

KAMPALA DECLARATION
ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY FIFTH SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT)
KAMPALA, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, 18-20 JUNE 2008

1. **We**, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the OIC, participating in the Thirty Fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, (Session of Prosperity and Development), having met in Kampala, Uganda and considered issues facing the Ummah hereby declare as follows:

2. **We reaffirm** our dedication to the lofty tenets of our faith which enshrines the values of peace and tolerance as well as respect for humankind and all creation.

3. **We reiterate** our solemn commitment to the purposes, objectives and principles of our Organization and recognize that the unity and solidarity of the Islamic Ummah and effective cooperation and coordination among the Islamic countries are vital for prosperity and development of the Ummah.

4. **We welcome** the adoption of the amended Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference by the Summit of Kings and Heads of State held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal in March 2008 and pledge our commitment to ensuring its speedy ratification and implementation. While appreciating the efforts so far made in the restructuring of the OIC, we call for its early completion to help equip the Organization to better meet the challenges facing the Ummah in the 21st Century as envisaged by the Ten Year Programme of Action.

5. **We note** with satisfaction all efforts towards the implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action and pledge to intensify efforts towards its speedy and effective implementation.

6. **We reaffirm** the centrality of the cause of Palestine and Al Quds for the Ummah. We reaffirm our support for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli Conflict based on a two State solution, the withdrawal by Israel from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the remaining occupied Lebanese territories, as envisaged in United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 1397 1515 and General Assembly resolution 194 and other relevant resolutions. We welcome the revival of the peace process.

7. **We affirm** our support for the efforts made by His Majesty King Mohamed VI, Chairman of Al Quds Committee to support the City of Al Quds Al Sharif and preserve its civilizational Arab and Islamic identity and its position as a symbol of tolerance and coexistence among the three divine religions. We also commend the role of the Beyt Al Mal Agency in improving the conditions of its inhabitants through its development and urban projects. We further commend the role played by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King

Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein in providing the financial and moral support to the City of Al Quds and the holy places.

8. We recognize the significant potential for promoting prosperity and development in the Ummah. We resolve to vigorously pursue prosperity and development in all OIC countries. We call for the promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment. We undertake to step up efforts to establish a Free Trade Area for greater economic integration within the Member States and encourage Member States to conclude the necessary bilateral and regional arrangements including air links, services, cargo, and ware-housing to enhance intra-OIC trade and commerce.

9. We recognize the critical role of the private sector in providing impetus to intra-OIC economic, commercial and trade relations, and to that effect, invite Member States to encourage representatives of their respective private sector to assume a pro-active and inter-active role. In this regard, we welcome the successful organization of the First OIC Business Forum-12th Private Sector Meeting in Kampala from 16 to 18 June 2008, which adopted the Kampala Economic Declaration and we encourage Member States to organize similar fora in future and actively participate in the projects of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

10. We underscore the importance of adding value to our raw materials on a system-wide basis for the purpose of increased revenue for development purposes and capacity building. In this regard, we emphasize the central role that Member States can play in improving agricultural practices through mechanization, food production, agro-processing, storage facilitation and marketing.

11. We recognize the critical role that infrastructure plays in enhancing development in the Member States especially in the context of inter-state projects such as port development, railways and trans-boundary highways.

12. We welcome the decision to construct the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, commends the Sudan for introducing the project and for its offer to host the first Ministerial meeting of interested states and request the IDB to continue providing appropriate support to the project and for other to infrastructure development projects.

13. We welcome the establishment of the Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Programme by the IDB aimed at building capacity, attracting new Foreign Direct Investments as well as facilitating additional investments in Member States.

14. We call upon Member States to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in tourism fairs, joint tourism ventures and investment and upgrading tourist facilities and absorptive capacities.

15. We welcome the creation of the Special Fund for the Development of Africa, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and all other established Funds to promote development among the least developed OIC countries.

16. We note with concern the negative impact of rising food and energy prices in some parts of the world and welcome the praise worthy initiative of H.H. Sheikh Saban Al Sabah the Emir of Kuwait in setting up the Fund for Dignified Life to help OIC countries respond to this challenge.

17. We call upon Member States to enhance their communication linkages including consideration for the possible future commissioning an OIC owned communication satellite to boost intra-OIC communication and for propagating programmes of interest to the Organisation as stipulated in the Ten Year Programme of Action.

18. We reaffirm the respect for the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia and call upon OIC Member States to support the ongoing reconciliation process in Somalia and to consider contributing troops to the possible deployment of the United Nations Stabilization Force and providing other forms of support to AMISOM and other legitimate initiatives that may emerge. We also call upon OIC Member States to provide more assistance to the people of Somalia.

19. We welcome the signing of the recent historical Doha Agreement, initiated by H.H. Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, who facilitated a political solution to the Lebanese crisis that crowned the efforts made by the Arab League and the members of the Arab Ministerial Committee. We reaffirm our full support for the Agreement and wish the Lebanese people peace, stability and prosperity. We welcome the election of President Michel Suleyman, President of the Lebanese Republic and stress the need to bring to completion the implementation of the Doha Agreement.

20. We strongly support the continuing efforts for promoting national reconciliation among all the Iraqi people, addressing the causes violence and terrorism, preserving the inviolability of Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity, accelerating the capacity of the Iraqi security forces for the preservation of peace, stability and security.

21. We reaffirm support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their inalienable right to self-determination. We call for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people. We further hope that the next round of talks between Pakistan and India would result in substantial success on the outstanding issues including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

22. We urge the international community to enhance its assistance to the Government and people of Afghanistan in their efforts towards peace, security, reconstruction and development. We condemn heinous terrorist activities in Afghanistan and call on international community and OIC Member States to help Afghanistan in fighting against this phenomenon.

23. We reaffirm the inalienable right of the member States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We firmly support the stand that Iran's nuclear issue should be settled exclusively by peaceful means and reaffirm that the safeguard implementation in Iran should be conducted in a routine manner and express our hope that the issue of nuclear activity of the Islamic Republic of Iran be referred from the United Nations Security Council to the Agency as soon as possible.

24. We reiterate our support for the process of settlement of the Cyprus problem and reaffirm our solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters in Northern Cyprus. We appeal to the international community, including the OIC Member States to take concrete steps in order to put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots.

25. We strongly condemn the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and urge immediate complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. We call for peaceful resolution of this conflict on the basis of respect for territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

26. We reaffirm the need for the reconstruction of war-ravaged Cote d'Ivoire, and more particularly the need for the rehabilitation of its economy.

27. We condemn the aggression of Eritrea against the Republic of Djibouti and calls for the return to the former situation and we further reaffirm our commitment to respect sovereignty territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Djibouti.

28. We note the declaration of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo on February 17, 2008. We recall the continued interest of the OIC regarding Muslims in the Balkans and express our solidarity with the Kosovar people.

29. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomsoever and wherever, and reaffirm our commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism through inter alia, evolving an appropriate definition of terrorism mutual exchange of information, capacity building and by addressing the root causes of terrorism such as unresolved conflicts, continued suppression and marginalization of peoples and denial of the rights of peoples to their self-determination in situations of foreign occupation.

30. We condemn the growing trend of Islamophobia and systematic discrimination against the adherents of Islam. We call upon the international community to prevent incitement to hatred and discrimination against Muslims and take effective measures to combat defamation of religions and acts of negative stereotyping of people based on religion, belief or ethnicity. We request the Secretary General to continue the OIC initiatives to effectively counter Islamophobia through discussion and debates at various international fora.

31. We reaffirm the responsibility of the Islamic world in reviewing the condition of Muslim communities and minorities in Non-OIC countries to ensure promotion and protection of their basic rights including cultural and religious freedom.

32. We note that Uganda's assumption of the Chairmanship of the Council of Foreign Ministers at a time when the Chairmanship of the Summit is held by the Republic of Senegal provides an unprecedented opportunity for strengthening solidarity between Africa and the OIC.

33. We note with concern and strongly condemn the destructive terrorist aggression carried out by the foreign-backed forces against the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Chad targeting the dismantling of the constitutional Government of Chad. We further call upon OIC Member States to extend humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons as well as rehabilitation of the affected areas.

34. We also note with concern and strongly condemn the destructive terrorist aggression carried out by the foreign-backed forces against the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sudan on 10 May 2008, which targeted civilians and their property.

35. We call upon the OIC Member States to contribute to making UNAMID and other related initiatives more effective in the stabilization efforts in Darfur, within the framework to the agreement between the Sudan and the United Nations and the African Union.

36. We express our gratitude to the Secretary General, H.E Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, for promoting and defending the cause of Islam, pioneering international best practices in the organization's service delivery and in raising the profile of the OIC as a significant player on the global scene.

37. We express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of Uganda for their generosity in hosting the Conference and for the excellent facilities provided which greatly contributed to the success of the 35th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

Done in Kampala on 20 June 2008