing cultural relations among Member States,

1. **Emphasizes** the importance of the effective implementation of paragraph 185 of the Final Communiqué of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference which “called on the General Secretariat to take measures, in cooperation with Member States in order to support cinematographic production and promote cooperation in the cultural domain, including through holding an OIC film festival, with a view to reinforcing cultural relations among Member States”;
2. **Welcomes** the convening of an Inter-Governmental Expert-Group Meeting for the examination of the Concept Paper on the establishment of an OIC Prize and the consideration of the idea of launching an OIC Film Festival, which was held on 20 December 2018, at the OIC Headquarters; and call the Member States to support the Prize and request the General Secretariat to follow up the outcome of this meeting;
3. **Welcomes** the granting of the first edition of the OIC Prize entitled "OIC Prize for Peace and Coexistence", which is created to support cinematographic production in Member States on the sidelines of the 26th session of the Pan African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou “FESPACO”, held from 23 February to 02 March 2019, in Burkina Faso, under the slogan "Memory and the Future of African Cinema";
4. **Welcomes** the holding of the 28th edition of the Pan-African Film & TV Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), due from 25 February to 4 March 2023 in Ouagadougou,

and **CALLS** on Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in this edition and to support Burkina Faso for the success of this event;

5. **Underscores** the efforts of the General Secretariat to prepare a concept note on the selection criteria for the winners in the festival; and calls for the convening of an intergovernmental group of experts and concerned institutions to study the concept note and then to submit it to the Permanent Finance Committee and the Council of Foreign Ministers for its adoption;
6. **Encourage** the willing Member States to host the first edition of the OIC Film Festival in 2022;
7. **Request** the Chair to convene the IGGE to finalize the rules and criteria of the Festival;
8. **Encourages** the reinforcement of cooperation among film festivals throughout OIC Member States, and in particular support to joint initiatives and projects in cinematographic production, which sheds light on subjects related to the Palestinian cause, chief of which is Al-Quds Al-Sharif, with a view to raising cultural and humanitarian awareness in Muslim world societies;
9. **Approves the holding** of an OIC Cultural Day to be celebrated by Member States, the OIC and its subsidiary and specialized institutions on a date to be determine;
10. **Call upon** Member States to implement Article (1) (Chapter 1) of the OIC Charter on the objectives and principles to "enhance and consolidate the bonds of fraternity and solidarity among the Member States." It also calls for the operationalization of paragraph 163 of the Final Communique of the 13th Islamic Summit (14-15 April 2016, Istanbul. Türkiye) to achieve development and improve joint Islamic action in the intellectual, developmental, political, cultural, humanitarian, and technical fields among others. This can materialize through the organization of festivals and activities under the OIC umbrella and in effective coordination with the General Secretariat by active contribution of the Member States;
11. **Welcomes** the hosting of the First and the Second Sessions of the OIC Festivals held on 5-9 February 2019 in Cairo by the Arab Republic of Egypt and on 24-30 April 2019 in Abu Dhabi by the United Arab Emirates. It also welcomes the hosting by the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia the Third Session of the Festival on 25- 29 November, 2019 which coincided with the OIC Golden Jubilee;
12. **Welcomes** the initiative of Member States, namely Azerbaijan, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Togo, Tunisia, Mozambique, and Burkina Faso, which have expressed their desire to host the OIC Festival. Urges Member States wishing to host the coming sessions of this Festival to inform the General Secretariat of the matters that would support interaction between intellect, politics, culture, heritage, arts, economy, humanitarian action, and solidarity among the Muslim communities in the world, highlight Islamic civilization and the OIC role and promote cooperation among peoples;
13. **Commends** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat for organizing a Cultural Activity under the theme "Culture, Education and Development: Experiences from the Muslim World" in Kampala, Uganda, on 11-12 June 2022, in partnership with the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), the goal of which was to highlight the importance of promoting educational leadership and the rich cultural expressions in Africa; and **thanks** the Republic of Uganda for the successful hosting of this event;
14. **Welcomes** the Indonesian initiative to organize the OIC Cultural Activity (OICCA) in 2023, in East Kalimantan, Indonesia as follow up of the Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of

Youth and Sports Ministers held in Jeddah from 7 – 9 September 2022 and invites the Member States to participate in it. The OICCA will showcase the involvement of youth in various cultural activities”;

15. **Decides** to hold a Festival of Islamic Arts and Handicrafts in one of the OIC Member States in order to contribute to the radiance of the Islamic culture in all its aspects;
16. **Requests** the General Secretariat, in coordination with relevant OIC institutions, to conduct the necessary consultations with the Member States for them to manifest their interest in holding the 1st edition of this important event;
17. **Requests** the IDB, ICESCO, IRCICA and all other relevant OIC institutions to fully support all cultural cooperation initiatives, including in the area of cinematographic production;
18. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.8/12-C
ON
COMMEMORATION OF WORLD ARABIC LANGUAGE DAY

The 12th Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), Session of “What role for Muslim youth in the promotion of Islamic values of peace, solidarity and tolerance?”, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 16 to 18 October 2023 corresponding to (1-3 RABII AL THANI 1445 AH).

Guided by the objectives of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation which provide for spreading, promotion and maintenance of Islamic teachings and values based on moderation and tolerance and for promotion of Islamic culture and preservation of Islamic heritage,

Guided also by the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation which identified Arabic as one of the three official languages of the Organization,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 3190 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 on inclusion of Arabic among the official and the working languages of the United Nations,

Recalling also the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its 190th session to promote the observation of World Arabic Language Day on 18 December every year as one of the international days marked by UNESCO,

Recalling the importance of Arabic language as the language of the Noble Qur’an, the language of worship of Muslims and the foundation stone of the Islamic ummah culture with the variety of their inclinations, cultures and tongues,

Sensing the importance of supporting and celebrating the Arabic language and of striving to spread it in order to preserve it and encourage its widespread usage among Muslims in various parts of the world,

1. **Decides** to observe World Arabic Language Day on 18 December every year;
2. **Invites** the OIC General Secretariat, its subsidiary organs, and specialized and affiliated institutions and external offices to mark World Arabic Language Day on 18 December as one of the days marked by the OIC and to offer activities and initiatives to support the observation of the day;
3. **Encourages** the General Secretariat and relevant agencies in Member States to cooperate to promote, spread and mark the day and the Arabic language;
4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.