

OIC/CFM-40/2013/POL/SG-REP.

**REPORT
OF THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL
ON
POLITICAL ISSUES
SUBMITTED TO THE
40TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
(4-6 NOVEMBER 2013)**

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This report which covers the activities of the General Secretariat on the implementation of the resolutions on the Political Issues in the period from August 2012 and September 2013 is submitted to the 40th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers for its consideration and appropriate decision.

During this period, I have been following developments in the OIC Member States with active engagement making the best of the OIC capabilities and capacities and the mandates given to me by the Member States.

SYRIA

1. Through a number of messages issued by the OIC, I expressed our profound sadness at the continued escalation and aggravation of violent practices, and stressed the need for a commitment to protect civilians, respect human rights, activate the principles of good governance, implement the reforms promised by the Syrian leadership and resolve the Syrian crisis through peaceful means.
2. I reiterated the OIC's position which repeatedly called for resolving the Syrian crisis through halting violence and bloodshed. I urged all parties to return to wisdom and serious dialogue with the national forces in order for the Syrian people to achieve their aspirations for democratic reforms and social and economic development. I warned that the continued military escalation in the light of the regional and global rejection of such escalation will push the country to slide towards internal risks and civil war, which might threaten peace, security and stability in the country and in the region.
3. The 12th Islamic Summit in Cairo expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation, the increasing frequency of killings, which claimed the lives of thousands of unarmed civilians, and the perpetration of massacres in towns and villages by the Syrian authorities.
4. The OIC has called for the commencement of immediate implementation of the transitional phase plan and the development of a peaceful mechanism that would allow building a new Syrian State based on pluralism, democratic and civilian system where there would be equality on the basis of law, citizenship and fundamental freedoms.
5. In the absence of any tangible result in the international and regional peace initiatives to resolve the Syrian crisis, I have been advocating for the convening of the Geneva-II Conference on Syria involving all parties in order to find a peaceful solution to this crisis. I conducted extensive contacts with the various

stakeholders in order to ensure the participation of the OIC in the Geneva II meeting. I expressed OIC's readiness to offer what it can do through its position and possible capabilities in order to contain the crisis and to bring support to a peaceful solution of the Syrian crisis. I call upon the different factions of the Syrian opposition to unify their position in order to participate actively and effectively in the Geneva II meeting.

6. In a bid to uphold OIC's position to promote tolerance and respect for religious symbols and places of worship including mosques and churches, I expressed my strong condemnation of the assassination of Christian religious figures. I also expressed my deep concern over the acts of destruction and vandalism against religious sites and houses of worship in Syria and reiterated OIC's principled position against attacks and desecration of religious symbols, places of worship and holy sites of all religions.

LIBYA

7. As the Secretary General of the OIC, I have been following the transitional phase of Libya, a founding member of the OIC.
8. To mark my unwavering support to Libya and its people, I attended all major international conferences and meetings on Libya aiming at resolving the crisis through dialogue.
9. I called on the Libyan people to support legitimacy, back the Libyan Government in its efforts to establish State institutions, realize a sound democratic transition and to agree on a new constitution that ensures freedoms and the rule of law and institutions and the peaceful transfer of power by engaging all components of the Libyan people. In this regard, I expressed the OIC General Secretariat's readiness to provide all forms of support and backing to the Libyan people in this critical juncture of their history to build a promising future for the coming generations after getting rid of the dictatorship and despotic regime.
10. Now this country is moving forward with the support from the OIC Member States and the larger international community. I urge upon all stakeholders to remain vigilant to protect the interest of the country at this crucial period. I will continue my endeavors and full support for the realizing peace, security and welfare of the Libyan People.
11. I expressed strong condemnation of the abduction of the Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zaydan in Tripoli on 10 October 2013 by an armed group, describing it as a cowardly terrorist act and mischievous conduct, considering it at variance with the principles of Islam and all international laws and norms. I reiterated the call to all segments of the Libyan people to put Libya's interest above all else and support the efforts of the Libyan government to achieve the objectives of the great Libyan peoples' revolution during which they made huge sacrifices for the

sake of democracy, freedom, justice and the preservation of the Libyan territorial integrity.

SUDAN

12. For Sudan, a founding member of the OIC, I am following closely the developments of the relations between the governments of Sudan and South Sudan. I urged both governments to engage positively in order to solve all pending issues.
13. The OIC supported the security, stability and territorial integrity of the Sudan and called upon South Sudan to fully respect the agreement signed between the two parties. I also condemned the support and facilities given by the government of South Sudan to some Darfurian armed rebel movements is complicating the situation in the field in Darfur and urged both countries to settle their disputed issues through negotiation.
14. In a number of statements issued from the OIC General Secretariat, I urged all stakeholders and development partners of the Sudan, during the OIC participation to the Doha Peace process, to fully implement the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and take concrete steps to accelerate the peace process in order to allow the Darfurian people to benefit from the dividends of peace. I also participated to the Pledging conference for Darfur which met in Doha on May 2013 and reiterated the commitment of the OIC and its Member States to contribute to the reconstruction and development of Darfur.

YEMEN

15. The OIC has been following closely and supporting the process of reestablishing the State institutions and reconstruction in Yemen. The OIC commended the negotiated and inclusive transitional measures adopted by President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, calling on all Yemeni stakeholders to engage positively with the national dialogue initiative which paves the way toward achieving national reconciliation, good governance, rule of law, and respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people in Yemen. The OIC reiterated its full and continued support to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Yemen and called upon all the Member States to extend all necessary assistance to the transitional process in Yemen.
16. The OIC commended the Friends of Yemen for mobilizing commitments by the international community to provide financial support to meet the urgent economic and humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people. The OIC did in fact take part in the latest meeting of the Group held in New York and welcomes its outcome.
17. The OIC welcomed the decisions of President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, on the restructuring of the Yemeni army,

designation of military zones and appointment of their commanders as part of efforts to unite the army. I expressed the hope that the efforts of the Yemeni President would contribute to supporting national harmony, security and peace in Yemen.

SOMALIA

18. Despite some lingering challenges, the overall situation in Somalia has continued to witness a steady improvement during the reporting period since the end of the political transition.
19. The 39th Session of the CFM in Djibouti discussed the positive developments in Somalia and adopted Resolution 3/39-POL on the Situation in Somalia. In it, the Ministers congratulated the Somali stakeholders for their determination to move their country forward by ushering a new era of sustainable peace and stability. They welcomed the election of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the formation of a new government. They commended my historic visit to Mogadishu and requested me to continue my efforts on supporting Somalia's reconstruction and assisting the Somali Federal Government to develop its security institutions, particularly the Police and National Security forces and further tasked me to support the Federal Government to develop a security strategy including disarmament plans, rehabilitation of the militias for their reintegration into society and strengthening state capacities in the field of justice. In this regard, the Ministers called for the lifting of the arms embargo on Somalia in order to accelerate capacity building in the security sector.
20. Pursuant to the implementation of the Resolution, I wrote to the Member States and OIC Institutions urging them to assume their responsibilities by actively supporting the peace building efforts in Somalia and by contributing troops to beef up the African Union Peace Keeping operation in Somalia (AMISOM) as well as by assisting Somalia develop its capacities in state and institution building. I also mobilized the Member States to campaign for the ending of the decades'-old UN imposed arms embargo which happily has now resulted in the partial lifting of the ban. It is my hope that this development would contribute to the acceleration of the strengthening of the Somali security forces through the acquisition of the necessary equipment. I am also happy to note that some Member States have responded positively to my appeal by extending concrete assistance in capacity building. On the sidelines of the 67th session of the UNGA, I participated in a UN convened High Level meeting on Somalia. The OIC Contact Group on Somalia had also met on the margins of the 67th and 68th sessions of the UNGA to review the positive political developments which would further contribute to the stabilization of the country.
21. At the invitation of the British Prime Minister, the OIC as a key international partner of Somalia took part in the Somalia Conference convened on 7th May 2013 in London by the UK Government. The meeting of partners and friends of Somalia pledged their determination to remain committed to the stabilization of

Somalia and to support in a coordinated and sustained manner the implementation of the Somali Federal Government's Six Pillar Plan. The international forum, attended by 54 delegations from Somalia and the international community including several OIC Member States, agreed that a strong partnership would form the basis of the future cooperation between Somalia and the international community in order to lay the ground for a brighter future for the Somalis. The OIC had also actively participated in the EU hosted conference in Brussels on 16th September 2013 where the New Deal Compact which set out obligations of both the international community and Somalia on the reconstruction of the country was adopted.

22. With the successful conclusion of the transition leading to the adoption of the provisional constitution, the inauguration of more legitimate and representative institutions in Somalia, the OIC must plan for a new era of cooperative relations under the new dispensation. In this regard, the OIC Trust Fund for Somalia set up by the 38th CFM would need to be activated while the OIC Humanitarian Coordination Office in Mogadishu should be transformed to a Development Office with additional responsibility of monitoring political activities leading to the finalization of the constitution and the eventual holding of elections on the basis of universal suffrage. To further deepen the process of national reconciliation and democracy as well as provide effective governance, the new authorities must remain focused and maintain their unity and cohesion.
23. While I specially commend the resolve of the Somali people particularly the stakeholders for bringing the transition to a triumphant end, I wish to urge all the stakeholders not to relent and to build on the current momentum in order to further stabilize their country and move it forward. I also encourage the Federal Government to pursue its outreach and reconciliation efforts with all the regions and the opposition in order to broaden the peace process and make it more enduring.
24. The OIC recognizes that Somalis alone will not be able to achieve these objectives without outside assistance. Accordingly, I will continue to mobilize all partners particularly the OIC Member States to genuinely engage in the long term reconstruction and peace building in Somalia by actively contributing in developing Somali capacities in various critical areas including the security sector which still remains fragile.

COTE D'IVOIRE

25. During the period under review, following the successful conduct of the parliamentary and municipal elections, normalcy and stability are steadily returning to Cote d' Ivoire under the leadership of President Alassane Ouattarra. In their continuing solidarity with the country, a regional pillar in West Africa, the Ministers, during the 39th CFM in Djibouti, adopted Resolution 12/39-POL on the Situation in Cote d'Ivoire. In it, the Ministers, urged the Member States and all OIC Institutions to actively contribute to the reconstruction of the

country. They further tasked the Secretary General to take the necessary measures in cooperation with ECOWAS to organize a donors' conference to assist the reconstruction efforts in Cote d'Ivoire.

26. Pursuant to the implementation of the Resolution, I wrote immediately to the Member States and OIC Institutions requesting them to act accordingly. In the same vein, I reached out to Cote d'Ivoire the concerned country and ECOWAS seeking their cooperation for the holding of the donors' conference. Sadly, ECOWAS has not shown the required commitment to collaborate with the OIC in order to convene the conference. Similarly, a response is still being awaited from Cote d'Ivoire in respect of the bankable projects which it is expected to prepare and submit for resources mobilization.
27. As I note with satisfaction the overall progress being made by Cote d'Ivoire in peace building and national reconciliation, the country continues to face some challenges especially in the security sector. I remain concerned with the threat of destabilization by some elements associated with the previous regime. I therefore urge all Ivorians to preserve national unity while I appeal to the Member States particularly those in region to step up their support for the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire to return durable peace to the country.

MALI AND THE SAHEL REGION

28. The situation in Mali and the Sahel during the reporting remained a source of grave concern to the OIC because of its wider implications on the peace, security and stability in the region. In response to the deepening crisis, the 39th CFM in Djibouti adopted Resolution 18/39-POL. It recalled the outcome of the 4th Extraordinary Summit of 14-15 August 2012 and tasked the Member States to assist Mali recover its occupied territory and restore its unity and stability. It also expressed its full support for the ECOWAS-led mediation on the Malian conflict. It also appealed to the Member States to provide the necessary assistance including humanitarian aid in order to alleviate the humanitarian situation of the IDPs and refugees in neighboring countries. As mandated by the Makkah Extraordinary Summit, I have designated H.E. Mr Djibrill Bassole the Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso as my Special Envoy for Mali and the Sahel in order to lead OIC's overall efforts in contributing to finding durable peace in Mali and the region. Mr Bassole who has been active in this capacity as OIC Envoy, visited the OIC General Secretariat on 13th March 2013, for a briefing on his mandate and a review of the latest developments on the ground in Mali.
29. In pursuance to the implementation of the CFM Resolution, I wrote to the Member States to extend all possible form of assistance to Mali in order to regain its territorial integrity and to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the IDPs and Malian refugees in neighboring countries. Similarly, the a joint OIC-OCHA mission toured Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso to assess the needs of the region and to mobilize the international community for urgent

intervention to alleviate the situation in the region. On the sidelines of the 67th and 68th sessions of the UNGA in New York, I participated in the High Level Meeting on Mali where I briefed on the various actions undertaken by the OIC since the outbreak of the crisis.

30. In November, 2012, I dispatched a high level mission to Mali and Burkina Faso to encourage the Malian parties commit themselves more seriously to dialogue and mediation in order to avoid a looming military intervention in the North as approved by UNSC 2071 which both the Ministerial meeting of the Group of Support and Follow-up on the Situation in Mali held on 19th October 2012 in Bamako and the subsequent ECOWAS Summit had also backed. In Ouagadougou, the OIC delegation participated in the first ever face to face meeting between the government of Mali the rebel Tuareg movement of MNLA and the militant Ansar Dine based in northern Mali. The historic meeting agreed to launch and formalize the dialogue process three weeks later under the mediator, President Blaise Compaore.
31. At the invitation of Morocco during its monthly presidency of the UNSC, the OIC actively participated in the special debate by the Council on 10th December 2012 on the crisis in Mali and the Sahel. Shortly after, the Council at its session on 20th December 2012 adopted the Resolution 2085 which finally authorized the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) whose main troop contributors are OIC Member States.
32. Unfortunately, on 11th January, 2013, the conflict took a dramatic escalation on the ground in Mali following the military strikes by France reportedly on the invitation of the government of Mali with the aim of halting the advance southwards of the armed groups controlling the North and prevent the collapse of the state in Mali. This development necessitated the fast tracking of the deployment of the AFISMA troops contributed mostly by OIC Member States, to liberate the North. With the transformation of AFISMA from 1st July 2013 into the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), I have launched an appeal to the Member States to contribute troops to the mission and to extend assistance to Mali in order to conduct national elections planned for 28th July 2013 throughout the country. To ensure the conduct of the elections, a new mediation exercise was undertaken in Ouagadougou under the leadership of President Blaise Compaore who succeeded in brokering on 18th June 2013, an Interim agreement between the Government of Mali, the MNLA and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad. The agreement, in which the OIC was a signatory as a witness, facilitated the return of the Malian administration to Kidal and other areas still under the control of armed Tuareg rebels and paved way for the holding of the two rounds of the presidential election throughout the country. The elections were monitored by the OIC.

33. During its 12th Islamic Summit in Cairo on 6-7 February, the situation in Mali featured high on the agenda of the meeting. In expressing their unwavering commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of country, the leaders adopted a Special Declaration on Mali and decided to establish a Contact Group at Ministerial level to follow closely the developments in this founding Member State. The Contact Group with its 24 countries' membership has held its inaugural meeting on 13th May 2013 at the General Secretariat. Similarly, on 15th May 2013, at the invitation of the EU, the OIC participated in an international donors' conference for the development of Mali in Brussels. The meeting witnessed a large attendance of partners including a number of OIC Member States who made various pledges towards the reconstruction, development and stabilization of Mali. As a member of the Group of Follow-up and Support for Mali which brings together key international partners of the country, the OIC has continued to actively participate in all its meetings including the latest, the sixth in the series held on 2nd November 2013 in Bamako.
34. The successful end of the transition and the election of a new government leading to the restoration of democratic order, has provided Mali with an opportunity to strengthen the foundations of peace, democracy and reconciliation in Mali. Accordingly, the new authorities would need to give due priority to dialogue and negotiation in order to arrive at durable peace in the country. I urge all Malians to rally round their elected leaders and embrace national reconciliation in order to consolidate national unity and internal peace. The government on its part needs to remain focused on governance and service delivery particularly in the north in order to address to marginalization and underdevelopment. To the Member States, I urge them to raise their assistance to Mali in all areas and support actively the stabilization of the country. The international community on its part must honor the pledges made in Brussels and remain engaged in a coherent and coordinated partnership with the new authorities under the leadership of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.

GUINEA

35. Since the election of President Alpha Conde on 7th November 2010, ending the political transition arising from the political crisis in Guinea, the authorities have been making modest progress in restoring durable peace and stability to the country.
36. In support of and solidarity with the country, the 39th CFM in Djibouti adopted Resolution 13/39 -POL welcoming the measures taken by the new government to face economic and financial challenges and invited all Member States and OIC Financial Institutions to continue to offer political, economic and financial support to Guinea. It also urged the Member States to extend all forms of assistance to Guinea towards the successful holding of the legislative elections. In the pursuance of the implementation of this Resolution, I wrote to the Member States and relevant Financial Institutions to act accordingly. I have also

continued to raise the need to extend assistance to Guinea with OIC partners during my various my interactions with them.

37. While the government is striving commendably to grapple with the economic and security challenges including the reform of the security sector, I have also continued to encourage President Conde to give priority to concluding the political transition by holding credible, transparent, free and fair elections. I have assured him and his country of the OIC's assistance in this regard. In this context, I have offered my Good Offices to mediate between the Government and the opposition in finding a way out of the stalemate which has led to the several postponement of the election. I therefore appeal to all the Member States particularly those in the region to extend the necessary financial and logistical assistance to Guinea as they generously did for the presidential election to enable the authorities deepen democracy and good governance in Guinea. I am happy to report that the long delayed parliamentary elections have finally taken place on 28th September 2013 and that an OIC delegation was on ground to monitor them. Sadly the outcome of the polls is now being contested by the opposition which call for their annulment. I therefore appeal to the aggrieved parties to only resort to constitutional means to seek redress and avoid acts that could undermine democracy, peace and stability in Guinea.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR DISPUTE

38. It is again with my sad feelings that I have to report on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir which has remained unresolved with no specific development in meeting of the legitimate rights of Kashmiri people who have been struggling for their rights for decades.
39. However, the OIC, in line with its principled position, has continued to extend its full support to the people of Kashmir and their legitimate right of self-determination through peaceful means and in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. My Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Abdullah Alim and I continued to take every opportunity to raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and to reiterate the OIC's position in that regard. Moreover, the OIC offices in New York and Geneva will continue to explore different ways and channels through the Human Rights Council, international human rights groups and humanitarian organizations to follow the issue of violation of human rights of the Kashmiri people as well as to ensure that their voices to be heard on realization of their inalienable rights.
40. In February 2013, on the sidelines of the 12th Islamic Summit in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir held another meeting where the members of the Group seized the opportunity to reiterate their solidarity and support to the Kashmiri people. It was also decided to expand the membership of the Group in order to acquire more efficiency in supporting the Kashmiri cause. It further reiterated the necessity to explore new

initiatives and the best ways likely to give more strength to the Group in taking practical steps for the benefit of the Kashmiri people.

41. In order to review the latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir and to attract more attention to the issue, the OIC decided to hold a meeting with representatives of the Kashmiri people at its Headquarter in Jeddah. It was however delayed due to the restrictions imposed by India on the freedom of travel of the leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). My Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir is still following up the holding of the meeting and I hope that we would soon be able to arrange it.
42. As I announced earlier, my special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir will soon pay a visit to Azad Kashmir accompanied by representatives of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and ISESCO to study new avenues of extending necessary assistance to the people of Azad Kashmir. I really hope that the outcome of the visit would also encourage our Member States to further help people of Kashmir who are in dire need of all kinds of assistance.

CYPRUS

43. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has followed with close interest the last UN negotiating process for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, conducted between 2008-2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission. To my great disappointment, this last UN process in Cyprus did not produce a result, despite the dedicated efforts of the Turkish Cypriot side. Progress in the process was largely achieved thanks to the comprehensive and constructive proposals of the Turkish Cypriots, which were also appreciated by the UN. The Turkish Cypriot side fulfilled all of the UN's requirements for calling a high-level meeting, the final phase before the referenda, which would have enabled to reach a settlement in the first half of 2012. Furthermore, if an agreement could have been reached, the new partnership state would in fact have assumed the Presidency of the European Union on 1 July 2012. However, the Greek Cypriot side preferred to unilaterally assume the EU Presidency instead of a settlement.
44. The commitment of the Turkish Cypriots throughout the decades-long UN processes was proven once more in the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan (Annan Plan) referenda in 2004. But the last UN process has demonstrated again that the Turkish Cypriots' dedicated efforts are not sufficient alone.
45. The election of Mr. Anastasiades as the new Greek Cypriot leader on 24 February 2013 raised hopes in the international community for an early comprehensive settlement. After the elections, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), H.E. Dr. Derviş Eroğlu called Mr. Anastasiades on 25 February 2013 to congratulate him and also sent him a letter on 1 March 2013, expressing that an early meeting between them would be

instrumental in helping to understand where Anastasiades stands on the terms of a negotiated settlement.

46. The first meeting of the leaders, which was postponed twice upon the Greek Cypriot side's request, finally took place on 30 May 2013. According to press reports, Mr. Anastasiades insisted to keep this meeting purely social not only by sending a letter to the UN Secretary-General but also trying to limit the participation. As a result, no roadmap has been determined at this first leaders' meeting.
47. In view of these developments and considering that the Cyprus issue has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council for half a century, I wish to once again underline the importance of finding a negotiated and mutually agreed political settlement in Cyprus based on the inherent constitutive power of the two peoples, their political equality and co-ownership of the Island.
48. The Greek Cypriot Administration's recent attempt to offer the natural resources of the Island as a collateral for a solidarity investment fund or any other borrowing scheme to be established due to its economic crisis has constituted a new manifestation of the Greek Cypriot illusion of being the sole owner of the Island. The Turkish Cypriot side naturally displayed its reaction with the statement made by President Eroğlu on 21 March 2013. Turkey also made a statement on 23 March 2013, expressing that the only way to exploit the natural resources of the island before any settlement flows through an agreement in line with the proposals made by the Turkish Cypriot side in 2011 and 2012, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and thus getting the clear consent of the Turkish Cypriot side regarding the sharing of these natural resources.
49. A just and lasting comprehensive settlement in Cyprus in the form of a new partnership with two Constituent States of equal status constitutes a major priority and benefit for the international community. On the other hand, it continues to be a matter of concern that the Muslim Turkish Cypriots remain the aggrieved side from the absence of a mutually agreed settlement. The Turkish Cypriots, continuing to suffer unjustly from the absence of a settlement in Cyprus, cannot be left on the margins of the international community forever. Putting an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots remains a priority in line with the OIC resolutions. I call upon all the Member States to strengthen effective solidarity and continue to expand their relations with the Turkish Cypriot people.
50. In line with the reports of the UN Secretary-General and the previous OIC resolutions, including Resolution No.3/11-P (IS) and the Final Communiqué of the 11th Summit Conference held in Dakar on 13th to 14th of March 2008, Resolution No.7/37-POL adopted by the 37th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 18th to 20th of

May 2010, Resolution No.15-PE/6-CONF of the 6th Session of the Conference of the PUIC held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda on 30th to 31st of January 2010 and the Kampala Declaration, Resolution No.12-PE/13-CNCL of the 13th Session of the Council of the PUIC held in Abu Dhabi on 16th to 19th of January 2011, Resolution No.7/38-POL adopted by the 38th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 28th to 20th June 2011, and the Final Communiqué of the 7th Session of the Conference of the PUIC held in Palembang, Republic of Indonesia on 30th to 31st January 2012, The Final Communiqué adopted by the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca, on 14-15 August 2012, Resolution No. 6/39-POL adopted by the 39th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012, Resolution No. 14-PFR/8-CONF of the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan on 21-22 January 2013, the Final Communiqué of the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference, the Khartoum Declaration of the 8th Session of the PUIC Conference, and the Final Communiqué of the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Cairo on 6-7 February 2013, the OIC has expressed, within the framework of the vision of settlement of the Cyprus issue;

- its support for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue,

- its acknowledgement that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots,

- its disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a mutually agreed, just and lasting comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue as well as the Greek Cypriot side's re-armament efforts and its efforts to unilaterally claim maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean.

51. The Turkish Cypriot State, as an observer to the OIC, participated to the 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Cairo on 6-7 February 2013, by a delegation headed by President Eroğlu.
52. On 16 March 2013, I received Mr. Sunat Atun, Minister of Economy and Energy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, who was on a working visit to the OIC headquarters.
53. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the TRNC, with its Note of 30 May 2013, has proposed signing a Cooperation Framework with the OIC Secretariat covering the upcoming three year period which would enable regular consultations to take place in the fields of politics, economy, trade, tourism, higher education, technology, vocational training and other relevant fields. Recalling that the TRNC has been hosting important OIC events, the Ministry also informed in this Note that it has been decided to co-organize with the OIC Secretariat a Conference on « Water and Food Security in the OIC Member Countries » in 2013, and also to co-organize with the ICDT a Workshop entitled « Export Promotion and Investment Strategies in the context of Globalization»,

in 2014. I believe that taking part in such events constitutes a very important sign of solidarity by the OIC members with the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people.

54. During his visit to the OIC headquarters in April 2012, President Eroğlu had conveyed Turkish Cypriot State's official request as an Observer State to the OIC to open an office in Jeddah in order to duly pursue their contacts with the OIC and its Secretariat and to further develop their relations with the Islamic world. He had also reminded me that he had addressed a letter renewing his request to His Majesty Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia, in March 2011. I had also informed President Eroğlu that I welcomed this proposal. Mr. Hüseyin Özgürkün, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the TRNC informed me in his letter of 15 April 2013 that they have finalised the necessary preparations for opening a Turkish Cypriot Office accredited to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah and Assistant Professor Tayseer Al-Shanableh has been designated as the representative of the Turkish Cypriot State.
55. I sincerely believe that the Turkish Cypriot Office in Jeddah will enable the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people to establish a better working relationship with the Organization and its subsidiary organs by providing them with the means to participate more actively and effectively in the work, activities and meetings of the OIC.

THE AGGRESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

56. Since my last report on the territorial dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the occupied Azerbaijani territories, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region, there has been no progress towards finding a just solution on the conflict; The Nagorno-Karabakh region and other surrounding districts of Azerbaijan are still under the occupation of Armenia.
57. As a result of the Armenian aggression, over one million Azerbaijani displaced persons and refugees are still suffering and living in distressful conditions. I would like to seize the opportunity and appeal, once again, to all OIC members and institutions to pay more attention to them and provide needed financial and humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan.
58. In the political front, I have seized every possible opportunity to reiterate the OIC's long standing position in its condemnation of the Armenian aggression and continued occupation of the Azerbaijani territories, and I have reiterated the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. I had the opportunity to reconfirm the OIC position on the issue to the Azerbaijani authorities during my official bilateral visit to Baku in May and June 2013.

59. On the occasion of the 21th anniversary of the genocide against civilians in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region (Azerbaijani town of Khojaly), the OIC co-organized a commemorating gathering at its Headquarters in February 2013 when I had the opportunity to renew my strong condemnation of this criminal act and to reiterate the stance of the OIC towards the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

AFGHANISTAN

60. The OIC has continued to follow the developments of Afghanistan and I have pledged in different occasions, including during my meetings with the Afghan high officials; that the OIC will undoubtedly continue to fully support the country in its peace-building efforts during the crucial years ahead.
61. I would like to reconfirm the OIC's pledge to support the High Peace Council of Afghanistan and to express our readiness to work with the concerned parties and contribute to the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan. I have been able to personally convey this message to the Afghan authorities including the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani.
62. In this respect and in line with the last year resolution adopted by the 39th CFM in Djibouti, I have often called on Member States and the international community to support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive peace and reconciliation process to reach a political solution to the crisis in the country.
63. During the last year, the OIC has continued to actively contribute to the regional and international initiatives on Afghanistan. In all important gatherings on Afghanistan I reiterated our principled position in supporting the people and government of Afghanistan in their tireless efforts to address political, security and economic challenges facing their country. I have also emphasized the great importance of regional cooperation aiming at restoring peace, stability and development to Afghanistan and the region. Fortunately, during the last Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul Process held in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan, in April 2013, the implementation plan for a set of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) in various areas of regional cooperation was approved. The OIC has actively been involved in all preparatory meetings and works for those CBMs and will spare no effort in rendering assistance on their implementation. I really hope that the successful implementation of those CBMs would be to the benefit of regional peace, stability and prosperity. I further hope that in line with the resolution 11/39-POL adopted by the 39th CFM in Djibouti, all OIC Member States would support the initiatives aimed at enhancing cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbors.
64. Terrorism, violence and extremism are still claiming lives of innocent civilians in Afghanistan. On different occasions and events I reiterated the OIC's position condemning the terrorist and criminal activities in Afghanistan carried out by whomever and under whatever justification. I also supported initiatives taken by

the Afghan civil society in harmonizing the views of Muslim scholars on condemning erroneous interpretation and misuse of Islamic values by violent individuals and groups. I appeal to all Member States to continue extending their sincere and effective support to the Government of Afghanistan in its fight against this inhumane phenomenon.

65. On 24 September 2013, the High Peace Council of Afghanistan organized an Ulema Conference on Islam and Peace held in Kabul, with the cooperation of the Ulema Council of Afghanistan and the OIC General Secretariat. Over 200 religious scholars, intellectuals and Islamic Jurists from different Islamic countries participated in the conference and discussed issues related to peace and security in Afghanistan from their own perspectives.
66. Afghanistan continues to be an important part of the OIC funding mechanisms and socio-economic cooperation. Although the OIC Member States have graciously extended their financial and economic assistance to Afghanistan through bilateral channels, I hope necessary support would also be given to the OIC's channels in order to enable them to implement sustainable projects in different fields.
67. As part of an important initiative in developing Afghan human resources, the OIC has attached special attention to Afghanistan's requirements for scholarships from institutions of higher education in the OIC countries. I would like to reiterate my previous appeal to OIC Member States and institutions to increase to the extent possible their share in socio-economic assistance to Afghanistan, including offering more university scholarship for development of more human resources in the country, particularly as the Afghans' key role in their destiny is becoming more eminent.

COMBATting TERRORISM

68. The Organization of the Islamic Conference has always been guided by the principles and teachings of the noble Islamic faith, which promotes the practice and observance of peace and tolerance in all dealings and undertakings. The Organization, therefore considers the act of terrorism as one of the most serious crimes against humanity, as it is committed with the primary aim of inflicting the greatest possible pain through violent loss of innocent lives and destruction of properties. It affects every aspect of the society as it poses a threat to international peace and security and also impedes the development.
69. In its effort to addressing the challenges posed by the threat of terrorism, the Organization has decided to place terrorism as one of the top priorities on its agenda. The Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted by the Third Extraordinary Summit in 2005 reiterated its commitment to combating terrorism by issuing a strong message of condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. However, it was agreed that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with

any religion, nationality, civilization or race. And a distinction between terrorism and people's legitimate struggle against foreign occupation, a struggle which does not permit harm to the innocent has been identified and agreed upon. It also reiterated the commitment to the OIC Convention on Combating Terrorism and to the implementation of the recommendations issued by the International Conference on Combating terrorism which was held in Riyadh in February 2005, including the establishment of the International Centre for Combating Terrorism.

70. OIC welcomes the adoption of the UN Global Strategy on Combating Terrorism in September, 2006. It urges Member States to join in the commitment to strengthened international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The menace can only be prevented and defeated if the international community takes a comprehensive, effective and coordinated action to counter it. In this regard, Member States are called upon to initiate any measure that must include a long-term component in order to counter the conditions that are conducive to exploitation by terrorist to create or increase their power base.
71. The Muslim community has been most severely affected by the increasing number of terrorist acts across the globe. The OIC Member States should take note of this unfortunate situation in which we find ourselves and come up with comprehensive mechanism that will address this scourge. Measures to be taken include good governance, respect for human rights, embracing democracy and food security. This is because terrorism, in some cases, can be seen as a clear sign of political conflict and to an extent it is widely believed that poverty and poor economic conditions play an important role in terrorist acts, though all these can never be an excuse or explanation to resorting to terrorism.
72. OIC has already initiated a number of measures by creating several organs and units that seek to address these challenges. The Peace, Security and Mediation Support Unit, the OIC Food Security Institution and the establishment of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission are part of the efforts the Organisation is embarking on, in an endeavor to promote good governance and facilitates peaceful resolution of conflicts through mediation among Member States.
73. To galvanize further international cooperation to combat terrorism, OIC convened a workshop for OIC Member States on the implementations of the United Nations Resolution 1624 (2005) on Countering Incitement to Terrorism in cooperation with the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) from 28-30 May 2013 at the OIC General Secretariat. A number of Member States, Observer states, and the representatives of the UN, the African Union and the Arab League participated in the workshop. (a copy of the report is attached)

74. An analytical overview made on the threats of terrorism during the panel discussions at the workshop revealed an alarming picture of anguish that the international community is facing. The only option we have is to intensify our efforts, through a robust cooperation to fight the menace and in that direction, some useful guiding principles and elements has been identified;
75. Member states were called upon to implement the UNSC resolution 1621 (2005) in a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained manner; and in accordance to the principles of international law.
76. All participants agreed that a clear and consensual definition of terrorism, including the concept of incitement to terrorism, is a requisite for any legislation, whether national or international.
77. There was a thin line between incitement that would lead to commission of terrorism and right to freedom of expression; and therefore the criminalization of incitement would entail striking a neat balance between the due enforcement of law and the right to freedom of expression.
78. Member states are called upon to establish institutions of rehabilitation and reintegration for persons who have been convicted of acts of terrorism in order to fully integrate them into society.
79. A call was made for developing a pilot project between the OIC and the UN CTED to look at the existing initiatives towards implementations of resolution 1621 (2005) in other Member States. The idea was to develop good practices from lessons learned from those pilot projects.

COOPERATION AMONG THE OIC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPINGS

80. The salient highlights of OIC's relations with several international organizations during the period under review are as follows:

OIC'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

81. I had represented the OIC during the 67th and 68th sessions of the UN General Assembly. Besides attending the OIC Foreign Ministers' Annual Coordination Meetings and other OIC meetings, I also had audiences with UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and made several bilateral contacts with various important dignitaries and heads of various UN agencies and other organizations.
82. I met with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in New York on 12 February 2013 after addressing the open debate of the UN Security Council on "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict" where briefed the UN Secretary General on the conclusions of the recently held OIC Summit in Cairo. In addition, we exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Syria, Mali and Myanmar.

83. I had a discussion over telephone with the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon. During the conversation we discussed the latest developments in Syria and agreed to continue the consultations and the coordination on developments at the regional and international levels.
84. I met with the UN Special Representative for Syria, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi in Cairo on 4 April 2013. I listened to a briefing on Brahimi's latest contacts in the framework of his endeavors to find a political solution to the crisis in Syria and discussed with Mr. Brahimi the Syrian crisis and the latest developments and expressed OIC's support to Brahimi's endeavors to reach a settlement that would end the crisis situation in Syria.
85. I had a meeting with H. E. Mr. Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy & the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Sahel on the sideline of the Mali Contact Group Meeting held at the OIC General Secretariat on 13 May 2013.
86. During the meeting we exchanged views and the UN Special Envoy briefed me on the situation in the ground. We agreed to join our forces in order to intensify the efforts of the international community to consolidate security, stability and development in Mali and the whole region.
87. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Initiative on Quiet Diplomacy (IQd) jointly organized a Workshop on Mediation on 18-19 May 2013 at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Some 20 officials from the General Secretariat participated in the workshop.
88. The workshop was organized as a part of the cooperation program between the OIC General Secretariat and the IQd with an aim to build institutional capacity of the OIC in the field of Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation as tools of Conflict prevention.
89. As an expression of its solidarity with the international community, the OIC has continued to issue strong messages on various international events such as Human Rights Day, International Day of Women etc.
90. UN OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) Director of Operations, Mr. John Francis GING, paid an official visit to the OIC General Secretariat on 6-7 March 2013. Mr. Ging held fruitful discussions during the two-day visit with the OIC Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Ambassador Atta El Mana'an Bakhit and ICHAD staff. Discussions centered on the most effective ways of improving coordination between the OIC and OCHA, for a better and speedy delivery of humanitarian assistance to the needy and vulnerable people in time of humanitarian crisis, and also on their

respective experiences regarding the humanitarian situations prevailing in Mali, Myanmar, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, etc.

91. The discussions also recognized and stressed the fundamental need to develop a more inclusive global humanitarian system which will embrace new actors from the Muslim world, and reiterated the call made previously to see the two organizations play a more complementary role in terms of negotiating access.
92. On 28 February 2013, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) formalized their continued partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of OIC and Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Director ad interim of UNITAR, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organization. The objective of the MoU is to provide a cooperative framework within which UNITAR and OIC can create and implement capacity development and research activities in line with their common priorities in the areas of international peace and security; economy, science and technology; and cultural and social issues.

OIC'S RELATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN UNION

93. The OIC continues to follow with great interest the commendable efforts of the African Union to bring about peace and stability in various regions of Africa and to learn from its experiences in peace building. The OIC General Secretariat attended different ministerial and summit meetings of the Union. The AU on its part participated in the 39th CFM in Djibouti and 12th Islamic Summit in Cairo. Both sides participated in the meetings of the International Contact Group on Somalia, the International conference on Somalia in London on 7th May 2013, the meetings of the Support and Follow Group on Mali, the Donors' conference for Mali in Brussels on 15th May 2013 and the meetings on the Darfur peace process in Doha. With the changes at the level of the AU Commission, I have congratulated the new Chairperson and her team with the expectation that OIC-AU bilateral relations would witness further boost under her leadership.
94. Despite the increasing positive contacts and interactions with the AU which I had hoped would be formalized through the long delayed Cooperation Agreement between our two Organizations, progress has remained stalled on this front. Immediately after the adoption by the 38th CFM in Astana of the thoroughly negotiated draft which took care of the major concern of some Member States, the approved text was forwarded to the AU urging them to fix a date for signature. On receipt of the draft, the AU raised new observations including remarks on the core article that allayed the serious preoccupation of a particular Member State. According to the AU side, though they understand the reason for the insertion, of the said article, incorporating it in the text could also be problematic to them. In this regard, they proposed either dropping it completely from the text while they will ensure that any difficulty is avoided in

the implementation as in the case with their other partnerships, or that the article be reformulated to read that “Cooperation between the two organizations shall be limited to Member States of the UN and the AU” a formulation that could also be problematic to the OIC.

95. With the AU position, I again embarked on intensive consultations with the concerned Member States and the AU for a possible compromise and way out of the impasse but I regret to report that all my efforts have not yielded the desired positive results. I am therefore submitting the matter to the Member States for their determination and decision on the way forward.

OIC'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE

96. On a number of occasions, I held fruitful discussions with Dr. Nabil-Al-Arabi, the Secretary General of the Arab League. We agreed to intensify our cooperation on a number of issues, particularly Palestine, Middle East, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan.
97. Arab League Secretary General H. E. Dr. Nabil El-Arabi visited OIC Headquarters on December 20, 2012. During my meeting with Mr. Arabi we discussed regional issues, particularly the Palestinian issue and the Israeli settlements, in addition to the fallouts to the Syrian crisis, Islamophobia and other issues of mutual concern. We stressed on increasing the cooperation and coordination between the OIC and the LAS, especially with regards their work at the United Nations.
98. I participated in the proceedings of the twenty-fourth Arab Summit held in Doha on 25 March 2013 and delivered a statement at the opening session of the Summit in which I highlighted the importance of consolidating the cooperation between the OIC and the League of Arab States in different fields.
99. The Joint Committee on the follow-up of the implementation of OIC-Arab League Cooperation Agreement concluded its third Session at the LAS Headquarters in Cairo on 8-9 May 2013. The agenda of the meeting included various issues of common interest, notably the Syrian crisis, the Palestinian cause, issues related to Iraq, Libya and the files of the Sudan, Somalia, intercultural dialogue, and combating terrorism, dialogue among civilizations. The meeting designated focal points in the OIC and LAS for better coordination and to realize common goals.

OIC'S RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

100. I visited Brussels on 25-26 June 2013 and met a number of dignitaries including Ms. Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy. I also met with the President of the EU Commission and the president of the European Council. During our meetings I had fruitful discussions with the EU officials on issues of common concern.

101. OIC Brussels Office was formally opened with the presence of a number of dignitaries from the European Union. This office would ensure closer interactions with the European Union Headquarters and its different offices.
102. The EU Troika held a meeting in New York in September 2013 and examined the various areas of cooperation between the two organizations.

OSCE

103. On 29 November 2012, I addressed the OSCE Permanent Council upon the invitation of the Irish Chairperson in Office. In my address I reiterated the willingness of the OIC to further enhance political dialogue and practical cooperation with the OSCE and ODIHR including in the fields of conflict prevention and resolution, combating intolerance and election observation and expressed the OIC's readiness to cooperate with Ukraine as the next Chairperson in Office in 2013. I also had a bilateral meeting with the Ukrainian Permanent Representative who will be presiding the OSCE Permanent Council in 2013.

OPCW

104. The Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü who was on an official visit to Saudi Arabia visited the OIC Headquarters on 13 May 2013.
105. In my meeting with the OPCW Director General we exchanged views regarding the developments in the international arena and potential areas of cooperation between the OIC and OPCW.

GCC

106. During the period under review, the OIC and the GCC maintained regular contact and exchange of views on mutual issues to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations. Efforts are on from the OIC side to enhance cooperation for the best interest of the peoples of the member countries of both organizations.

THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE OIC IN THE MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY, PEACE KEEPING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

107. During the 39th CFM held in Djibouti, the Ministers adopted Resolution 19/39-POL which recalled the IGGE meeting of 13-14 December 2011 and its report and noted the important role of the OIC Secretary General on the use of his Good Offices and mediation in conflict resolution in parts of the Member States. Through the resolution, the Ministers endorsed the proposal of the IGGE on the establishment of a Unit dedicated to the maintenance of security and conflict resolution and called upon the Member States to cooperate in the building of the capacity of the General Secretariat in order to strengthen its expertise in confidence building measures and to create conditions conducive to conflict

prevention and resolutions. Pursuant to the implementation of the Resolution, I established the OIC Peace, Security and Mediation Unit (PSMU) at the General Secretariat within its existing resources in March 2013.

108. The PSMU is aimed to strengthen OIC's role in mediation and quiet diplomacy as tools in conflict prevention and resolution. It would seek to support the intensification of the use of Good Offices of the Secretary General, Special Representatives and enhance cooperation with other regional and international organizations. The PSMU initially will focus on its capacity building, after which it is expected to function through monitoring current and potential crisis situations and undertake timely preventive diplomatic response. This would be coupled with identifying and analyzing major root causes of conflicts and determining ways and means to address them. The PSMU as a support mechanism would also seek to interact with the OIC Member States and other international and regional organizations to share experiences in mediation and conflict resolution. I thank the Member States for their sustained interest and assure them that the General Secretariat will live up to their expectations with the Unit as well as with the role of the OIC in peace building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

NEW REGIONAL OFFICES

109. Regarding Resolution 39/39-POL of the 39th CFM held in the Republic of Djibouti on 15-17 November 2012 on "the Establishment of New OIC Regional Offices" which "*decides to establish two (2) new OIC regional offices over the next two years*"; one office this year and a second office next year, and which requested me to follow up the implementation of the resolution and to consult with member states on its financial consequences and impacts, I conducted consultations on the matter with a view to selecting the first additional regional office for this year pursuant to the stipulation of the resolution.
110. I have reached the conviction that opening an OIC office in Cairo this year will be of concrete value and would help foster coordination with the League of Arab States. It will also contribute to the expansion of the media hype provided by the city of Cairo. I have already held consultations with Egyptian authorities which welcomed the idea and expressed readiness to offer all the facilities required to enable the proposed OIC office to launch its work the soonest after the approval of the CFM. Just as importantly, the Russian Federation has also expressed its willingness to host an OIC office in Moscow to enhance the bilateral cooperation between Russia and the OIC and the whole Islamic world.
111. On the other hand, we hope to continue consultations in order to open next year's office in a non-OIC member state taking into account the need to guarantee the high interests of the Islamic Ummah and to promote communication with Muslim communities. The General Secretariat shall submit a report on this issue next year.