



**REPORT
OF
THE SECRETARY GENERAL
ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OIC TEN YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION
SUBMITTED TO
THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (CFM)
CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In December 2005, the Third Extra-ordinary Islamic Summit Conference was held in the Holy City of Makkah at the kind invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. The conference was preceded by a meeting of scholars and specialists, which examined the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st century and proposed ways and means to address them.

2. It is against this background that the Makkah Summit adopted the Makkah Declaration and the Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) with the objective of helping the Muslim Ummah to face the challenges of the 21st century.

3. The Secretary General embraced this visionary blue-print and put in place mechanisms for the expeditious implementation of its provisions. He further introduced an annual forum known as the Coordination Meeting of OIC Subsidiary Organs, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions to review the progress made in the implementation of the Programme in the preceding year and to chart the appropriate way forward.

4. Furthermore, Secretary General also wrote to Member States and appealed to them to establish National Committees that would oversee the implementation of the Programme and share their experiences with the General Secretariat in this regard.

5. In the same vein and pursuant to the TYPOA in its preamble, which calls for a mid-term review of the Programme, the General Secretariat submitted a proposal to the 36th Session of the CFM to give effect to the provisions of this Plan. The Council considered the proposal and resolved that this exercise be carried out during the ordinary sessions of the three OIC Standing Committees namely OIC Standing Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation (COMCEC), Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) and Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and submit a report thereon to the 12th OIC Summit.

6. The Secretary General communicated the resolution of the 36th Session of CFM to their Excellencies the Chairmen of the three OIC Standing Committees who graciously agreed to include the Mid-term Review of the Ten-Year Programme of Action in the agendas of their respective Committees.

7. A detailed account of the steps taken by the General Secretariat in the implementation of the Programme is reflected in the Reports of the Secretary-General to the various CFM sessions covering the period of the Plan. This report only provides highlights of the major achievements realized in the implementation of the entire Plan, tracing the various challenges faced, and suggesting measures to further consolidate on the gains hitherto made. Furthermore, the Report suggests the need for a comprehensive review of the Plan in the run-off to the expiration of the Plan's tenure, with a view to providing a necessary guide for any eventual decision to elaborate a successor programme to TYPOA.

II. INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES

8. Under this theme there are a total of eleven broad goals namely Political Will, Solidarity and Joint Islamic Action, Islam as a Religion of Moderation and Tolerance, Multiplicity of Islamic Jurisprudence, Reform of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, Combating Terrorism, Combating Islamophobia, Human Rights and Good Governance, Palestine and the Occupied Arab Territories, Conflict Prevention and Reform of the OIC.

(a) Political will, Solidarity and Joint Islamic Action

9. The period has witnessed a clear demonstration of greater political will by the Member States to engage more actively and concretely in the activities and programs of the OIC, including appropriate high-level participation in the OIC meetings. These achievements have been made possible by the mobilization of the Member States through increased visits of the Secretary General to the Member States and high-level official visits from Member States to the General Secretariat. This political will has also visibly translated into greater willingness by the Member States to sign and ratify the new OIC Charter, agreements and statutes which seek to enhance intra-OIC solidarity and cooperation. Until now, the new Charter has been signed by 51 and ratified by 25 member states. Furthermore, about 101 signatures and 65 ratifications for economic agreements were secured between 2005 and now. This is a testimony to the responsiveness of OIC member states to the need for the rigorous implementation of the Ten Year Programme of Action”.

10. As mandated by the TYPOA, the last eight years have witnessed an intensification of cooperation and partnership between the OIC and other regional and international organizations, especially with the UN, AU, League of Arab States, CEN-SAD, EU and OSCE. The policy of enhancing implementation of OIC programmes and projects through closer cooperation, synergy and alliance between OIC and other international and regional economic groupings has resulted in the conclusion of framework agreements with such institutions as: United Nations, FAO, IFAD, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and D-8 Organization.

11. To this end, the OIC has extended its network by strengthening its offices in Geneva, New York and opening new offices in Baghdad, Afghanistan, Brussels and a humanitarian office in Somalia. As a matter of fact, the OIC is now regularly invited to many of the meetings and activities of these organizations. Regular consultations are also held between the OIC Secretary General and his counterparts from these organizations.

12. On supporting the issue of Al-Quds Al Sharif, it should be pointed out that the Holy city has been subjected to numerous violations by the Israeli occupation forces, which included, but not limited to, house demolition, ethnic cleansing, property confiscation, settlement and building of separation wall, assault on shrines and excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque, among others. Therefore, the developments in Al-Quds remained a major concern for the OIC. The OIC Executive Committee held

several meetings to address the Israeli violations in Al-Quds, which have reached alarming heights.

13. On several occasions that warranted action by the OIC, the Secretary General addressed letters to leaders and Foreign Ministers of selected member countries as well as executives of relevant international institutions, imploring them to exert necessary pressures on Israel to stop its violations in Al-Quds.

14. The Secretary General addressed the UNESCO Executive Board in 2008 and invited UNESCO to shoulder its responsibilities and to adopt a special resolution on Israel's looting and destruction of heritage and historical sites in Al-Quds. Furthermore, the OIC, in collaboration with UNESCO as well as its organs and institutions namely IRCICA, ISF, IDB, and ISESCO, has endeavoured to take care of the cultural aspects of Palestine, which include subjects such as the educational situation in the Palestinian Territories, preserving the civilizational heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the teaching of the history and geography of Palestine as part of the curriculum of the OIC Member States, have remained areas of priority of the OIC.

15. On Jammu and Kashmir, the OIC and through its Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, has continued to extend its full support to the people of Kashmir and their legitimate right of self-determination through peaceful means and in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. The OIC-SG appointed a Special Envoy who has paid official visits to Pakistan and to Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, with the help of some Kashmiri personalities and circles in Europe, there was an initiative to start interaction with the European Parliament on the issue of Kashmir, leading to the establishment of useful contacts with them in Brussels and in Jeddah.

16. The situation in Somalia continues to be among the OIC top priorities. OIC Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Djibouti Agreement as the basis for conflict settlement in Somalia. The OIC played a significant role in forming the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). Apart from the full support that it extended to the TFG, the OIC actively contributed to the successful implementation of the political transition in Somalia, which for the first time produced a democratic outcome in the country. It remained as an active member of the International Contact Group on Somalia and most importantly hosted, in December 2009, for the first time, the 16th meeting of the said group. . Through opening an office for coordination of humanitarian affairs in Mogadishu, the OIC proved that it enjoys a comparative advantage on Somalia issue vis-à-vis its other international counterparts and is ready to cooperate to reap the best possible benefits for the country. In October 2012, The Secretary General paid a historic visit to Mogadishu and met with the high Somali officials to explore ways and means of reinvigorating Somalia- OIC bilateral relations under the new dispensation and to assist in the stabilization, rebuilding and recovery process in Somalia.

17. On Cyprus, relations between member states and the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus have greatly improved in the past eight years. A number of OIC events have been hosted in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (specify) as a way of showing solidarity for their cause and breaking the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot.

18. On Nagon Karabakh, the OIC has, at all foras passed resolutions reaffirming commitment by all Member States to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. OIC has further demanded at international fora the strict implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, and the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azerbaijani territories including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and strongly urged Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

(b) Islam –The Religion of Moderation and Tolerance

19. In coordination with relevant institutions such as IRCICA and ISESCO to promote Islamic Culture, the Secretary General has, in his various lectures and statements, underscored the true teachings of Islam and has upheld the values of tolerance, compassion and peace embodied in Islam and also tried to remove the misperceptions and distortions about Islam.

20. The Secretary has always issued statements condemning acts of extremism in all its forms and manifestations whenever they take place regardless of the religion, race or nationalities of perpetrators of such acts. On the other hand, the OIC has been actively involved in various international inter-cultural and inter-civilizational events on dialogue and has established itself as one of the principal interlocutors of the UN Alliance of Civilization initiative. Having signed an MoU in 2009 both the OIC and the UN Alliance of Civilization sought to translate it into actionable plan by signing an Action Plan during the 3rd AoC Global Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2010 aiming at setting out joint plans and programmes to be implemented by the two institutions over the period from 2010-2012.

(c) Multiplicity of Islamic Jurisprudence& the Islamic Fiqh Academy

21. Rapprochement among Muslim schools of thought (Madahib) and embracing a clear-cut approach to issuing religious edicts (Fatwas), were the subjects of the two preparatory meetings chaired by the Secretary General with the participation of Muslim Scholars representing different schools and religious sects held in May and June 2008 within the framework of the International Fiqh Academy's preparation to hold a Grand Conference of the Group of Muslim Scholars on the subject.

22. In February 2006, the General Secretariat invited eminent jurists from different schools of Islamic jurisprudence to start the process of restructuring the Islamic Fiqh Academy as provided for in the TYPOA with the objective of coordinating fatwas, countering religious extremism, combating the accusation of heresy made against some Muslim schools of thought, and disseminating the values of moderation and tolerance. As a consequence of the restructuring process the Academy was overhauled and elevated to higher standards that endowed it with credibility and respectability across the Muslim world. Under its new mandate, the Academy was able to contribute in putting an end to the sectarian killings between the Iraqi Sunni and Shiite by drawing up the "Makkah Al-Mukarrammah Declaration on the situation in Iraq" that was signed by the Iraqi religious leaders in October, 2006 and paved the way for national reconciliation in the country.

(d) Combating terrorism

23. The OIC is an exemplary organization with an idea to promote moderation and modernization in order to provide the world with the environment of peace and tolerance. Its position against the phenomenon of terrorism is based on its principle and its policy. Its conviction is that absolutely nothing justifies acts of terrorism. Thus its activities and interactions are aimed at removing any motivation or provocation whatsoever from people's mindset and psyche towards eliminating the threat of terrorism. The Organization continued to voice condemnation of all terrorist acts perpetrated against innocent people in contradiction to the teachings of Islam and all other religions. The Secretary-General addressed the special meeting of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, held in April 2011 at the headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. He called for a meaningful dialogue and partnership that would bring together the OIC, the UN and the Council of Europe for the fight against terrorism. The OIC submitted a paper to the forum titled "The Role of Internet in the Fight against Terrorism and Extremism", held in Riyadh in 2011. It also organized a workshop on the legal aspects of combating terrorism, with the participation of a number of experts, at its headquarters in Jeddah at the beginning of 2011 in coordination with the United Nations.

(e) Combating Islamophobia

24. One of the main priorities dealt with by the General Secretariat is combating the scourge of Islamophobia. The issue of Islamophobia was taken to a new height with the active campaign conducted by the OIC at the aftermath of the Danish cartoon crisis. Because of the tireless efforts of the Secretary General all through the end of 2005 and beginning of 2006, for the first time ever a tri-partite statement was issued by the UN, OIC and EU in this regard. At the behest of the Secretary General, the Islamophobia Observatory was established by the 34th CFM in Islamabad in May 2007 has since been active in monitoring and countering Islamophobia. The Observatory has been successful in raising global awareness of the dangerous implications of the phenomenon and issued daily and monthly reports on Islamophobia. It has also prepared and released Five Annual Islamophobia Reports in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 respectively.

(f) Human Rights and Good Governance

25. The efforts by OIC General Secretariat in the field of Human Rights have led to the establishment of an Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), as mandated by the Ten-Year Programme of Action and the new OIC Charter. The statute of the Commission was adopted during the 38th CFM held in Astana in June 2011 and entered into force following its adoption. The 38th CFM also elected 18 independent experts composing the Commission which has so far held two meetings.

26. OIC was involved in following up the issue of human rights in the UN. It took part in the Durban Review Conference in Geneva 2009. The OIC delegation led by its Secretary General played an important role in cooperation with the Member States to uphold the OIC's interests in promoting human rights and in particular against incitement of hatred and abuse of the right to freedom of expression.

27. As required by the TYPOA, the OIC has enhanced its capacity building in the field of election monitoring within the general framework of promoting good governance and political participation in the Member States. The OIC has now come to be recognized as a credible actor in the field of election monitoring and has continued to receive growing number of invitations to observe elections in OIC and non-OIC Member States.

(g) Palestine and the occupied Arab territories

28. The issue of Palestine is, as we call it 'the raison d'etre'. i.e the principal reason for the creation of the OIC. However, the first pro-active stance besides years' old OIC summit and CFM resolutions was noticed in December 2006 by shuttle diplomacy undertaken personally by the OIC Secretary General commuting through Al-Quds, Ramallah, Gaza and Damascus in order to facilitate contacts between the concerned parties to reunite them and to promote Palestinian national unity. This shuttle diplomacy, which actually formed part of the new approach to peace and security through quite and preventive diplomacy primarily through the good offices of the OIC Secretary General, paved the way for further reconciliation efforts by the Member States between the Palestinian factions.

29. Within an active support of the OIC and the Secretary General himself, Palestine acquired full membership of the UNESCO in October 2011, and the Non-member Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly in November 2012. Owing to the strenuous efforts, 53 OIC Member States and 18 EU member States voted in favour of Palestine's membership. Besides, Considerable efforts have been exerted by the Secretary General to support and implement the Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan on East Jerusalem leading to its adoption by the 4th Extraordinary Summit and the 38th CFM, which entrusted the Secretary General with following up its implementation.

(h) Conflict Prevention, Conflict resolution and post-conflict Peace building

30. Consistent with its new mandate, vision and mission, the OIC has increased its efforts and visibility on issues relating to peace and security. The OIC Secretary General has enhanced the use of preventive diplomacy and his good offices in conflict resolution in the Muslim World. The OIC has been actively engaged with other partners under the auspices of the International Contact Groups (ICG) to find solutions for the various conflicts in some of its Member States. For the first time in its forty year history, the OIC hosted the international community under the umbrella of the ICG on Somalia. Furthermore, during the period and through the mechanism of the Executive Committee, the OIC convened Ministerial meetings to address emergency situations in some conflict situations. Besides Somalia, these efforts were carried out in other member states, such as: Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Chad, Mauritania, Niger, Guinea, Mali and Libya. Furthermore, the OIC Peace, Security and Mediation Support Unit has now been established within the General Secretariat with a view to specifically addressing preventive diplomacy.

(i) **Reform of the OIC:**

31. Since 2005, the OIC has practically witnessed a paradigm shift as well as a conceptual change from its previous position towards having a complete overhaul. A reform process was effectively launched translating the concept of “solidarity” into ‘action’ with three firm objectives in mind i.e. (1) Reform within the OIC; (2) Reorganization of the OIC to meet the contemporary challenges through a process of modernization and (3) Establishment of the OIC’s position as a major player in international affairs. To this end, OIC has among other things, adopted a new Charter, changed its name and logo and established new departments and institutions all aimed at addressing effectively the real aspirations of the Muslim World and conforming to the realities of the temporary world and the spirit of the 21st century taking into account the new opportunities and challenges.

32. This reform has also seen the establishment of new institutions and units to facilitate the execution of the new and expanded mandate of the OIC. Prominent among these are: Science, Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO), Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), and Islamic Organization for Food Security;

III. DEVELOPMENT, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

33. Under this theme, the broad strategic goals are the following; economic cooperation, supporting the Islamic Development Bank, Social solidarity in the face of natural disasters, supporting development and poverty alleviation in Africa, Higher education, science and technology, Rights of women, youth, and family in the Muslim world, and Cultural and information exchange among member states.

(a) **Economic Cooperation**

34. Despite the global economic crisis, the trade of OIC member states continued to grow. Member states’ overall trade increased from US\$ 3.9 trillion in 2011 to US\$ 4.1 trillion in 2012, an increase of 22%. Within this framework, the trade among OIC member states accounted for 11.34% of world trade in 2012, compared to 10.8% in 2011. Similarly, the total value of intra-OIC trade in 2012 reached a value of US\$ 742.74 billion against US\$ 681.6 billion in 2011, an increase by 14.4%. At the same time the share of intra-OIC trade in the total trade of member states increased from 17.80% in 2011 to 18.21% in 2012. It is worth noting that in 2011, a total of 29 member states exceeded the threshold of 20% of the level of intra-OIC trade, the target set by Ten Year Programme of Action for the year 2015.

35. Similarly, the execution of the three main instruments on Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC), namely the Framework Agreement, PRETAS and the Rules of Origin and their entry into force in 2002, 2010, 2011 respectively provided for the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and facilitated increased trade exchanges as well as increased access to an estimated 1.6 billion strong OIC market. So far 40 member states signed and 30 ratified the Framework Agreement on TPS-OIC, 33 member states signed and 16 ratified the PRETAS, 31 member states signed

and 15 ratified the Rules of Origin in this connection. While these instruments are operational, necessary administrative mechanisms are being perfected to ensure the utilization of this tariff and non-tariff measures by OIC Member States.

36. In recent years and in line with on-going preoccupation to harmonize the implementation of the OIC tariff regimes along with those of other regional economic blocs with common membership with OIC, the General Secretariat has established contacts, with the relevant regional economic blocks, such as: West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Organization of Developing (D8).

37. In the same vein, a renewed emphasis was placed on the enhancing intra-OIC cooperation in other sectors of economy such as agriculture, transportation, tourism, labour and finance. This resulted in launching a landmark \$1.5 billion Jeddah Declaration to assist the OIC Least Developed Countries to develop their agriculture; elaboration of OIC Cotton Action Plan; creation of an OIC Food Security institution in Kazakhstan; initiation of OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway project; elaboration of Cooperation frameworks on tourism and labour; establishment of OIC Stock Exchanges Forum; and adoption of the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia; among others.

(b) Supporting the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

38. In line with the provision of TYPOA on establishing a special fund within the IDB to help address and alleviate poverty, the ISFD has been established as a waqf (endowment fund) with a target capital of US\$10 billion. It has so far extended financing to the tune of US\$ 1.64 billion for various 43 projects in different sectors in 28 OIC Member States since its inception. As of 15 January 2013, the level of announced capital contributions to the ISFD stands at US\$ 2.68 billion, by 44 member countries (US\$ 1.68 billion) and the IDB (US\$ 1.0 billion). The total amount of received contributions so far is US\$ 1.75 billion, which constitutes only 17.5% of the approved target capital of the ISFD of US\$ 10.0 billion. The Fund is currently developing its second Strategy (2013-2015) in line with the current overarching themes in the OIC member states of poverty alleviation and special programs such as youth employment.

39. In collaboration with the IDB and IAEA, the OIC General Secretariat is pursuing projects for the strengthening and establishment of cancer radiotherapy facilities in the OIC member States from Africa, where cancer has become one of the major causes of death. Likewise, projects on isotope hydrology and mosquito sterilization are being pursued in earnest in collaboration with the IDB and IAEA. These projects highlight the potential of regional cooperation in tackling the challenges of disease, access to safe drinking water and other developmental issues.

40. In line with the provision of TYPOA calling for a substantial increase in the capital stock of IDB in order to enable it to strengthen its role in providing financial support and technical assistance to its member countries, the Authorized Capital of IDB doubled from ID 15 billion to ID 30 billion and the Issued Capital was increased from ID 8.1 billion to ID 18 billion in 2010, of which ID 17,474,63 million was subscribed and ID 4,031,07 million was paid up. This increase significantly enabled

this institution of the OIC to continue excelling in providing financial support and technical assistance to the Member States, thereby maintaining its AAA+ rating awarded by leading agencies such as Standard & Poors, Fitch, and Moody's over the past eight years successively. Furthermore the 4th Extraordinary Summit which was held Makkah al-Mukarramah on 14-15 August 2012 called for increase in the Capital of the IDB to enable it to meet the needs of Member States. Accordingly, the 38th Session of Board of Governor of IDB held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 18 May 2013 approved to triple the Bank's authorized capital to 100 billion ID (about US \$150 billion) from 30 billion Dinars. The BoG also increased the Bank's subscribed capital from 18 billion Islamic Dinars to 50 billion Islamic Dinars.

41. IDB has further intensified its cooperation with the private sector in member states through its own affiliated institutions such as the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and other OIC institutions such as ICCIA.

(c) **Social solidarity in the face of natural disaster**

42. Keeping in line with its new mission and vision stipulated in the OIC Ten Year Program of Action and the new Charter, a process was initiated the International Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs' Department (ICHAD) was created in June 2008 by the 35th Council of Foreign Ministers. Subsequently in May 2009 the OIC adopted a document covering the strategic objectives of the OIC's action in the humanitarian areas. This newly created mechanism represents a unifying force for all the efforts deployed by various government and civil society institutions in the Muslim World in this field. As a result, the efficiency of such assistance increases manifold because of its coordinated and targeted channeling of assistance, thereby avoiding duplication and enhancing optimum utilization of resources.

43. In this context, many milestone achievements have been realized during the above period, which include, but not limited to, launching a programme to sponsor 25000 orphans who lost their families as a result of the Tsunami in Banda Aceh, Republic of Indonesia, in collaboration with the IDB and at a total cost of US\$135 million; Relief campaign for Gaza (US\$14 million); Setting up special funds for the refugees of Bosnia Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone; and Opening of an OIC humanitarian coordination Office in Mogadishu, Somalia in March 2011.

(d) **Supporting development and poverty alleviation in Africa**

44. Pursuant to this provision of TYPOA, the OIC elaborated the Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA) in 2008. In November 2012, the approval phase of SPDA has been accomplished and the level of funding commitments to the Programme by IDB Group reached US\$ 5 billion. In addition, an amount of US\$7 billion has been mobilized from other development agencies for projects under the SPDA. Accordingly, a total of 480 projects have been approved for financing under the SPDA in 22 OIC African member states. Most of the projects relate to infrastructure, agriculture, industry, education, health and financial sectors.

(e) **Higher Education, Science and Technology**

45. As a result of national actions and strategies, cooperation among OIC Member States, ongoing OIC programmes and activities and concerted efforts by the relevant

intuitions, encouraging progress has been registered in the domains of science, technology, higher education, health and environment. Since the adoption of the TYPOA, substantial increases in research budgets have been reported by certain OIC Member States. In certain cases gross R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP nearly doubled. Prior to the adoption of the TYPOA (in 2003), the OIC Member States were, on an average, spending 0.2% of the GDP on R&D. From 2003 to 2011, this percentage has quadrupled to 0.81% which is in the vicinity of the target set by the TYPOA of 2%.

46. In the domain of Higher Education, nine universities from the OIC Member States are included in the top 400 World University Rankings Supplement of the QS for 2012. Furthermore, the period 2005 to 2012 has seen progressive strengthening of the OIC universities i.e. Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka, Islamic University of Niger (IUN), Niamey, Islamic university in Uganda (IUIU), Kampala, and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuala Lumpur. The OIC universities have seen expansion of faculties, development of infrastructure, new ICT facilities, training of staff and improvements in educational standards.

47. With a view to taking practical steps towards strengthening the bonds of Islamic solidarity and achieving Islamic cultural renaissance, the OIC General Secretariat has put in place a framework for greater cooperation and linkages in academia i.e. learning, teaching and research. The “OIC Educational Exchange Programme: Solidarity through Academia in the Muslim World” aims at promoting solidarity through academia and cooperation among member states in the crucial field of higher education. The Programme is receiving increasing attention at the international level. Under the OIC Programme, scholarships have been announced by several public and private sector universities in the OIC Member States. A dedicated webpage for the Programme facilitates timely provision of information about scholarship offers to the widest possible audience. The Programme also involves faculty exchange, short term student exchanges, research collaboration and vocational training.

(f) Rights of Women, Youth, Children, and the family in the Muslim World

48. Success in the field of Women, Children and Family issues is depicted through the establishment of the department of Family affairs at the General Secretariat, adoption of the OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women (OPAAW) as well as through the establishment of a specialized institution called Women Development Organization.

49. In line with the OIC Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam, as well as Ten Year Program of Action, Childcare, child protection and child welfare are among the priority areas of the OIC. After the 1st and 2nd sessions of the Conference of Ministers in Charge of Childhood held in Rabat and Khartoum respectively, the 3rd Conference convened in Tripoli, Libya on February 7-11, 2011 under the motto “Reinforcing Development: Meeting the Challenge of Early Childhood Promotion in the Islamic World”. The Conference issued the “Tripoli Declaration on Accelerating Early Childhood Development in the Islamic World”.

50. The OIC remains committed to development of the youth in the Muslim World. In this regard, the OIC has been active in the field of development and empowerment of youth morally and intellectually, through several initiatives and programs on dialogue and mutual understanding towards developing a culture of peace, tolerance and respect among diverse faiths and cultural backgrounds. In line with this vision, the OIC has been working in close coordination with other bodies active in the field of youth, including the Islamic Solidarity Sport Federation (ISSF), International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS), and Islamic Conference of Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC).

(g) Cultural and Information Exchange among Member States

51. The current status of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation among the international community and the response and reactions to the OIC activities in the international Media is a clear testimony of the Organization's pro-active approach towards international issues coupled with a befitting media policy adopted since 2005. For the first time in the OIC history, a full-fledged journal is being published by the OIC. The weekly Newsletter is a landmark initiative in this direction. A Media Guide is also a new development in the OIC. Furthermore, in response to the various public demands in the information sector, a proposal to establish an OIC Satellite channel was adopted at the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) and endorsed by the 39th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM). Follow up meetings are being held to discuss various details related to the establishment of the Channel, which is expected to contribute towards boosting Islamic solidarity and enhance intra-OIC countries exchanges and cooperation in various fields including culture, trade, economy and tourism.

52. In line with the requirement of the TYPOA the Department of Information Affairs at the General Secretariat and two OIC institutions namely ISBU (at present IBO) and IINA the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) have benefitted from the reform process and the new leaderships in these institutions have set clear strategies and action plans which only require the support of Member States in terms of funding to enable them carry out their respective mandates.

IV. CONCLUSION

53. On the whole and as illustrated in the various sections of this report, remarkable progress has been made in the last eight years of the implementation of TYPOA. The image of the Organisation has improved at the global level, in addition to the increased quality of internal administrative and organizational processes. Consequently, the Organisation has gained unprecedented confidence of its member states as reflected in their commitment to meeting their financial obligations towards the Organisation. In this connection, it is encouraging to note that the number of member states that were not paying their mandatory contributions has dropped from 21 in 2005 to only 5 in 2010.

54. Externally, the Organisation has emerged as an effective, respected and credible international body whose views and positions are sought on major international decisions. A growing number of countries from different parts of the world are regularly expressing the desire to be associated with the OIC in different capacities.

55. All these are a consequence of the tremendous efforts that the Secretary General has exerted in carrying out the reform of the Organisation, as provided for in the TYPOA. Among these was the adoption of the new OIC Charter in 2008 which has, so far, been signed by 51 and ratified by 25 member states.. The Secretary General has further carried out reforms and restructuring in both the Secretariat and in other OIC institutions as mandated by the TYPOA. New Departments, such as the Department of Family Affairs, have been established at the Secretariat while those which were in existence have been strengthened and provided with more resources both human and material to carry out their duties diligently. OIC institutions such as the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU) have been subjected to this reform process and the new leaderships in these institutions have set clear strategies and action plans which only require the support of Member States in terms of funding to enable them carry out their mandates. In addition, a working relationship has been established between the Secretariat and several NGOs working in Member States and joint operations have been carried out between the two sides especially in the field of providing humanitarian assistance and relief materials to people affected by disasters.

56. In the political arena, the establishment of the Executive Committee has enabled the OIC to remain on top of events affecting its Member States. The Committee has held several emergency meetings to deliberate on a number of issues of concern to the Ummah. The OIC has further sought to contribute to the improvement of good governance by dispatching election monitoring teams to a number of Member States that have held elections in the past five years.

57. On the economic front, measures aimed at fostering economic cooperation among Member States and increasing intra-OIC trade were devised. The establishment of institutions such as the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation within the IDB Group gave a boost to these efforts. New funds such as the Islamic Development Fund for Development (ISFD) and programmes like the Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) were established within the IDB, all geared towards achieving socio-economic development among OIC Member States and the well-being of their nationals. In this context, the role played by the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in coordinating the implementation of OIC decisions on commercial and economic issues is both considerable and commendable.

58. In the area of science and technology, notable progress has been made in promoting scientific research among Member States. OIC Institutions such as IDB, ISESCO, SESRIC, ISF, IAS and WFAIIS have all discharged their programmes and activities, aimed at promoting and mainstreaming science and technology among Member States. Support for the four OIC Universities namely: IUT, IUIU, IIUM and IUN has increased considerably, thereby impacting positively on their effectiveness and efficiency. The role played by the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) in its endeavors to coordinate efforts in this domain is highly commendable.

59. In the social and cultural field and inspired by TYPOA, the OIC has registered a good number of achievements notable among which was the establishment of Islamophobia Observatory at the OIC General Secretariat and the consequent efforts aimed at addressing this phenomenon. The adoption of the Statute to establish an Independent Islamic Commission of Human Rights was another landmark achievement which, if well utilized, has the potentials of improving Member States' records on the respect of Human Rights. The rights and welfare of women, youth and children have received a great deal of attention and a number of programmes have been adopted and activities carried out in this regard. Efforts of institutions such as IRCICA, ISESCO, ISSF, IUMS, and ICYF-DC have been crucial in making these achievements possible.

60. The visibility of OIC in international media has greatly improved thanks to the reforms carried out by the Secretary General in the Department of information at the General Secretariat. Good working relationship between the OIC and major media houses within and outside the OIC has been established. Furthermore, the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) has been strengthened and is playing a vital role in these domains.

61. However, against these achievements stand stark challenges that need collective efforts and firm determination similar to the one exhibited during the Makkah Summit in order to surmount them. The issue of ownership of the Programme by the Member States was identified as one of the most important issues that need immediate attention. In this connection, stronger political will to support the Programme need to be underlined. Implementation as well as funding mechanisms of the Programme need to be refined with a view to realizing the objectives set in the Programme. It is also noteworthy that many of the goals outlined in the Programme are too broad and lack specific targets and numerical indicators by which progress can be measured.

62. It is crucial, therefore, that a comprehensive and critical assessment process of the TYPOA should be undertaken with the aim of assessing the progress made and measures to consolidate these achievements in the immediate, medium and long terms. On the whole, the elaboration of a comprehensive blueprint for the coordination and actualisation of the objectives of the Organisation as enunciated by its founding fathers is a landmark initiative that is responsible for the giant stride, which the Organisation has attained and for the soaring image of the Organisation as a veritable and respected political, economic and cultural actor on the global plane.

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