

**Joint Statement by the Annual Coordination Meeting expressing anguish over  
Denigrating Islam, its revered symbols and personalities.  
UN Headquarters, New York, 28 September 2018.**

The Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation during the Annual Coordination Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York held on 28 September 2018 adopted a Joint Statement co-sponsored by Pakistan and Turkey, alarmed by the rise in the tide of denigrating Islam its revered personalities and symbols of Islam.

Recalls the Resolution 34/45 –Pol adopted during the forty-fifth Session of the Council of Ministers held in Dhaka from 5-6 May 2018, expresses concern on the intensification of campaign of denigrating Islam, deliberate stereotyping of Muslims as well as inciting acts of violence, xenophobia, and related intolerance against them and Islamic religious symbols and revered personalities.

Expresses deep concern on the use of internet, social blogging, use of other electronic means, contest and competition to ridicule, insult, denigrating Islamic religious symbols and revered personalities, encouraging Islamophobia, and incitement to violence and hatred through negative and malicious depiction of Muslims.

Strongly deplores all acts which aim to target the Muslims and their revered symbols and referring to international human rights, international law including articles 19 and 29 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 19 and 20 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights acknowledging right to freedom of expression and its exercise with special duties and responsibilities and the limits imposed by the law and rights and reputation of others and other reasonable limits.

Reaffirms to general comment No.15 of the CERD which stipulates that prohibition of the dissemination of all ideas based upon racial superiority or hatred is incompatible with freedom of opinion and expression applicable to the question of incitement to religious hatred.

Takes note of UNGA Resolution 72/136 and HRC Resolution 37/38 and in particular HRC Resolution 16/18 which called for measures proposed by the Secretary General of the OIC in paragraph 7 to be taken by all states to create environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect.

Appreciates restraint and patience in the Muslim world and for understanding the motives behind the acts of provocation and observing peace in their respective countries.

Requests the Secretary General to continue monitoring acts of denigrating Islam, its revered symbols and personalities and decides to include the joint statement as annex of the ACM Final Report and to report to the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.