



OIC/43-CFM/2016/REPORT/FINAL

**Report of the 43rd Session of the Council of
Foreign Ministers**

**(Session on Education and Enlightenment-
Path to Peace and Creativity)**

**Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan
17-18 Muharram 1438H**

Report of the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers

(Session on Education and Enlightenment-Path to Peace and Creativity)

Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan 17-18 Muharram 1438H (18-19 October 2016)

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session on Education and Enlightenment-Path to Peace and Creativity) was held in Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan, from 17-18 Muharram 1438H (18-19 October 2016).
2. The Meeting was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
3. The Meeting was addressed by His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Acting President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In his statement, the Acting President referred to the serious security challenges facing the Muslim World and underscored the need for collective action. He emphasized the role and importance of education and research to address social & economic challenges facing the Muslim World and explained the reasons that prompted his country to adopt "*Education and Enlightenment-Path to Peace and Creativity*" as the theme of the 43rd CFM. The Acting President also outlined his country's six points priorities to be pursued during the Chairmanship of Uzbekistan of the 43rd CFM. The Acting President also put forward the initiatives to establish the Imam al-Bukhari International Research Center in Samarkand and the Special Chair of ISESCO at the Tashkent Islamic University, which were unanimously supported by participants of the Council of Foreign Ministers, as evidenced, in particular, the adoption of Resolution No. 9/43-ORG on Establishing the Imam al-Bukhari International Research Center".
4. In addressing the meeting, H. E. Iyad Ameen Madani, the OIC Secretary General, commended Kuwait for its leadership and important initiatives during the 42nd CFM. He congratulated the Republic of Uzbekistan for assuming the Chairmanship of the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers. He also recalled the constant support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the host of OIC General Secretariat, for its sustained support to the Organization. He reviewed the numerous challenges facing the Muslim World particularly the dire situation in Palestine, conflicts in Syria, Libya, Somalia, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the question of Muslim Minorities and disputes over Jammu & Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh regions. He also raised concern on the spread of violent extremism and terrorism as well as the JASTA Act passed recently by the US Congress, which he said threatened state sovereignty and peaceful relations among nations.
5. The ceremony was followed by the formal opening session in which the outgoing Chair, His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamed Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, began by conveying on behalf of his colleagues their deepest condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the sad demise of the founding leader, the First President of the country Islam Karimov. He then proceeded to give a detailed account of his country's stewardship of the 42nd CFM and highlighted the importance of the strengthening Joint Islamic Action. He also raised the threat posed by terrorism which he said seeks to disunite the Ummah and called for strong measures to confront its menace.

6. The Meeting then approved the composition of the Bureau as follows: Republic of Uzbekistan, as Chairman, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Djibouti and the State of Palestine as Vice Chairs and the State of Kuwait as Rapporteur.

7. In his welcome address H. E. Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan expressed his gratitude for the confidence reposed in his country to lead the 43rd CFM, and paid glowing tribute to His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamed Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait for very able leadership during his country's Chairmanship of the 42nd CFM. He reiterated his country's commitment to mission and vision of the OIC and determination to further consolidate intra-OIC unity and cooperation.

8. The representatives of the three geographic groups, Cote d'Ivoire for the African Group, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the Asian Group, the Republic of Sudan for the Arab Group, thanked the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting the Meeting and for its generous hospitality. They also pledged the full cooperation of their respective regional groups for the success of its chairmanship. They further emphasized the importance of the OIC as a basis for cooperation and prosperity.

9. The Council adopted the report of the preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for the current session, held in Jeddah from 23-28 July 2016, the Draft Agenda and Work Program submitted to it by the SOM as well as the reports of the Islamic Commission on Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs.

10. The Ministers and Heads of delegation addressed the Meeting in which they highlighted the numerous challenges facing the Muslim World and stressed the need to enhance intra-OIC solidarity and Joint Islamic Action to overcome these challenges.

11. A wide range of issues of interest to the Member States were discussed by the Council leading to the adoption of resolutions in various domains, including the Cause of Palestine and Al Quds Al-Shareef; Political Affairs; Statutory, Organic and General Matters; Legal Affairs; Conditions of Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States; Information Affairs; Administrative and Financial Affairs; Humanitarian Affairs; Economic, Science and Technology, Cultural, Social, and Family Affairs.

12. On the sidelines of the CFM, meetings of the Contact Groups on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and the Muslims in Europe were also convened to discuss the latest development and the way forward.

13. A special brain storming session was convened on “Widening Opportunities and Promoting Creative Potentials of Younger Generations” and came out with a set of recommendations to enhance the conditions of youth in Member States and secure their future.

14. The Council unanimously adopted the “Tashkent Declaration” which addressed major issues affecting the Muslim world.

15. The Council accepted the generous offer made by the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire to host the 44th Session of the CFM in July 2017.

16. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out that Iran’s support for resolutions should not be, explicitly or implicitly, construed as recognition of the Zionist regime of Israel, and expressed reservation to any reference, within these resolutions, that may signify recognition of Israel.

17. The Iranian delegation put also strong rejection on the resolution No. 46/43- POL on the “Attack against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Embassy in Tehran and Consulate in Mashhad”.

18. The Iranian delegation expressed its reservations on resolution 14/42-Pol on solidarity with Yemen and support for constitutional legitimacy. It also registered its reservation on the resolution on “Condemnation of the Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.”

19. The delegation of Azerbaijan proposed to include in resolution No. 4/43 ORG on “the Establishment of a New Unit in charge of Youth Issues within the OIC General Secretariat” the following:

“With reference to the decision adopted by the 3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM) held in Istanbul on 5-7 October 2016.”

The proposal of Azerbaijan was not accepted by the house.

20. The delegation of Lebanon expressed reservation on the expression “including the Lebanese Hizbullah” in paragraph 6 of the resolution No. 46/43-POL on the “Attack against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Embassy in Tehran and Consulate in Mashhad”. The delegation of Iraq also registered its reservation on paragraphs 4 and 6 of the same draft resolution.

21. The delegation of Lebanon expressed reservations on draft resolution No. 10/43-POL on the “Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of

Azerbaijan”, and draft resolution No. 18/43-POL on the Situation in Kosovo. It also distanced itself from the draft Resolution 4/43-POL on the Situation in Syria.

22. The delegation of Lebanon also registered its reservation on Draft Resolution 2/43- MM on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority of Western Thrace and the Muslim Population of the Dodecanese.

23. The delegation of Iraq also expressed reservation on draft resolution No. 10/43-POL on the Aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, draft resolution No. 3/43-MM on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority of Western Thrace and the Muslim Population of the Dodecanese, as well as on draft resolution 49/43- POL on Qatari Abductees in Iraq.

24. The meeting considered the paragraphs submitted by Turkey regarding the International Symposium on Trade Unionism in the Islamic World and its Declaration for inclusion in the resolution No. 2/43-E (B) on Labour, Employment, and Social Protection. The meeting requested Turkey to postpone the submission of these paragraphs to its next meeting and to the 4th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers in order to allow the Member States to study the matter and have detailed information.

25. The meeting considered the draft resolution on Cooperation in the field of Defense submitted by Turkey. After extensive discussions and consultations, Turkey declared that the draft resolution would be resubmitted to the 44th CFM, so as to allow member states to have sufficient time to study the matter.

26. On behalf of all the participants, H. E. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, sent a message thanking His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Acting President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, for hosting of the 43rd CFM by his country and for the excellent facilities and the generous hospitality extended to the delegates, which has immensely contributed to the success of its 43rd Session. The Participants also expressed their deep gratitude to the Uzbek side for organizing the visit to Samarkand, where they were offered the opportunity to be acquainted with city’s magnificent historical and cultural sites that are a unique monuments of the common Islamic and world heritage:.

Tashkent, 19 October 2016