



OIC/44-CFM/2017/REPORT/FINAL

**Report of the 44th Session of the Council
of Foreign Ministers**

**(Session on Youth, Peace and
Development in a World of Solidarity)**

**Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
15-16 Shawwaal 1439H
(10-11 July 2017)**



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At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session on Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity) was held in Abidjan, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire from 15-16 Shawwaal 1439H (10-11 July 2017);

2. The Meeting was opened with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
3. The Meeting was addressed by His Excellency Mr. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. In his statement, the President thanked the Member States for their overwhelming support in electing his country as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and pledged their commitment to use their membership of the Council as well as their Chairmanship of the CFM in the peaceful resolution of conflicts. He recalled the contribution extended by the OIC to Côte d'Ivoire to confront various challenges in the past. He highlighted the relevance and the importance of the theme of the conference and the need to empower the youth who constitute the majority of the population. On the situation in the Arab-Israeli conflict, he called for its settlement on the basis of the two-state solution as advocated by the founding Ivorian President. President OUATTARA urged the Member States to invest in Africa. He, finally, informed his country's decision to ratify the Charter of the OIC. He identified some priorities for the Member States, which include countering terrorism and violent extremism, promoting economic and infrastructural development, education and addressing illegal migration.
4. In his address to the meeting, H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, the OIC Secretary General, commended Uzbekistan for its leadership and important initiatives during the 43rd CFM. He congratulated the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for assuming the Chairmanship of the 44th and its recent election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. He spoke on the importance of dialogue for the peaceful settlement of conflicts consistent with the Charter of the OIC and on the basis of non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States. He touched upon the issue of sustainable development in Africa and commended the efforts of ECOWAS and the AU in this regard. He emphasized the need to enhance the Joint Islamic Action to confront such challenges as terrorism, extremism, Islamophobia, defending the rights of Muslim communities in the West, humanitarian situation in parts of OIC Member States, youth empowerment and the environment. He urged the Member States to participate in the forthcoming OIC Summit on Science and Technology to be hosted by Kazakhstan in Astana. He reviewed the conflict situation in parts of the Member

States and called for the end of Israeli occupation in Palestine and the implementation of the two-state solution.

5. During the formal opening session, the outgoing Chair, H. E. Mr. Abdulaziz Khafizovich KAMILOV, represented by H. E. Mr. Gayrat Fazilov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, gave a detailed account of their stewardship of the 43rd CFM. He raised the need to further strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in order to prevent the extremists from hijacking the noble religion of Islam. He reiterated solidarity with Palestine and expressed concern about the rise of Islamophobia and terrorism, underscored the importance of the UN Alliance of Civilization. He touched on the rights of Muslim minorities and welcomed the establishment of the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology based in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He concluded by commending the Secretary General for his dedication in raising the profile of the OIC and congratulated H. E. Mr. Marcel Amon Tanoh, the Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire for assuming the CFM Chairmanship.

6. The Meeting then approved the composition of the Bureau as follows: Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as Chairman, Republic of Yemen, the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the State of Palestine as Vice-Chairs. The Republic of Uzbekistan was elected as the Rapporteur.

7. In his statement, H. E. Mr. Marcel Amon Tanoh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire expressed his gratitude to the Member States for the confidence reposed in his country to lead the 44th CFM, and paid tribute to his Uzbek predecessor for his efforts in enhancing the Joint Islamic Action. He noted that the Côte d'Ivoire has always been a land of peace and dialogue and will deploy all efforts during its Chairmanship for the peaceful resolution of disputes. He elaborated on the choice of the theme of the Session as relevant not only to Côte d'Ivoire but also to entire OIC Member States. He spoke of the need to offer hope to the youth by providing employment and addressing the question of illegal migration and extremism using education as a tool in this regard. He reiterated importance of the OIC as a useful platform for cooperation and solidarity and commended the OIC Secretary General for his leadership.

8. The representatives of the three geographic groups, the Republic of the Gambia for the African Group, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the Asian Group, the State of Palestine for the Arab Group, thanked the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the Conference and for its generous hospitality. They also pledged the full cooperation of their respective regional groups for the success of its chairmanship.

9. The Council adopted the report of the preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for the current session, held in Jeddah from 30 April – 2 May 2017, 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, meeting of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was convened to discuss the latest developments on the ground and the way forward. The 4th Session of the Bangsamoro Coordination Forum with the participation of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was also convened in order to close ranks and narrow the gaps between them for the purpose of strengthening the peace process in the Southern Philippines.

13. On the sidelines of Session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey signed the Statute of OIC Labour Centre, while the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal signed the Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS). On his part, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh deposited the instrument of ratification of IOFS.

14. Similarly, on the sidelines of the Session, an election was conducted for the 9 members of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission for three-year time starting from February 2018. They will serve as independent human rights experts in the Commission.

15. A special brain storming session was held on the topic "Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity" where Member States and OIC institutions presented a number of recommendations and proposals to enhance the conditions of youth in the Islamic world. Recommendations and proposals focused on the need to invest more on youth in different areas and sectors as this constitutes an investment in the future of society and on how to engage youth to serve as powerful agents for nation building, the achievement of peace and as a constructive force for economic and social development.

16. The Council accepted the generous offer made by the People's Republic of Bangladesh to host the 45th Session of the CFM in May 2018.

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

18. The Iranian delegation put also strong rejection on the Resolution No. 46/44-POL on the "Attack against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Embassy in Tehran and Consulate in Mashhad" and the resolution No. 54/44-Pol on "Welcoming the Convening of the US-Islamic Summit". It also put its reservation on the operative paragraph 9 of Resolution No. 42/44-POL on "Crimes of Daesh", and further dissociated itself from Resolution No. 14/44 on the "Solidarity with Yemen and

Support for Constitutional Legitimacy”, Resolution No. 53/44-POL on “Solidarity with the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Face of Terrorism”, as well as Resolution No. 4/44-POL on the “Situation in Syria”. It finally dissociated itself from the Resolution No. 51/44-POL on “Condemnation of the Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.”

19. The delegation of Lebanon expressed reservation on the expression “including the Lebanese Hizbullah” in paragraph 6 of the resolution No. 46/44-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.

20. The delegation of Lebanon expressed reservations on draft resolution No. 10/44-POL on the “Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan”, and draft resolution No. 18/44-POL on the Situation in Kosovo. It also distanced itself from the draft Resolution 4/44-POL on the Situation in Syria.

21. The delegation of Lebanon also registered its reservation on Draft Resolution 2/44-MM on the Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority of Western Thrace and the Muslim Population of the Dodecanese.

22. The delegation of Iraq expressed reservation on draft resolution No. 10/44-POL on the Aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, draft resolution No. 3/44-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 48/44-POL on Qatari Abductees in Iraq. It also put its reservation on the operative paragraph-9 of Resolution No. 42/44-POL on “Crimes of Daesh”.

23. On behalf of all the participants, H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimen, Secretary General of the OIC, sent a message thanking His Excellency Mr. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, for hosting of the 44th 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 44th Session.

Abidjan, 11 July 2017