

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE
OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS
(SESSION OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT – INTIFADA AL-AQSA)**

**BAMAKO, REPUBLIC OF MALI
04-06 RABIUL THANI, 1422H (25-27 JUNE 2001)**

1. In response to the kind invitation by the Government of the Republic of Mali, the Twenty-eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace and Development – Intifada Al-Aqsa), was convened in Bamako, capital of Mali, on 04 – 06 Rabiul Thani 1422H (25-27 June 2001).

2. His Excellency, Mr. Mande Sidibe, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Mali, opened the 28th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and delivered the speech of His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali, before the 28th Session of the ICFM. In his speech, President Konare thanked the participants who travelled to Mali and welcomed all delegations.

President Konare commended the unity of the Islamic Ummah for which our Organization is an excellent tool for influencing world events.

The President noted with concern the situation of the Palestinian people and called for greater support to the “Al-Aqsa Intifada” in order to achieve the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people with the objectives of establishing their own State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. He further deplored the conflicts and economic crises that continue to hinder the participation of our Ummah in the current process of globalization.

To this effect, he called for the setting up of a crisis resolution mechanism within the OIC . He also appealed for greater economic solidarity within the Ummah and urged for a political settlement of the external debt.

As part of this inter-Islamic solidarity, His Excellency further called for the establishment of a mechanism between oil producing and consuming countries following the example of the “Pact of San Jose” concluded between certain South American States.

The Prime Minister of Mali, after delivering the President’s speech, declared open the 28th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

3. The participants recited the Fatiha in memory of the martyrs of the Al-Aqsa Intifada.

4. The Conference decided to adopt the statement of H.E. the President of the Republic of Mali as an official document guiding the deliberations of the Conference.

5. Representatives of the three regional groups of the OIC took the floor: H.E. Mr. Youssouf Ouedraogo, State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, for the African Group, Mr. Shaiher Bek, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for the Arab Group and H.E. Mr. Abdul Sattar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for the Asian Group, made statements to express their gratitude to the government of the Republic of Mali for hosting the Conference and their

appreciation for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Conference and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the proceedings. They praised the wisdom, courage, sense of initiative and foresight with which H.E. President Alpha Omar Konare has been leading Mali, making this Islamic country a model of democracy and a source of pride for other Islamic States.

6. H.E. Datuk Seri Syed Hamid AlBar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Chairman of the 27th Session of the ICFM in turn delivered a statement in which he reported on the many activities carried out by the Organization in implementation of the political, economic and cultural resolutions of the 27th ICFM. His Excellency also made an objective assessment of the needs of the OIC and its General Secretariat in terms of financial resources and required means of action. His Excellency gratefully acknowledged the laudable efforts being made by His Excellency Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ, OIC Secretary General, to boost the Organization and improve its credibility. He stressed the need for an Islamic strategy to deal with globalization. He expressed confidence in the Chairman of this session and his ability to speed up the on-going reform process and ensure the follow-up of the implementation of resolutions.

7. In his introductory statement, the OIC Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ raised the issue of the reform and restructuring of the General Secretariat and expressed satisfaction at the determination of the leaders of the Islamic Ummah to support the project and provide the Organization with the necessary means to discharge its mission. He raised the issue of the necessity of Islamic solidarity in the face of rampant globalization and reviewed the state of dissolution lived by the Islamic world, the political and economic situation of the Islamic Ummah, focusing on the dramatic situation in Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif after the auspicious Intifada and on the inability of the Islamic Ummah to protect the Palestinian people from the Israeli aggression. His Excellency also referred to the situation in Afghanistan and the Balkans, Chechniya and to the situation prevailing between Iraq and Kuwait, Jammu and Kashmir. He also dealt with the economic situation in Africa and stressed the necessity to extend economic support to the African countries. He launched an appeal of solidarity with the peoples in the Sahel, stressing the importance of increasing the capital of the Islamic Solidarity Fund and its Waqf, with a view to enabling it to meet its obligations. His Excellency the Secretary General pointed to the importance that the Organisation gives the issues of development, the activation of commercial exchanges between Member States in order to establish an Islamic Common Market. His Excellency the Secretary General also raised various other issues pertaining to the fields of Science, Technology and Information insisting on the necessity to implement the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic world and to ensure an active and efficient participation of the OIC in the Dialogue between Civilizations. He concluded his address by reiterating the necessity to coordinate political positions between Member States in international fora in order to make our voice heard, safeguard our vital interests and promote our causes. In this context, he said: "our joint efforts enabled us to foil many projects and decisions prejudicial to our common interests."

8. The Conference then unanimously elected H.E. El Modibo Sidibe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mali, as Chairman of the 28th Session of the ICFM. The Minister delivered a statement to the Conference in which he welcomed the Islamic delegations which participated in the 28th ICFM, expressing his thanks to the Member States which had extended financial assistance to the Republic of Mali for the organization of the Conference. He stated that the state of Mali during its Chairmanship of the Ministerial Conference and in cooperation with all Member States will seek to strengthen Islamic cooperation and solidarity at regional and international levels.

9. The Conference unanimously elected the other members of the Bureau, namely: The State of Palestine, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, The Arab Republic of Egypt as Vice Chairmen and Malaysia as Rapporteur General of the Conference.

10. The representatives of the UN Secretary General, the Chairman of the non-Aligned Movement, the OAU Secretary General and the Secretary General of the Arab League successively addressed the Conference and expressed satisfaction at the significant improvement in cooperation between the OIC and their respective Organizations in issues of common concern. They commended the role of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ in this respect.

11. The Conference adopted the motto "Peace and Development - Intifada Al-Aqsa" for its current Session.

12. The Conference adopted the report of the preparatory meeting of the Senior Officials for the current session held in Jeddah from 6-8 Rabi Al Awwal 1422H (29-31 May 2001).

13. The Conference adopted the draft agenda and the programme of work prepared by the meeting of Senior Officials; the work was distributed among the plenary and four committees: the Political Affairs Committee, the Economic and Social Affairs Committee, the Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee and the Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee. On the fringe of the Conference, the Six-member Committee on the situation of the Muslims in Southern Philippines and the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, the Contact Group on Sierra Leone, the Board of Trustees of the Trust Fund for the urgent return of refugees and displaced persons to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the African Sahel Committee held a meeting.

14. The Conference and Committees took note with appreciation of the reports prepared by the General Secretariat covering the issues submitted to the current session and were thus able to assess the measures taken in implementation of the tasks assigned to the Secretariat and the developments which took place between the 27th and 28th Sessions of the ICFM.

15. As a result of the sound contributions and constructive debates between Their Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of Delegations at both plenary and committee level, the Conference was able to adopt a number of resolutions for strengthening Islamic solidarity, preparing the Islamic Ummah to meet contemporary challenges, achieving the aspirations of Muslim societies and preserving the fundamental religious and cultural values of Islam.

Political Affairs

The issue of Palestine, Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

16. The Conference hailed the uprising of the Palestinian people, the "Intifada of the blessed Al-Aqsa" in defense of the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and all the holy places and to put an end to the Israeli occupation and to achieve the freedom, sovereignty and independence of the steadfast Palestinian people.

17. The Conference invites OIC Member States to keep on fostering their solidarity with the Palestinian people in their blessed Intifada of Al-Aqsa and supporting their just and

legitimate struggle. It called on the Islamic Ummah to mobilize all its resources to help them achieve their national goals in full. It further invited the Member States to back the Palestinian National Authority given the difficult financial and economic circumstances currently undergone by the Palestinian people, so as to invigorate the blessed Palestinian Intifada.

18. It stressed the need to implement the resolutions and decisions contained in the Final Declaration of the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Doha on May 26, 2001 on the grave situation prevailing in the Palestinian Territories.

19. The Conference called upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in ensuring necessary international protection of the Palestinian people in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories to enable them to regain their inalienable national rights, concretize their national sovereignty over their national soil and set up their own independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as capital. The Conference further deplored the United State's use of the veto against the draft resolution on the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and the establishment of a UN monitoring task force in those territories, such a stand being totally in conflict with the USA's responsibility as a sponsor of the peace process and a permanent member of the Security Council, with a special responsibility regarding the safeguarding of international peace and security.

20. The Conference affirmed the necessity to intensify the good offices and efforts being exerted for the holding of a meeting of the High Contracting Parties of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, with a view to taking the necessary binding measures designed to guarantee the implementation of the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

21. The Conference condemned Israel's expansionist settlement policy and reiterated the need to stop all settlement activities and Israeli measures and practices which are contrary to the resolutions and decisions of the "international legitimacy" and which are also counter to the accords signed in this context by the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The Conference urged the U.N. Security Council to prevent and ban such measures and see to it that the Israeli settlements are removed in accordance with Security Council resolution 465 and to revive the International Supervision and Monitoring Committee to prevent and prohibit settlement in Al-Quds and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, in line with Security Council resolution 446.

22. The Conference commended the continuous efforts of the Al-Quds Committee, under the Chairmanship of His Majesty King Mohamed VI, King of Morocco.

It also paid tribute to the late King His Majesty Hassan II for his efforts to set up the agency of Beit Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif and define its objectives in the protection of the holy city and its Palestinian population. It expresses its thanks to his successor His Majesty King Mohamed VI who placed this institution under his patronage and provided it with full necessary means thus enabling it to begin work under the best auspices.

23. The Conference asserted its support to the stand of the State of Palestine resting on holding fast to sovereignty over Al-Quds Al-Sharif, including the Holy Haram in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and all the Christian and Muslim holy places which are part of the Palestinian territories occupied since June, 1967. The Conference also affirmed that Al-Quds Al-Sharif is

the capital of the independent State of Palestine. In this connection, it underlined its rejection of any attempt to diminish Palestinian sovereignty over Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

24. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for not implementing the resolutions of the international legitimacy on Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict and Israel's rejection of regional and international initiatives aimed at cessation of its criminal aggressions against the Palestinian people, and the immediate and unconditional halting of all its colonialist expansionist settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

25. The Conference considered as null and void all the occupation-related settlement measures and practices in Al-Quds and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories in line with the resolutions and decisions of "International Legitimacy" as well as international conventions which consider all Israeli arrangements, legislative, administrative and settlement measures aiming at altering the legal, demographic, architectural, cultural and heritage-related status of the Holy City as null and void and contrary to the resolutions and decisions of the "International Legitimacy," world covenants and conventions and diametrically opposed to agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli parties. The Conference called on the Security Council to revive the International Supervision and Monitoring Committee to Prevent Colonial Settlement in Al-Quds and the Occupied Arab Territories in accordance with resolution 446.

26. The Conference decided to stop all political contacts with the Israeli government as long as the aggression and blockade against the Palestinian people and its National Authority continue, and as long as Israel persists in refusing to implement the relevant UN resolutions and called on Member States which have established, and which had started to take steps to establish, relations with Israel within the context of the peace process to break these relations, to close down any missions or offices, sever all economic relations, and end all forms of normalization with Israel until it meticulously and sincerely implements the UN resolutions on Palestine, Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict and until the restoration of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

27. The Conference called on the Member States to implement the provisions of the Islamic boycott of Israel, and for considering the legislations, rules and status governing the boycott action, the general principles of the boycott, the Islamic law and the by-laws of the regional offices and their periodical meetings as part of the national legislations in force, and for the creation of the necessary offices and mechanisms for so doing and coordination between the Islamic Boycott Office and the Arab Boycott Office.

28. The Conference hailed the steadfastness of Lebanon – its Government, People and Resistance – and what it has achieved in terms of the liberation of the Lebanese territories and the repelling of the Israeli occupation. The Conference supported Lebanon in its efforts to complete the liberation of its entire territories to the internationally recognized borders, including the Shebaa Farms. It urged the United Nations to force Israel to pay compensation for all the losses it inflicted or caused as a result of its continuous aggressions against Lebanon. The Conference further supported Lebanon in its demands for the removal of the mines left behind by the Israeli occupation. Israel is responsible for planting these mines and has the obligation to provide their maps. The Conference also supported the inalienable rights of Lebanon to utilize its waters in accordance with the international law. It condemned Israel's claim in these waters. The Conference held Israel responsible for any action of a nature as to infringe upon Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence and safety of its people and integrity of its territories. It demanded the release of all Lebanese prisoners and detainees from Israeli prisons.

29. The Conference paid tribute to the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab citizens in the Syrian Golan against occupation and their valiant opposition to Israel's repressive measures and continuing attempts to undermine their adherence to their land and their Syrian Arab identity and declared its support for this steadfastness.

30. The Conference strongly condemned Israel's policy of refusing to comply with Security Council resolution 497 of 1981 and of imposing its mandate, laws and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan as well as its policies of annexation, building of settlements, confiscation of land, diversion of water sources and imposition of Israeli citizenship upon Syrian citizens. The Conference considered all such measures as null and void and constituting a violation of those provisions and principles of International Law and Humanitarian International Law, particularly the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949. It urged Israel to completely evacuate the entire occupied Syrian Golan and pull back to the June 4th, 1967 lines.

31. The Conference condemned Israel's repeated threats against Syria, which are aimed at destroying the peace process and escalating tension in the region.

32. The Conference emphasized that there can be no just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East area as long as Israel has not withdrawn from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied in 1967, foremost among which is the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in implementation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967), and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes and their properties and their compensation in accordance with UN resolution No. 194.

Situation in Afghanistan:

33. The Conference again emphasized the impossibility of resolving the Afghan problem by military means and called on all Afghan parties to the conflict to put an end to hostilities and cooperate with the aim of setting up a national and broad-based government that is representative of all the Afghan people. It called on all States to refrain immediately from providing weapons and ammunition to all Afghan parties to the conflict.

34. The Conference requested the Secretary General to take the necessary administrative measures to open a humanitarian relief office of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Afghanistan entrusted with facilitating the process of provision of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.

35. The Conference urged Member States and Islamic institutions to extend assistance to the Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for efforts to ensure the prompt and voluntary return of the refugees to their country and their rehabilitation. The Conference also called on the international community, in particular OIC Member States, to respond to the humanitarian requirements of the situation in Afghanistan.

Bosnia, Herzegovina and Kosovo:

36. The Conference stressed the importance of economic recovery and its basic role in consolidating peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this context the two documents on the new Terms of Reference of the Assistance Mobilization Group for Bosnia and Herzegovina emanating from the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo and the Statutes of the Trust Fund for the speedy Return of the Refugees and the Displaced

People to Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were submitted to the Conference by the Ninth Meeting of the Assistance Mobilization Group held in Sarajevo on 27-28 April 2001.

37. The Conference commended the Islamic states and organizations which made donations to the Trust Fund for the speedy Return of Refugees and the Displaced People to Bosnia and Herzegovina during the First Donors Conference held on 15 May 2001 in Doha, State of Qatar, and urged other Islamic states and organizations to contribute generously to this Fund given the urgency of the return of the refugees and the displaced people for achieving demographic balance and democracy in the country.

38. The Conference emphasized the need to implement Security Council Resolution No.1244 on Kosovo, and to secure the return of all the refugees and the displaced people of the province to their homes so that they may be able to exercise their right of self-determination and preserve their Islamic identity and cultural heritage.

The situation in Somalia:

39. The Conference reaffirmed its support for the efforts exerted by the President of the Republic of Somalia, Mr. Abdi Kassim Salad Hassan to achieve peace and national unity in his country. It called on all Somali factions to spurn war and violence, respond to the call of peace, and earnestly participate in the ongoing national debate for unification and reconstruction of the State and called on all the States, particularly the neighbouring ones, to support the Somali government to achieve peace and development.

Situation in Jammu and Kashmir:

40. The Conference reaffirmed its support for the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, and called for appointing a special representative of the OIC Secretary General and for sending an OIC fact-finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir.

41. The Conference welcomed the intention of India and Pakistan to resume direct negotiations between them and hoped that it would lead to a just settlement of the Kashmiri issue, which is at the core of the Indian-Pakistani conflict.

42. The Conference condemned the flagrant violations of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir, and called on Member States to take all necessary measures to persuade India to put an immediate end to these violations and enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

43. The Conference adopted the recommendations made by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It also took cognizance of the memorandum submitted by the True Representatives of the People of Jammu and Kashmir to the Contact Group.

Situation between Iraq and Kuwait:

44. For the reinforcement of security, peace and stability, the Conference called on Iraq to complete the implementation of the obligations stipulated in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. It called on Iraq and the Security Council to initiate a comprehensive dialogue so as to implement such obligations in a fair and comprehensive manner and on sound bases, with a view to lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

45. In implementation of the obligations stipulated in international law and international humanitarian law as well as on relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the Conference called for the speedy resolution of the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons as well as the nationals of other countries in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross. It also called for cooperation on the question raised by Iraq concerning missing Iraqi nationals under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

46. For the sake of promoting good neighbourly relations, the Conference stressed the need to respect the security and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait and called on Iraq to take the necessary steps in order to testify to its peaceful intention vis-à-vis the State of Kuwait. It also stressed the need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and security of Iraq. It demanded that illegitimate actions taken against Iraq outside the framework of the relevant Security Council resolutions be brought to an end.

Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan:

47. The Conference reiterated its full backing and support to the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Azerbaijan to help ensure immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. It also urged both Armenia and Azerbaijan and all the states in the Minsk Group of the OSCE to participate more effectively in the ongoing peace process to ensure a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis

of the principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Situation in Cyprus:

48. The Conference expressed firm support for the rightful cause of the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus and reaffirmed its resolutions and declarations on Cyprus. It called for a just and negotiated settlement that would respect their legitimate aspirations. It emphasized the great importance of respecting the principle of equal political status in promoting a negotiated settlement acceptable to both the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides and to this end it called on the two sides to reciprocally acknowledge each other's equal status in order to pave the way for a lasting settlement. In this respect the Conference welcomed the statement made by the UN Secretary General on 12 September 2000 at the outset of the Fourth Round of Proximity Talks.

U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:

49. The Conference affirmed its solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriya and its support for its right to claim compensation for damages sustained as a result of US aggression of 1986 in accordance with Resolution 38/41 of 20 November 1986 of UN General Assembly. It renewed its call on US to abide by the resolution and resort to peaceful means in order to settle its differences with the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Final Lifting of Sanctions on Libya:

50. The Conference called on the UN Security Council to immediately and definitively lift the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriya now that it has complied with the requirements stipulated in the Security Council resolutions in this respect. It regretted the condemnation of one of the two Libyan citizens and called on international public opinion

to denounce the political motives that led to imposing on the Libyan citizen Abdulbasset Al-Mugrahi a verdict which legal experts have criticized for several legal flaws, and called for his release. The Conference reaffirmed the Great Jamahiriya's right to compensation for the damage it has suffered as a result of the sanctions imposed on it.

Solidarity with the Iran and Libya against D'Amato Amendment:

51. The Conference reaffirmed its solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libyan Jamahiriya in their stand against the so-called D'Amato Amendment. It reiterated its rejection of all arbitrary or unilateral measures of political or legal character undertaken by any State and called upon all the countries to consider this law contrary to the norms of international law and consequently null and void.

Economic Situation in Africa:

52. The Conference commended the efforts made by African States towards economic recovery and development, in particular the establishment of the African economic community aimed at progressive economic integration in Africa. It urged the international community, particularly developed countries and concerned institutions to increase their public and private low-interest financial flows to Africa to achieve economic revitalization and development. It called on the international community to achieve a global and lasting solution to the issue of African debts through total debt cancellation.

Solidarity with the People of Sahel:

53. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the smooth running of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Joint Programme. It particularly expressed its gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Islamic Development Bank for their generous contributions to the programme. It also called on all the States that pledged to make donations to liaise with the Executive Secretariat of CILSS so as to determine their contributions and promptly extend the necessary financing for the implementation of the programme.

Assistance to Mali and Niger:

54. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at the restoration of peace to the northern regions of Niger and Mali and commended the efforts exerted by the Governments of these two countries to rehabilitate the territories affected by the past insurgent movement. It called on the Member States and Islamic institutions to assist Niger and Mali and to achieve their development project aiming at consolidating national unity and preparing the proper ground for sustainable development. The Conference requested the OIC General Secretariat to undertake, in coordination with the Islamic Development Bank to consider the implementation of a special programme for reconstruction of the northern regions of the two countries.

Assistance to the Republic of Guinea:

55. The Conference strongly condemned the armed acts of aggression against the people of Guinea and expressed its support for and solidarity with the government and people of Guinea. The Conference called on Member States, Islamic institutions, and other International organizations to provide financial assistance to the government of the Republic of Guinea to address the consequences of instability in West Africa, to host and shelter the refugees and the displaced people, and facilitate their voluntary repatriation to ensure Guinea's stability and development.

Political Situation in Sierra Leone:

56. The Conference reiterated its support for the Government of Sierra Leone in its efforts to re-establish its authority all over its territories. It also expressed satisfaction with the support of international and regional Organizations for the peace process initiated by the Government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. The Conference expressed its appreciation for those Member States of the OIC which have contributed troops in the UN Peace Keeping Forces in Seirra Leone. It also encouraged a meeting of the Contact Group in Freetown to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone and to contribute to its development.

Solidarity with Sudan:

57. The Conference reaffirmed its full solidarity with Sudan in confronting hostile designs, defending its unity and territorial integrity, and exploiting its wealth and natural resources so as to promote the welfare of its people. It commended the Sudanese government for its continued efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the problem of southern Sudan through negotiation with the various Sudanese parties. In this regard, it condemned the military escalation and violent approach adopted by the insurgent movement. It expressed its deep appreciation for efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to achieve national reconciliation in Sudan through the Egyptian Libyan initiative.

American raid on Pharmaceutical Laboratory "Al-Shifa" in Khartoum:

58. The Conference expressed its full support for the request of the Republic of Sudan to set up an international committee of inquiry under the auspices of the Security Council to investigate US allegations concerning the production by the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant of toxic chemical gases. It called again on the government of the United States of America to respond positively to Sudan's request. It asserted its solidarity with Sudan in confronting hostile designs led by the United States of America against its security and national unity.

Unilaeral Economic Sanctions:

59. The Conference called on all the states that impose unilateral sanctions on OIC member States to desist from such practices in view of their contradiction with the principles of international law and the UN charter. It expressed solidarity with the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Sudan, and other states suffering under unilateral economic sanctions.

Situation in the Comoros:

60. The Conference reaffirmed its full commitment to the unity of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, expressed support for the efforts exerted by the Comorian Government to achieve peace and national unity including the islands of Mayotte and Anjuan and reaffirmed its active support for the Comorian Government in its political and diplomatic efforts to restore the two islands to their motherland.

Disarmament:

61. The Conference reaffirmed the need to arrive at a complete nuclear disarmament and called on the Member States to participate in all relevant international initiatives, particularly Conference on the Review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2005. The Conference called on all Member States to work towards concluding and signing fair and non-discriminatory international treaties as well as encouraging the creation of nuclear-weapon free zones in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. It strongly condemned the position of the State of Israel which flouts all international agreements in the area of nuclear weapons proliferation.

62. The Conference expressed its concern over the spread of light and small-calibre arms and the manufacturing production and use of anti-personnel land mines, considering that such phenomenon impede economic development and lead to instability, insecurity and the spread of civil strife in the Member States.

Creation of World Fund of Solidarity against Poverty:

63. The Conference requested Member States to speed up their effort to urge the Secretary General of the United Nations to accelerate the creation of a World Fund for Solidarity to Combat Poverty.

Problem of Refugees in the Islamic World:

64. The Conference expressed concern at the growing number of refugees in the world generally and in Islamic States in particular. It called for doubling humanitarian assistance to countries receiving large numbers of refugees on their territories. It called on the Member States to participate actively in the general consultations on refugees to be held in Geneva in December 2001. The Conference addressed an appeal for assisting the Member States that were affected by this phenomenon, notably the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Yemen.

Islamic World and Challenges of Globalization:

65. The Conference called for the creation of a coherent Islamic front to face the international trade competition resulting from globalisation and urged Member States to develop communication and information technology to protect their cultural and social heritage, endow it with a global dimension and narrow the gap between them and the countries that possess technological means.

Reform of the United Nations:

66. The Conference asserted that the Islamic States have a direct interest in the United Nations reforms, including increased membership of the Security Council, and called upon Member States to participate actively and effectively in the United Nations reform process on the basis of relevant OIC statements and declarations.

Preservation of Security of Islamic States and Solidarity among them:

67. The Conference reaffirmed the determination of OIC Member States to encourage initiatives aimed at building confidence and security whenever and wherever appropriate at bilateral or sub-regional level. It reaffirmed the full and permanent sovereignty of Islamic peoples and States over their natural resources and economic activities and the need to abide by the principles of international law concerning the sovereignty,

political independence and territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force in international relations, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. It expressed the determination of Member States to safeguard and consolidate Islamic values in every sphere of life, especially in the areas of solidarity and mutual respect. It affirmed its rejection of the so-called right to humanitarian intervention under any pretext or from whatever source as it has no basis in the United Nations Charter or the principles of general international law.

68. The Conference reaffirmed the need for Member states to continue strengthening and promoting cooperation, coordination, and consultation on every level so as to remove all causes of division and to reinforce mutual understanding; to abide by the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and ban the exploitation of their territories by individuals or groups trying to cause harm to other Member States. It also stressed the need for coordination to contain all forms of terrorism. It called on Member States to adopt, in international forums, a unified position on vital and urgent issues to secure a majority of votes consistent with the importance of these issues.

69. The Conference condemned the coup attempt made against President Ange Felix Patasse, President of the Central African Republic and reaffirmed its support for the democratically elected government of President Patasse. It requested the Member States and the international community to effectively participate in achieving security and stability and guaranteeing the continuity of the democratic option in Central Africa.

The International Court Judgment between Qatar and Bahrain:

70. The Conference congratulates the two brotherly peoples of Bahrain and Qatar and their wise leaderships for having settled the border disputes between the two countries. It highly appreciates the good brotherly spirit with which they have welcomed the judgment of the International Court of Justice in this respect and considers that this important achievement will contribute to consolidating brotherly ties between them, boost their common interests, strengthen Islamic solidarity, and establish security and stability in the region.

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Protection of the Rights of Muslim Communities and Minorities in Non-Member States:

71. The Conference expressed satisfaction at the efforts exerted by the Secretary General to implement the resolutions on Muslim communities and minorities in Non-Member States, particularly those concerning the setting up of a contact group from among Member States permanent delegations at the UN in New York and Geneva to deal with cases of violation of the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in Non-Member States.

72. The Conference stressed the need to help Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States to preserve their religious and cultural identity and enjoy equal treatment in terms of rights, obligations and duties, and exercise their civil, religious and other rights without segregation or discrimination.

73. The Conference stressed that safeguarding the right of the Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States is fundamentally, the responsibility of the governments of those states, based on commitment to the principles of international law and respect of territorial sovereignty.

74. The Conference urged Member States to give special attention to the Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States that are subjected to oppression or persecution because of their religious beliefs, to identify their needs, and to advise member States thereof with a view to providing the necessary financial, human and material resources, while working to intensify the various Islamic cultural and educational activities so as to improve the general conditions of these minorities.

75. The Conference urged member States to coordinate efforts to train the personnel capable of fulfilling the task of Islamic Dawa within Muslim communities and minorities in different world countries. This personnel is to include qualified female staff and a set of integrated material and programmes is to be drawn up for this purpose.

76. The Conference requested the General Secretariat to make contacts with the governments of states with Muslim communities and minorities to identify the latter's problems and needs and the former's views on the best way to work out a formula for cooperation with the OIC in order to provide the contributions required to improve the conditions of these Muslim communities and minorities and preserve their religious and cultural identity. Priority should be given to contacts with the governments of non-Member States where Muslim communities and minorities face urgent problems.

77. The Conference stressed the commitment of Member States to respecting the rights of non-Muslim communities and minorities living on their territory in accordance with the precepts of our tolerant Islamic religion. The Conference denounced the allegations by certain circles concerning the treatment of minorities as well as the use of measures concerning them as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of Member States.

78. The Conference took note of the proposal submitted by the Sultanate of Oman to replace 'Muslim Minorities and Communities' with reference to Muslims in non-Member States of the OIC, with "Muslims in (Name of Country)". It requested the OIC Secretary General Secretariat to continue to consider this proposal jointly with the Sultanate and to refer the matter to the meeting of Governmental Experts concerned with the examination of the situation of the Muslim Minorities in non-Islamic States, and then to submit the conclusion of the Experts Group to the Twenty-ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The issue of Muslims in Southern Philippines:

79. The Conference adopted the recommendations of this Session's fringe meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Seven on the follow-up of the 1996 Peace Agreement between the Moro National Liberation Front and the Government of the Philippines, which was attended by His Excellency Professor Nur Missuari, Chairman of the Front, and a representative of the Government of the Philippines. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the step taken so far to implement in full the aforementioned peace agreement. It also called on the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front to preserve the gains made by the said agreement especially the restoration of peace in the south of the country. It demanded that the necessary guarantees be provided for that purpose.

80. The Conference also called on the parties concerned to continue providing adequate assistance to fully implement the Peace Agreement during the transitional period until the establishment of the Autonomous Region in the Southern Philippines.

Issue of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace:

81. Having taken into consideration the fact that Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace is an integral part of the Muslim World, the Conference expressed regret over the continuing judicial harassment against the elected Mufti of Xanthi, Mr. Mehmet Emin Aga, and expressed its concern at the obstruction of the building of the Kimmeria Mosque. The Conference urged Greece to take all measures to restore the rights of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and recognize promptly the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini as the official Muftis.

Muslim Minority in Myanmar:

82. The Conference commissioned the Islamic Contact Group on the conditions of Muslim Communities and Minorities to follow-up the violations of the rights of the Muslim minority in Myanmar, and urged Member States to provide moral and political support to this minority and to facilitate dialogue between that minority and the government of Myanmar so that it may exercise its basic rights on an equal footing with other citizens of Myanmar.

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Legal Affairs:

83. The Conference urged Member States that have not ratified the Statute of the International Islamic Court of Justice to complete the ratification process so that the Court can start to assume its functions.

84. The Conference recognized the importance to follow up the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and called again on the Inter-governmental Group of Experts on this issue to start formulating Islamic Conventions on Human Rights in the form of covenants each of which would deal in detail with one or more issues based on the provisions of the Declaration.

85. The Conference called on Member States to continue their positive coordination and existing cooperation in the field of human rights, especially during international conferences and meetings on the issue, in order to reinforce Islamic solidarity and to confront any initiative that may lead to the use of human rights as a means to exert political pressure on any Member State and to convey the positions of the Organization on human rights issues, including the rights of Muslim minorities, to the concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations. The Conference also approved the efforts made by Member States in Geneva, which led to a unified position on issues of concern to them and on confronting the distortion of the image of Islam as denounced in the relevant resolution of the Commission on Human Rights.

86. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the repeated and wrongful association between Islam and human rights violations, and over the use of the written and

audiovisual media to propagate such misrepresentation. It called for an end to the unjustifiable campaigns waged by certain non-governmental organizations against a number of Member States to demand the abolition of Sharia laws and sanctions in the name of protecting human rights, and affirmed the right of states to hold fast onto their religious, social, and cultural specificities, which constitute their heritage and a source for enriching common universal concepts of human rights. It called for the universality of human rights not to be used as a pretext to intervene in the internal affairs of states and undermine their national sovereignty.

87. The Conference urged Member States again to proceed as soon as possible, with the signing/ratification of the different agreements concluded under the aegis of the OIC.

88. The Conference expressed again its support for the convening of a international conference under the aegis of the United Nations to define the concept of terrorism and make a distinction between terrorism and peoples' struggle for national liberation.

89. The Conference reaffirmed the determination of Member States to abide by the provisions of the OIC Treaty on Combating International Terrorism, and to coordinate their efforts to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism, including state terrorism.

90. The Conference condemned all forms of international terrorism, including the crimes of hijacking and illegal acts against the safety and security of civilian aircraft. It called on Member States to ratify expeditiously international agreements on the Penalty for Hijacking and on Guaranteeing Civilian Aircraft Safety and Security.

91. The Conference reaffirmed the decision of Member States to participate actively in the International Conference on Fighting Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia, and all form of intolerance related to it on the basis of the contribution of OIC presented by the working group on Human Rights in Geneva.

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Information and Communication:

92. The Conference took note with satisfaction of the commendable efforts made by His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), during the 6th Session of COMIAC in Dakar (28-29 Rajab 1421H/25-26 October, 2000) with the aim of promoting joint Islamic action on information and implementing its various programmes.

93. The Conference also took note with satisfaction of the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and national Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in chairing the 5th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information, held in Tehran (23-24 Shaban 1420H/1-2 December 1999), ensuring follow-up of the resolutions adopted by this session, and convening the 1st Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee to be held in Tehran on 21-22 Shaban 1422H (6-7 November 2001).

94. The Conference welcomed the invitation made by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the 6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information in Cairo.

95. The Conference commended the measures proposed by the OIC Secretary General to revitalize the information and communication sector so that it can fully assume its natural role in promoting the just causes and the true image of Islam. It launched an appeal to the Member States to help implement these measures and enrich them with the experience of their respective information institutions and organs.

96. The Conference called on the Member States to take the appropriate measures to integrate the information strategy for Islamic States in their information policies and distribute the relevant documentation to their media.

97. The Conference welcomed the efforts made to launch the Islamic Programme for the Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC), as well as the results of the contacts established in this regard by the Secretary General with the Member States and relevant international organizations, particularly UNESCO and its International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). It called on Member States to promptly adhere to PIDIC and provide all necessary technical assistance to finance jointly adopted projects. It also called on Member States whose media and related institutions are in need of support to submit their applications to the General Secretariat for submission to the Committee in charge of the Programme (the Ministerial Follow-up Committee)

98. The Conference called on Member States to mobilize all necessary financial means and particularly voluntary contributions, with a view to addressing the lack of necessary funds for the information plan and to start the implementation of information programmes provided for in this plan so as to be able to keep abreast of communication technologies, face the challenges and meet the requirements of our times.

99. The Conference urged the Member States to provide material, logistic, technical, and human assistance of all kinds to the two OIC specialized institutions IINA and ISBO to allow them to achieve the objectives assigned to them.

100. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the agreement reached during the last meeting of the Executive Council of the International Telecommunication Union, held in June 2001 for the organization of the world Summit of the Information Society in two stages:

- First stage in 2003 in Geneva
- Second stage in 2005 in Tunis.

101. The Conference commended the setting up of the Internet site of the General Secretariat (www.oic-oci.org) which provides wider publicity for the OIC and its institutions. It called for updating its contents regularly; urging support and continued development for this achievement.

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Economic Affairs:

102. The Conference underlined the need to devise ways and means of minimizing the adverse effects of globalization on the economy of the Islamic world and called on the international community to adopt appropriate measures to ensure sharing of the benefits of globalization by all countries on an equal footing with a balance between the advantages and responsibilities of the developing countries. It also stressed the need to face up to the challenges of globalization through the full participation of the developing countries and of those whose economies are in transition in the international decision-making process concerning economic and financial policies.

103. The Conference called for further liberalization of trade through the creation of more opportunities for the developing countries for trading in the products and services where these countries have a comparative advantage. The Conference noted that the liberalization of international trade has not been that much beneficial to the developing countries and highlighted the need for confidence-building in the multilateral trading system by encouraging the participation of all developing countries.

104. The Conference called for speedy accession of the developing countries, including OIC Member States, to WTO and emphasized that no political consideration should impede this process of accession. The Conference further called for the rejection of attempts to include non-trade issues, such as labour and environment standards, into the work programme of WTO or to link such issues with trade deals, given their detrimental effect on the evolving of a just, free and fair multilateral trading environment.

105. The Conference called upon WTO to strengthen, in the various multilateral trade Agreements, the development dimension, through, inter alia, operationalising the provisions on special and differential treatment in favour of the developing countries. It further called for the correction of the imbalances in the various WTO Agreements that have major implications for development policies as well as export interests of the developing countries.

106. The Conference expressed the conviction that the achievement of a higher level of economic and commercial co-operation among the Member States would provide the necessary basis for a gradual progression towards greater economic integration leading to the ultimate objective of an Islamic Common Market. The Conference noted in this connection, that the establishment of the Islamic Common Market is essentially a long term process with multiple dimensions and phases, including, inter alia, assessment of comparative advantages of the Member States, selection of priority sectors of co-operation, facilitation of market access, determination of competition policy and setting up of an Islamic Free Trade Zone.

107. The Conference called on the Member States to increase their share of the world trade by sustained improvement of their competitiveness at the international level through adoption of a series of policies aimed at improving their economic infrastructures, increasing the quality and added value of products, diversifying the product-base and providing the conditions favourable for foreign investment. It further underscored the fundamental importance of expanding intra-OIC trade and called on the Member States to participate in the various schemes of IDB aimed at expanding such trade.

108. The Conference reaffirmed the importance of strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States so as to maximize the complementarities in their economies and stressed in this connection the importance of accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action to strengthen Economic and Commercial Co-operation

among the Member States within the framework of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation (COMCEC) in accordance with the operational modalities and procedures set forth in its chapter on follow-up and implementation. The Conference appreciated the initiative of the Republic of Turkey of hosting an experts group meeting in Istanbul on 6-7 May, 2001 to explore ways and means of accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action.

109. The Conference called for the strengthening of economic policy co-ordination among the Member States with a view to avoiding further marginalisation at the international level, particularly in the areas of market access, finance and investment, transfer of technology and the development of an integrated network of information as well as physical infrastructure. The Conference further urged the Member States to reinforce intra-OIC regional and sub-regional economic groupings and to relaunch existing projects aimed at some form of economic complementarity.

110. The Conference stressed the importance of developing an orderly and strengthened international financial system with a view to addressing the fundamental weaknesses and the inherent instability of the international financial system so as to avoid disruptive and destabilizing capital flows and limit the contagion effect of any future financial crisis.

111. The Conference called upon the Member States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify at an early date the various agreements/statutes finalized under the aegis of the OIC, particularly the Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among Member States, the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Co-operation among Member States, the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and the Statute of the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries, so as to provide the necessary framework for economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States.

112. The Conference renewed its appeal to the international community, and particularly to the developed countries, to fully and expeditiously implement the Programme of Action for 2001-2010 adopted by the Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels on May 14-20, 2001.

113. The Conference expressed concern at the declining trend in the volume of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the LDCs and appealed to the developed countries that have not yet done so to achieve as soon as possible the agreed target of 0.7% of the GNP for overall official development assistance, and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for the LDCs.

114. The Conference expressed its belief in the link between the phenomenon of acute poverty in the LDCs and the distortion in their socio-economic structures, deterioration of their terms of trade and consequent marginalisation in the global economy. It further reaffirmed the common objective of the Member States of eradicating poverty before the end of the next decade. It also agreed that Micro Credit programmes providing access to small capital for productive self-employment contributes significantly towards the eradication of poverty and called for the incorporation of such programmes in the strategy for poverty eradication.

115. The Conference renewed its call to the international community, the developed countries in particular, to offer substantial reduction of African debts and lowering of the burden of servicing charges, while ensuring that this process is combined with the flow of

fresh and considerable finances on easy terms to the African countries. It also appealed to the international community to extend assistance to the Member States struck by drought and natural disaster and called upon the Member States and OIC institutions to extend substantial assistance to the OIC countries of the Inter-governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), the permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), and other OIC States.

116. The Conference stressed the role of the private sector in the Member States in providing impetus to intra-OIC economic relations and in this connection called on the Member States to support the various development activities of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It further stressed the need to enhance the role of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), invariably at the private sector, as a crucial element in the process of industrial development of the Member States, particularly as an important link in the chain of supplies.

117. The Conference commended the role of the Islamic Development Bank in supporting development programmes in the Member States and in rendering technical assistance and other services. It welcomed the decision taken at the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference to commission the IDB's Board of Governors to take the necessary steps to radically increase the Bank's authorised and subscribed capital and called for support of the Member States in this respect.

118. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the holding of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held in Isfahan on 3-4 October, 2000, hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which underscored, inter alia, the increasing importance of tourism as the most significant growth industry today and the need for the Member States to secure a major share in it, and welcomed the offer of Malaysia to host the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism in October, 2001.

119. The Conference expressed serious concern over the economic implications of the recent aggressive policies and activities of the Israeli Government, including bulldozing and devastation of the Palestinian farmlands, complete disruption of movement of the Palestinian trade goods and, above all, the continuation of the policy of siege and closure. The Conference called for immediate cessation of such aggressive Israeli activities and for international protection of the Palestinian people and their institutions, including immediate release of the tax and customs revenue collected by the Israeli authorities for delivery to the Palestinian National Authority. The Conference also called upon all concerned to broaden the scope of their assistance to the Palestinian people so as to enable them to build their national economy, consolidate their national institutions and establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. The Conference commended in this connection the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the creation of two funds to support Palestine with its donation of US\$ 250 million to the funds and called for financial support to the funds.

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Science & Technology:

120. The Conference stressed the need for taking effective measures to counter the destructive damages ensuing from pollution and poisonous waste which give rise to climatic

fluctuations and cause the deterioration of biological and socio-economic conditions. In this respect, the Conference emphasized that environmental considerations must be tied to development efforts, called on Member States to ratify the relevant international conventions if they have not already done so, and strongly condemned Israeli practices and their impact on the environment in the occupied Palestinian territories, the all occupied Arab territories.

121. The Conference drew attention to the grave consequences and the necessity of rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and the Aral Sea ecology, and called for a special meeting of the Ministers of Environment to discuss these, and similar common problems at large.

122. Referring to the considerable advances in the fields of science and technology, the Conference stressed their role in the socio-economic development of Member States. It reaffirmed that science and technology must be harnessed for peaceful purposes for the good of humanity and for socio-economic development of States. In this context, it called for the initiation of negotiations among the countries concerned to lay down universal non-discriminatory guidelines on the transfer of advanced technology and of the machinery and equipment of dual use. It also emphasized the possible uses of space technologies for the purpose of socio-economic development and recommended the follow-up of current developments in the United Nations regarding these new advances.

123. Concerning combating epidemic diseases, the Conference urged the strengthening of co-operation among Member States for combating their spread. The Conference also emphasized the necessity of convening the Islamic Conference for Health Ministers, which the Islamic Republic of Iran had gracefully offered to host in Tehran. The Conference decided to expand the mandate of the proposed Conference to cover Islamic co-operation in the area of health generally, including the sector of medicines.

124. The Conference expressed its concern over the exacerbation of the problem of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and their adverse effects on the society and economy of the countries affected by this phenomenon. The Conference called for strict implementation of the UN Convention on Illegal Trafficking of Drugs. It called on Member States to cooperate with the UN seeking to raise awareness of this problem with appropriate use of mass media and other cultural means. The Conference appreciated the ongoing co-operation in this respect between the General Secretariat and the UN Drug Control Programme.

125. With regard to the correlation between the environment and health and the sustainable development in the Member States, the Conference thanked the Government of Tunisia for having hosted the meeting of the Expert Group, and adopted the Tunis Declaration.

126. The Conference took note of the programmes and activities of COMSTECH and called on Member States to provide these programmes and activities with financial support in the form of generous voluntary contributions.

127. With regard to the implementation of developmental strategies in the fields of science and technology in Member States, the Conference commended the positive efforts exerted in this respect by ISESCO in collaboration with COMSTECH. It thanked the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for hosting the First Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of Higher Education and Scientific Research, from 15 to 18 October, 2000 in Riyadh and took note of the resolutions adopted by that Conference. It

entrusted ISESCO with the implementation of the amended Strategy for Developing Science and Technology in Islamic Countries.

128. The Conference commended the activities of the Islamic Institute of Technology in Dhaka, decided that the Institute should become a university without financial implications, with the title "The Islamic University of Technology", and encouraged it to continue its efforts in developing the human resources by Member States in the area of science and technology.

129. The Conference urged the Member States to effectively participate in conferences and meetings related to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. The Conference also called on the developed countries and developing countries to assume their responsibility in taking necessary measures to slow down the deteriorating climate changes.

130. The Conference took note with appreciation of the convening of the First International Forum of The Environment from an Islamic Perspective, held in Jeddah from 23-25 October 2000 and thanked the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for hosting the Forum.

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Cultural Affairs:

131. The Conference stressed the importance of consolidating the unity and cultural coherence of the Islamic Ummah, coordinating its efforts in all the spheres of its general action while taking account of the national and local cultural specifics of Islamic peoples, and providing support to institutions operating in the fields of culture, education and scientific research in order to ensure the implementation of relevant projects, particularly in the field of Islamic culture and civilization. The Conference called on Member States and on Islamic organizations and institutions to contribute to funding the cultural projects aimed at implementing the cultural strategy adopted by ISESCO's Consultative Council. It also recommended ISESCO to convene the First Islamic Conference of Education Ministers in the Member States at the earliest opportunity in contribution to the implementation of the cultural strategy.

132. The Conference expressed profound thanks to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for kindly responding to ISESCO's request to host the Third Conference of Ministers of Culture in December 2001. The Conference highlights the efforts of the Director General of ISESCO in this regard.

133. The Conference requested the Secretary General to conduct in coordination with member countries an in-depth study on the cultural dimensions of globalization so as to safeguard Islamic culture and heritage from the adverse effects of such a phenomenon. It also called for convening specialized symposia to tackle this issue.

134. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Ten Member Committee on Dialogue Among Civilization assigned to establish close contacts with the various geographical groups at the United Nations. It expressed its satisfaction with the steps

taken to reach a consensus on a text to be submitted to the next session of the UN General Assembly. It also welcomed the decision of the Secretary General of the OIC to commission ISESCO to issue a white paper in Arabic, French and English as well as all basic documents on Dialogue Among Civilizations.

135. The Conference welcomed the Mufti of Egypt His Eminence Sheikh Nasr Farid Muhamamd Wasil's plan for an Islamic satellite aimed at harmonizing Islamic holidays. It also called on Member States to support the project.

136. The Conference stressed the need for consolidating Islamic solidarity, for joint efforts to defend all Islamic causes, necessary measures to conduct joint Islamic actions in the field of Da'awa and incorporate the said actions in the national policies of Member States in all areas so as to serve as a guide for any joint Islamic action.

137. The Conference called on Member States and their competent Awqaf institutions to coordinate with the State of Kuwait in the area of exchange of expertise and information as well as academic symposia aimed at enhancing the performance and development of national Waqf institutions.

138. The Conference commended ISESCO and Al-Azhar Al Sharif for finding pertinent answers to misrepresentation of Islamic values published on the internet, and called on them to pursue their commendable efforts in this regard.

139. The Conference thanked the General Secretariat for disseminating the study on the role of women in the development of Muslim societies as well as the Islamic Fiqh Academy's opinion on the study aimed at consolidating direct links between Muslim women's associations in member states and strengthening collaboration between international Muslim women's organizations in Muslim countries.

140. The Conference took cognizance of the meeting convened by the General Secretariat to draft a covenant on the child in Islam based on original Sharia sources. It also took cognizance of the results achieved by this meeting. It also called for holding a ministerial conference on the child and social welfare as soon as possible.

141. The Conference welcomed the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's decision to host the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports. It also called for strengthening cooperation among Member States aimed at a better exchange of ideas and expertise between Muslim youths and youth organizations in all societies.

142. The Conference requested the Secretary General to undertake a special mission to urge the Heads of State to make donations to the Waqf of the Islamic Universities of Niger and Uganda. It also requested the Board of Trustees of the Islamic University of Uganda to reconstitute the Board of Administration of the King Fahd Plaza.

143. The Conference expressed its thanks and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates for his proposal to establish a Waqf for Islamic universities.

144. The Conference commissioned the Secretary General to take all necessary measures in coordination with the competent bodies in Chad, Mali, Guinea Bissau and the Comoros to inspect the Islamic institutes and centers in these countries.

145. The Conference commended the government of Sudan for its financial support to the budget of the Islamic Translation Institute in order to enable it to duly perform its tasks.

146. The Conference called on Member States to award scholarships to Palestinian students wounded during the Al Quds Intifada as well as to other students from the families of martyrs of the Intifada. It also called on universities in Member States to name scholarships after child martyrs of the Intifada and name one after the martyr Muhammad Durra.

147. The Conference expressed its appreciation for IRCICA's various activities aimed at sensitizing world opinion to Islamic cultural heritage and for its efforts to protect and preserve that heritage.

148. The Conference called on Member States to help finance generously the various programmes of the Islamic Fiqh Academy especially its general Fiqh rules project and economic Fiqh encyclopedia, the basic instrument for the implementation of the principles of Islamic Shraia in all the economic, financial and social fields and the cornerstone of Islamic law.

149. The Conference took note of the report of the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Islamic Solidarity Fund on the Fund's activities and its Waqf. All member states were urged to continue making donations to its annual budget. It also called on all member states to make contributions to the capital of the Waqf of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

150. The Conference commended the great accomplishments of ISESCO in the fields of education, science, culture, information and communication in favour of Member States and Muslim communities, especially the dissemination of Arabic, Islamic Culture, the safeguard of Islamic heritage and culture, the promotion of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, the sponsoring of the offspring of immigrant Muslim communities and the support provided to cultural and educational institutions. In this connection, it expressed satisfaction for ISESCO's supervision of the educational and cultural aspects of the administrative and academic restructuring of the Islamic University of Uganda and preparation of suitable syllabi for it.

151. The Conference expressed satisfaction for the humanitarian and social activities of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent. It also accepted the interpretation of the General Secretariat regarding the quorum required for the entry into force of its agreement. It exhorted Member States to expedite the signing and ratification of the said agreement.

152. The Conference expressed its gratitude to the government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for its continued support for the Islamic Sports Solidarity Federation and for hosting its headquarters in Riyadh. It also welcomed the activities that the Federation has decided to carry out during the next five years.

153. The Conference recommended the World Federation of International Arabic-Islamic Schools to include in its relief programmes the establishment of schools for Chechen immigrants in their host countries.

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Administrative & Financial Affairs:

154. The Conference approved the budgets of the General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs for the financial year beginning as of July 1, 2001 with the same ceiling as that of the previous year.

155. The Conference commended positive results achieved by the General Secretariat with respect to rationalizing expenditure, and respecting the budgetary ceiling, all of which have a positive impact on increasing the confidence of Member States in the General Secretariat and thus creating favourable conditions for the implementation of several of the latter's programmes and activities.

156. The Conference approved the Regulations of OIC's Finance Control Organ.

157. The Conference approved that measures be applied to those states that have not settled their mandatory annual contributions to the budgets of the General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs.

158. The Conference called on those Member States that have not settled their mandatory annual contributions to hasten to do their duty in that respect and to settle their arrears so as to enable the General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs to discharge the tasks assigned to them.

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ORGANIC, STATUTORY AND GENERAL MATTERS:

159. The Conference decided to support the orientations put forward by His Excellency, the Secretary General, Abdelwahed Belkeziz, and aimed at promoting the Organization's performance, rationalizing its working process, and reinforcing the role it plays in relations between Islamic States in particular and international relations in general.

160. The Conference decided unanimously to give the full membership status for the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire in the Organization of the Islamic Conference on an exceptional basis.

161. The Conference further decided that the above shall not constitute a precedent for admission of new members and that in future rules and procedures regarding admission of Member States, and observers shall be strictly observed without exceptions.

162. The Conference agreed to defer the final decision on updating the Memorandum of Agreement between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations Environment Programme (OIC-UNEP).

163. It also agreed to defer the final decision on the draft cooperation agreement between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Organization of African Unity (OIC-OAU).

164. It further decided to defer the final decision on the draft cooperation agreement between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the International Migration Organization (OIC-IMO).

165. It also decided to defer the final decision on the framework cooperation agreement between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the International Organization of Francophone Countries (OIC-IOFC).

Candidacies for International Posts:

166. **The Conference decided to support the candidacies presented by the following Member States for the posts indicated opposite each one of them:**

(1) Republic of Indonesia: Membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (U.N.).

(2) State of Bahrain: Membership of the International Law Commission (2002-2006).

(3) Syrian Arab Republic: Non-Permanent seat in the Security Council (2002-2003).

(4) Syrian Arab Republic: Membership of the International Law Commission.

(5) State of Qatar: Non-permanent seat in the Security Council (2006-2007).

(6) Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Non-permanent seat in the Security Council (2003-2004).

167. **The Conference took note of the candidacies presented by the following Member States for the posts indicated opposite each one of them:**

(1) Republic of Iraq: Membership of the Executive Council of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO).

(2) People's Democratic Republic of Algeria: Membership of the UNESCO Executive Council.

(3) Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Membership of the UNESCO Executive Council.

(4) Islamic Republic of Iran: Chairmanship of the next session of UNESCO General Conference.

(5) Republic of Azerbaijan: Membership of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC – 2003 to 2005).

168. **The Conference entrusted the Secretary General to conduct necessary consultations with the Member States of Foreign Affairs in order to determine the date and venue of the 29th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM).**

CLOSING SESSION:

169. Madame Mahaoua BANGOURA, Foreign Minister of Guinea, on behalf of the African Group, His Excellency D.S. Sayed Hamid Al Bar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, on behalf of the Asian Group and His Excellency Farouq Kadoumi, Head of Palestinian Delegation, on behalf of the Arab Group, expressed their sincere thanks to His Excellency Modibo Sidibeh, Foreign Minister of Mali and Chairman of the 28th ICFM, for the generous hospitality extended to the participating delegations and for the arrangements and facilities put at their disposal. They expressed to His Excellency their warm congratulations on his wise and competent steering of the proceedings of the Conference.

170. On behalf of all the participants in the Conference, H.E. Dr. Abdulwahid Belkeziz, OIC Secretary General, addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to H.E. Alpha Oumar KONARE, President of Mali, for kindly hosting the Conference and for his key-note speech which greatly contributed to inspire the Conference with the most effective methods and the most appropriate resolutions to make headway towards fulfilling the aspirations of Islamic societies.

171. In his closing speech, His Excellency Modibo Sidibeh, Foreign Minister of Mali and Chairman of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, commended the spirit of Islamic solidarity and brotherhood which inspired Their Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of participating delegations and played a great part in the adoption of this Session's resolutions.

Bamako, Republic of Mali
6 Rabiul Thani 1422H (27 June 2001)