RESOLUTIONS
ON INFORMATION AFFAIRS

ADOPTED BY THE

35th SESSION OF THE
COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT)
KAMPALA — REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
14-16 JUMADAL THANI 1429H
(18-20 JUNE 2008)

RESOLUTION No. 1/35-INF
ON
THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SECTOR

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda from 14-16 Jamadul Thani 1429 A.H (18 -20 June, 2008,

Relying on Paragraphs 170 and 171 of the Final Communiqué of the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 6 – 7   Rabiul Awwal 1429H (13 – 14 March 2008), which pertain to information;

Recalling Resolution No. 1/8-INF (COMIAC) *on Information Matters* adopted by the 8th Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 22 to 24 Shawwal 1427H (13-15 November 2006);

Recalling the resolutions of the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 20-21 Shaaban 1427H (13-14 September 2006), particularly paragraphs (1) on interaction with the external media, (2) on Code of Ethics, (4) on the International Islamic News Agency, (5) on the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization, and (17) on bridging the digital divide;

Recalling also Resolutions Nos. 1/33-INF *on the Role of Information and Communication in Promoting the Just Causes and Image of Islam,* 2/33 o*n the activities of the specialized information institution (IINA and ISBO),* and 3/33 o*n the World Information Society and the Follow- up of the outcomes of the second phase of World Summit on the Information Society* adopted by the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 19 – 21 June 2006;

Recalling Resolution No. 4/34-INF *on implementing the two resolutions on restructuring The International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Union (ISBU)* and Resolution No. 1/34-INF *on creating the national Secretariat of the OIC Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC)* adopted by the 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 28 – 30 Rabiul Thani 1428H (15 – 17 May 2007);

Referring to the outcomes of the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) held in Riyadh on 27 February, 2007 and the

first meeting of the Board of Directors of Islamic Broadcasting Union (ISBU) held in Riyadh on 28 February 2007;

Relying on the resolution of the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah on 7 – 8 December 2005 (Para No. 7) on cultural and information exchange among Member States;

Commending the orientations and measures proposed by the Secretary General on the need to inject new vitality to activate the information and communication sector and to intensify information activities in order to project the activities of the OIC in the mass media of Member States;

Recalling also Resolution No. 13/31-POL on the Review and Rationalization of OIC Agenda Items and Resolutions adopted by the 31st Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, in June 2004;

Having considered *the Report of the Secretary-General on Information Affairs* submitted to the 35th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers;

Decides as follows:

A) **ON ACTIVATING THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SECTOR IN THE OIC:**

1. **Commends** the earnest efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the tolerant image of Islam and explain the positions of the OIC on current issues through his activities and visits to various countries and to present the concerns of Member States about the campaigns by some mass media to tarnish the image of Islam and Muslims.

2. **Calls** on the information and communication outlets of Member States to pay greater attention to the programmes and activities of the General Secretariat and the Secretary General and project them in the print, audio-visual and electronic media.

3. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to use all appropriate measures and mechanisms to project the programmes and activities of the OIC in the framework of joint Islamic solidarity to present the tolerant image of Islam, including considering the possibility of opening one or more information coordination office(s) for this purpose. This proposal should be referred to the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers for consideration and adoption.

B) **ON THE COMPLETION OF THE RESTRUCTURING PROCESS OF THE IINA AND ISBU:**

1. **Takes note of** the composition of new Boards of Directors for the IINA and the ISBU pursuant to the two resolutions of the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) in this regard and **takes note also of** the convening of the first meetings of these two Boards of Directors respectively to consider modalities and mechanisms to ensure the restructuring and development of IINA and ISBU.

2. **Takes note** of the appointment of a new Director General for the IINA who will oversee the Agency and supervise the restructuring process in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and welcomes the acceptance of the Islamic Development Bank to finance a study on the restructuring.

3. **Hails** the efforts of the chair of the IINA and the ISBU Boards of Directors, the OIC General Secretariat and the Member States embodied by the two Boards; **calls for** the completion of the restructuring and development process; and **calls on** the OIC Member States to lend all forms of support to the IINA and ISBU, including regular payment of their annual contributions and payment of their arrears.

C) **ON INTERACTION WITH EXTERNAL MEDIA**

1. **Takes note of** the composition of a supervisory ministerial sub-committee to prepare a comprehensive action plan to address the outside world in languages which it understands and according to methods which conform to its logic and mental constitution, with the aim of correcting the distortion of the image of Islam and of explaining its noble message and lofty value. **Takes note** of the resolution of the 7th ICIM to constitute a committee comprising the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Malaysia, Republic of Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, the Kingdom of Morocco, and of the establishment of a fund to finance programmes and projects covered by the information action plan for external action.

2. **Calls on** the said committee to develop implementation plan, programmes and mechanisms, seeking the assistance of a team of experts.

3. **Conveys** appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous offer to contribute to financing projects on interacting with the external media and its subsidiary activities through a dedicated fund and calls on Member States to contribute generously to the financing of the fund.

D) **ON THE PREPARATION OF CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEDIA OUTFIT IN THE OIC MEMBER STATES:**

1. **Takes note** of the preparation by the OIC General Secretariat of a draft Code of Ethics which, once adopted, will be circulated to all the media of the Member States so as to serve as guiding document for them in order to achieve diversity and pluralism and to preserve the values and interests of the Islamic Ummah, pursuant to the resolution of the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers.

2. **Calls** for the finalization of the document through established methods and procedures.

E) **ON SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF COMIAC:**

1. **Welcomes** the decision of the Republic of Senegal to establish a permanent national secretariat in Dakar to monitor the activities and resolutions of the OIC Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs and to strengthen joint Islamic action in the areas of information and cultural affairs through the development of appropriate coordination mechanisms among Member States in order to advance the Ummah to keep abreast of contemporary developments and address its challenges.

2. **Conveys** gratitude to H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs for establishing this permanent Secretariat.

3. **Calls on** OIC Member States, Subsidiary Organs, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions to lend their moral and material support to this Secretariat and to provide it with all necessary requirements and resources to enable it to perform its work properly.

    The Conference requests the OIC Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 2/35-INF
ON
SUPPORTING THE DIGITAL SOLIDARITY FUND

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda from 14-16 Jamadul Thani 1429 A.H (18 -20 June, 2008),

Recalling Resolution OIC/SUM-11/2008/INF(IS) adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 6 – 7 Rabiul Awwal 1429H (13 – 14 March 2008) ;

Recalling Resolution No. 1/8-INF (COMIAC) *on Information Matters* adopted by the 8th Session of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) of the Organization of the Islamic Summit Conference (OIC) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 22 to 24 Shawwal 1427H (13-15 November 2006), particularly Paragraph (l) on the Digital Divide, which called on the Member States as well as the competent Information and Communication Technology (ICT) institutions and organizations and the private sector to contribute financially to the Digital Solidarity Fund;

Recalling Resolution No. 3/33-INF on the implementation and follow-up of the conclusions of the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunisia in 2005, which was adopted by the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 23 to 25 Jumada I 1427H (19-21 June 2006);

Recalling the resolutions of the 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 20-21 Shaaban 1427H (13-14 September 2006), particularly Paragraph (f) on the Digital Divide, which called on the Member States as well as the competent ICT institutions and organizations and the private sector to contribute financially to the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF), which was launched on 14 March 2005;

Based on the provision adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca Al-Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005 (Paragraph 7), which called on the Member States to voluntarily support

the Digital Solidarity Fund in order to allow the OIC to actively participate in the campaign to reduce the digital divide;

Referring to United Nations Resolution No. A/RES/60/1 adopted on 16 September 2005, which welcomed the establishment of the Digital Solidarity Fund and expressed the hope of the United Nations for voluntary contributions to be made to its financing;

Recalling also Resolution No. 13/31-POL *on the Review and Rationalization of OIC Agenda Items and Resolutions* adopted by the 31ˢᵗ Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, in June 2004;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on Information Matters submitted to the 35ᵗʰ Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers;

Decides the following:

1. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to take advantage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in modernizing their institutions and facilitating their integration into the globalization process with the objectives of working for close cooperation among the Member States in the field of ICTs and securing access to the information society.

2. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to find solutions to help reduce the costs of satellite communications in order to empower the populations of villages and rural areas in all Member States and facilitate their connectivity to the Internet and their access to online services.

3. **Urges** the OIC Member States which have not yet joined the Digital Solidarity Fund to do so at the earliest; contribute to its financing; apply the 1% principle in affirmation of digital solidarity; and encourage their public and private institutions at the national level to implement it.

4. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to establish a National Authority for Digital Solidarity in every country, which is to be comprised of representatives of the respective governments, local groups, the private sector, and civil society, and which would undertake the tasks of monitoring the implementation of the obligations of the Tunis Summit on the Information Society; supervising projects to reduce the digital divide; submitting them to the Global Digital Solidarity Fund; and working on their funding, follow-up, and evaluation in cooperation with the Global Digital Solidarity Fund.

5. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to extend exceptional financial contributions to the Global Digital Solidarity Fund, which is to be earmarked for the financing of community projects for digital solidarity amongst the Member States.

6. **Expresses** its appreciation for the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OIC General Secretariat and the Global Digital Solidarity Fund at invites them to collaborate closely for the implementation of the resolution OIC/SUM/11/2008/INF (IS) adopted by the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit held in Dakar on 13-14 March 2008.

7. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to participate at the highest level in "the International Conference on Funding Digital Solidarity", which is to be held in France in 2008 with the objective of adopting an international convention on funding digital solidarity towards implementing an innovative financial mechanism (Geneva Principle) for bridging the digital divide worldwide.

    Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION No. 3 /35-INF
ON
COLLABORATION OF COMPUTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)
AMONG THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda from 14-16 Jamadul Thani 1429 A.H (18 -20 June, 2008),

Recalling the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), particularly those calling for promoting solidarity among the Islamic countries and strengthening capacities to protect their security, sovereignty, independence and national rights;

Reaffirming the importance of establishing and maintaining peace, security and stability around the Muslim world as well as the importance of building an environment of mutual confidence, cooperation and solidarity among the Islamic countries;

Responding to the decision reached at the Knowledge and Information and Communication Technologies for Development Conference (KICT4D 2005) that was held during the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on 21 – 23 June 2005 in Putrajaya, Malaysia the first OIC CERT Task Force meeting was held in Malaysia and participated by Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Nigeria, Pakistan and Malaysia;

Bearing in mind also the results of the World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 (first phase) and in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005 (second phase);

Recalling the results of the 3rd International Symposium of the Islamic Centre for Information Technology Emergency Response hosted by Tunisia on 1-2 April 2008;

Expressing its concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of member states to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields, such as cyber attacks, hack threats, intrusion worms, viruses or fraud;

Realizing that the nature of the internet and cyberspace is not confined to the physical boundary of a country, hence and need to establish a cross border collaborations to share information and initiatives to counter cyber threats;

Underlining the need of expanding the membership of the OIC CERT Task Force.

1.   Encourages all Member States to take the necessary measures, to encourage their national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) to collaborate with the OIC-CERT, which will be a grouping dedicated in providing support and responding to computer security incidents.

2.   Request the OIC Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

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