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RESOLUTIONS

ON

CULTURAL, SOCIAL & FAMILY AFFAIRS

SUBMITTED TO THE

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***(SESSION OF EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT:
PATH TO PEACE AND CREATIVITY)***

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INDEX

NO.	SUBJECT	PAGE
1.	RESOLUTION NO. 1/43-C ON GENERAL CULTURAL MATTERS	1
A	Dialogue Among Civilizations	
B	Alliance of Civilizations	
C	Cultural Strategy and Plan of Action	
D	The Unified Hijri Calendar	
2.	RESOLUTION NO. 2/43-C ON PALESTINIAN CULTURAL AFFAIRS	6
A	The Twinning of Palestinian Universities in the Occupied Territories with Universities in OIC Member States.	
B	The Educational Situation in the Occupied Palestinian territory and the Occupied Syrian Golan.	
C	The Israel Aggressions against Islamic Shrines in the Occupied Palestinian territory and the Preservation of the Islamic Character, Human Heritage, and Religious Rights of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.	
3.	RESOLUTION NO. 3/43-C ON PROTECTION OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES	11
A	Destruction of the Babri Masjid and Protection of Islamic Holy Places	
B	Destruction of the Charar-e-Sharif Islamic Complex in Kashmir and other Islamic Sites therein	
C	Destruction and Desecration of Islamic Historical and Cultural Relics and Shrines in the Occupied Azerbaijan Territories Resulting from the Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan	
4.	RESOLUTION NO. 4/43-C ON SOCIAL AND FAMILY ISSUES	15
A	A. Safeguarding the values of the marriage and family institutions	
B	Promoting Women's Status in the OIC Member States	

C	Child-care and Protection in the Islamic World	
D	Promoting the Position of the Youth in the Islamic World	
E	Safeguarding the Wellbeing and Social Security of Elderly and people with special needs in the Muslim World	
	RESOLUTION NO. 5/43-C ON ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRES AND INSTITUTES	26
A	Regional Institute for Complementary Education (RICE), Islamabad Pakistan	
B	Assistance to the Islamic Institute of Translation in Khartoum	
C	Assistance to Ahmed Baba Institute for Islamic Higher Studies and Research in Timbuktu (Mali)	

6.	RESOLUTION NO. 6/43-C ON SUBSIDIARY ORGANS	28
A	The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)	
B	International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA)	
C	Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF)	
7.	RESOLUTION NO. 7/43-C ON SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS	34
A	The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)	
B	Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC)	
8.	RESOLUTION NO. 8/43-C ON AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS	40
A	Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF)	
B	Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)	
C	International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS)	
D	The World Federation of International Arab-Islamic Schools (WFIAIS)	
9.	RESOLUTION NO.9/43-C ON STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (COMIAC)	49
10.	RESOLUTION NO.10/43-C ON THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ISLAMIC AND WORLD HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGES	50
11	RESOLUTION NO.11/43-C ON PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES IN THE CULTURAL DOMAIN AND SUPPORTING CINEMATORGRAPHIC PRODUCTION	53

RESOLUTION NO. 1/43-C
ON
GENERAL CULTURAL MATTERS

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th 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, at the initiative of the Republic of Iran, designating the year 2001 as the “UN Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations” which called for taking all measures aiming at the enhancing the concept of dialogue among civilizations; and **recalling** also the provisions of The OIC Ten-Year Program of Action called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary, specialized and affiliated bodies to contribute as a partner to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and related efforts in this regard,

1. **Commends** the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques the late King Abdullah Bin Abdelaziz on Inter-faith and Intercultural Dialogue, 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. **Also commends** the continued efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in this regard, which led to the organization of a high-level meeting by the General Assembly of the UN in November 2008, to which many world leaders participated in

support of the results of the Madrid Conference on the Initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques about dialogue. This was emphasized in the statement of the Secretary General who commended the initiative and its role in the dissemination of the culture of dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding among all the peoples of the world.

3. **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, 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.
4. **Commends** the OIC General Secretariat for initiating steps to institutionalize its cooperation with the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), through signing of a memorandum of understanding, as a sign of its continued interest and support on its work and activities.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.

9. **Reiterates** the support by the OIC to the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, convened triennially on the initiative by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, which held its 5th session in Astana on 10-11 June 2015, **encourages** religious leaders of the OIC Member States and the international community to continue their active participation in that meaningful forum.
10. **Welcomes** the Appeal by the Participants of the IV Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana and acknowledges that the only way to create a safe world is through a dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect and understanding, compassion and forgiveness, justice and solidarity, peace and harmony;
11. **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 (ISESCO), and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
12. **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.
13. **Calls on** the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) 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.
14. **Commends** the active role Azerbaijan plays in promoting inter-cultural and inter-civilization dialogue between the Islamic world and the West, including through the *World Forums on Intercultural Dialogue*, held in Baku since 2011 and Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-27 April 2016.
15. **Applauds** the initiatives, programs and activities taken by the General Secretariat and those by the relevant OIC Specialized and subsidiary bodies in particular the ISESCO and IRCICA for celebration of 2010 as the International Year for Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for peace.

16. **Welcomes** the new mandates that the Dialogue and Outreach Department (DAWA Department) has been entrusted with, and calls upon all Member States to give necessary assistance and support to the same in implementing its new 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 to the 43rd of the CFM.

B) ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

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

Referring to the OIC's Ten-Year Program of Action 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 Alliance of Civilizations, launched jointly by Turkey 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 on the Alliance of Civilizations adopted by the 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st and 42nd Sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, respectively,

Recalling also the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Secretariats of the OIC and the Alliance of Civilizations, **underlining** the significance of the Conclusions of the various AoC 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 Alliance of Civilizations to effectively contributed to Alliance's noble goals,

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

1. **Appreciates** the continuing determination and efforts of the Republic of Turkey in contributing to the overall work of the Alliance and the dissemination of its noble goals.
2. **Commends** the Republic of Turkey for hosting *Partners Forum*, held in Istanbul on 31 May -1 June 2012.

3. **Also Commends** the Secretary-General for his efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Secretariats of the OIC and the Alliance of Civilizations, and also for the OIC's constructive contributions to AoC meetings and for proposing joint projects.
4. **Welcomes** the results of **the** Alliance's Seventh Global Forum held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-27 April 2016, which has been crowned with success.
5. **Calls on** Member States that have not yet done so, to join the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations. Through the Baku Declaration, adopted at the Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance, the Group of Friends reaffirmed its support to UNAOC and expressed its conviction that UNAOC plays an important role as a global platform for sharing good practices for living together in inclusive societies.
6. **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.
7. **Appreciates** the initiative of the General Secretariat to hold the *2nd Meeting of the AoC Focal Points of the OIC Member States*, in coordination with ISESCO, in Rabat on 16-17 October 2011, and **appreciates** the active participation of the OIC and its Member States in the Seventh AoC Global Forum held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26-27 April 2016.
8. **Appreciates** the successful convening of the *3rd Meeting of the AoC Focal Points of the OIC Member States* by the Government of the State of Kuwait in Kuwait city on 12 January 2013.
9. **Commends** the successful convening of the *4th Meeting of the AoC Focal Points of the OIC Member State*, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in Bali, prior to the 6th AoC Global Forum.
10. **Thanks** the Secretary General, his team, and IRCICA for their dedicated efforts in organizing a sub event on '*Promoting Multicultural Perspective for Preventing Extremism*' at the 7th Annual Forum of the AoC, held in the Republic of Azerbaijan in April 2016.

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. **Welcomes** the adoption of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic world in its modified form and **calls upon** the Member States willing to implement cultural projects in coordination with OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO.
2. **Commends** the activities carried out by ISESCO and host cities since the year of 2011 and onwards, to celebrate Islamic cultural capitals and thanks the Member States for their active participation in these events.
3. **Calls** for the activation of the Council of OIC Member States ambassadors in Europe and the Americas to hold cultural and artistic activities in order to improve the image of Islam and spread Islamic culture so as to reduce Islamophobia and serve joint Islamic causes in the above-mentioned countries.

D) THE UNIFIED HIJRI CALENDAR

Taking into account the pressing need for the unification and standardization of the Hijri Calendar which will reflect the unity of Muslims during the feasts and celebrations;

Taking note of the conclusions of the scientific symposium on unifying the Hijri Calendar held in Tunis on 11 June 2009 in presence of the OIC General Secretariat, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the Member States, which include the following:

- Need to rely on vision while making use of astronomical calculations and observatories and to take into account scientific facts and fixed and accurate astronomical calculations.
- Make use of Al-Shahid System of the Tunisian Scientist Mohamed Al Awsat Al-Iyari.

Taking also note of the *International Conference of the Unity of Hijri Calendar*, hosted by the Turkish Administration of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) in May 2016 in Istanbul to which scientists, astronomers and officials from around 50 countries attended.

Recalling all previous resolutions supporting *Dar Al-Iftaa* in implementing the satellite project in cooperation with Cairo University and the Center for Aerospace Studies and Consulting in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and **stressing** the importance of implementing the project proposed 15 years ago with the aim of unifying the Hijra calendar in Islamic countries as an embodiment of their unity;

1. **Calls** on OIC Member States and institutions and civil society organizations to financially contribute towards the establishment and manufacturing of the Islamic satellite.
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to take all necessary measures in this regard in coordination with *Dar al-Iftaa Al-Misriyah* with a view to starting the effective implementation of this project.

3. **Calls upon** all the Member States and Islamic institutions to implement previous resolutions to support the Fatwa Institution in implementing the satellite project with the cooperation of University of Cairo and Centre for Space Studies and Consultations in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and through cooperation with Turkish Administration of Religious Affairs (Diyamet).

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.2/43-C
ON
PALESTINIAN CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 5th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Commending the accession of the State of Palestine to the United Nations as an observer member;
and to UNESCO as a full member;

Taking into consideration the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities towards the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, aimed primarily at the eradication of their cultural identity, along with Israeli attempts to obliterate and disintegrate their national and Arab identity at all levels, including the historical identity and heritage, the Israeli practice of a policy of maligning the Islamic civilization, distortion of historical and geographical facts, in addition to the continued Israeli policies of settlement, expansion and racial discrimination through claims of Israeli supremacy over the citizens of the occupied Arab territories, all of which constitute a blatant violation of their fundamental rights;

Condemning the aggression perpetrated by Israel in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif including the construction of settlements and the racist annexation and expansionist wall around the city;

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;

Based on the need to empower the Palestinian people affected by the illegal Israeli policies, the OIC Member States support generously the efforts aimed at improving the quality of education of Palestinian people;

Expressing deep concern at the Israeli threats and attacks against the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic and Christian holy places in the territory of the State of Palestine;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the following matters:

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

1. **Calls on** Member States to allocate scholarships for the benefit of Palestinian students; **expresses** appreciation to Member States that have already given scholarships; and **urges** them to increase these scholarships and reduce tuition fees for Palestinian students.
2. **Recommends lending** all forms of financial and academic support and assistance to Palestinian universities to enable them to play their national and educational role: **calls upon** the League of Islamic Universities to coordinate with the League's member universities to facilitate and encourage twinning agreements between Palestinian universities and member universities of the League with a view to fostering cooperation between and **calls upon** these universities to receive training and academic missions from Palestinian universities.
3. **Requests** the General Secretariat, in coordination with the State of Palestine, in implementation of the resolution of the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit on the Establishment of Al-Aqsa University in Jerusalem, to commence the necessary procedures for the establishment of the university; and **calls upon** Member States, Islamic funds, the IDB and other OIC organs to contribute effectively and generously to the establishment of the university.
4. **Calls on** Member States to implement the policy of boycott of Israeli universities in response to the direct violations by Israel, the occupying power, of the rights of the Palestinian people in general and the Palestinian university students in particular;

B) THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN

1. **Condemns strongly** the decision by Israel, the occupying power, to attempt to impose Israeli curricula on the schools of the occupied city of Al-Quds to replace Arab Palestinian curricula, as an attempt by Israeli occupation authorities to Judaize the city and obliterate its Arab identity, which constitutes a blatant violation of international laws and instruments; and **calls** for an international appeal to counter those measures and for the OIC Group at the relevant UN fora to act promptly to compel Israel, the occupying power, to stop its egregious policies.
2. **Calls upon** Member States to provide all necessary financial assistance in order to secure the funding required for the development of education in the occupied territories, in general, and in the City of Al- Quds Al-Sharif, in particular, and to work to actualize the educational aspect of the Strategic Plan for the development of Al-Quds Ash-Shareef adopted by the 4th session of the Extraordinary Islamic summit, 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, 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 harassment and attacks by settlers.

3. **Invites** Member States to introduce academic materials about the history of the city of Al-Quds to be incorporated into the curriculum, so as to acquaint generations of the Muslim Ummah with the religious significance of the city of Al-Quds and Al Aqsa Mosque and the coexistence between followers of Reveled faiths, identify the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people in the city. The Conference also calls on the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Organization the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and in coordination with the State of Palestine, to prepare such materials and to translate them into the OIC official languages
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Calls upon** the international community to shoulder its full responsibility in compelling Israel to abide by the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and all international conventions on human rights, particularly those related to human rights, and **calls upon** 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 violations and crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian civilians measures, and work collectively to hold the perpetrators of these crimes accountable.
7. **Condemns** the actions and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against educational and other institutions in the occupied Syrian Golan, 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 ISRAEL AGGRESSIONS 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.
2. **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-Islamic character; and rejecting its annexation or Judaization, in line with the relevant Resolutions of international legality, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions No. 465 and 478; while exerting all efforts in order to implement these two resolutions in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations and international legality. And reiterates that all practices through which Israel, the occupying Power, seeks to change the character and status of the city and its demographic composition null and void and should be abolished.
3. **Condemns again** Israel's illegal decision to add the Mosque of Elibrahimi in Hebron and Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque in Bethlehem to the Israeli heritage list. **Considers** the Israeli act as looting of Palestinian cultural and heritage sites. Also **Calls** upon the international community and UNESCO to show their responsibilities of protecting the Palestinian cultural and heritage places, and compelling Israel to abide by international law and Geneva conventions and, in this regard, calls on Member States to support the efforts of the State of Palestine in its quest for the inclusion of a group of Palestinian positions, including the Elibrahimi Mosque, in the World Heritage List.
4. **Condemns the systematic and the continuous Israeli attempts to plunder and falsify Islamic and Arab heritage** in Palestine, including the recent discovery of stealing by Special Forces of the Israeli occupation army of Arabic and Islamic books and manuscripts from the homes of Palestinians who were forcibly expelled in 1948; The Council mandates the Islamic Group in UNESCO, ISESCO and IRCICA to follow up investigation of this major theft of Islamic and Arab history and culture.
5. **Calls on** Member States to ensure the restoration of the old town in Al-Khalil and to safeguard the heritage and culture of this historic city and its resident Palestinian families in order to counter Jewish settlements in the city.
6. **Requests** the General Secretariat to continue its coordination with international agencies and institutions and particularly with UNESCO in order to implement the initiative of UNESCO's Director-General to renovate the Holy City; preserve the historic buildings of Al-Quds Al-Sharif 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 preclude the implementation of any designs aimed at obliterating the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

7. **Requests** the General Secretariat and Member States to implement previous decision by funding a multi-sectoral strategic plan in the eastern part of Al-Quds, as it constitutes a framework for identifying Islamic finance priorities for the eastern part of Al-Quds, in implementation of the relevant provision of the Resolution of the fifth Extraordinary Islamic Summit on the issue of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-, in order to enable the Palestinian people to face Israeli assaults and designs aimed at obliterating religious landmarks in the Holy City of Al-Quds, and **reaffirms** the need to provide all forms of support and assistance to the Palestinian Arab residents of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to enable them to renovate their houses, support their steadfastness and protect Islamic shrines in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.
8. **Strongly condemns** Israel for building the separation Wall, the so-called Jerusalem Envelope, which seeks to isolate the City of Al-Quds from its Arab-Palestinian environment, and for its unrelenting attempts to judaize it by altering its civilizational, historical, and cultural landmarks. It also **condemns** all states and entities that encourage this illegal behavior, including the statements of the President of the Czech Republic and positions of the US Congress
9. **Requests** Member States to coordinate and intensify their efforts in the various international forums to force Israel to give up the partitioning of Elibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil, to ensure access to it for Muslim worshippers, and preserve its integrity as a Mosque for Muslims only, just as it has been down the ages.
10. **Strongly denounces and condemns** Israel for digging excavations under the perimeter of Al-Aqsa Mosque, leading to the collapse of a large section of the Mosque's perimeter along Al-Maghariba Gate. Further **condemns** Israel for denying Palestinians access to their places of worship in Al-Quds and for its attempt to interfere in the Islamic Waqf (Endowment) matters and prevent the renovation of holy places.
11. **Demands** Member States to support resolutions related to Al-Quds Al-Shareef in international fora and **expresses** regret at the failure of a number of Member States to support decisions related to Al-Quds Al-Shareef and the Palestinian cause, including Cameroon, Albania
12. **Requests** the General Secretariat to constitute an ad-hoc committee of legal experts from Member States to discuss the grave violations perpetuated by Israel in the vicinity of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque in the form of excavation and threat to the Mosque's foundations, and make necessary legal recommendations for the protection of the Mosque and other holy places in the city of Al-Quds and other parts of Palestine, and to circulate names of international companies that contribute to the imposition of Israeli occupation control over the city of Al-Quds, to Member States to endeavor to boycott of these companies in line with the relevant international resolutions

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 3/43-C
ON
PROTECTION OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th 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 of Muslims all over the world;

Also noting with regret that the 22nd Anniversary of the Babri Masjid has passed without concrete steps being taken 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;

Recalling also that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation made several appeals to 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:

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. **Expresses deep concern** over the safety and security of the Muslim minority in India.
5. **Further expresses deep concern** at the recent 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.
6. **Strongly believes** that such statements are totally against historical facts and are only aimed at humiliating Muslim minority in India, and urges the Indian government to ensure the protection of this great historical site.
7. **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.
8. **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, and Resolution 3/42-C adopted by the 42nd 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) THE 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 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:

1. **Strongly deplores** the destruction of the 542 year old Islamic complex at Charare-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 desecration of Mosques and Muslim Holy Places and denial of religious rights to the Muslim population in the Indian Occupied State of 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 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 OCCUPIED AZERBAIJAN TERRITORIES RESULTING FROM THE AGGRESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Emphasizing that pieces of Azerbaijani history, culture, archaeology, and ethnography remaining in its territories occupied by Armenia are an integral part of Islamic heritage, and, therefore, must be protected;

Reaffirming United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), and 884 (1993), which call on the Armenian forces to withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories,

including the Lachin and Shusha areas, and strongly urge Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Reaffirming also that the utter and barbaric destruction of mosques and other Islamic Shrines in Azerbaijani territories occupied by, for the purpose of ethnic cleansing is a war crime and a crime against humanity;

Noting the tremendous losses inflicted by the Armenian aggressors on the Islamic heritage in the Azerbaijani territories occupied by the Republic of Armenia, 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:

1. **Strongly condemns** the barbaric acts committed by the Armenian aggressors in the Republic of Azerbaijan with the aim of total annihilation of the Islamic historic and cultural heritage in the occupied Azerbaijani territories.
2. **Vigorously demands** the strict and unconditional implementation by the Republic of Armenia of UN Security Council Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), and 884 (1993).
3. **Stresses** the need to ensure the protection of cultural heritage, cultural property and sacred sites in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, including, 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 and aimed at protecting and preserving Islamic cultural values and treasures in the territories occupied by 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.

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 4/43-C
ON
SOCIAL AND FAMILY ISSUES

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 12th Ordinary and the 3rd Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), and the 5th Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States;

Conscious of the growing need for Muslims throughout the world to promote Islamic revival and evolve societies grounded in the Islamic principles of peace, justice and equality for all human beings;

Reaffirming of the fact that women and children are the most vulnerable parts of the societies during conflicts and wars as well as occupation periods;

Reaffirming further that women and children are the most vulnerable groups of societies suffering from the impact of inhumane and unlawful economic blockades and sanctions imposed on their countries;

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

A. SAFEGUARDING THE VALUES OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INSTITUTIONS:

Recalling the OIC Charter;

Having considered the Statement of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC); and the resolution of the Human Rights Council A/HRC/27/L.27/Rev.1 on “Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity”;

Commending the decision taken by the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, which rejects this Resolution;

Lauding the position of the Muslim and non-Muslim States which opposed the Resolution within the Human Rights Council;

Considering that the Resolution includes many issues which cannot be accepted as they are in total contradiction with the teachings and values of Islam and other divine religions and with the human common sense;

Taking note that the UN Post-2015 Agenda overlooks the family in the post-2015 plan, and that the family institution has disappeared in some parts of the world, thus requiring that utmost attention be given to the marriage and family institution in Member States in order to protect generations and the future;

Affirming the importance of deepening the authentic Islamic teachings on the marriage and family institution in order to preserve its safety and cohesion to face ethical and intellectual challenges threatening its identity and existence;

Decides to:

1. **Reaffirm** that issues related to sexual orientation etc. have no link to human rights law.
2. **Reject** the HRC Resolution on Sexual Orientation and the establishment of the mandate of Independent Expert on the subject.
3. **Welcomes** the Declaration prepared by OIC Member States in Geneva, titled Condemning the Human Rights Resolution “Protection Against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity” (copy attached to this Resolution as Annex 1).
4. **Requests** the OIC Member States to make all efforts to oppose the adoption of a resolution on sexual orientation at the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
5. **Fully support** the OIC Ambassadorial Group in Geneva’s position of non-recognition of and non-cooperation with the newly established Mandate.
6. **Invite** the Secretary General to take necessary measures to repeal the Resolution.
7. **Call on** the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its relevant institutions to provide the needed support to Member States undergoing pressure in this regard.
8. **Request** the OIC-IPHRC to study the issue of Sexual Orientation and Gender identity in the light of Islamic and human rights framework and present its recommendations to the CFM on how to address the issue at different levels.

9. **Welcome** the adoption of thematic studies on the subject of (i) “Women and Men’s inheritance in Islam”; (ii) “Human Trafficking in OIC Member States” (with focus on women and children); and (iii) “Right of Minorities in Islam during the 9th Regular Session of the OIC-IPHRC and further takes note of the useful recommendations, contained in these studies, to counter misperceptions on contemporary human rights issues.
10. **Welcome** the HRC Resolution on the Protection of the family, which was adopted over the last three years at the initiative of Egypt and was supported by the overwhelming majority of the OIC Member States.
11. **Invite** Member States to hold a specialized conference on the marriage and family institution and the preservation of their Islamic values.
12. **Call upon** the General Secretariat to take the necessary measures and actions to prepare for this conference in coordination with the host State and relevant OIC institutions.

B) PROMOTING WOMEN’S STATUS AND EMPOWERMENT AND FAMILY WELLBEING IN THE OIC MEMBER STATES

Recalling the provisions of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam which stresses on the importance of human rights for all, as well as other relevant international conventions and instruments;

Acknowledging the outcomes of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on October 20-21, 2014;-

Acknowledging the OIC Member States that have enacted laws and regulations to enable women and to protect and enhance their role in the political, economic and social life.

Reiterating the OIC’s commitment to addressing a range of difficulties envisaged by women and reducing inequalities between women and men, and among poor and disadvantaged women in the OIC Member States, which earmarks the visionary and comprehensive strategy of the OIC to advance the status and empowerment of women;

Recalling the importance of the international humanitarian law particularly the provisions pertaining to the prohibition of military attacks against civilians and the necessity for protecting the victims of such wars particularly women, children, and elders;

Stressing the significant role of education in the empowerment of women, eradication of poverty, reduction of vulnerabilities, improvement of health, and enhancement of women’s contribution in the development and decision making process;

Recalling resolution No. 2/37-Org on the Establishment of a specialized Organization for Women Development in OIC Member States and adoption of its Statute by the 37th Session of CFM held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 2010;

Having taken note of the Report of the Secretary General on the matter:

1. **Urges** the OIC Member States, yet to be done, to provide women with better opportunities through enacting and consolidating laws that empower women and provide them with a comprehensive role in the sustainable development of Member States.
2. **Considers** that poverty among women has to be alleviated to promote their status in the Muslim world, formulating a roadmap to rectify misperceptions concerning women.
3. **Calls** upon the parliaments of the OIC Member States to pass necessary laws to combat trafficking, abuse of women, and other forms of violence against them.
4. **Requests** the OIC Member States, yet to be done, to adopt appropriate measures to promote Islamic principles for reinforcing and consolidating the foundations of the family unit, dignity, and empowerment of women and girls.
5. **Urges** the governments of the OIC Member States, yet to do so to adopt the necessary policies and programs for promoting the education of women and girls through providing uncomplicated and free access to literacy programs and also providing easy, inexpensive and equal access to higher education and removal of any possible draw backs in this field and ensure, through legislation, women's access to advanced technologies including ICT in order to promote their role in the decision making and development process.
6. **Encourages** the OIC Member States to hold regional expert meetings to prepare guidelines aimed at supporting women and the family in cases of armed conflicts and economic blockades and sanctions, and **recommends** that the results of these meetings be submitted to relevant international organizations.
7. **Calls for** the denunciation of the aggressions and the bloodshed perpetrated by Israeli occupying power against women and children in Palestine, especially in Al-Quds.
8. **Welcomes** the adoption of the Mechanism for the implementation of the OPAAW by the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States as a comprehensive plan of action and **endorses** it for implementation by Member States in coordination with the General Secretariat within the prescribed timeframes.

9. **Welcomes** also the Tehran Declaration of the *3rd Ministerial Conference on the Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States*, which enhances OIC collective work towards the advancement of women. In this context, it **endorses** the implementation of the recommendations therein.
10. **Reiterates** the urgent need to adopt the “Covenant on the Rights of Women in Islam” within the framework of the Ten-Year Program of Action, section I (2) in accordance with Resolution No.60/27-P and Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam as outlined in the OPAAW, Section I (1) and Recommendation laid down in Para (30) of the Tehran Declaration issued by the Third Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States (Women, Family, Economy).
11. **Commends** the OIC General Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the successful holding of the *5th Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States*, held in Baku on 20-21 October 2014, and **endorses** the Baku Declaration that, inter alia, establishes an Expert Group Meeting, in the second semester of 2015, to review OPAAW with a view to bringing it in conformity with the current discourse under the United Nations Post-2015 Agenda, as well as the OIC 2025 Program of Action, mainly on issues related to sustainable development goals, and **encourages** for the revised OPAAW to be endorsed by the *6th Ministerial Conference on Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States*, which is scheduled to take place in 2016.
12. **Expresses appreciation** to the General Secretariat and of the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its offer to host the *6th Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States*, on 1-2/11/ 2016.
13. **Adopts** the results of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts Meeting to review the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women, held in Jeddah at the headquarters of the OIC General Secretariat(3 - 4/11/ 2015), **and adopts** the results of the workshop, recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts meeting to review the implementation of the plan mechanisms, held in Istanbul at the headquarters of IRCICA (28 - 29/11/ 2016), **and calls** upon Member States and the relevant OIC specialized and subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions to implement the outcome of the two meetings in coordination with the General Secretariat within the specified timeframe.
14. **Calls** on the Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the statute of the specialized Organization for Women Development, based in Cairo with the view to operationalize its role in the promotion of women, and **calls** on Member States to cooperate and coordinate with the General Secretariat for the implementation of the Islamic Summit Conferences and CFM resolutions on women's advancement.
15. **Appeals** to OIC Member States, which suffer from all forms violence of against women, including domestic violence, underage marriage and female genital mutilation

and cutting, to take appropriate measures to prevent and criminalize such practices, and calls on the Islamic Fiqh Academy to conduct studies and research to highlight the OIC's position on such practices and help workers, organs and institutions in the field in OIC member states to exonerate Islam from them.

16. **Calls on** the OIC Secretary-General to nominate an OIC woman goodwill Ambassador in the field of women's empowerment and family to defend the family, the institution of marriage values and the fight against underage marriage, taking into account prominent women at the level of OIC Member states, who abide by Islamic values and respect cultural specificities of the Islamic Ummah. They should be aware of the challenges of the Muslim world in the areas of family, marriage, women empowerment, youth and the children's rights. They must also be able to conceive appropriate solutions in line with the OIC vision on the subject, and be loyal to the Organization and its crucial issues. Furthermore, they should be willing to uphold relevant causes. They must be of good conduct and proper behavior, and should have the ability to defend the OIC principles.
17. **Calls** upon ISESCO to implement the project on *childhood guide in Member States, and Elderly guide in Member states*, while coordinating in initiation and preparation of similar reports covering and mapping innovations in all the OIC Member States after regular intervals of every 2 years for its release at the corresponding Ministerial Meeting.
18. **Calls** on IRCICA to undertake the project of Female Muslim leaders in welfare "*WAQF Al SULTANAT*" and to organize workshops on the subject, while covering similar initiatives to produce publications covering Women leadership and Participation in OIC Member States every 2 years for its release at the OIC Ministerial Women Conference.
19. **Invites** the Islamic Development Bank to cooperate with SESRIC and General Secretariat to contribute to the implementation of the OIC Plan for the Advancement of Women, especially in the field of economic empowerment of women, the fight against poverty and the empowerment of women in order to ensure a decent living for women and girls in conflict, refugee camps areas.
20. **Invites** all OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions to urge public and private sector universities to establish an *OIC Female Educational Exchange Programme* under the OIC scholarships at graduate, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral levels, as well as to establish women studies and family research chairs in higher education and research institutions with a view to positively contributing for women empowerment, and courses on parenting and family management, trainings on marriage and family management as requirements for marriage certification in OIC Member States aimed at raising awareness on the sanctity of marriage and reducing divorce rates.

21. **Calls** on the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to establish, in coordination with the General Secretariat, an *OIC Award for Female Scholars, Young Leaders, and Entrepreneurs*, as well as its efforts mobilizing financial resources in this regard, the results of which to be presented at the corresponding Ministerial Meeting.
22. **Commends and encourages** the establishment of the Joint Advisory Committee for Family Affairs, Women and Children "to review the various legal and institutional frameworks, concepts and connotations, and legislations relating to the family, women and children in order to provide periodic updated analysis of the current trends, reports and reactions of the OIC Member States regarding the development of family, women's and children's legal affairs and the production of materials about the family, children and the elderly. It calls on the General Secretariat to inform OIC Member States and institutions about the results of the Committee's work to maximize its benefits.
23. **Encourages** the General Secretariat to cooperate with philanthropic societies in supporting poor and needy families, as well as with civil society in taking an active role in gender and family well-being.
24. **Calls** on the General Secretariat to coordinate with concerned OIC institutions, including the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF), the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) and the International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS) to implementing projects aimed at fostering young women and girls' leadership and training for future role in development and in establishing female sports centers for healthy women lifestyles.
25. **Welcomes** the establishment of family, women and children affairs section in the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, and ISESCO, in order to provide solutions for religious and fiqh-related, cultural and educational for children and Muslim women and family issues, including women's issues in the public sphere, and the mixing of the sexes, the marginalization of women and social solutions for women's issues, as well as sustainable solutions to the problems of marriage and the family, **and calls** on the rest of OIC specialized subsidiary organs to for the establish sections for social and family affairs in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.
26. **Welcomes** the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat and UN Women, and invites the OIC General Secretariat to work to support OIC Member States to promote women's rights and gender justice, and to work jointly to achieve the OIC objectives and to highlight their role in this field.
27. Encourages the General Secretariat to sign of memoranda of understanding with government institutions and international organizations in the field of Family, Women, Children and Youth during the year 2016-2107 in order to implement the organization's plans in the field of family and social affairs.

28. **Calls on** ISESCO to organize, in coordination with the General Secretariat and SESRIC, international events on gender, promotion of the family, reproductive health, Childhood, Youth and Elderly in Member States, and calls on SESRIC to prepare OIC outlooks on these subjects.
29. **Requests** SESRIC to prepare normative studies on the general policies of the Member States in the field of empowerment and welfare of the family, and about the materials on the subject of the family in the constitutions and laws of the Member States, and to seek to promote the role of the organization in the field of family research and to encourage events, workshops and scientific research in this the field,

C) CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Recalling in particular, the provisions of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam which stresses on the importance of the rights of the child;

Welcoming the Rabat Declaration on the issues of Children in the Islamic world, adopted by the 1st Islamic Conference of Ministers in-charge of Children's affairs, which was held in Rabat on 7-9 November 2005, in coordination with the General Secretariat, ISESCO and UNICEF;

Recognizing that the family has the prime responsibility for nurturing and protecting children as well as for full and harmonious development of their personality.

1. **Requests** the Member States to disseminate the Islamic values relevant to women and children, through the media, to project the radiant image of Islam in improving child conditions in the Islamic world, and to reiterate Islamic States solidarity on all child-related issues.
2. **Welcomes the** contribution of UNICEF in supporting improvement of child conditions in the Islamic world, and **hails** the remarkable, fruitful and continued cooperation between the OIC Member States, the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC Subsidiary, Specialized and Affiliated institutions on the one hand, and UNICEF on the other, for the benefit of the child's survival, protection and development in the Member States.
3. **Commends** the State of Qatar for its role in promoting the status of women and children and the institutions it sponsors which play major roles in this regard throughout the world, such as the Qatar Foundation for Education and Science and the Charity Hands.
4. **Urges** Member States to act, with the assistance of the international community, to improve the conditions and wellbeing of children, particularly those living under difficult conditions in conflict-ridden regions and those suffering from the effects of

economic blockades and sanctions imposed on their countries, as well as displaced children refugees, children with special needs children without guardians and children in conflict with the law by providing for their physical and moral needs and by taking interest in their education and helping them to return to normal lives, and **commends** the efforts expended by a number of Islamic countries in this area.

5. **Requests** Member States to take the necessary measures to protect children from the dangers resulting from harmful mass media programs and to support programs which lead to the promotion of the cultural, moral and ethical values for safe family and children.
6. **Urges** the Member States to take necessary action to implement the Rabat declaration adopted by the 1st Islamic Ministerial Conference on Children.
7. **Welcomes** the outcome of the *4th Islamic Conference of Ministers In-charge of Childhood*, and **appreciates** the Republic of Azerbaijan for the successful outcome of the *4th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers In charge of Childhood*, held in Baku in November 2013.
8. **Welcomes** the offer of the United Arab Emirates to host the *5th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers In charge of Childhood*, in 2015, with the close coordination between ISESCO and the OIC General Secretariat, and **encourages** Member States to actively participate and contribute for the success of this event.
9. **Commends** the efforts of OIC General Secretariat, ISESCO and other relevant OIC institutions in promoting the status of children and preserving their rights and further commended OIC's active involvement in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative; and urges the promotion of initiatives aimed to maintaining the child's health and safety psychological well-being
10. Urges Member States to take necessary measures and actions for the protection of wellbeing and psychological health of children in conflict and post conflict situations and refugee Camps.
11. **Encourages** Member States to promote the wellbeing of children and act against violence against children and children school dropout in the OIC region given its negative social and security implications on the future of Member States.
12. **Requests** the General Secretariat to engage on media awareness that highlights the role of family as an incubator to safeguard the future of the next generations and help to build parenting strategies to overcome challenges of parenting in the future.
13. **Requests** the General Secretariat to prepare an OIC comprehensive strategy in the field of child care and well-being in the Muslim world, dealing, among others, with the future of the children, sustainable development goals, developments relating to the

status of children maternity and maternal mental health, education opportunities in remote and poor areas, conflict zones and refugee camps, underage marriages and violence against children, in Member States. **It also calls** on OIC relevant organs (ISESCO, International Islamic Fiqh Academy, SESRIC, and the IDB) to coordinate with the General Secretariat to take necessary action in this regard.

14. **Requests** the General Secretariat, in coordination with ISESCO, the Islamic Fiqh Academy, the Permanent Commission for Human Rights and all relevant Organs to take the necessary measures to review and the "Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam" document to take into account the challenges faced by Member States in child care and to update the Covenant document prior to its adoption by Member States

D) PROMOTING YOUTH BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Emphasizing the role of the youth in the future of the Islamic world in building nations, promoting dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, in highlighting the true image of Islam and in the dissemination of its eternal values which call for moderation, dialogue, tolerance and the respect of the other;

Reaffirming the need to evolve sound approaches for the education and training of Muslim youth for the attainment of optimal cooperation and coordination among the Islamic States with a view to achieving the best levels of an all-embracing and just progress for all the youth of the Islamic Ummah;

Affirming the need for Member States to create appropriate forums for the youth of the Muslim world to closely follow the activities of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with a view to contributing for its development;

Taking note of the need for Member States to encourage media and Social curricula to promote family values and traditions among youth.

Reaffirming further the importance of the institution of marriage in Islam which requires developing approaches by Member States to facilitate marriage among youth in the Islamic Societies;

1. **Underscored** the importance of the youth and their role in the society and calls for building youth capacity by further training, promotion and empowerment, and promoting them in all fields to play positive roles in the renaissance of their respective countries.
2. **Calls on** Member States to work on developing adequate methods for the education of Muslim Youth to enhance their role in comprehensive development with a view to meeting future challenges.

3. **Welcomes** the Working Paper presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and adopted by the *1st Islamic Conference of Youth and Sport on Muslim Youth* on future challenges and the mechanisms included on promoting and protecting Muslim Youth and enhancing its status in the society included therein, and calls for coordination with the ad hoc Ministerial Follow-up Committee on all activities related to Youth.
4. **Commends** the Republic of Turkey and the OIC General Secretariat for the successful holding the *3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports*, in Istanbul, on 04-08 October 2016.
5. **Welcomes** the Resolutions and outcome of the *3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports*, held in Istanbul, on 04-08 October 2016.
6. **Appreciates** the efforts of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation and the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation and other OIC institutions working in the field of youth, for the success of the third session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports, which was held in Istanbul from 4 to 8 / 10/2016.
7. **Requests** the Member States to increase efforts to raise awareness and fight drugs abuse by improving the role of family and NGO's advice centers, and media institutions, youth centers and non-governmental organizations in raising awareness, enlightening the minds of youth and fostering the spirit of cooperation networking, citizenship and positive participation in society.
8. **Welcomes** the readiness of the Republic of Turkey and of the Islamic Republic of Iran to exchange their experience and information in the area of drug abuse with the OIC Member States.
9. **Calls** on the OIC Member States to ensure that young people with disabilities and those who are socially and economically underprivileged are afforded equal opportunities to fully participate in the society.
10. **Commends** the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the OIC institutions working in the field of youth, on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait on 27-28/5/2016, and calls on OIC Institutions Active in the Field of Youth to agree on joint programs, including coordination of efforts for an effective implementation of the MOU in the light of the mounting challenges facing the youth in the OIC region and all over the world.
11. **Calls upon** all Member States to participate actively in the Fourth Islamic Solidarity Games, to be hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku in 2017.
12. **Requests** the General Secretariat to organize cultural activities on the sidelines of the Baku Games in coordination with the host country represented by the national

committee, and the relevant OIC organs, and **urges** all Member States, relevant OIC organs, national committees and national youth boards in the Member States, to accord more attention to the success of this major event.

13. **Calls** on the OIC Institutions Active in the Field of Youth to provide training and learning opportunities for OIC youth males and females and initiate yearly OIC camps to promote youth capacity building, awareness, participation and a culture of moderation.
14. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to organize a forum for youth in Member States on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports sessions to give the opportunity for the youth to participate actively in the decision-making process, in coordination with youth organizations, the host country, the Standing Committee For Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) and international and regional organs with a view to promoting scientific and cultural interaction and exchanges and reflect on the major challenges of concern to them.
15. **Urges** the Member States to respond expeditiously in order to host the first edition of this important event; and requests the IDB, the ISF, the ISESCO and all other relevant OIC institutions to fully support this initiative.
16. **Takes note** of recent developments leading to major changes affecting, in large part radicalization and disenfranchising of youth, and in follow-up to the declarations of *Islamic Conference of Youth and Sport Ministers* in regards to safeguarding and protecting youth from social illnesses and extremism, and **calls** upon OIC Institutions Active in the Field of Youth to take action on the following items:
 - a. Developing further youth platforms for learning, growth, interaction, and sharing of experience;
 - b. Sustaining safe environment for youth development and improvement of diverse youth empowerment programs;
 - c. Providing youth with the knowledge base and positive experience required for the fine shaping of their character and values, healthy lifestyle, intellectual competence and social responsibility;
 - d. Equipping youth with social and professional skills alongside character development, with the goal of strengthening their personal and professional contribution to society;
 - e. Engaging youth in social work, volunteerism, development and environment; and
 - f. Empowering youth to complete tertiary education and motivate them to further excel in their academic and professional careers.

E. SAFEGUARDING THE WELLBEING AND SOCIAL SECURITY OF ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Aware of the lack of appropriate OIC policies on the need to promote and safeguard the wellbeing and social security of elderly and people with special needs in the Islamic world,

Also aware of the increasing number of elderly in the OIC Member States due to improvements in life style and health services over recent decades, given the significant reduction in mortality rates;

Affirming the need to enhance the participation and inclusion of senior citizens and people with special needs in the democratic process, including their role in sustaining and educating future younger generations through exchange of daily life experiences and teachings,

Aiming to ensure that senior citizens and people with special needs are not discriminated against due to their age and conditions,

Reaffirming the need to promote and implement laws, policies and regulations pertaining to the rights and treatment of the elderly and people with special needs, as well as related supporting institutions and support Muslim values and traditions for a healthy elderly life in family and society.

Bearing in mind that elderly refugees together with women and children are among the people who are classified by the UNHCR in the most vulnerable situation.

1. **Recommends** the General Secretariat, in coordination with relevant OIC Institutions, including the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), to develop an OIC Policy on Elderly (OPE) and OIC Policy on People with Special Need (OPPSN), which would provide strategies and guidelines for safeguarding the wellbeing and social security of elderly and people with special needs, as well as enhance their need for engagement in all important processes leading to development of OIC Member States, and further improve funding opportunities for their programs, and various social and medical services.
2. **Decides** that the **OPE and OPPSN** are to be submitted for discussion and endorsement by concerned experts and ministers of OIC Member States, in this regard, calls for the establishment of the *Islamic Ministerial Conference on the Wellbeing and Social security of Elderly and People with Special Needs in the Muslim World*, and **urges** OIC Member States to offer the hosting of this important event every two years, the first being in 2016.
3. **Calls on** OIC **Member** States and institutions and charities in the Islamic world to organize specialized workshops countries calls for the promotion of these groups in preparation for the ^t Ministerial Conference of the elderly and people with special needs in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries.
4. **Requests** the General Secretariat, in coordination with the relevant OIC specialized institutions, particularly ISESCO, the Islamic Fiqh Academy, The Independent

Permanent Human Rights Commission and the Center for Statistical and Social Research (SESRIC) and the IDB, to organize specialized workshops to address the challenges faced by Member States in the field of protection of the elderly and people with special needs and to present recommendations of those workshops to the 1st session of the Ministerial Conference of the elderly and people with special needs.

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this Resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 5/43-C
ON
ISLAMIC, CULTURAL, CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

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

A) REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION (RICE), ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

1. **Emphasizes** once again the importance of the Regional Institute for Complementary Education (RICE) in Islamabad, Pakistan, and encouraging the teaching of the Arabic language and Islamic culture in non-Arabic speaking Asian countries.
2. **Appeals** to the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the World Federation of International Arab-Islamic Schools to contribute generously to this project.
3. **Appreciates** the plans of RICE project to design new programs in the spirit of information technology including television, the internet, emails etc. for promoting the Arabic language and Islamic Culture in non-Arabic countries.
4. **Expresses** its appreciation of the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to ensure operation of the Institute and conveys its thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the financial support it has provided to the Institute and to the Arab Republic of Egypt for seconding a number of Arabic and religious affairs teachers. It also **expresses** appreciation to the ISF for its financial assistance to the Institute.

B) ASSISTANCE TO THE ISLAMIC INSTITUTE OF TRANSLATION IN KHARTOUM

Reiterating the importance of the mission of the Islamic Institute of Translation in Khartoum and the pioneering and vital role it plays in promoting translation, consolidating the bonds between the Islamic States themselves on the one hand and between them and the other States on the other, and enhancing intra-civilizational dialogue

and reflecting the image of the Islamic world and the culture of the other such as to contribute to the intra cultural and scientific exchange in the service of the Islamic world and humanity at large. **Commending** the success and achievements of the institute during the previous years;

1. **Urges** Member States and the Islamic financial institutions foremost of which the IDB and the ISF, to extend their financial and technical assistance to the Translation Institute so that it may continue fulfilling its duties optimally. It also **pays tribute** in this connection to the ISF for its financial support to the Institute and urges it to keep up this assistance and **requests** the funds to set up special Waqf to fund the institute and increase its financial resources.
2. **Pays tribute**, once again, to the Government of Sudan for its financial assistance to the Institute's budget such as to enable it to assume its role optimally, as well as for its contribution towards the resolution of the financial difficulties faced by the Institute and **expresses** thanks to the Government of the Sudan for this scholarships it offers to the students from the Member States and **urges** these states to benefit from them in the future.
3. **Requests** the Member States to extend their financial and technical assistance to the Islamic Institute of Translation in Khartoum and **requests** the General Secretariat to cooperate with the Institute in the field of training and to offer specialized training opportunities for the students of Institute to benefit from the General Secretariat's expertise.
4. **Requests** the General Secretariat to make use of the various facilities offered by the Institute in the area of translation and training, for the General Secretariat and Member States' work and **requests** the administration of the Institute to submit annual activity reports to the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs.
5. **Requests** the General Secretariat to open the Institute's door to the students from OIC Member States so that it may benefit all desirous citizens of the Islamic Ummah.

C) ASSISTANCE TO AHMED BABA INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC HIGHER STUDIES AND RESEARH IN TIMBUKTU (MALI)

Recalling the importance of the role played by the Institute in terms of research and preservation of manuscripts;

Mindful of Institute's need for support and assistance as proposed by the OIC mission to Timbuktu dispatched by His Excellency the Secretary General on 04-09/3/ 2006;

Recalling the appeal for support and assistance which the Secretary General had addressed to all OIC Member States and its specialized and affiliated organs;

1. **Commends** the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Mali in taking charge of Institute's operating budget.
2. **Pays tribute** to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Libya, and the ISESCO for their qualitative contributions to the Institute's functioning.
3. **Urges** other Member States, specialized institutions, and OIC affiliated cultural organs to extend the required material, financial and academic support to the Institute.

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 6/43-C
ON
SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th 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 2015, 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 complementarity 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 production of a number of reference books and organization of congresses on subjects relating to history, history of culture, cultural and architectural heritage, arts and traditional handicrafts of the Muslim world in the context of the Centre's various programs and research projects.

2. **Praises** the Centre's activities that aim to promote awareness world-wide on the Islamic identity and cultural heritage of Al-Quds, in particular the architectural studies and workshops, and the exhibitions of historical photographs of Al-Quds selected from IRCICA's archives held at various venues including Madrid, Spain (May 2015), Istanbul, Turkey (during the COMCEC Ministerial Session, November 2015), Jakarta, Indonesia (during the UN-OIC Conference on Jerusalem, December 2015); also **Notes with appreciation** the seminar of experts organized by IRCICA on 18-19 May 2016 launching a project that aims to improve the educational and social standards and protect the cultural heritage of the Muslim quarters in Al-Quds and Palestine in cooperation with local

universities and institutions, and **requests** the Centre to implement this project regularly within the framework of its activities relating to Al-Quds and Palestine; **also takes note** of the publication of a documentary album and study in three languages (Turkish, Arabic, English) which throws light on changes, damages, destruction and repairs on Islamic heritage properties in Al-Quds over a period of one century, based on a comparison of photographs taken in the 19th early 20th centuries with present ones.

3. **Praises** the Centre's activities highlighting the Islamic heritage of Al-Haramayn including exhibitions of historical photographs of Makkah and Madina held on different occasions (Istanbul, Turkey, July-August 2015; at Islamic Art Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June-September 2015; during the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts Festival 2015, Malaysia, October-November 2015).

4. **Commends** the series of events organized by the Centre on intercultural dialogue in accordance with Resolution 1/41-C on General Cultural Matters, para 8 which diffuse correct knowledge on Islam, its civilization, its values of inter-faith tolerance, and its cultural interactions with other cultures and civilizations, and **takes note in particular** of the Networking Session on "Promoting Multiperspectivity Towards Countering Violent Extremism" organized by IRCICA at the 7th Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 25-27 April 2016 which heard the Message of H.E. the OIC Secretary General and the statement of IRCICA Director General together with experts' addresses and case studies.

5. **Takes note** of the workshop held by IRCICA on its premises on 28-29 January 2016 to revise the Mechanisms of Implementation of the OIC plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW).

6. **Takes note** of the regional congresses on the history of Islamic civilization and Muslim countries which help advance researches in these areas and diffuse their outcomes worldwide, in particular, the international seminar on "Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies", Bangkok, Thailand, January 2016 and the international congresses on: "Islamic Civilization in the Balkans", Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 2015 where 55 papers were presented, and "Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa" organized by IRCICA, University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) and Awqaf SA, Durban, South Africa in March 2016.

7. **Praises** the program of short-term schools titled "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management" conducted jointly with Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, lastly, in this context, the fifth Summer School organized in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in July-August 2015 and the Spring School held in the historical quarters of Makkah and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in March 2016 and **welcomes** the Centre's holding these schools periodically in different regions taking up multicultural and historical cities as case studies.

8. **Takes note with appreciation** of the innovative and regular activities of the Centre promoting the Islamic arts, in particular calligraphy, and in this regard, the calligraphy exhibition in Kazan, Tatarstan (Russian Federation), September 2015, the calligraphy

exhibition at UNESCO, Paris opened on the OIC Day, September- October 2015, and the successful finalization and announcement of the results of the 10th International Calligraphy Competition in the Name of Hafiz Osman (May 2016) and **calls upon** the Centre to continue to organize training programs and international competitions in this area.

9. **Expresses its appreciation** of the Kuwait International Exhibition on Islamic Arts and its Application on Metal Crafts held in Kuwait in February 2016 and organized by IRCICA in cooperation with Kuwait Centre for Islamic Arts and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in the context of “Kuwait Islamic Capital of Culture in the Muslim World”. The exhibition was organized under the High Patronage of H.H. the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and gathered 16 Innovators in all types and forms of Metal Handicrafts including jewelry, swords, boxes, light objects, metal-repose, metal ornamentations on vase, jugs, plates, among others and was attended by artisans from Algeria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Tatarstan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan and the host country Kuwait.

10. **Commends** the organization of the “Tabriz International Festival of Arts, Crafts and Creativity” by IRCICA and Tabriz University for Islamic Arts in cooperation with the Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations of Iran, which took place in Tabriz in May 2015. The festival gathered artisans from 29 countries: Algeria, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, and Uzbekistan. The Festival was coupled with an International Congress on “Innovation Dimension in Arts and Crafts”, Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts – awards worth US\$60000, along with the International Exhibition of Artisans-at-Work, an arts and crafts market (bazaar).

11. **Expresses its appreciation** of the organization of the 2015 Pendik International Festival for Islamic Artisans as at work which was organized by IRCICA and Pendik Municipality in Turkey in Pendik, Istanbul in September 2015. The festival gathered innovators and artisans in pavilions forming a traditional heritage international craft village where they displayed their works, tools, and techniques applied in the following fields: Miniature, mother-of-pearl works, Pottery, Ornamentation, gilding, Leather and accessories, Metal repousse, Coppersmith, Carpets, Kilims, Tapestry and Felting, Wood Engraving, Handmade Suzani and Embroidery, traditional Costumes, Fashion designing, Jewelry, Batik, Painting, Mosaic, Stone handmade Products, Lacquer Works, Silk, among others. Artisans hailed from the following countries: Algeria, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Dagestan (Russian Federation), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Lebanon, Mauritania, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Sultanate of Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tatarstan (Russian Federation), Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

12. **Takes note** of IRCICA's activities relating to the study and recording of Islamic cultural and architectural heritage, its contribution in this regard to knowledge and information for cultural tourism and its collaboration with international bodies concerned; *commends* the development of the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database sponsored by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Tourism and Antiquities, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and *invites* the Member States which have not done so yet to provide IRCICA with the required data and information on their Islamic sites and monuments and designate their respective focal points to collaborate continually with the Database unit at IRCICA.

13. **Takes note** of the publication of issue no. 4 of IRCICA's Journal, an academic periodical aimed at promoting research and cooperation in cultural and social sciences as regards studies on Islamic civilization and the Muslim world.

14. **Takes note** of the approval at the General Assembly of the Subsidiary Organs of the amendments to the IRCICA's Internal Rules and Regulations.

15. **Expresses** its thanks and appreciation to the Member States, in particular the Republic of Turkey, host country of IRCICA and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, host country of the OIC General Secretariat, for their continuous support of IRCICA.

17. **Expresses its thanks** to the Member States which regularly pay their contributions to IRCICA's budget and calls upon the other countries to do so and to settle their arrears due to IRCICA's budget.

B) INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY (IIFA)

1. **Expresses** its profound gratitude to The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia and to Their Majesties, Excellences and Highnesses the leaders of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, for their support constant at the international Academy of Islamic Fiqh, to enable it to play an active role highlighting the tolerance of Islam, a religion of moderation and justice, and **reaffirms** that the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) is the reference institution in the field of promulgation of Fatwas for the Islamic Ummah.

2. **Expresses** its appreciation to H. E. Iyad Amin Madani, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, for the keen attention he has for the Academy and its support for its activities, a position illustrated by his judicious decision appoint H. E. Prof. Abdulsalam Al-Abbadi as Secretary of the Academy.

3. **Appreciates** the benevolent attention, by H. E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Chairman of the Council of the Academy, towards the Scientific work undertaken by the latter, and for his unwavering support to the Academy Secretariat,

which gives it a boost in its efforts to bring, through its scientific Council, the appropriate solutions to the new issues and topics that arise every day.

4. **Thanks** the former Secretary of the Academy, H. E. Prof. Ahmad Khalid Babiker, for leading this institution for four years, serving the Islamic Fiqh and jurisprudential issues concerning Muslims.
5. **Welcomes** the staff of the Academy Secretariat for the work done since the Forty second Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers
6. **Welcomes** the excellent efforts exerted by the Academy to study of topics related to Islamic economics and finance, in particular, the symposium organized in cooperation with the Department of Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities of the Emirate of Dubai (UAE), as part of a forum, organized on 19th and 20th Rajab 1437H (26 to 27 April 2016), on Fiqh rules governing Islamic economics and **urges** the Academy to continue to look into these issues, considering their impact on the growth and prosperity of the Islamic financial industry.
7. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Academy to oppose the ideology of excommunication (*Takfir*), by highlighting the sparkling and serene face of the true Islam, by confronting this ideology with arguments and evidence drawn from the Noble Qur'an and Sunnah, as part of a collective reflection ("*Ijtihad Jama'ee*") and by actively contributing to the OIC Messaging Centre.
8. **Notes with satisfaction** the contribution of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in the fight against Polio, by organizing consultative meetings of Muslim Scholars, to study the cases of Somalia and Pakistan. **Urges** all concerned parties to continue their campaign to spread awareness of the vital need for vaccination and the quick eradication of this disease, by all possible means. **Welcomes** the resolutions issued by the Academy as part of the studies and research undertaken and the seminars it organizes in the field of Fiqh rulings on medical issues.
9. **Welcomes also** the Academy's efforts to clarify Sharia provisions relating to "*Halal*" food and products and for its contribution to the development of standards and specifications for "*Halal*" food and "*Halal*" certification bodies.
10. **Thanks** the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and its Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) for their continued support to the Academy, and **urges** them to continue the translation work of the resolutions of the Scientific Council of the Academy and to accelerate the publication of these decisions that are of great importance and interest for non-Arabic Islamic countries.
11. **Expresses** its gratitude to Member States that have hosted the annual sessions of the Scientific Council of the Academy, namely the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (9 sessions), the United Arab Emirates (3 sessions), -in the Emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and

Sharjah, respectively-, the State of Kuwait (3 sessions), the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (2 sessions), The Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar, The Sultanate of Oman, Malaysia and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (1 session each), thus providing concrete evidence of the support of these countries towards the activities of the Academy.

12. **Invites** OIC Member States to host the next sessions of the Scientific Council of the Academy, contributing, in doing so, to achieving the goals and objectives for which the Academy was created.
13. **Acknowledges** the outstanding quality of scientific publications of the Academy, thanks to the importance of the topics tackled and the quality of the studies and research papers published, that meet the needs and aspirations of the Islamic Ummah in the face of the many cultural, intellectual and scientific challenges. These studies and research papers are published in the Magazine of the Academy which the number of volumes, to the nineteenth session of the Council, reached sixty-two.
14. **Thanks** the Member States that have paid their assessed contributions to the budget of the Academy; **Renews** its appeal to Member States that have not yet done so to fulfil their financial duties in a timely and **recommends** that all Member States continue to support the Academy, particularly through the funding of some of its projects to enable it to carry out its noble mission in the service of Islam and Muslims.

C) ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY FUND AND ITS WAQF (ISF)

1. **Expresses** its keen interest to preserve this important Islamic organ which is rightly considered as a noble symbol of Islamic solidarity.
2. **Exhorts** Member States to commit themselves to make annual donations - within their available means - in favor of the ISF budget and contribute to the capital of the ISF Waqf.
3. **Exhorts** Member States, which had pledged donations, to fulfill their pledges as soon as possible.
4. **Expresses** its profound thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Turkey for their donations to the Fund and its Waqf during the financial year 2016.
5. **Approves** the Report of the Chairman of the ISF Permanent Council submitted to the 39 session of the ICECS.
6. **Adopts** the Permanent Council's approval of the ISF Closing Accounts for the financial year 2014.

7. **Approves** the Permanent Council's adoption of the ISF budget estimates for projects, of US\$ 20 million, for the financial year 2017.
8. **Calls** upon Member States to pay their statutory contributions to the ISF operational budget for the financial year 2016, which amounts to US\$ 1,260,000.
9. **Invites** the Permanent Council to continue providing assistances to projects as well as cultural, Islamic and educational centers in the Muslim world.
10. **Expresses** thanks and gratitude to the Emergency Committee for its prompt response, by providing relief during catastrophes and calamities that afflict some of the Muslim countries, and exhorts Member States to make donations to provide the Fund with resources that enable it to strengthen action of this important body.
11. **Expresses** thanks and gratitude to H.E. the OIC Secretary General of the OIC for his efforts, distinct sponsorship and continued attention towards enabling the ISF to achieve its goals.
12. **Also expresses** thanks and gratitude to the Permanent Council and its Chairman as well as the ISF Executive Bureau for their efforts in order to achieve the objectives of the Fund and its Waqf.

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 7/43-C
ON
SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th 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 30th session of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) held in Tunis- Republic of Tunisia on 17-18 March 2015.

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 of 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 ISESCO on the activities carried out between the two sessions of the Council and by ICIC:

A) THE ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ISESCO)

1. **Commends** the remarkable activities and programmes carried out by ISESCO in its various fields of competence: namely, education, science, culture, social affairs and communication; **praises** its Director General, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, for his efforts to develop the Organization's action and expand its scope; **commends** the content of ISESCO's Draft Action Plan and Budget for 2016-2018, which reflects a holistic, innovative and coherent multidisciplinary strategic vision; **lauds** ISESCO's remarkable contribution to implementing the Ten-Year Action Programme adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Session; and **expresses** appreciation of the activities implemented by ISESCO under this programme.

2. **Welcomes** the signing by ISESCO of new cooperation agreements and action programmes with several international, Islamic and Arab organizations; **commends** the joint activities implemented in this connection, particularly international conferences and symposia and developmental projects, which have added impetus to the invaluable initiatives of ISESCO Director General to establish varied cooperation relations that have been crowned with numerous programmes which were implemented by ISESCO in association with parallel organizations and institutions, thus contributing to highlighting the true image of the Muslim world; and **invites** ISESCO to pursue such commendable efforts.
3. **Expresses** its support and appreciation for the continued efforts and contacts made at the regional and international levels by ISESCO Director General to urge the international community to pressurize Israel into abiding by the international resolutions concerning the protection of religious landmarks, cultural and civilizational heritage, and educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in accordance with the relevant international resolutions; **supports** ISESCO's efforts to document the war crimes and crimes against humanity which were and are still being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Gaza and all Palestinian territories; and **welcomes** the convening by ISESCO of the ninth meeting of ISESCO Archaeology Experts Committee on the new Israeli aggressions on Al-Aqsa Mosque and its environs. (26-28 April 2016, Amman, Jordan).
4. **Notes with appreciation** the content of the joint Islamic action strategies and their implementation mechanisms devised by ISESCO, particularly in the areas of education, science, culture and communication; and **invites** the Member States to cooperate with ISESCO in implementing these strategies adopted by the Islamic summit conferences and relevant Islamic conferences, in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and in cooperation with the relevant regional and international organizations.
5. **Commends** the actions made by ISESCO to develop educational capacities in the Member States and beyond, in the fields of teaching Arabic to non-Arabic speakers, literacy and adult education, through its specialized educational centres and delegations in the Republic of Chad, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Niger, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Burkina Faso, the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Malaysia, and through such advanced specialized teaching aids as (*Al Amal*) and (*Alarabya Almuyassara*) series; and **lauds** the educational and civilizational project on the transcription of Muslim peoples' languages in the Standardized Quranic Script being implemented by ISESCO in cooperation in cooperation with its partners, and commends the educational and civilizational project which aims at ensuring integration and interaction between Arab Islamic traditional schools and modern schools in Africa and Asia.
6. **Welcomes** the steps taken by ISESCO towards updating the Strategy for the Promotion of Education in Islamic World in such a way as to keep abreast of new

educational, social and economic developments in Member States and outside the Muslim world and to provide a comprehensive guiding framework for addressing present-time and future challenges, based on a holistic prospective vision that would promote joint Islamic action in education; **thanks** the Republic of Tunisia for accepting to host the 1st ISESCO Conference of Education Ministers, in Tunis, on 27-28 October 2016 while calling Member States and concerned Institutions to support the host country and actively participate and contribute for the success of the Conference, and **welcomes** the creation of the Consultative Council in charge of implementing the Strategy.

7. **Commends** the efforts and actions made by ISESCO to foster intercultural dialogue and the alliance of civilizations and religions, redress the false image held about Islam and Muslims in the West and counter Islamophobia; **welcomes** ISESCO's initiative to strengthen Africa's role in the alliance of civilizations, **welcoming**, in this regard, the holding, in coordination with the General Secretariat, of a conference on *Strengthening Africa's Role in the Alliance of Civilizations* in the second semester of 2015; and **invites** the Organization to carry on such efforts inside the Muslim world and beyond, in association with its regional and international partner organizations, and to pursue coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and the Member States to undertake innovative initiatives and put in place mechanisms to counter the fierce campaign targeting Islamic sanctities and cultural symbols, in coordination with national, regional media and communication outlets.
8. **Commends** the efforts of ISESCO in improving Higher Education systems in the Member States, constitution of the High-Level Quality and Accreditation Committee to follow-up on the implementation of the "Key Performance Indicators" in the OIC Member States, its Terms of Reference (TOR) and thanks the Ministry of Higher Education, under the chairmanship of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and **expresses** its support and appreciation for launching of the ISESCO project "TAFAHUM" on exchange of students, faculty and researchers among Universities in the Islamic World, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat and in cooperation with its Student's Exchange Programme, and **urges** ISESCO and OIC to establish a general framework, to enhance partnerships among the universities and prestigious schools, and to share experience and knowledge, with the ultimate aim to foster peace, understanding and mutual respect among the Member States and with others.
9. **Thanks** ISESCO for implementing a number of national, regional and international activities in the cities celebrated every year as Islamic culture capitals; and **invites** it to pursue such support. It also **commends** the efforts the Member States hosting Islamic culture capitals for 2015 (Nizwa, Almaty and Cotonou) and in preparing and implementing the celebration programmes, and **welcomes** the resolution of ISESCO's 10th General Conference calling for the expansion of the Islamic Culture Capitals Programme to include Islamic historic cities from outside the OIC Member States.

10. **Invites** ISESCO to pursue efforts to support the “Islamic World Observatory of Science and Technology” whose founding project will be submitted for adoption to the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, to be held in Bamako, Republic of Mali, in November 2016.
11. **Invites** ISESCO to pursue efforts for sustaining the “Pan-Islamic Research and Education Network (PIREN)”, increase cooperation with research and education networks to foster the use of PIREN as a virtual platform for collaboration among scientists, researchers and education networks, and continue coordination with the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) for strengthening connectivity with scientific research, sharing knowledge and good practices, stimulating joint research and addressing relevant challenges.
12. **Welcomes** the creation of ISESCO’s Directorate of Social and Human Sciences to closely monitor social transformations, analyze threats and troubles, contribute to fighting all forms of social discrimination, and foster respect for the social, economic and cultural rights of peoples, with the ultimate aim of promoting peace and stability in the Member States.
13. **Urges** ISESCO to devote more efforts to the promotion of mutual understanding and preservation of human security and social peace in the Member States and the world over, through dialogue-based action to bring civilizations closer together, while implementing special programmes to address fanaticism, hatred and racism, and countering such problems and threats that undermine social cohesion and peace as ethnic conflicts, tensions, clashes and violence-related problems.
14. **Lauds** the efforts of the ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICSPR) in encouraging the scientists and researchers towards excellence in their performances, and **urges** the Member States to invest more in research and development, especially through mobilizing more private sector investment, as well as more resources in developing human capital and building up institutional and scientific capacities to optimize the use of such investments and ensure effective sustainability of the various interventions.
15. **Invites** ISESCO to pursue its efforts and further contacts with Islamic cultural centres and associations in Europe, Asia and Latin America, through the Supreme Council for Education, Culture and Science for Muslims outside the Islamic World, with a view to activating the Implementation Plan of the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action outside the Islamic World, and the Strategy for Benefiting from Muslim Competencies outside the Islamic World. It also **commends** the outcomes of the international conference on “promoting a culture of mutual respect and human solidarity among followers of religions”, held in cooperation with the Vatican, and in coordination with the Argentinian Government and the Islamic Organization for Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, September 2015); **welcomes** “Buenos Aires Declaration on

Dialogue” issued by the Conference, and **invites** ISESCO to pursue its efforts in this regard.

16. **Commends** ISESCO’s efforts in responding to the media smear campaigns targeting Islam and its civilization and countering Islamophobia; **praises** ISESCO’s *Course Train Journalists and Broadcasters in Addressing Stereotypes about Islam and Muslims in Western Media*, adopted by the 7th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Algiers, 18-19 December 2011) and the 9th Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (Libreville, 17-20 April 2012); **commends** the *Study on Western Media Content on Islam in Light of International Law*, adopted by the 9th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Muscat, 2-4 November 2015); and **invites** ISESCO to pursue its efforts in this regard.
17. **Commends** ISESCO’s efforts aimed at boosting the Islamic World Heritage Committee’s action towards preserving Islamic heritage in the Member States, particularly the special attention it gives to the protection of endangered Islamic cultural heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Iraq and Afghanistan; and **stresses** the necessity of coordination and collaboration with IRCICA in this regards.
18. **Lauds** the efforts the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) devotes to establishing university chairs, devising plans and strategies and implementing activities and programmes to promote university education as a means for championing Muslim communities’ causes and as an agent of comprehensive sustainable development. It also **commends** the FUIW’s role in developing partnership and cooperation with the Member Universities and parallel organizations through its achievements and initiatives, which has earned the FUIW its position as a leading player in joint Islamic action, particularly through the effective role it plays in the implementation of activities, programmes and projects within the framework of partnership and cooperation.
19. **Commends** ISESCO’s efforts to hold the 5th Islamic Conference of Ministers in Charge of Childhood, in Abu Dhabi, in 2016, and the 10th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, in Khartoum, in 2015, on the occasion of celebrating Sennar as the Islamic Culture Capital for 2017, in cooperation with the competent national parties and in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat; and **invites** the Member States to actively participate in these conferences.
20. **Invites** ISESCO, in coordination with the General Secretariat, to call on the governments of the OIC Member States to adopt the necessary policies and programs for promoting the education of women and girls, promote women role in the decision making and Sustainable development, and produce publications and programs to empower Women and Family through broader educational strategy.
21. **Calls on** ISESCO to implement the project of *Atlas of Muslim Women Heroines in Member States*, as well as Childhood Guide in Member States, Elderly Guide in

Member States while coordinating in initiation and preparation of similar reports covering and mapping innovations in all the OIC Member States after regular intervals of every two years for its release at the corresponding Ministerial Meeting.

22. **Expresses** its sincerest thanks, appreciation and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Nayef, and to Deputy Crown Prince, Mohamed Ben Salman, and their Majesties, Excellences, Highnesses the Kings, Presidents and Emirs of Member States for their generous support to ISESCO and for financing several educational, scientific and cultural programmes and activities.
23. **Expresses** its deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for the constant support the Moroccan government extends to ISESCO to discharge its mission in the most optimal manner.

B) ISLAMIC COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRESCENT (ICIC)

1. **Urges** OIC member States which have not yet acceded to the Agreement of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) to do so as soon as possible so as to enable it to carry out its tasks and realize its noble objectives.
2. **Invites** all member States and Islamic institutions to extend material and moral support to the ICIC so that it may implement its programmes.
3. **Calls** on the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) to exert efforts regarding the victims of natural disasters, victims of armed conflicts, refugees, displaced people and prisoners of war and provide humanitarian assistances, care and protection in collaboration with the UN high Commissioner's Office for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent, the National Societies of Red Cross/Red Crescent and other relevant regional and international organizations.
4. **Expresses** its profound thanks to Libya (host country) for extending support and facilities to the ICIC Administration.
5. **Expresses** its sincere thanks to Libya, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, States parties to the ICIC agreement that paid their financial contributions, to the ICIC budget up to 2013.
6. **Calls** upon other States parties to the ICIC agreement, who have not yet done, to pay their arrears of contributions to the ICIC budget for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, as soon as possible.

7. **Expresses** its profound appreciation to the ICIC president, members and its administration for the humanitarian activities and assistances executed in different regions of the Islamic world.
8. **Expresses** its deep thanks to Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Islamic Bank the International Islamic Relief Organization for their support to the ICIC, and **calls** upon them to continue offering more assistance to it.
9. **Expresses** its full appreciation to the Turkish Red Crescent, the Saudi Red Crescent Authority, the Qatar Red Crescent, the Red Crescent of Iraq and the Tunisian Red Crescent for their cooperation with the ICIC to implement permanent bilateral programs.
10. **Calls** on the Islamic OIC concerned institutions to extend financial and material support to the ICIC humanitarian programs.
11. **Calls** upon member States and concerned Islamic institutions to contribute to the realization of the ICIC humanitarian programs within the framework of cooperation and partnership, in Palestine, Somalia, Syria, Niger, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, Chad, and Central Africa.
12. **Calls** upon member States and concerned Islamic institutions to support the implementation of the ICIC program adopted in the framework of cooperation and partnership by the third consultation meeting of the ICIC and the Red Crescent/Red Cross national Societies in OIC member States, on the irregular immigration in concerned African countries.
13. **Requests** the General Secretariat to conduct a study in consultation with the ICIC to explore ways and means of enhancing the operational capacity of this Institution.

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 8/43-C
ON
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th Session of COMIAC;

Having taken note of the decisions adopted by the 8th I.S.S.F General Assembly Meeting as well as those of the 19th, 20th and 21st I.S.S.F Executive Committee Meetings;

Emphasizing the need for all relevant affiliated institutions to submit their work programmes and annual activity reports to the General Secretariat by the month of November of each year to ensure complementarity of action and avoid duplication;

Having considered the reports submitted by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF), and Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC), International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS) and The World Federation of International Arab-Islamic –Schools (WFIAIS):

A) THE ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY SPORTS FEDERATION (I.S.S.F)

1. **Welcomes** the hosting by the Republic of Azerbaijan of the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games 12/-22/5/2017 in Baku and wishes of the Republic of Azerbaijan every success in organizing such a major sporting event.
2. **Appreciates** the ISSF efforts in communicating with Member States – represented by their respective National Committees participating in the games.
3. **Urges** Member States to participate actively in this edition to achieve the desired goals of solidarity and fraternity among sports youth on the land of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
4. **Expresses** thanks to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, led by His Excellency the President of the Republic for fully supporting the organizing committee and its keen interest to provide the facilities and assistance to ensure the participation of all Islamic states in the games.

5. **Thanks** His Royal Highness Prince/Abdullah bin Musa'ad bin Abdul Aziz, I.S.S.F Chairman for his support and desire to communicate and coordinate with the Organizing Committee of the Games to ensure their success and excellence.
6. **Commends** the efforts of the I.S.S.F's Executive Board, in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Parachute Federation and the Arab Air Sports Federation, in organising Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz Parachuting Championship and the full support of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nayef bin Abdul Aziz; Welcomes the presence of the I.S.S.F in such activities, which also help to achieve its objectives in all areas of sports to serve the largest segment of young athletes in the Islamic countries
7. **Expresses** thanks to the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Olympic Committee for hosting and organising the 3rd I.S.S.F Weightlifting Championship in Antalya, and commends the closer relationship between the I.S.S.F and the weightlifting family represented by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) and the Asian and African Weightlifting Federations which expressed willingness to fully cooperate with the I.S.S.F in any future activities.
8. **Expresses** thanks to the State of Qatar, represented by Qatar Olympic Committee for staging and supporting the 2014 International Islamic Triathlon Championship, providing financial awards of US\$584,000 (QAR2 million), urging the need to work and coordinate with the I.S.S.F Member Olympic Committees to encourage participation in such tournaments and qualify outstanding athletes in various games, given the role of this championship in observing and promoting Islamic heritage in Islamic countries.
9. **Praises** the cooperation established between the I.S.S.F, Indonesia Olympic Committee, the Local Government of the South Sumatera, and the Indonesian Tennis Federation, towards the launch of the first tennis tournament under the MoU concluded between the parties, with a total prize value of US\$65000, and the successful organisation of the tournament which was recognized by the representative of the International Tennis Federation and all the National Olympic Committees members of the I.S.S.F.
10. **Urges** the national Olympic committees members of the I.S.S.F to sign similar MOUs with the I.S.S.F to pursue its objectives for the benefit of young athletes in Islamic countries.
11. **Thanks** the Olympic Council of Malaysia and the Malaysian Rugby Union for organizing the first Islamic Rugby Championship, especially as Rugby has been added to the Olympic Games, as it is a nascent sport in many Islamic countries, and as the I.S.S.F has had the lead in organizing this championship that would improve the skills and competencies of players in the Islamic countries.

12. **Takes note** of the opening of nomination to host the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games in 2021 and urges OIC Member States to offer to host this important sporting event, which helps to achieve the objectives of the I.S.S.F to sustain joint sporting action in favour of young athletes in the Islamic countries.
13. **Welcomes** the partnership agreement between the I.S.S.F and Events Lab (a sports marketing and event management company) , thereby leveraging its expertise in promoting the visibility of I.S.S.F in internationally, and capitalising on the company's technical and management expertise that would reinvigorate the role and objectives of the I.S.S.F for the benefit of young athletes in the Islamic countries.
14. **Welcomes** the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee's hosting of the tenth General Assembly meeting in 2017.
15. **Invites** Member States to host the conferences, events and activities of I.S.S.F, including the Islamic Solidarity Games.
16. **Asserts** that the I.S.S.F shall continue to carry out the functions of the Secretariat of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, the subsidiary organs and affiliated and specialised institutions.
17. **Underscores** the preparation by the I.S.S.F of the strategy document on sports in the Islamic world, submitted to the third session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports.
18. **Welcomes** the close cooperation among the I.S.S.F, ISESCO and the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) in preparing the Strategy for Promoting Youth Issues in the Islamic World, in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat, submitted to the third session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports.
19. **Welcomes** the cooperation established between the I.S.S.F and the ICYF-DC in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat to ensure proper preparations for the third session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey.
20. **Thanks** the General Secretariat of the I.S.S.F for its preparations to carry out all the I.S.S.F activities, which have contributed to meeting the I.S.S.F objectives.
21. **Expresses** thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, H.R.H. Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Nayef and H.R.H. Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for hosting the I.S.S.F headquarters and for their material and moral support to the I.S.S.F, which demonstrates the KSA's unshakeable belief in the need to advance youth issues in the Islamic Ummah.

B) THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE YOUTH FORUM FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION (ICYFDC)

1. **Acknowledges** ICYF-DC as the OIC youth institution and its mandate as endorsed by the 3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports (ICMYS); **appreciates** important activities carried out by ICYF-DC in various fields pertaining to youth development; **welcomes** the results of the *First Young Leaders Summit* of the OIC countries successfully organized by the ICYF-DC in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the OIC General Secretariat on 11-13 April 2016 as the first-ever pre-Summit youth event of the Islamic Summit Conference; **upholds** approval by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference of the Young Leaders Summit's Recommendations under the title "*10 Goals in 10 Years*" as important development towards Joint Youth Strategy and Joint Youth Policy by the Member States; **calls upon** the Member States and the OIC institutions to coordinate with ICYF-DC realization of the goals envisaged by the Recommendations; **praises** the President, the Board and the Secretariat of ICYF-DC for continuous efforts towards development of Muslim youth; and **endorses** decisions of ICYF-DC Board held since last CFM on institutionalization and strengthening of ICYF-DC's organizational capacity;
2. **Appreciates** the support and contribution by the Government of the Republic of Turkey as host of the ICYF-DC Headquarters (Istanbul); **welcomes** support by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan towards the activities of the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF-DC (Baku) and **looks forward** to speedy completion of all governmental commitments related to hosting of the Baku Center, including providing the Center with appropriate office premises; **calls upon** the Member States to support the activities of ICYF-DC, to provide financial contribution towards the ICYF-DC's annual budget and to coordinate their work in the field of youth with ICYF-DC;
3. **Congratulates** the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey (as host), the OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) and Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) with successful implementation of their mandate in organizing the 3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports (ICMYS) held on *4-8th October, 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey*; **endorses** the decisions of the 3rd Session of the ICMYS marking a milestone in establishing of the OIC joint youth strategy, policies and actions; **calls upon** the Member States to exert necessary efforts in successful implementation of these decisions, and to coordinate their work in the field of youth with ICYF-DC as mandated by the 3rd Session of the ICMYS in particular to speed up

signing of Membership Memorandums between the Ministries responsible for youth of the Member States and ICYF-DC;

4. **Approves** the annual “OIC Youth Capital” international programme implemented by ICYF-DC; **congratulates** ICYF-DC, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and other partners on successful implementation of the first edition of “OIC Youth Capital” in Istanbul which includes such innovative projects as “*Y-Istanbul*” the 1st OIC Youth Capital Film Awards, “Photo4Tolerance+” International photo contest, Muslim Future Thinkers Forum and the Municipality Youth Councils Assembly among many others; **Welcomes** selection of Fez (Kingdom of Morocco), Putrajaya (Malaysia) and Shiraz (Islamic Republic of Iran) as host of the second edition of the “OIC Youth Capital” (2017); **calls upon** the Governments and Municipalities of the Member States to actively cooperate with ICYF-DC for achieving overall success of the “OIC Youth Capital” International programme as important tool in strengthening development of and solidarity amongst Muslim youth;
5. **Welcomes** holding of “Model OIC” International Relations Training Programme in Mashhad (the Islamic Republic of Iran) in cooperation with the Municipality of Mashhad; **Welcomes also** holding of the 1st ICYF-DC Summer Camps for the students from the OIC Member States and Muslim minorities and **appreciates** the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey as its host; **welcomes** ICYF-DC Start-up Platform for the OIC countries announced at the 2nd Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum held under the patronage of the President of Republic of Tatarstan (RF); **invites** IDB and the Member States’ relevant public and private institutions to extend support in full-fledged work of the platform; **calls upon** the Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to provide financial and other support to ICYF-DC in implementation of its ongoing projects and programmes such as “Model OIC”, Annual report on the “State of Muslim Youth” and Annual Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum; **further calls upon** the Member States, IDB, ICCIA and other relevant institutions to provide financial and other support to ICYF-DC in enhancing full-fledged capacity of Islamic Countries Young Entrepreneurs Network (ICYEN);
6. **Endorses** other ICYF-DC initiatives and programmes aimed at implementation of strategic targets of “10 Goals in 10 Years” OIC Young Leaders Summit Recommendations including but not limited to “Mevlana” and “Ibn Batuta” international youth/student exchange programmes, and Platform in Europe to monitor and counter Islamophobia and violent radicalization; **upholds** the Memorandum of Understanding signed between ICYF-DC and IDB (June 2015) and **calls upon** IDB to streamline its youth related activities with ICYF-DC programmes and projects; **upholds also** Memorandum of Understanding signed between ICYF-DC and SESRIC (October 2015), Memorandum of Agreement signed between ICYF-DC and IIUM

(April 2016) and Letter of Understanding signed between ICYF-DC and ISESCO (April 2016);

7. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilization (GYMAoC) based on the “Youth for the Alliance of Civilizations” initiative developed by the ICYF-DC and presented at the High Level Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2007 under the patronage of H.E. Mehriban Aliyeva, The First Lady of Azerbaijan, UNESCO/ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador; **recognizes** ICYF-DC as the OIC partner in youth related issues in OIC-UN Cooperation and **calls upon** the Member States and OIC institutions to support ICYF-DC as the representative of the OIC youth in different platforms of the UN and coordinate their relevant actions vis-à-vis UN youth programs, including further development of GYMAoC with relevant position of ICYF-DC; **welcomes** the Cooperation between ICYF-DC and different UN agencies including UNDP, UNOSSC, UNAOC, UNFPA, UNEP and UNESCO; **applauds** the joint projects implemented by ICYF-DC in the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNAOC; **calls upon** the Members States to support ICYF-DC’s application for joining the UNAOC Group of Friends; **commends** ICYF-DC’s efforts and actions to combat Islamophobia and supports the ICYF-DC initiative to establish a platform in Europe to monitor and counter Islamophobia and violent radicalization;
8. **Appreciates** the activities of ICYF-DC in promoting the program of “The OIC Memorial Day for commemoration of humanitarian catastrophes of Muslim communities throughout the Twentieth century”, including partnership with ISESCO and Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States to this end and calls upon the Member States to actively take part in the program; **Welcomes** “Justice for Khojaly” international civil awareness Campaign started in the framework of the ICYF-DC initiated “OIC Memorial Day Program” and aimed at disseminating of historical truth on the mass massacre of Azerbaijani civilians perpetrated by the Armenian armed forces in the town of Khojaly (the Republic of Azerbaijan) in February 1992; and **calls upon** the Member States and OIC institutions to support and actively participate in the events of the Campaign and exert due efforts for recognition on national and international levels of this genocidal act as crime against humanity as well as for bringing to justice the perpetrators; **welcomes also** ICYF-DC programme to educate European youth in true history of Muslim sufferings in Anatolia in 1915;
9. **Expresses** its deep appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their devotion to the cause of development of Muslim youth and personal support towards ICYF-DC activities as well as constant support the governments of Turkey and Azerbaijan extends to ICYF-DC to accomplish its mission effectively;

10. **Thanks** H.E. Iyad Ameen Madani, the OIC Secretary General for efforts resulted in increasing efficiency of cooperation by the OIC General Secretariat with ICYF-DC on whole range of youth issues as the major partner vis-à-vis implementation of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action in the field of youth related activities and requests the Secretary General to submit annual report on the Forum's activities to the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers;

C) INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MUSLIM SCOUTS (IUMS)

1. **Blesses** the future activities which IUMS has decided to carry out within its 2014/2015 plan, and urges Member States to host and effectively participate in these activities to ensure their success and render every possible material and moral support to the Union.
2. **Thanks** the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Crown Prince and the Deputy Crown Prince for hosting the headquarters of the International Union of Muslim Scouts in Jeddah and the moral support they render to the Union out of their great solicitude for all issues of youth of the Islamic Ummah.
3. **Expresses** sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Iyad Ameen Madani, the OIC Secretary General, for his support and follow-up of the activities and programmes of the IUMS through the global Al-Wissam projects (I am a cooperative Muslim scout).
4. **Expresses** its sincere gratitude to the Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for his support for the participation of Saudi university students in international trips.
5. **Thanks** Mr. Scott Teare, Secretary-General of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, for his cooperation with the International Union of Muslim Scouts and its activities and programs and calls for further cooperation with the Union; **thanks** Dr. Atef Abdel Majid Abdul Rahman, Director of the Arab Scout Region and Secretary General of the Organization of Arab Scout for his collaboration with the IUMS and its activities and programs and invites him to further cooperate with the IUMS.
6. **Welcomes** the accession of the State of Palestine's full membership in the World Organization of the Scout Movement through the Palestinian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.
7. **Expresses** thanks to Mrs. Mehla Ahmed Talebna, Director General of the Department of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs for her solicitude and coordination among OIC institutions active in the area of youth affairs.
8. **Expresses** thanks to Mr. David McKee, Regional Director of the European Scout Region for his cooperation and support for Muslim youth in Europe, setting up of scout teams of Muslim youth and registering them with Scout organisations in

European countries, recognized by the World Scout Foundation, and calls on him to further cooperate with the IUMS.

9. **Thanks** the scout associations which have cooperated on the implementation of Al-Wissam projects, namely, (Literacy), (Removing Harm from the Road) and (Green World)
10. **Invites** the Ministers of Higher Education in OIC Member States to ensure participation of universities in their respective countries in international trips of university students organized by the IUMS in realization of the desire of the Kings and Heads of State of Islamic countries, expressed at the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, in 2005 at the invitation of the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, to strengthen national unity, and to mandate university rectors to participate in these trips.
11. **Requests** the Ministers of Education and Higher Education in Member States to support the IUMS in opening "Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz's International Centers for Training of Children of Muslim Expatriates Enrolled in Distance Learning" in the OIC Member States that have expatriate communities, mandate competent authorities to this end, and calls for support to these centers because of their importance in training the children of Muslim expatriates in other countries, in honor of HRH, late Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, God bless his soul who donated for the establishment of these centers.
12. **Requests** banks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support these international trips for university students, organised by the IUMS, given their role in promoting social responsibility and to serve Muslim youth.
13. **Requests** His Excellency the Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to approve the opening of the "Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz's International Centers for Training of Children of Muslim Expatriates Enrolled in Distance Learning" in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
14. **Blesses** the IUMS's launch of media training for Muslim youth and their qualification for media courses and graduation of a qualified media cohort from the universities in Member States; **requests** Higher Education Ministers to direct university rectors to ensure participation of students in this important activity, implemented in collaboration with the ISESCO.
15. **Expresses** sincerest thanks and appreciation to the ICYF_DC, based in Turkey, for organizing the youth event on the sidelines of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference.
16. **Expresses** its sincerest thanks and appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank for supporting the projects and activities of the IUMS in the past and hopes of the IDB to renew this support.
17. **Expresses** thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Nasser Al Zaabi, Chairman of the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and to Mr. Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Khuzayem, Executive Director of the ISF, for their support for the projects and activities of the IUMS.

18. **Blesses** the signing of an agreement on the construction project of a Cooperative Waqf for Muslim Scouts. HRH late Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, God bless his soul, donated land for the project which will be carried out by the IUMS to host its headquarters and to be a residence house for Muslim Scouts during their visits to perform minor and greater pilgrimage; and thank the president of the IDB and Awqaf Property Investment Fund (APIF) for their support and cooperation.
19. **Recommends** supporting Muslim scout leadership courses towards obtainment of Wood Badge to qualify Muslim scout team leaders who would help other Muslims and educate non-Muslims about Islam.
20. **Requests** the ISSF and ICYF-DC to coordinate and cooperate on youth affairs through the signing of a memorandum of understanding to carry out activities and programmes in collaboration with the IUMS.
21. **Expresses** thanks to the ISESCO, under the leadership of its Director General, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, for its support to the programmes of IUMS and signing of a cooperation agreement with the League of Islamic Universities and blesses their efforts in the joint activities carried out by the League with ISESCO in the field of Media and the special programmes of university directors.
22. **Blesses** the establishment of the IUMS as an advisory body for training, international activities and programmes organised by universities in Islamic countries in collaboration with ISESCO, and requests the Ministers of Higher Education and university directors to cooperate with them in this area.
23. **Requests** regional scout offices to strengthen their cooperation with IUMS.
24. **Thank** the United States of America for hosting the 1st International Muslim Scout Camp and calls for further cooperation.

D) THE WORLD FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL ARAB-ISLAMIC SCHOOLS (WF-IAIS)

1. **Recommends** the General Secretariat, Islamic organizations and bodies, the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), and the Islamic Development Bank to support the plans and projects of the World Federation of International Arab Islamic Schools in spreading Arabic language and Islamic culture and to extend every possible assistance for the implementation of such plans and projects; thanks the ISF for financing the Federation's projects.
2. **Recommends** continued support for the organisation of training courses for teachers of Arabic language and Islamic culture in Asia, Africa, Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Balkans.
3. **Recommends** the IDB and the ISF to contribute towards the printing of the textbook series prepared by the WF-IAIS, for teaching Arabic to Non-Arabic speakers, the distribution of those books among Muslim learners, and the establishment of a WF-

IAIS Press at its headquarters, as well as other print shops in central locations in Muslim countries in order to maximize their benefit in those countries and among Muslim communities.

4. **Recommends** support for the Assistance Fund for International Arab-Islamic Schools and Educational Institutions members of WF-IAIS to help them promote Islamic education standards, in particular in non-Arabic speaking Islamic countries.
5. **Requests** support for the WF-IAS project to establish an education section at the Imam Shafii College – Comoros Islands University to award Bachelors Degree in all Arabic language specialties in accordance with the agreement signed between the WF-IAIS and the Comoros national Ministry of Education preparatory to Masters and Doctorate studies in Teaching Curricular and Methods in the Section.
6. **Recommends** support for the Examination Council of International Arab-Islamic Schools Project, set up by the WFIAIS in collaboration with the League of Islamic Universities and the Muslim World League, which aims to set the examinations of private Islamic schools under the supervision of well-known Islamic universities, and to activate this Council and establish its regional branches.
7. **Recommends** support for the projects undertaken by the WFIAIS to set up the Arabic language center and forum of civilizations in London, the educational center in Cairo, and Turkish Arab University in Istanbul.
8. **Recommends** support for the WFIAIS activities towards the establishment of an examination council in Uganda in collaboration with the Islamic University in Uganda as well as an examination council in Malaysia in collaboration with the International Islamic University in Malaysia.
9. **Recommends** support for the two projects of the WF-IAIS submitted by the Arab Academy for Educational Science to establish a university under the name (International University of Educational and Information Sciences) to be based in Cairo and to have branches in other countries, and a virtual university to provide remote technical support to schools.

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 9/43-C
ON
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
(COMIAC)

The Forty-third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17 – 18 Muharram 1438H)

Recalling Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS) adopted by the Third Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah/Taif (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) in June 1981, in favor of establishing a Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) as well as all the decisions of the Islamic Summit Conferences and other Islamic Conferences in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 40th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), the 10th Session of COMIAC, and 10th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 2-4 December 2014,

Recalling the recommendations contained in the Ten-Year Program of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005;

Taking note of the important recommendations adopted by the Ninth Session of COMIAC, held in Dakar (Republic of Senegal) on 11-12 October, 2010:

1. **Notes with appreciation** the establishment of the COMIAC Coordination Office.
2. **Expresses satisfaction** with the efforts put in by the Republic of Senegal to reenergize COMIAC; in this regard, **commends**, in particular, the appointment of the Director of the COMIAC Coordination Office.
3. **Commends** the Republic of Senegal for having successfully hosted the 10th session of the COMIAC in Dakar on 28-29 April 2015, and appreciates Member States' active participation at the event.
4. **Encourages and supports** cooperation between COMIAC and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to explore ways and resources that can be tapped to finance the COMIAC activities.
5. **Welcomes** the constant contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the COMIAC and invites Member States and relevant institutions to bring their financial support to the COMIAC's programs and activities through the expeditious settlement of voluntary contributions.

RESOLUTION NO. 10/43-C
ON
THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ISLAMIC AND WORLD
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGES

The Forty Third Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, (Session of Education and Enlightenment: Path to Peace and Creativity) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17-18 Muharram 1438 H);

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and other OIC Conferences, in particular the 13th Ordinary and the 4th Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conferences, the 42nd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (ICCM), and the 10th 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;

Welcoming the measures of the UN Security Council through the adoption of Resolution 2199 (2015) agreed in July 2015 to combat the trafficking of antiquities plundered from Iraq and Syria, particularly by ISIL and the Al-Nusrah Front; as well as through the decision that all UN Member States should take steps, in cooperation with Interpol, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other international organizations, to prevent the trade in items of cultural, scientific and religious importance illegally removed from either country during periods of conflict.

Considering the Milan Declaration in August 2015 adopted by Ministries of Culture from 83 countries, which calls for protection of cultural heritage, while expressing utmost condemnation of the use of violence against the world's cultural heritage, and which appeals to the United Nations (UN) and UNESCO to continue to support the international community in fostering positive communication between different cultures.

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;

Appreciating the efforts and projects of Member States, the General Secretariat, and OIC organs, including ISESCO and IRCICA, in support of the UNESCO initiatives in this regard, including the World Heritage Committee and the programme for the protection of cultural and natural heritage in emergency situations;

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. **Stresses** the need to utilize the outputs of regional workshops on 'the protection of cultural heritage at the time of crises' held on 15-17 December 2015 under the patronage of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, with the participation of the Athar Regional Conservation Center (ICCROM), the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
5. **Welcomes** the efforts of Member States in caring for the cultural heritage which they consider as belonging to the entire humanity, by providing information on the rules and regulations related to the conservation, rehabilitation and restitution of cultural heritage, scientific research, to establish more museums and organize monuments and antiquities exhibits.
6. **Emphasizes** the creation of appropriate mechanisms to activate the charter on the conservation of Islamic heritages.
7. **Commends** the efforts of the OIC Secretary General for his initiatives aiming at promotion and defending unified position on issues of common interest, including the dialogue among civilizations and religions; promoting interfaith harmony, tolerance and non-discrimination; to safeguard historic and Islamic character of the holy places as well as Islamic cultural and civilizational heritages.

8. **Strongly condemns** the crimes committed against tangible and intangible cultural heritage in all its forms in Iraq, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Syria and in other Member States; and Invites ISESCO and IRCICA, in coordination with Member States and all relevant partners at different levels, to strengthen the cooperation with competent institutions in order to monitor the situation of cultural, civilizational and religious heritages in the Muslim World, and taking part in countering acts of destruction and vandalism against such heritages.
9. **Calls** on ISESCO and IRCICA to jointly organize an international seminar on “Islamic Action to Protect Cultural Heritage” at the earliest convenience, as was decided by the 9th Islamic Conference of Cultural 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 Turkey on 14-15 April, 2016.
10. **Supports** the call from the OIC Group at UNESCO, for this UN Agency to cooperate closely with experts from OIC Member States in help-countering the attacks on culture and heritage, as to exert the tolerant principles of Islam and profound respect to human heritage.
11. **Commends** the 2nd World Nomad Games, which took place in the Kyrgyz Republic on 03-08 September 2016 for contribution to the development of ethno-historical sports, inter-civilizational and intercultural dialogue, youth, tourism and education in a healthy spirit.
12. **Calls upon** Member States, the IDB, and ISESCO 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) through opening of the sport centers in the Member States and organizing regular sports competitions on the basis of the World Nomad Games.
13. **Commends** the activity of the OIC Member States that are home for snow leopards to preserve the composite of this unique representative of the animal world.
14. **Welcomes** the outcomes of the 1st World Forum on Preservation of Snow Leopards held in 2013 in Kyrgyzstan and expresses support to the efforts of Kyrgyzstan to conduct and host the 2nd World Forum in 2017.

Requests the Secretary-General to follow up the issues incorporated in this resolution and report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.11/43-C
ON
PROMOTION OF COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES
IN THE CULTURAL DOMAIN
AND SUPPORTING CINEMATORGRAPHIC PRODUCTION

The Forty Third Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, (Session of Education and Enlightenment-Path to Peace and Creativity), held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on 18-19 October, 2016 (17-18 Muharram 1438H);

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

Cognizant of the importance of cultural heritage in general and the 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. **Recommends** 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. **Calls** for the establishment of an OIC prize to reward the best cinematographic productions which meet the ideal and objectives of the OIC and which are presented in Member States festivals based on selection criteria to be defined subsequently.
3. **Recommends** the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental experts group to consider the idea of creating the OIC Film Festival.
4. **Encourages** the reinforcement of cooperation among film festivals throughout OIC Member States, and in particular support to joint initiatives and projects.
5. **Calls** for the establishment of an OIC Cultural Day to be celebrated by Member States, the OIC and its subsidiary and specialized institutions on a date to be determined.

6. **Appreciates** highly the initiative to hold a Festival of Islamic Arts and Handicrafts in one of the OIC Member States in order contribute to the radiance of the Islamic culture in all its aspects.
7. **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.
8. **Requests** the IDB, ISESCO, IRCICA and all other relevant OIC institutions to fully support all cultural cooperation initiatives, including in the area of cinematographic production.
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**Declaration by the
Group of the OIC Member States in Geneva on
Condemning the Human Rights Council Resolution
“Protection against violence and discrimination based on Sexual
Orientation and Gender Identity”**

With regard to the resolution entitled “protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity”, adopted by a recorded vote of 23 in favour, 18 against and 6 abstentions during the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council, the OIC Group in Geneva has adopted the following declaration:

While recalling core international instruments including the Charter of the United Nations, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and while recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, we reaffirm the significance of respecting national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds in the promotion and protection for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

While reaffirming our commitment to combat different forms of violence and discrimination against all people around the world, we strongly oppose the human rights Council resolution 32/2 on “protection against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity” and unequivocally reject the establishment of the mandate of an Independent Expert, through this resolution, adopted by a marginal vote during 32nd regular Session of the Human Rights Council.

We believe that the concepts of sexual orientation and gender identity are not recognized under any international instruments, and run counter to the values and teachings of many religions and beliefs including Islam. We are further concerned that these concepts which are controversial in nature have the potentials of being a divisive factor among members of the international community. Hence, the imposition of these notions in resolutions will go directly against global human rights values.

We believe that the resolution is highly divisive and aims to impose a set of values on the world, which do not enjoy international consensus and contradicts the fundamentals of the universality of human rights and also the beliefs of at least more than 1.5 billion Muslims. Due to these fundamental differences OIC member states are not in the position to cooperate or engage with the Independent Expert established through HRC resolution 32/2.

While supporting all initiatives aiming at protecting human rights, we are concerned at the attempts made by some countries to involve the Human Rights Council in controversial issues outside the internationally agreed human rights legal framework and which has the danger of polarizing the members of United Nations.

We reaffirm that the Human Rights Council should promote consensus on human rights issues, with a cooperative and constructive approach.

While recalling all international instruments relevant to the family and also, referring to the theme of the International Day of Families in 2016, “Families, healthy lives and sustainable future”, we reaffirm that the natural family – consisting of a man and a woman – is the main part of the society with a unique role in ensuring healthy live and well-being of all its members especially children.

We appreciate the OIC group in Geneva for pursuing a principled position of the OIC on the resolution, which led to some significant amendments in it. We emphasize that all Human Rights Council resolutions should be implemented while respecting the sovereign right of each country as well as its national laws, development priorities, the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people.

We also request the OIC Secretary General and all member states to continue the initiatives in order to effectively counter such actions in the future.
