

R E P O R T A N D R E S O L U T I O N S

OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4-7 September 1988)

COMCEC Coordination Office
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FOREWORD

The Fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) and the First Meeting of the Ministers of Communications of the OIC Member States have been successfully completed with a remarkably high level of participation on the part of the Member States.

The Fourth Session, like the previous ones, undoubtedly owes its success to the Member States, the General Secretariat and the subsidiary and affiliated agencies of the OIC. Without their will to cooperate, arduous efforts towards increasing the quality and standard of the work carried out and indispensable contributions of expertise, it would have been impossible to conclude the Session with such success and to attain tangible results beneficial to all the Member Countries.

This book, which I have the honour of presenting, contains the Reports and Resolutions of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC.

The book consists of two main parts.

The first section contains basic reference documents, namely, the Resolutions adopted at the Third, Fourth and Fifth Islamic Summit Conferences regarding the establishment and functioning of the Standing Committee.

The second part contains the Report of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC and the list of documents presented at the session.

The List of Participants, the Agenda of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC, the Report of the Senior Officials' Meeting, Resolutions of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC and statements made at the opening and closing sessions which include ideas related to the strategy to be followed in the area of economic cooperation among the Member States of OIC are attached as annexes to this book.

The other documents considered at the Fourth Session of the COMCEC, which are shown in the list contained in Section II of Part Two of this Book, are available through the COMCEC Coordination Office.

I am convinced that the Resolutions adopted at the Fourth Session of the COMCEC will be implemented with determination by the Member States, the General Secretariat and the subsidiary and affiliated agencies of the OIC and that this constitutes the most reliable path towards peace and prosperity for our nations and for the world as a whole.

Aydan Karahan

Head of the
COMCEC Coordination Office

P A R T O N E

RESOLUTIONS OF THE OIC FORMING THE BASIS
AND GUIDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMCEC

I

R E S O L U T I O N

ADOPTED AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
ESTABLISHING THE STANDING COMMITTEES
OF THE OIC CHAIRED BY HEADS OF STATE

Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS)

The Third Islamic Summit Conference (Palestine and Al-Quds Session), meeting in Mecca Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 19th to 22nd Rabi-Al-Awal, 1401 H. (25-28 January, 1981);

HAVING listened to the proposals by His Majesty King HASSAN II, Chairman of Al-Quds Committee, that three committees will be established and chaired by the Kings and Presidents of the Islamic States,

PROCEEDING from a firm belief that joint Islamic action needs to be consolidated in the scientific and technological field, and in the economic and trade sphere,

PROMPTED BY THE DESIRE to give information and culture a fresh impetus to help world public opinion understand the basic issues of the Islamic nations, particularly those of Al-Quds and Palestine, and to confront the tendentious campaign launched against Islam and Muslims,

DECIDES:

I. To establish three Standing Committees, the first for scientific and technological cooperation, the second for economic and trade cooperation, and the third for information and cultural affairs;

II. These Committees shall undertake to follow up implementation of the resolutions passed, or about to be passed, by the Islamic Conference in those fields; to study all possible means of strengthening cooperation among Muslim States in those fields, and to draw up programmes and submit proposals designed to increase the Islamic States' capacity in those fields;

III. Each Committee shall consist of the representatives of ten Islamic States, at ministerial level, and shall be chaired by the Head of State of an Islamic State;

IV. Members of these Committees shall be elected by the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference for a renewable term of three years;

V. A Committee shall hold a meeting, if invited to do so by its Chairman or by a majority of its members; its meeting shall be valid if attended by a majority.

II

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE THIRD ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON THE PLAN OF ACTION TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES

Resolution No. 1/3-E(IS)

The Third Islamic Summit Conference (Palestine and Al Quds Session) meeting in Mecca Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 19th to 22nd Rabi-Al-Awal, 1401 H. (25-28 January 1981)

RECALLING the LAHORE Declaration adopted by the Second Islamic Summit which called for consultations among Member States to adopt a joint and agreed position on important economic issues;

RECALLING Resolution No.1/11-E, 2/11-E, 3/11-E and 11/11-E pertaining to economic and trade cooperation among Member States and Resolution No. 8/11-E concerning the activities of the Islamic Bank adopted by the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

NOTING the relevant resolutions, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Sixth Conference of Heads of State and Governments of Non-Aligned Countries, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on Technical Cooperation among developing countries;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that the problems of developing countries have aggravated due to the current crisis in international economic relations leading to the widening of the gap between the developed and the developing countries;

DEEPLY CONCERNED at the adverse impact on the terms of trade and balance of payments of the Member States due to their reliance on exports of primary products;

REGRETTING the lack of political will demonstrated by some developed countries in negotiations on economic issues, particularly in the fields of trade, industrialization, transfer of technology and the restructuring of the international economic relations;

RECOGNIZING that economic cooperation among developing countries in general and the Member States in particular is a key element in the strategy of collective self-reliance and an essential instrument to bring about structural changes resulting in a balanced and equitable process of global economic

development in order to consolidate their unity in their endeavours to achieve the New International Economic Order;

REITERATING that the developing countries must direct their efforts in their negotiations with the developed countries in all forms towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that the Member States of the Islamic Conference have been laying great stress on the principles of self-reliance and progressive economic interaction among developing countries which will enhance cooperation with each other to increase their economic capabilities and attain their development needs;

CONVINCED that development of close commercial and trade ties between the Member States is an initial essential step towards achieving economic cooperation and self-reliance requiring formulation and adoption of policy proposals on the elimination of existing barriers to trade and adopting a coordinated programme of cooperation and priorities for the expansion of trade and commercial relations;

HAVING CONSIDERED the report of the high level Meeting of Member States held in Ankara, Republic of TURKEY, from November 4-6, 1980 to examine the economic prospects of the Islamic countries during the Third Development Decade and to draw up a

Plan of Action for strengthening Economic Cooperation among Member States;

NOTING ALSO the recommendations made by the Sixth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs held in JEDDAH on 16-19 November 1980 pertaining to the Plan of Action drawn up by the Ankara Meeting and on the trade cooperation programme and priorities among Member States proposed by the Expert Group;

RECALLING ALSO resolution No. 8/11 of the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on increasing paid up capital and widening the scope of the Islamic Development Bank and also its recommendations relating to allocation of resources for financing of imports of Member States by the Bank and taking into account the importance of this decision for the successful implementation of the Plan of Action;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the measures taken by the Islamic Development Bank to expand its activities for foreign trade financing;

EXPRESSING SATISFACTION at the progress made by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries in Ankara in its study and data collection on Islamic trade aimed at formulation of policy proposals;

DECIDES:

1. To approve the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States (as at Annex I).

2. To direct the General Secretariat to take appropriate measures without delay for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States.

PLAN OF ACTION TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES

The Conference on Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries was held in Ankara from 4 to 6 November, 1980, by virtue of the Resolution No.3/11-E of the 11th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers concerning the convening of a high level meeting of Islamic countries to examine the economic prospects of the Islamic countries during the Third Development Decade and to recommend measures for strengthening the economic cooperation among the Member States of the Islamic Conference;

RECALLING the resolution of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Economic Cooperation among the Member States in the areas of food and agriculture, industry, transport and communications and tourism, financial and monetary cooperation, labour and know-how and technical cooperation;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that the majority of the Member States have signed the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States;

BEARING IN MIND the resolutions of the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations' General Assembly for the establishment of the New International Economic Order;

NOTING the limited progress made in the various international negotiations between the developed and developing countries owing largely to the lack of political will and serious intentions on the part of the developed countries to bring about structural changes in the world economy;

RECOGNIZING that the primary responsibility for economic development of the Islamic and developing countries would rest upon themselves, placing increasing emphasis on collective self-reliance in the global efforts to establish the New International Economic Order;

ENCOURAGED by the growing desire on the part of the Member States to cooperate among themselves in sharing experience and knowledge in the areas of industrialization and technology, development of human resources, promotion of direct trade, strengthening of institutions responsible for promotion of economic cooperation, and maximum utilization of the economic, human and technical energies and potentialities available in the Islamic World for the prosperity and welfare of their people through collective efforts;

RECOMMENDS the following Plan of Action to Strengthen the Economic Cooperation among Member States of the Islamic Conference :

I. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. To take necessary measures towards the implementation of the provisions of the General Agreement regarding maximum utilization of potentials for food production within the Islamic countries and to cooperate for meeting their food requirement;
2. With a view to creating balanced development of the agricultural and industrial sectors of the economies of Member States, greater accent be placed upon agro-based and agro-related industries such as the production of tractors, fertilizers, seed industry, pesticides as well as the processing of the agricultural raw materials;
3. To ensure food security in the Islamic World, regional food reserves' stocks must be created;
4. Necessary measures be taken to improve the agricultural infrastructure and the transport facilities;
5. Consideration be given towards assisting the Islamic countries affected by natural calamities such as drought and flood;
6. Consider to devise ways and means for tackling such natural phenomena as desertification, deforestation, water logging and salinity;

7. The Islamic Development Bank and other financial institutions should play a more active role in financing food and agricultural projects of Member States both at national and communal level.

II. TRADE

1. Necessary measures for acceleration of the tempo as well as the changes in the pattern of production be taken in order to realise a gradual integration, expansion and diversification of their foreign trade;

2. To expand the present trade flows among Member States; identification of the real opportunities for expanding trade based on the use of existing idle or underutilized production capacities in the field of primary and processed agricultural goods. To create new capacity for production and trade in these goods including intermediate and capital goods;

3. To promote bilateral trade among the Member States in order to substantially increase their share in international trade, and the volume of such trade in the processed, semi-processed goods and commodities within the Islamic Community;

4. To strengthen further the export promotion activities among Member States in particular, and with other countries in general, by way of greater flow of information, improved training facilities and appropriate financial mechanisms to this end. T>

this connection, early completion of the studies on cooperation in the fields of insurance, reinsurance, export credit guarantee schemes and the possible establishment of clearing mechanisms would constitute steps towards removing some of the most important barriers to bilateral trade;

5. To apply equal and non-discriminatory commercial treatment towards one another in their foreign trade policies without prejudice to the obligations under other agreements already concluded by the Member States, and special treatment should be given in favour of products of export interests to least developed Member States;

6. To strive to enlarge and develop trade exchanges among themselves through, INTER-ALIA, accelerating the establishment of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, strengthening the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange, promoting cooperation among the Member States' trading organizations, facilitating joint-ventures in the area of trade promotion and gradually reducing the tariff and non-tariff barriers to such trade by means of multilateral trade arrangements, promoting the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral and general agreements, exchange of information relating to the prospects of trade, exchange of specialized trade delegations;

7. To make an inventory of the existing preferential schemes applied by groups of Member States with a view to strengthening and linking them so that the establishment of a system of trade preferences through a step-by-step approach on the part of all interested Member States (sic). It should be based on the principles of mutuality of advantages yielding benefits to all participants and taking into account the respective levels of economic and industrial development, trade regimes and international obligations of individual Member States with the ultimate aim of a free trade area and with that end in view to render support to the efforts towards trade liberalization of global system of trade preferences and to recommend to Islamic countries participating in the G.S.T.P. negotiations to avail that opportunity for pursuing negotiations among themselves;

8. To organize and actively participate in trade fairs and exhibitions held in Member States to promote and to market the Member States' products in order to contribute to the expansion of trade amongst themselves, and in this context a scheme for standardization should be undertaken;

9. To study the possibility of creating a coordinating mechanism in the Member States in the field of maritime transport to enable the Member States' enterprises to compete with their counterparts in the developed countries and with the transnational merchants fleets;

10. To facilitate effective cooperation between landlocked Member States and their transit neighbours involving the harmonization of transport planning and the promotion of joint ventures in the field of transport at regional,, subregional and bilateral levels;

11. To implement decisions of the Islamic Conference concerning the Economic boycott of the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine (Israel).

III. INDUSTRY

1. To develop appropriate policies and programmes at the national levels conducive to rapid industrialization, as an indispensable element and a dynamic instrument of self-sustained growth, by strengthening, expanding and diversifying the industrial capacities of the Member States;

2. To conclude bilateral and/or multilateral agreements of industrial cooperation among Member States for augmenting their industrial production and achieving industrial complementarity and by adopting economies of scale with a view to strengthening the manufacturing capacities and acceleration of industrialization in Member States to contribute to their collective self-reliance;

3. To consider giving priority to promotion of joint ventures among Member States in the following fields; food and

agriculture, industry, trade, marketing, research services and infrastructure;

4. The Islamic Development Bank as well as the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange may consider establishing within themselves a mechanism for the promotion and the implementation of joint projects and projects among Member States.

IV. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATION AND TOURISM

1. To speedily implement various recommendations developed towards strengthening coordination and co-operation in the fields of shipping, air transport, telecommunications, meteorology, and postal services;

2. To speed up creation of institutional mechanisms necessary for such activities as per decisions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers;

3. To harmonize the activities of the Member States in the fields of transport, communications and tourism with the existing sub-regional, regional and global agencies.

V. FINANCIAL AND MONETARY QUESTIONS

Member States, the meeting of Governors of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States and the Islamic

Development Bank should study and to take appropriate action on the following issues:

1. Contribution to an enhanced flow of financial resources in the Member States on terms and conditions that are better attuned to the development programmes and economic circumstances of the Member States to help meet their rising investment, import and export needs commensurate with an accelerated growth within the framework of the International Development Strategy, giving special consideration to most pressing socio-economic problems of least developed Member States;

2. To strengthen direct cooperation between financial institutions in Member States in the area of direct financing and other banking facilities in the area of trade of Member States and to support Islamic financial institutions particularly the Islamic Development Bank;

3. To strengthen the existing payments¹ arrangements participated in by the Member States and to explore the possibility of setting up a communal network of multilateral schemes in the light of the experience gained in the operation of the existing ones;

4. The meeting of the Governors of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States to complete their assessment of the existing national capital markets for the

possibilities of improved access by other interested Member States to these markets with a view to encouraging investment within the Member States on the basis of mutual benefits and sound commercial practice;

5. To ask further the monetary authorities of Member States to strengthen their mutual exchange of information on monetary and financial matters in accordance with the rules and regulations of the concerned countries and taking particularly into consideration the international trends;

6. Implementation of the penultimate and final operative paragraphs of the Resolution on the Cyprus Question adopted by the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, for the reactivation and development of the economy of the Muslim Turkish People of KIBRIS.

VI. ENERGY

To work mutually towards strengthening the position of each Member State of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of achieving the objectives of development by:

1. Encouraging the most efficient method of utilization of energy, and the development of the conventional and non-conventional sources of energy;

2. Encouraging greater cooperation among Member States in the areas related to the production of energy;
3. Urging the regional and international financial institutions to finance the local projects related to enhancing self-capabilities in the conventional and non-conventional energy fields in the Member States;
4. Exchanging expertise, technical experience and skilled manpower in the energy sector among Member States.

VII. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. To give high priority to cooperation among Member States in the area of science and technology;
2. To consider Islamic community-wide mechanism to enhance the overall financial inputs into the national science and technology systems, as well as programmes in the areas of research, education and training on a continuous basis;
3. To cooperate on transfer, acquisition, assimilation and adaptation of imported technologies and in their assessment compatible with national policies for development and use of science and technology;
4. To extend preferential treatment for technology from the Member States;

5. To consider the feasibility of setting up a network of scientific and technological agencies or institutions to organize and support research and development programmes, training programmes to promote technological institutions; to establish information systems, to undertake joint efforts to solve specific technological problems and to develop science and technology policies commensurate with their development aims;

6. To expedite the establishment of an Islamic Foundation for Advanced Science and Technology as foreseen in the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States to serve their needs, in cooperation with the national institutions, organizations and agencies to sponsor basic research, to facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and know-how and to*be implemented in the diffusion of technology among the producers and users within the Member States. This Foundation would also endeavour to coordinate the disbursement of fellowships and scholarships in relevant fields to be established through private and public financial resources available in the Member States;

7. To combine research efforts and share their results with one another by means of agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, strengthen indigenous research centres and scientific and other institutions and link them with those in other Member States.

VIII. MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

1. To expand cooperation among Member States for the exchange and to support actively the creation of skilled manpower pools, coordination of education and manpower training activities on a medium-term and long-term basis, establishment of joint consultancy agencies, and procurement of links between skill flows and capital transfer;

2. To make a concentrated effort to cooperate in the area of manpower exchange following an assessment of the needs and availabilities in the Member States, and to delineate the potentials that can be allocated for the benefit of the Member States in industrial and other research institutions;

3. To provide preferential treatment for the employment of manpower available within the Member States and to ask the General Secretariat to devise a model social security system commensurate with the national legal and institutional environments of the participating Member States;

4. To make a thorough evaluation of the 'brain-drain' problem, including the emigration of skilled manpower, with a view to identifying community-wide measures to stop the exodus of the scientific and technological manpower to developed countries, and thus make their services available to the Member States in

conformity with the manpower exchange programmes to be established;

5. To develop mechanisms and programmes for professional and technical undating (sic), systematically organized at all levels, so as to train specialized personnel required to cover all the links in the chain that associates research and development with production and marketing;

6. To facilitate continuous training, development and upgrading of the labour force in the Member States so that it may be better able to assimilate and benefit from technological change and also to secure their adaptation to the socio-economic conditions of the host countries through cooperative programmes.

IX. POPULATION AND HEALTH

1. To initiate studies and research on population policy in the Member States with a view to improving the responsiveness of population to the development efforts of Member States;

2. To initiate studies and research in the field of health to ensure better health and sanitary conditions and higher standard of nutrition and health care with a view to developing a common public health policy;

3. To undertake research in the field of medicine;

4, To intensify exchange of information and expertise in the fields of population and health among Member States.

X. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. To improve, develop and expand the information system of the Member States concerning the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of technical information available in the Member States on the capacities and needs and to match the specific needs of Member States through the wider use of experts, consultants, training facilities, equipment and other capacities of the Member States in line with the provisions of the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States;

2. To endeavour to identify the national potentials for technical cooperation among Member States in the formulation of their national development plans or programmes. On this basis, the Governments of Member States may consider national requirements in research, technology, skills, consultancy services and training facilities that can be met most effectively through co-operation with other Member States;

3. To examine the feasibility of a legal and administrative framework for effective and equitable technical cooperation, taking into account practices already established on the basis of formal conventions, thus ensuring their widest possible

applicability and acceptance. Such framework should cover the administrative and legal arrangements concerning the entry, employment obligations and privileges of experts and consultants, arrangements concerning fellowships, the use of contractors and other specialized services, entry of equipment and supplies, fiscal and *currency* regimes favourable to Member. States' technical co-operation together with financial arrangements aimed at an equitable sharing of costs;

4. To expand bilateral and multilateral arrangements for promoting technical cooperation through such mechanisms as cooperative agreements and programmes, joint commissions, the regular exchange of information and experience, and also by establishing direct linkages among relevant institutions;

5. To take the necessary steps to establish a joint mechanism for the pooling of information within the Community, on resources and opportunities for technical cooperation that are available within the Member States;

6. To identify and improve the effectiveness and potentials of national institutions that can contribute to technical cooperation efforts, and adopt concrete measures so that such national organizations in the Member States could develop. Operational modes of collaboration which would strengthen their capabilities through joint efforts and sharing experiences with

sister organizations working on similar problems, and by contributing to common training activities (sic);

7. To provide financial and personnel support to the greatest extent possible to the training activities of the OIC related institutions with mandates to meet the immediate needs of the Member States for skilled administrative and technical manpower. For this purpose, the Member States should cooperate closely with the said institutions by supplying data and information on their availabilities and potentials in this area;

8. To pursue with the UNDP and other relevant agencies of the UN to seek necessary assistance and conclude arrangements to implement the Plan of Action.

XI. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

The PLO shall have special facilities in the sphere of economic cooperation so as to buttress the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and consolidate their struggle for the liberation of their homeland, Palestine.

XII. COORDINATION AND FOLLOW UP

The General Secretariat shall take all necessary steps to follow up the implementation of the Plan of Action and may arrange meetings on periodic- basis at ministerial level as often

as deemed necessary and in any case at least every two years on subjects covered by the Plan of Action and especially to:

- a) review progress on work done,
- b) set out guidelines,
- c) to solve problems,
- d) to formulate policies and plans for future action.

III

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE FOURTH ISLAMIC
SUMMIT CONFERENCE ENTRUSTING THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
TO H.E. KENAN EVREN, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Final Communique No. IS/4-84/E/DEC

".... The Conference decided to entrust H.E. Mr. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, with the Chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation..." (Page 18, para 40).

IV

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE FOURTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE DETERMINING THE PRIORITY AREAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Resolution No. IS/4-84/E/RES; 1/4-E(IS)

"...Recommends the adoption of the following priorities during the next six years:

- Agricultural Development and Food Security
Industry
- Science and Technology
- Trade
- Transport and Communications
- Energy

Which in no way means that the other fields included in the Plan should be neglected..." (page 4, para 2).

V

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT
CONFERENCE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMCEC

1. CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

Resolution No. 1/5-E (IS)

The Fifth Islamic Summit conference, the Session of Islamic Solidarity, held in Kuwait, the State of Kuwait from 26-29 Jumada Al-Oula, 1407 H corresponding to 26-29 January 1987;

RECALLING Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS) adopted by the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1981, establishing the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) with the mandate of consolidating joint action in the field of economic and commercial cooperation among Member States;

NOTING WITH DEEP SATISFACTION the steps taken and progress achieved by the Standing Committee towards the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States;

RECOGNIZING the need for streamlining economic cooperation activities at different levels within the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

1. APPROVES the enlargement of the membership of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) so as

to enable all Member states of the OIC to participate in the work of the Standing Committee.

2. ENDORSES the representation of the Member States in COMCFC by Ministers responsible for the overall management of economic affairs in view of the functions entrusted to the Committee, and urges Member States to adhere to this practice to ensure the highest degree of effectiveness.

3. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the establishment of the follow-up committee which will ensure effective coordination of the economic and commercial activities coming under the purview of COMCEC.

4. WELCOMES the decision of the Standing Committee to apprise the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of its decisions for appropriate action.

5. ENDORSES the recommendations of COMCEC to reduce the frequency of ministerial level meetings which have overlapping implications with COMCEC and to incorporate the results of such meetings into the overall work of COMCEC.

6. APPROVES that the subsidiary and affiliated agencies and other bodies of the OIC in the economic field present progress reports on their activities to COMCEC in order to enable it to coordinate and follow-up the implementation of the

OIC resolutions in these fields in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

7. COMMENDS the role played by the COMCEC Coordination Office to facilitate its activities.

8. SUPPORTS the decision of COMCEC urging Member States, who have not yet done so, to sign and/or ratify the statutes and agreements previously approved by the OIC with respect to economic and commercial cooperation, particularly, the "General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference" and the "Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of investments in Member States".

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION
TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

Resolution No. 3/5-E (IS)

The Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, the Session of Islamic Solidarity, held in Kuwait the State of Kuwait, from 26-29 Jumada Al Oula 1407H, corresponding to 26-29 January, 1987;

RECALLING Resolution No.1/3-E(IS) of the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in 1981, adopting the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation. Among Member States, which at the same time assigns the General Secretariat the task of taking all necessary steps to follow-up the implementation of its recommendations and arranging meetings on periodical basis at ministerial level as often as deemed necessary, in order to;

- (a) review the progress on work done
- (b) set out guidelines
- (c) solve problems, and
- (d) formulate policies and plans for future action;

RECALLING Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS) of the Third Islamic Summit Conference, establishing the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation and the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the mandate;

- i) to follow-up the implementation of the resolutions adopted, or to be adopted, by the OIC in relation to economic and commercial cooperation and scientific and technological cooperation;
- ii) to study all possible means of strengthening cooperation among Member States in the relevant fields;
- iii) to draw up programmes and to submit proposals designed to increase the capacity of the Member States in economic, commercial, scientific and technological fields.

RECALLING Resolution No.1/4-E(IS) adopted by the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in 1984, on the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States;

APPRECIATING the efforts exerted by the General Secretariat in following up the implementation of recommendations contained in the Plan of Action and the commendable progress achieved thereby;

ALSO APPRECIATING the efforts and assistance by the Statistical. Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRTCIC), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity

Exchange (ICCICE), Islamic Centre for Vocational and Technical Training and Research (ICTVTR), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the activation of the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation under the Chairmanship of H.E. President Kenan Evren of the Republic of Turkey, and the Standing Committee on Science and Technology under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mohammad Zia-Ul Haq, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in pursuance of the decision of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference to promote and strengthen economic cooperation among Member States in implementation of the Plan of Action;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that the First and Second Meetings of the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation were convened in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey in November 1984 and, March 1986, respectively;

NOTING ALSO WITH APPRECIATION that-the Standing Committee on Science and Technology has, in its three meetings, elaborated a comprehensive Action Programme for fostering cooperation among Member States in the field of Science and Technology;

EXPRESSING thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Ministerial Conferences on Trade, Industrial Cooperation and Food Security and Agricultural Development, which

provided necessary guidelines for the implementation of the Plan of Action, in these three vital sectors;

TAKING NOTE of the report submitted by the General Secretariat highlighting the stages reached in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

FURTHER NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the programme of meetings and other activities, planned by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation and the Standing Committee on Science and Technology up to 1990 in implementation of the Plan of Action which would require full and constant material and technical support by the Member States to attain the objectives set out in the Plan of Action;

ALSO NOTING WITH CONCERN the constraints which have impeded the implementation of the Plan of Action in certain sector, due to financial limitations, lack of data and information, and the slow response of Member States;

NOTING that the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation and the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation have adopted as the basis of their activities the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic, Commercial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation among the Member States with special emphasis on the priority areas as designated by the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference;

1. REQUESTS the Member States to render necessary assistance to the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation and the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation to expedite the implementation of the Plan of Action in order to strengthen economic and technical cooperation among Member States.

2. WELCOMES the establishment of the Longer-Term Trade Financing Scheme under the Islamic Development Bank and urges all Member States to participate in this scheme, as soon as possible, to facilitate its optimum utilization.

3. WELCOMES the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Third Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development.

4. NOTES with satisfaction the holding of the first meeting of the OIC Ministers of Transport and Communications in September 1987 simultaneously with COMCEC-III and decides to convene a meeting of the Group of Experts to consider the possibility of pooling the resources and capacities including maintenance, repair and training services among the aviation companies of Member States.

P A R T T W O

REPORT AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS
OF THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

0IC/COMCEC/4-88/REP

R E P O R T

OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION

(Istanbul, 6-7 September 1988)

Original : English

REPORT

OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

(Istanbul, 6-7 September 1988)

1. The Fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held concurrently with the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications in Istanbul, on 6-7 September 1988 (25-26 Moharram 1409H), preceded by a preparatory meeting of Senior Officials on 4-5 September 1988 (23-24 Muharram 1409 H.)

2. The Session was attended by the representatives of the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC):

- Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
- State of Bahrain
- People's Republic of Bangladesh

- People's Republic of Benin
- Negara Brunei Darussalam
- Burkina Faso
- United Republic of Cameroun
- Arab Republic of Egypt
- Republic of the Gambia
- Republic of Guinea
- Republic of Guinea-Bissau
- Republic of Indonesia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Republic of Iraq
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- State of Kuwait
- Republic of Lebanon
- Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Malaysia
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Kingdom of Morocco
- Sultanate of Oman
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Palestine
- State of Qatar
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Republic of Senegal
- Democratic Republic of Somalia

- Republic of Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Republic of Tunisia
- Republic of Turkey
- Republic of Uganda
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen Arab Republic

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as an observer.

3. The Session was also attended by the representatives of the General Secretariat and the following subsidiary and affiliated organs of OIC:

- The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
- The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR)
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD)
- The Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE)
- The Association of National Development Financing Institutions (ADFIMI)
- The Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
- The International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB)

The Representative of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was also present in the Session as an observer.

A copy of the List of Participants of the Fourth Session of the Standing Committee is attached as Annex 1.

Opening Session

4. The Opening Ceremony of the fourth Session of the COMCEC and the First Meeting of the Ministers of Communications was held jointly under the chairmanship of H.E. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

5. At the outset of his inaugural speech, H.E. Kenan EVREN expressed his deep sorrow on the loss of the late President Muhammad Zia Ul Haq of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The President went on to state his pleasure in the proclamation of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran as a step towards ending the long-lasting war between the two honourable members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which would further strengthen cooperation and solidarity among the Member States.

Expressing his satisfaction regarding the steady progress being achieved under the umbrella of the COMCEC, H.E. Kenan EVREN stated his confidence that, with the holding of the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications, new projects would be initiated in this priority area. The President indicated the need

for a more efficient follow-up mechanism as the scope of activities of the COMCEC expanded with time.

A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Kenan EVREN is attached as Annex 2.

6. H.E. Turgut ÖZAL, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Alternate Chairman of the COMCEC, also addressed the Opening Ceremony. Expressing the great pleasure of the Government and the people of Turkey in hosting the two meetings, H.E. Turgut ÖZAL indicated that the Turkish Government was committed to provide all possible means towards the success of cooperation efforts among the Member Countries. The Prime Minister, underlining the importance of communications in the attainment of national development objectives and in the promotion of international economic cooperation, stated that rapid technological advances in some of the Member Countries in this field would be valuable assets for establishing effective communication links among them and indicated recent advances in Turkey in this regard. H.E. Turgut ÖZAL expressed his deep distress on the untimely loss of Muhammad Zia Ul Haq, the late President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He went on to state that the implementation of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq had brought hope for the establishment of regional and universal peace. H.E. Turgut ÖZAL concluded by stating the satisfaction and relief of his

Government on the cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq. The Prime Minister expressed his wishes of success and for a pleasant stay in Turkey of the delegates.

A copy of the text of the statement of H.E. Turgut ÖZAL is attached as Annex 3.

7. H.E. Tan Sri Abdul Rahman JALAL, Assistant Secretary General of OIC read out the statement of H.E. Syed Sharifuddin PIRZADA, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. In his address, H.E. S.S. PIRZADA conveyed his profound gratitude to H.E. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, and H.E. Turgut ÖZAL, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Alternate Chairman of the COMCEC, for their keen personal interest and abiding commitment to the overall promotion of economic and commercial cooperation among the Islamic Countries.

H.E. PIRZADA pointed out that the previous three Sessions of the COMCEC had achieved encouraging results in translating the broad outlines of the Plan of Action into concrete programmes and projects of mutual cooperation and prompted the Member States to adopt measures to boost their economic and commercial exchanges. He stated that the current Session of the COMCEC would formulate recommendations and strategies for further cooperation in vital areas of economy and trade.

H.E. the Secretary General referred to the convening of the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications concurrently with the Fourth Session of the COMCEC, which is another step forward in the efforts to strengthen economic cooperation among the Member States. H.E. PIRZADA concluded his statement by expressing his confidence that this meeting would formulate a joint strategy covering various aspects of communications.

A copy of the text of the Statement of H.E. S.S. PIRZADA, Secretary General of OIC, is attached as Annex 4.

8. The Heads of the Delegations of the State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Senegal made statements on behalf of the geographical groups of Member States they represent.

In their statements the Heads of Delegation, referring to the increasing economic difficulties of the Member Countries, praised the progress achieved by the COMCEC in the field of economic cooperation among the Member Countries. The Heads of Delegation expressed their condolences on the tragic death of Muhammad Zia Ul Haq, the late President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. They also stated their feeling of relief on the decision towards implementing the UN Resolution 598 to end the Iran-Iraq war. They thanked the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and the People of Turkey for their continued support in fostering economic cooperation among the Member States

of OIC and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegates.

9. The President of the Islamic Development Bank, H.E. Dr. Ahmad Muhammad ALI, in his statement delivered at the opening ceremony, expressed his gratitude to H.E. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, for his keen interest and wise leadership in promoting economic cooperation among the Member Countries.

The President gave a summary account of the activities of the Islamic Development Bank and of the progress achieved by the Bank in terms of the studies assigned to it by the COMCEC.

10. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Kenan EVREN received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Meeting

11. The Ministerial Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Standing Committee was held in the afternoon of the same day under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Yusuf. Bozkurt ÖZAL, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

12. The Ministers adopted the Draft Agenda of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC proposed by their Senior Officials and decided to review the Draft Resolutions OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(1) and OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(2) approved by the Senior Officials instead of reconsidering the items on the Agenda.

The Agenda of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC and the Report of the Senior Officials' Meeting are attached as Annexes 5 and 6, respectively.

13. The Ministers unanimously decided to send a message to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan expressing condolences for the late President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

14. H.E. Taher H. Kanaan, Minister of Planning of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Rapporteur of the COMCEC first read out the Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(1) and its Annex 1, the Draft Declaration of Intent to Establish a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC prepared by the Senior Officials, reflecting their consensus on the items of the Agenda.

15. The Ministers approved the Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(1) together with its Annexes.

16. H.E. Taher H. Kanaan then read out the Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(2) tabled under Agenda Item "Any Other Business".

17. The Ministers approved the Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(2) with some amendments in Part (C) of it.

18. The Ministers decided to submit the Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(1) together with its Annexes and Draft

Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(2), through their Chairman, H.E. Dr. Yusuf Bozkurt ÖZAL, at the Closing Session for adoption.

Closing Session

19. The Closing Session of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC and the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications was held jointly, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

20. At the Closing Session, H.E. Prof. Ekrem PAKDEMİRLİ, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Turkey, presented the Draft Resolution of the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications of the OIC Member States as approved by the concerned Ministers.

21. The Standing Committee adopted the Resolution of the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications.

22. H.E. Dr. Yusuf Bozkurt ÖZAL, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey, and Chairman of the Ministerial session of the COMCEC, then presented the Draft Resolutions OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(1) of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC and its annex, the Draft Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC, and the Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/D.RES(2), as approved at the ministerial session.

23. The Standing Committee adopted the Resolutions OIC/COMCEC/4-88/RESU), and OIC/COMCEC/4-88/RES(2), and agreed on issuing the Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC.

The Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/RES(1), together with its Annexes including the Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/4-88/RES(2) of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC are attached as Annexes 7 and 8, respectively.

24. In his closing statement, H.E. Tan Sri Abdul Rahman JALAL, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, stressed the significance of the results achieved during the Fourth Session of the COMCEC, and praised the continued support, keen interest and wise guidance of H.E. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, in promoting economic cooperation among the Member States. Assistant Secretary General assured the OIC General Secretariat's full cooperation in the follow-up work for ensuring the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Fourth Session of the COMCEC as well as at the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications.

The text of the closing statement of H.E. Tan Sri Abdul Rahman JALAL, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, is attached as Annex 9.

25. H.E. Abdullah Azmani, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Morocco, delivered a speech on behalf of all the delegations in which he expressed his deep appreciation for the significant results achieved at the Session and for the continuous efforts of President Kenan EVREN and Prime Minister Turgut ÖZAL to achieve the objectives of the COMCEC. H.E. Abdullah AZMANI expressed his feelings of distress at the tragic loss of Mohammad Zia Ul HAQ, late President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of the COMSTECH. Stating his confidence that the decisions adopted at the present session will be implemented by the concerned OIC organs, the Minister thanked the Government and People of Turkey for the generous hospitality extended to the delegates and for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

26. In his closing statement, H.E. Turgut ÖZAL, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Alternate Chairman of the COMCEC, expressed his pleasure at the progress in the implementation of the existing projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and at the initiation of new projects in the area of communications during the present Session of the COMCEC. The Prime Minister underlined the necessity for continued efforts to initiate new projects of economic cooperation among the Member States. H.E. Turgut ÖZAL reiterated the sincere and good wishes of the Turkish Government to the Governments of the Member States and wished delegates a safe journey back home.

The text of the closing speech of H.E. Turgut ÖZAL is attached as Annex 10.

27. In his closing address, H.E. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, Chairman of the Standing Committee, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the delegations, to the General Secretariat and specialized institutions of OIC for their concrete contributions to the work of the Standing Committee. The President emphasized the significance of the Declaration of Intent to Establish a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC as a notable step forward towards starting trade negotiations to increase the volume of trade among the Member States. Stating his confidence that the Follow-up Committee will be able to develop feasible proposals to increase the efficiency of the COMCEC in keeping with the efforts aimed at the reorganization of OIC, H.E. Kenan Evren conveyed his brotherly sentiments to the Heads of the Member States.

The text of the closing address of H.E. Kenan EVREN is attached as Annex 11.

II

LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS
CONSIDERED AT THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4-7 September 1988)

Original : English

LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS
CONSIDERED AT THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4-7 September 1988)

1. Background Report by the General Secretariat of the OIC
(OIC-BR/COMCEC-4/88/(D(1)))
2. Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of
the COMCEC
(OIC/COMCEC-FC/4-88/REP))

Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade
Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC.
(OIC/COMCEC/4-88/(D(3)))

4. Draft of the Agreement on the Trade Preferential System
Among OIC Member States (TPSOIC)
(OIC/COMCEC/4-88/(D(4)))
5. Feasibility Study of the Project of Trade Information
Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC)
(OIC/COMCEC/4-88/(D(5)))
6. Detailed Study on the Establishment of an Export Credit and
Guarantee Insurance Scheme

Summary of the Detailed Study on the Establishment of an
Export Credit and Guarantee Insurance Scheme Among OIC
Member Countries

8. Progress Report on the Detailed Study on the Establishment of an Export Credit and Guarantee Insurance Scheme Among OIC Member Countries
9. A Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union
(A Background Paper on Intra-Trade Among the OIC Member Countries)
10. Methodology for the Harmonization of the Existing Standards of the Islamic Countries and for the Preparation of Common Standards
(OIC/COMCEC/4-88/(D(8)))
11. Supplementary Reports on Industry, Agriculture and Transport
12. Report on the Activities of the International Association of Islamic Banks
(OIC/COMCEC/4-88/(D(9)))
13. Report of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE) submitted to the Fourth Session of the COMCEC
(OIC/COMCEC/4-88/(D(11)))
14. Progress Report of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade
15. IFSTAD Progress Report on the Implementation of the Decision of the COMCEC
16. Report on the Activities of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR)

A N N E X E S

- 1 -

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FOURTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE OIC

(Istanbul, 4-7 September 1988)

Original: English

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE OIC**

(Istanbul, 4-7 September 1988)

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- Mr. Djilali BELDJILAZI
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- Mr. Cherif CHERIGUI
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- Mr. Ali REDJEL
Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

STATE OF BAHRAIN

- H.E. Ebrahim Ali EBRAHIM
Ambassador of Bahrain to Jordan

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- H.E. Major General Quazi Golam DASTGIR
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia, Permanent
Representative to OIC
- H.E. Khorshed ALAM
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

- Mr. Dato Haji Mohd. Saileh Haji HIDUP
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development
- Mr. Haji Abdul Rahim Bin LATIF
Director of Special Services, Ministry of
Finance
- Mr. Pg. Mohd. Yakub Pg Haji OTHMAN
Head of Industrial Development Unit, Ministry of
Development
- Mr. Pg. Osman Pg Haji ABBAS
Administrative Officer, Ministry of Development

BURKINA FASO

- H.E. Mamadou Modeste YOGO
General Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

- Mr. Adama DAO
Economist, National Office of Foreign Commerce

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- Mrs. Haman ADAMA
Director General of Trade, Ministry of Trade

- Mr. Mana TOUNKOUZ
Delegate, Businessman

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- H.E. Mohamed EISSA
Ambassador of Egypt to Turkey

- Mr. M. Gamal Eldin ELBAYOUMI
Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. Ahmad Shafik MOSTAFA
Commercial Counsellor, Istanbul

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

- Mr. Bai Ibrahim JOBE
Trade Economist, Government

THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

- H.E. Lansana KOUYATE
Ambassador of The Republic of Guinea to Egypt
(also accredited to Turkey)

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA BISSAU

- H.E. Mussa DJASSI
Minister of Information and Telecommunications
- Mr. Lobo de PINA
General Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

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- H.E. Soesilo SOEDARMAN
Minister of Tourism, Post and Telecommunications
- H.E. Nasrun SYAHRUN
Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia to Turkey
- Mr. Danial FIKRI
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- Mr. Djasril DJARIB

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General Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
International Specialised Organizations Department

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Mr. Seyed Mohsen TAWAKOLI

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Annex 1 to OIC/COMCEC/4-88/REP

- Mr. Akbar GHAZALI
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- Mr. Mohammad Reza YOUSOFKHAN
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- Mr. Amin DALIRI
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General Director, the International Central Bank
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- Mr. Mirjaffer ZAFARANCHI
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- Mr. Mohammad Hasan AFSHAR
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- Mr. Ali BASHARDOUST
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- Mr. Hikmat M. ALANI
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- Mr. Muhammed Ali A.S. AL-OBAIDI
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HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

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- H.E. Saleh KABARITI
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Turkey

- Eng. Sami A.H. NSOUR
Director of Science and Technology Department,
Ministry of Planning

- Dr. Umayya S. TUKAN

Central Bank of Jordan, Head of Economic
Research Department

STATE OF KUWAIT

- H.E. Jassim AL-KHARAFI

Minister of Finance

- H.E. Faisal S. Abdulwahab AL-REFAI

Ambassador of State of Kuwait to Turkey

- Kir. Khaled Jassem Mohammed ALRUBIAN

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- Mr. Farouk Abdul la ALNOURI

Legal Consultant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Head of Section of Economic Relations

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Ambassador, Director of Economic Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- H.E. Selim TADMOURY

Ambassador of Republic of Lebanon to Turkey

MALAYSIA

- H.E. Dato Kamarudin ABU

Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey

- Mr. Abdul Razak Bin Haji RAMLI

Deputy Director of International Trade Division,
Ministry of Trade and Industry

- Mr. Nik Zainal Abidin Haji-Nik YUSOFF

Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of
Finance

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

-H.E. Mohamed Fadel OULD DAH

Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Mauritania to
Syrian Arab Republic

SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

-H.E. Ahmed Abdul hamid EL-ATRASH

The Secretary of the People's Bureau of Socialist
People's Libyan Arap Jamahiriya to Turkey

- Mr. Suey Salem ADHEM
Consul General in Istanbul

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

- H.E. Abdallah AZMANI
Minister of Commerce and Industry
- H.E. Boubker CHERKAOUI
Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco to Turkey
- Mr. Mohamed SBIHI
Head of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Rachdi ALLAL
Head of Division, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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- H.E. Abdullah Said ALBALUSHI
Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman to Turkey
- Mr. Abdullah Bin Suleiman AL-LAMKI
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- Mr. Ashraf Nabhan Abdullah AL-NABHANI
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- Brigadier (Rtd) Mansoor Ul Haq MALIK
Director General Designate, Islamic States
Telecommunications Union

- Mr. Ghulam Ahmad SYED
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

- Mr. Saad ASHRAF
Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs Division

- Mr. Muhammed Saeed KHALID
Counsellor, Embassy of Islamic Republic of
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- Mr. Tanq Iqbal PURI
Consul General of Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
Istanbul

- Mr. SANAULLAH
Director of QIC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PALESTINE

- H.E. Ahmet Soulieman KORAE (ABU ALA)
General Director of Economic Department

- H.E. Ribhi H. HIJAZI (ABU FIRAS)
Ambassador of Palestine to Turkey

- Dr. Mohammad AL NAHHAL
Director, Economic Affairs

- Mr. Ala Ahmad Ali SULEIEMAN
Economic Department

STATE OF QATAR

- H.E. Abdullah Bin N. AL SUWEIDI
Minister of Communications and Transport

- Mr. Sheikh H. Bin A. AL-THANI
Director General, Ministry of Economy and
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- Mr. Ali Hassan AL-KHALAF
Director of Economic Affairs Department,
Ministry of Economy and Commerce

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

H.E. Osama Jafar FAQUIH

Deputy Minister of Finance and National Economy
for International Economic Cooperation

- Mr. Esam Ahmed ALMAHDY

Representative, Ministry of Industry, Protection
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Mr. Hassan J. ABOZEID

Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance
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Mr. Abdullah Abdulunab ALNAFISAH

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- Mr. Hasan Mohammad ALSHAFII

Officer, Foreign Ministry

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H.E. Seydina Oumar SY

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Mr. Momar Tall a DIME

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Mr. Mamadou DIOUF

Technical Advisor, Ministry of Commerce

- Mr. Abdulkarim DIOUF
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Ambassador of Somali Democratic Republic to
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THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

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Ambassador
- Mr. Ismail ABUSHOUK
Counsellor

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

- H.E. Dr. M. Taha BALI
Deputy Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade
- Mr. Khouzai MELI
Counsellor, Istanbul
- Mr. Khali! SEIRAFI
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Mr. Mohammad Saten MALAZI

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- H.E. Moncef BELAID

Minister of Commerce and Industry

- H.E. Mohsen FRINI

Ambassador of Tunisia to Turkey

- Mr. Zouheir MASMOUD

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REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- H.E. Dr. Yusuf Bozkurt ÖZAL

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- H.E. Dr. Ali TİGREL

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Acting Deputy General Director for Multilateral
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- H.E. Saif Ali AL-JARAWAN
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- H.E. Mohamed İsa AL-ALI
Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Turkey

- Mr. Mohammed Jasem AL-MUZAKKI
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- Mr. Mohammed Abdullah AL-HAJRI
Director of Economic Affairs Department

- Mr. Hameed Hassan Hameed ALZAABI
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REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- H.E. Prof. Kyesimira YOWERI
Minister of Planning and Economic Development

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- Ms. Nazife GÜLGEN
- Mrs. Gönül YÜCEL
- Mrs. Hamiyet OZTAŞKIN

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INAUGURAL STATEMENT OF H.E. KENAN EVREN,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 6 September 1988)

Original : Turkish

INAUGURAL STATEMENT OF H.E. KENAN EVREN,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 6 September 1988)

Excellencies,
Honourable Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,

It is a pleasure for me to inaugurate the Fourth Session of the Standing Committee and the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications and to welcome you once again in Turkey.

At the outset, I wish to express my deep sorrow for the death of my dear brother, distinguished figure of our community and prominent statesman Zia Ul Haq, the late President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. His efforts to foster solidarity and cooperation among the Member Countries will always be warmly remembered.

On the other hand, I would like to express on my own behalf and on behalf of our Community, a sense of relief for the cease-fire proclaimed between Iraq and Iran towards ending the long war

between two honourable members of the OIC . I believe that the solidarity and cooperation among the Member Countries will be further enhanced with the termination of this war.

Honourable Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,

In the course of the last four years since our First Session, we have been able, under the umbrella of COMCEC, to achieve steady progress, however modest. A number of new projects have been initiated in the areas of trade and transportation, while ongoing ones in the areas of industry and agriculture have been vitalized. To our satisfaction, one of these projects in the area of trade, namely, the Longer Term Trade Financing Facility, was actually implemented last year, thanks to the valuable efforts of the Islamic Development Bank.

Since its first session, COMCEC has accorded top priority to the question of trade cooperation owing to its importance for alleviating the mounting external payments problems of most of the member countries and its instrumentality in enhancing the capacities of the Member States in other sectors of the economy. Therefore, projects aimed at strengthening cooperation among the Member States in the area of trade continue to occupy the agenda of the COMCEC. However, this should not restrict the supervisory and coordinating role of the COMCEC in all areas of economic

cooperation indicated in the Plan of Action, especially the priority areas.

I am confident that with the holding of the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications, new projects will be initiated in this area of cooperation among the Member Countries. Thus, almost all the priority areas of economic cooperation indicated in the Plan of Action will have been taken up by the Standing Committee. In fact energy will be the sole area remaining on that list which, I believe, needs to be pondered.

Honourable Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,

International experience has shown that initiation of multilateral projects does not necessarily mean they will be actually implemented. This is especially true for those projects which are not sufficiently considered and adequately developed at the expert level before they are approved by the higher bodies. Once they are approved for actual implementation, an efficient follow-up mechanism is crucial to ensure their realization.

Although the items on the agenda of the COMCEC so far pertain exclusively to trade cooperation, progress in other areas of economic cooperation is being monitored and supervised through a follow-up mechanism devised at the First Session. In this regard, progress and other related matters concerning cooperation

activities in different areas of economic cooperation taken up by relevant ministerial meetings are reported to the COMCEC, through its Follow-up Committee, for coordination and supervision.

In time and as the areas of cooperation and related projects covered by COMCEC expand, this follow-up mechanism may need to be improved or substituted by a more efficient one. In fact, persistence of the same projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and ministerial meetings held under its auspices despite the lack of any notable progress regarding the completion of relevant studies for their implementation, can be taken to reflect such a need.

I am confident that you will be able to improve existing mechanisms of follow-up and coordination in order to ensure effective implementation of economic cooperation projects on our agenda and facilitate the initiation of new ones.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

In view of the financial and organizational difficulties currently facing the Organization of the Islamic Conference, what we have achieved so far under the auspices of the Standing Committee can be considered a success. However, without the existence of an efficient international organization together with its General Secretariat and specialized institutions, the success of the COMCEC can hardly be continued. I therefore

believe in the importance of giving every support and making all the necessary contributions within reach of the COMCEC to the work already underway to restructure the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

I would like to conclude by stressing the significance of economic cooperation both as a means of strengthening solidarity among our brotherly countries, and as an avenue for effective communication and collaboration with other international fora and economic groupings.

Until we meet again tomorrow to adopt the resolutions of the two meetings, I wish you full success in your important work.

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STATEMENT OF H.E. TURGUT ÖZAL
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 6 September 1988)

Original : Turkish

STATEMENT OF H.E. TURGUT ÖZAL
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 6 September 1988)

Your Excellency the President,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all in Turkey on the occasion of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC and the First Consultation of the Ministers of Communications.

The Turkish Government is happy to host the annual Sessions of the COMCEC and to note that each meeting adds a new impetus to the development of economic cooperation among the Member Countries.

As I have pointed out on previous occasions, our government, convinced of the effective and unifying role of the development of economic cooperation in every area of relations among the OIC Member Countries, extends its sincere support to you in your work, and is committed to provide all possible means towards the

success of the endeavours to serve the economic and social development of our countries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the Bureau and of the Follow-up Committee, as well as all the brotherly countries for their contributions to the success of the previous Sessions and to the implementation of the resolutions.

I note with great pleasure that the COMCEC has expanded its scope to cover communications, a very important area of priority. I wish to cordially greet the Ministers of Communications visiting our country on the occasion of this First Meeting as well as their aides and the members of their delegation. I firmly believe that concrete cooperation projects to the mutual benefit of the member countries, serving each and every one of them, will be launched in this field as well.

We witness a revolution taking place today in the field of communications, advanced technologies being used by the economically developed countries. It is not possible to remain outside a happening designed to greatly influence the economic, social and cultural development of our countries, the domestic and foreign economic relations, and liable to boost cooperation, even though considerable investments may, at times, be required. Aware of this fact, our government has made every sacrifice in order that Turkey may keep pace with the rapid developments. Today, automatic telephone calls are possible even to the most

remote villages in our country, mobile telephone systems are widely used in our larger cities, telex and telefax services are extended to all regions of Turkey while overseas communications are also in extensive use. Most important, the computer, indispensable data evaluation tool of the modern world, has become a part not only of our business world, but also of our everyday life. I am happy that you will have the opportunity to visit two of our large establishments in the field of communications tomorrow and have a chance to observe at first hand the progress achieved by Turkey in this regard. At this point I wish to emphasize that Turkey will be happy to share her means and experience in this field with the brotherly members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

On the other hand, the fact that the United Nations has proclaimed the years 1985-1994 as the "Decade of Transport and Communications" for several regions in which member countries also are located, is another indicator of the worldwide importance given to communications. I hold the belief that the technological progress made in some member countries and the projects developed to cover the territories of the Organization of the Islamic Conference will contribute greatly to the establishment of efficient communication systems among our countries. In our joint efforts to keep pace with the rapid developments in the field of communications, we must benefit extensively from the activities and experience, as well as the

advanced infrastructure facilities of the United Nations and especially those of the International Telecommunications Union.

Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

Current state of affairs on the world economic scene are far from being reassuring, not only for our developing countries, but even for countries with a high national income stemming from certain export goods they possess. Parallel to that, the unfortunate political conflicts in this part of the world, hot wars and occupations witnessed with regret by all of us, continue to affect negatively our efforts towards development and growth. Protectionist measures and monetary and fiscal policies implemented by the industrialized countries also continue to influence our economies. We are all aware that no notable progress has been achieved regarding the inclusion of agricultural crops, agro-based products and textiles in the GATT, despite the fact that these are the principal export goods of developing countries. Although the term "free trade" is very frequently used on international platforms, protectionism, reactivated as a remedy to unemployment, and the slow structural adjustment of certain large economies to the imbalances in payments, have had a direct negative impact on the exports of many of the Member Countries. According to recent estimates, approximately 20% of the exports of developing countries are affected by non-tariff barriers, and along with other negative

effects, protectionism results in additional costs varying from 2% to 9% of the national income of developing countries.

Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

The regions in which our countries are located have reserves of surface and underground resources and industrial raw materials with extensive use in a large number of fields and will retain their importance in future years. The member countries, with few exceptions, have gained sovereignty over these resources as opposed to the situation in the past. However, exploitation of these riches for the benefit of our countries is only possible through skilled manpower. The progress made in training of skilled personnel, the increasing spirit of enterprise of our people, their adaptability to changing circumstances, the opening up to foreign markets and the integration with international economies are the strongest guarantees for our future success.

On the other hand, the existence of a good and sound infrastructure is of utmost importance in exploiting available resources for production. Since the beginning of the eighties our government is taking determined measures to achieve development, to open up to foreign markets, and to establish the infrastructure required for a healthy growth.

One of the fundamental principles of our policy is to develop to the utmost our economic relations with the countries of this region, on a basis of mutuality of advantages. With the joint measures we will take and the solidarity and cooperation we will secure, I believe that it will be possible for every member country to expand her market share within the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and in addition to that, increase exports to the industrialized countries as well. As I have pointed out before, Turkey is willing to share her experience in this regard with the brotherly Islamic countries and will spare no effort to achieve further cooperation.

I therefore consider the activities of the COMCEC and the concrete projects it develops as important and useful tools to reach the above targets. I am convinced that the success of the activities aiming at pooling resources and possibilities will not only be useful for our own economies, but also foster the establishment of an equitable economic order in the world.

Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

The natural disasters suffered first by our Sudanese brothers and later by our brothers of Bangladesh constitute the tragic aspect of our world.

Not so long ago, the untimely loss of a prominent figure of the Islamic world, Zia Ul Haq, Head of the State of Pakistan, brought great grief to our community.

The hot wars between our brotherly nations certainly aggravate our sorrow.

However, I am pleased to say that despite these events, there is a very important development which brings hope both for the future of the OIC and the establishment of regional and universal peace, i.e., the de facto implementation of the cease-fire between two brotherly countries, our brothers Iran and Iraq, as the first important step towards the peaceful solution of the conflicts that exist between them. This war, apart from causing tragic losses in human life and property to both countries, has been a source of sorrow and anxiety to the other countries of the region due to the constant threat of spreading or the intervention of foreign powers, which might have caused a spill over regional boundaries. The end of the war will be a source of great happiness for my government and the Turkish nation. It is our most sincere desire that peace reign in the region and that a new era for mutual understanding and cooperation begin in the Islamic World. I would like to express my feelings of gratitude to all the leaders who have contributed to this positive development.

In conclusion I wish you success in your important and difficult task and hope that you may have a pleasant stay in Turkey.

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SPEECH OF H.E. SYED SHARIFUDDIN PIRZADA,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
DELIVERED BY H.E. TAN SRI ABDUL RAHMAN JALAL,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF OIC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 6 September 1988)

Original : English

SPEECH OF H.E. SYED SHARIFUDDIN PIRZADA,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
DELIVERED BY H.E. TAN SRI ABDUL RAHMAN JALAL.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF OIC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 6 September 1988)

Mr. President,
Mr. Prime Minister
Distinguished Ministers
Excellencies, Honorable Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President, Chairman of The Standing Committee for
Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of
The Islamic Conference.

His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Secretary
General of the Organization of The Islamic Conference had fully
intended to participate personally in this meeting of the
Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation in
Istanbul. However, circumstances have not made it possible for
him and he has asked me to convey to you his deep regrets. The
Secretary General has also authorized me to read on his behalf
the speech that he wished to deliver.

Before I do so, I first take this opportunity to request your kind permission, Mr. President, to express my sincere feelings of deep admiration for the patient and dedicated leadership you have brought to this esteemed Body, the COMCEC.

COMCEC has grown as it is now, in statute and prestige, and has become a precious Forum of the Islamic World, dedicated to the growth and development of economic and commercial cooperation among Islamic nations. It is your wise leadership as Chairman that has made this possible.

I wish to add to this our constant prayer that ALLAH the ALMIGHTY bless you and the Prime Minister H.E. Turgut Özal with good health and a long life, and may ALLAH always bring you both under His secured and benign protection and that you continue to lead this beloved brotherly country of Turkey and her good people to greater height of achievement, progress and happiness. Amin.

Allow me now, Mr. President, to read out the Speech of the Secretary General: I quote :

Mr. President ,
Mr. Prime Minister,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAHI WA UARAKATUH

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to address the joint opening of the Fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation and the First Meeting of the Ministers of Communication of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman at the very outset, to convey my profound gratitude to His Excellency President Kenan Evren, the Chairman of the Standing Committee and His Excellency Mr. Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister and Alternate Chairman, for their keen personal interest and abiding commitment to the overall promotion of economic and commercial cooperation among the Islamic countries. The inaugural address by His Excellency President Kenan Evren and the statement by His Excellency Mr» Turgut Ozal also reflect the commitment of these two leaders of the Islamic World to the strengthening of economic ties- amongst Islamic countries. I am confident that during

their deliberations, the Standing Committee as well as the Ministerial Meeting on Communications will be guided by these two inspiring addresses.

I would also like to express our thanks and appreciation to the people and the Government of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for the holding of these two important conferences concurrently and for the warm and generous hospitality extended to all the delegations since their arrival in this beautiful and historic city of Istanbul, a city which has stood for centuries as the proud standard bearer of Islamic traditions, culture and civilization.

Mr. Chairman,

The Three Sessions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, held in 1984, 1986 and* 1987, have achieved encouraging results in translating the broad outlines of -the Plan of Action into concrete programmes and projects of mutual cooperation and prompted the Member States to adopt measures to boost their economic and commercial exchanges. The current session will review the progress so far realised in the implementation of decisions adopted during the previous sessions of the COMCEC as well as formulate recommendations and strategies for further cooperation in these vitally important sectors. This gathering today is a testimony to the ardent desire of all of us to share our experiences by joining hands in an invironment of mutual confidence.

Mr. Chairman,

The international economic climate during the past year has been particularly detrimental to the economies of the Islamic countries. It has been marked by a drastic fall in the value of the dollar

which has resulted in diminishing the foreign exchange holdings of the Islamic countries thus reducing their ability to import essential requirements. Simultaneously, the economies of most Islamic countries continue to suffer the adverse effects of reduced aid flows and increasing costs of servicing their debts resulting in a net reverse flow of capital from them to the developed countries, low prices for their commodity exports, rising walls of protectionism in the industrialized world and adverse terms of trade.

The Islamic countries have had to operate against the backdrop of this sombre international economic climate and it is in this perspective that the work of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation assumes crucial significance for the Islamic world. It is essential that the Islamic countries, notwithstanding differences in their economic structures, financial means, or manpower availability, work with firm resolve to promote economic cooperation among themselves, increase their trade exchanges, assist each other and achieve a level of economic strength which would free their economies from being vulnerable to the vagaries of the international economic climate or to the decisions of policy-makers in the industrialized world.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic world comprises a majority of countries who are designated by the UN as least-developed countries. It has also, in its ranks, some countries rich in energy and natural resources and having the highest per-capita income in the world. Some others have a large reservoir of skilful manpower. They are all striving to develop the basic economic infrastructure which is essential for a self-generating economic growth.

The gap between the industrialized world and the Islamic nations will continue to increase unless we can devise ways and means of improving cooperation amongst ourselves, agree on concrete measures and implement them. Our economic dependence on the Western world must be reduced. Recent happenings on the international scene, particularly the drastic fall in the price of oil have made it clear that international economy continues to be manipulated by the West to its own advantage. The overall resources available to the Islamic world as a result of the reduced oil prices have decreased drastically and, consequently, the entire Islamic world has been facing a slow-down of economic growth.

Under, these circumstances, the strengthening of economic cooperation among Muslim countries is of the highest priority and of utmost importance to us all. Fostering economic cooperation in the Muslim world should not be viewed as substituting our relations with the rest of the world nor should it be considered as being peripheral to our development efforts. Increased cooperation within the Islamic Ummah will greatly facilitate our economic relations with the rest of the world on a sounder and more equitable basis.

Mr. Chairman,

The comprehensive progress report submitted by the General Secretariat to this meeting contains a summary of achievements of the Standing Committee in the attainment of the tasks entrusted to it by the Third Islamic Summit and reiterated by the Fourth and Fifth Islamic Summits. The activities of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

were also devoted to following up the implementation of the decision of the Ministerial Conferences on Trade held in November 1984, on Food and Agriculture in March 1985, on Industry in June 1987 and on Transport in September 1987. I am happy to note that the Government of Pakistan has decided to host the next Ministerial Meeting on Food and Agriculture, in Islamabad in October, this year.

The agenda of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC includes a number of important subjects such as studies on Trade Preferential System among OIC countries and Trade Information Network, prepared by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, Casablanca. Studies on Export Credit Guarantee Scheme and the Multilateral Clearing Union, undertaken by the Islamic Development Bank, will also be presented to the meeting. All these subjects are of fundamental importance for the implementation of the Plan of Action. In this context, I would like to mention that the establishment of the 'Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme' under the Islamic Development Bank is one of the most significant achievements in the activities of the COMCEC. As Your Excellencies are aware, this scheme is aimed at the active promotion of non-traditional exports among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and will serve as an effective mechanism to increase intra-Islamic trade.

Mr. Chairman,

I am also happy to inform you that the Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments in Member States, has now been signed and ratified by more than the required number of Member States and has thus come into force in February this year. This important Agreement will undoubtedly

assist the free flow of capital among the Member States and will also encourage the promotion of joint ventures in the various sectors of the economies of the Islamic countries. I would urge those Member States which have not yet signed and/or ratified this Agreement to do so at an early date in order that all Member States equally benefit from the implementation of this Agreement.

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with the tradition established at its previous Sessions to hold Ministerial Meetings in different sectors of economic activity, the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications is being concurrently held with the current session of the Standing Committee. The convening of this meeting constitutes a step forward in our efforts to augment cooperation among the Islamic countries, in this important sector.

Communications has been included as a priority area in the Plan of Action, in view of the vital role that telecommunication play not only in the socio-economic integration at the national level within the Islamic Ummah but also in the development of international economic relations. The weakness of the communication infrastructure within the Islamic countries still constitutes an obstacle to their economic and social development. I am confident that the Ministerial meeting will formulate a joint strategy covering various aspects of communications. Such a strategy should aim at fostering bilateral, regional and intra-Islamic cooperation with the ultimate objective of establishing a vast communications network linking the all Islamic countries directly with each other.

Mr,. Chairman,

The QIC Member States are, no doubt, facing enormous economic problems. However, despite the depressing world economic climate, the activities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the economic, commercial and other related fields, have continued to expand steadily over the years. I am confident that the present session of COMCEC and the Ministerial meeting on Communications will provide a further impetus to the process of developing and strengthening Intra -Islamic economic and commercial cooperation.

I trust that inspired by Islamic brotherhood and solidarity and with their maturity of thought, outlook and -ability, the Honourable Ministers will be able to move forward in a united fashion towards the goal of economic emancipation of the Islamic world and the Muslims peoples.

May Allah, the Almighty, bless us all in our noble endeavours.

I thank you.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

AGENDA
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(Istanbul, 6-7 September 1988)

Original : English

AGENDA
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(Istanbul, 6-7 September, 1988)

1 - Opening of the Session.

Inaugural Address by H.E. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, Chairman of the COMCEC.

- Statement by H.E. Turgut ÖZAL, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Alternate Chairman of the COMCEC.

Statement by H.E. S.S. Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC.

- Statements by the Heads of Delegation on behalf of the regional groups of Member States.
- Statement of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, President of IDB.

2 - Adoption of the Agenda.

3 - Report of the OIC General Secretariat.

4 - Report of the Follow-up Committee.

5 - Draft Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States.

6 - Report by ICDT on the Draft Framework Agreement on a Trade Preferential System Among OIC Member States (TPSOIC).

7 - Feasibility Study by ICDT on a Trade Information Network (TINIC).

8 - Report by IDB on the Regional Export Credit Guarantee Scheme.

- 9 - Progress Report by IDB on the Establishment of a Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union.
- 10- Report on "Methodology for the Harmonization of Standards of the Islamic Countries and the Preparation of Common Standards" by the Coordinating Committee of the Islamic Countries' Standardization Experts.
- 11- Report of the Sessional Committee.
- 12- Report of the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications.
- 13- Any Other Business.
- 14- Adoption of the Report and Resolutions.
- 15- Date and Venue of the Fifth Session of the COMCEC.
- 16- Closing of the Session.

- 6 -

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4-5 September 1988)

Original : English

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 4-5 September 1988)

1. The Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 4-5 September 1988 (23-24 Muharram 1409 H), to discuss the items of the Draft Agenda and prepare draft resolutions to be submitted to the COMCEC.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) :

- Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
- State of Bahrain
- People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Negara Brunei Darussalam
- Republic of Cameroun
- Arab Republic of Egypt
- Republic of Guinea

- Republic of Indonesia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Republic of Iraq
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- State of Kuwait
- Republic of Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Kingdom of Morocco
- Sultanate of Oman
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Palestine
- State of Qatar
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of the Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Republic of Tunisia
- Republic of Turkey
- Republic of Uganda
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen Arab Republic

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Meeting as an observer.

3. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the General Secretariat and the following subsidiary and affiliated organs of QIC :

- The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD)
- The Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR)
- The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE)
- The Association of National Development Financing Institutions of the Member Countries of IDB (ADFIMI)
- The Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)
- The International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB)

A representative from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was also present at the Meeting as an observer.

4. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Ali TIGREL, Undersecretary of State for the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey.

5. Dr. Ali TIGREL inaugurated the Meeting by welcoming the participants to Turkey and explained the work programme of the Meeting.

6. The Senior Officials reviewed the Draft Agenda of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC, as prepared at the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, and decided to consider those items of the Draft Agenda which pertained to them.

7. The Senior Officials then established an open-ended Drafting Committee, under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, to prepare the draft resolutions to be submitted to the COMCEC, and an open-ended Sessional Committee under the chairmanship of Turkey to review the activities of the OIC organs and institutions working in the field of economy and trade. It was decided that delegates from the Member States represented in the Bureau of the COMCEC form the core of the Sessional Committee. The Report of the Sessional Committee was duly noted by the Senior Officials.

8. The Senior Officials felt the need to establish certain rules and procedures to govern the activities of the COMCEC as well as to provide more substance to the work of the COMCEC, and requested the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC to consider the issue in one of its forthcoming meetings.

9. Under Draft Agenda item 3, H.E. Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Jalal, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, presented the background report of the General Secretariat. While presenting the Report, he felicitated the Chairman, H.E. Dr. Ali TIGREL, and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of Turkey for the

excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and for the traditional warm hospitality extended to the participants.

H.E. the Assistant Secretary General gave a comprehensive resume of the Report, highlighting the developments which took place since the Third Session of the COMCEC in the implementation of various resolutions pertaining to the economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States, under the auspices of the COMCEC.

In conclusion, he lauded, on behalf of the participants, the role and activities of the COMCEC Coordination Office in implementing the decisions of the COMCEC.

10. The participants, while appreciating the Report of the OIC General Secretariat and the additional information given by the Turkish delegation, agreed that the reports to be submitted by the General Secretariat to the subsequent meetings should contain detailed information on the developments and progress achieved in every area of economic cooperation under the responsibility of the COMCEC.

11. The Rapporteur gave then a summary of the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee pertaining to the projects and issues on the agenda of the COMCEC.

12. Regarding the proposal of the Follow-up Committee on the methodology for the renewal of the Members of the Bureau of the

COMCEC and the composition of the Follow-up Committee, the Senior Officials decided to recommend to the COMCEC that the Follow-up Committee be requested to further consider the issue to formulate new alternatives that would satisfy the Member States. In undertaking this task the Follow-up Committee was requested to give due consideration to the importance of the continuity in the work of the COMCEC and to the right of Member States to take part in its activities.

The COMCEC Coordination Office was asked to prepare, in close cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, a new working paper containing new alternatives on the subject to facilitate the work of the Follow-up Committee.

13. Under Draft Agenda Item 5, the Meeting considered the Draft Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States agreed on at the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, and decided to recommend its adoption at the Fourth Session of the COMCEC. A number of delegations suggested that a provision should be included in the text of the Draft Declaration to take into account the different levels of development among the Member Countries and the natural and geographical difficulties facing some of them as well as the needs of the least developed Member Countries.

14. Under Draft Agenda Item 6, the representative of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) informed the Meeting of the progress on the preparation of the Draft Framework Agreement on a Trade Preferential System Among OIC Member States. The Meeting recommended the submission of the Draft Framework Agreement to the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee with required changes to be made by ICDT in the light of the suggestions made by the Member States, while taking into consideration the principles and guidelines indicated in the Draft Declaration of Intent.

15. Under Draft Agenda Item 7, the Senior Officials were informed by the Director of ICDT of the progress on the establishment of a Trade Information Network Among Islamic Countries (TINIC) and considered, among others, the issue of additional cost required for the establishment of the network and which the Follow-up Committee decided to submit to the COMCEC for final decision. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the Study Group established at the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee to prepare an implementation programme has not yet been convened and agreed to recommend to the COMCEC to request ICDT to convene the Meeting of the Study Group at an early date so that its recommendation could be considered at the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, taking into account the existing facilities or those under consideration. Regarding the issue of additional cost for the establishment of TINIC, the Senior

Officials agreed to remain within the provisions of the decision of the Second Session of the COMCEC which stipulated that TINIC should be established at no additional cost.

16. Under Draft Agenda Item 8, the representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) presented a progress report on the establishment of a Regional Export Credit Insurance Scheme.

With respect to the establishment of a Regional Export Credit Insurance Scheme, the Meeting noted with appreciation the steps taken by IDB to review the "Detailed Study on the Establishment of an Export Credit and Guarantee Insurance Scheme Among OIC Member Countries" in accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Group meeting which was held on 25-26 January 1988 in Jeddah. The Senior Officials noted that the issue was referred to the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and recommended that the Member States be urged to expedite sending their comments on the Detailed Study to IDB.

17. Under Draft Agenda Item 9, the representative of IDB presented a progress report on the establishment of a Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union. The Senior Officials recommended that the project be examined by IDB until any notable progress towards its implementation was achieved.

18. Under agenda item 10, the Senior Officials noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Secretariat of the

coordinating committee on the Methodology for the harmonization of standards. A limited number of views and comments were received on the draft document.

To facilitate the flow of comprehensive views and feedback comments, it is recommended to urge the member states to transmit their comments on various items in the document to the COMCEC Coordination Office. These will subsequently be considered by a Standardization Expert Group Meeting to finalize the Project document with a view to benefiting from existing local and regional specialised organisations, and then submit it to the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee in May 1989.

19. Under Draft Agenda item "Any Other Business", the participants then considered the suggestions made by some delegations in relation to economic measures in support of Palestine and Lebanon and agreed to recommend the inclusion of separate chapters in the Draft Resolution II, on these issues. The participants also agreed on the suggestion made by the Jordanian delegation to recommend the inclusion of another chapter in the Draft Resolution II on the New Humanitarian Order as resolved at the UN General Assembly in 1987. The participants further agreed to include another chapter in the Draft Resolution II expressing the concern of the Member States for the catastrophic situation caused by floods in the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

20. The Senior Officials had extensive exchange of views on the subject of the Ministerial Meeting to be held concurrently with the Fifth Session of the COMCEC. The COMCEC Coordination Office pointed out that the Fourth Islamic Summit determined the following six areas as priority areas for the period from 1984 to 1990:

- Agricultural Development and Food Security
- Industry
- Science and Technology
- Trade
- Transport and Communications
- Energy

Energy remains the only area on which a Ministerial Meeting was not yet convened. Bearing in mind the foregoing background, the COMCEC (Senior Officials) agreed to discuss various aspects of all forms of energy during the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting to be held concurrently with the Fifth Session of the COMCEC.

21. The Senior Officials unanimously agreed to recommend sending a message to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan expressing the condolences of the COMCEC for the late President Muhammad Zia Ul Haq.

22. At its concluding session, the participants adopted the Report of the Meeting and reviewed the Draft Resolutions prepared by the Drafting Committee, reflecting the consensus reached by

the Senior Officials on the items of the Draft Agenda, and decided to submit the Draft Resolution through its Rapporteur to the COMCEC.

23. At the end of the deliberations, the delegates expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chairman for the effective conduct of the Meeting and to the Turkish Government for the excellent arrangements, as well as to the interpreters, translators and supporting staff for their efforts which contributed to the success of the Meeting.

Original : English

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF
THE COMCEC ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC
SUBSIDIARY AND AFFILIATED ORGANS HELD DURING
THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4 September 1988)

1. In pursuance of the decision of the Senior Officials Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, the open-ended Sessional Committee of the COMCEC on the Activities of the OIC Subsidiary and Affiliated Organs met on September 4, 1988.

2. The Meeting of the Sessional Committee was attended by representatives from I.R. of Iran, I.R. of Pakistan, K. of Saudi Arabia, and R. of Turkey.

3. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the following subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions of the OIC:

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC),
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT),
- Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR),

- Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD),
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE),
- International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB).

4. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Metin Örnekol of Turkey, and Mr. O. Gürler of SESRTCIC served as Rapporteur.

5. Dr. Ş. Cindoruk, Director of the SESRTCIC started his Report by pointing out that the current year marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Centre. In this connection, the Director stated that despite various adverse circumstances, the Centre had acquitted itself rather well and had developed into a full-fledged international organization. The Director of the Ankara Centre continued his Report by listing and briefly elaborating on the Centre's activities in the fields of Statistics and Information, Research, Technical Cooperation and Training, Conferences and Meetings, and Publications.

- In the area of Statistics, the Director reported that the Centre had become a major socio-economic data bank on and for the Member States, adding that the full computerisation of its activities, the collection and dissemination of statistics and information had been greatly facilitated. The Director also informed the Committee that the information accumulated in various databases had been continually updated and enriched.

- In the area of Technical Cooperation and Training, the Director reported that while activities in this area had to be streamlined due to shortage of funds, the Centre, nonetheless, was able to conduct one Joint Training Programme and one Placement Programme.
- In the field of Research, the Director of the Ankara Centre informed the Committee that the Centre continued to supply technical background documents and technical reports to a large number of OIC fora, including the COMCEC, and had also prepared a number of sectoral studies.
- With regard to its publication activities, the Director pointed out that the recently augmented in-house printing facilities had allowed the Centre to type-set all its publications on the Centre's computer, thereby substantially reducing costs.

The Director of the Ankara Centre concluded his report by referring to the financial difficulties being faced by the Centre.

6. Mr. Z. A. Houki, Representative of the ICDT, presented a report on the Centre's activities during the past year. In his report, he stressed two essential issues being submitted for the perusal of the COMCEC namely, TPSOIC and TINIC. The Director added that, alongside the establishment of the TPSOIC and the TINIC, the activities of the ICDT centred on the following four domains:

- Studies: They mainly focused on the preparation of the Annual Report on Trade among Islamic Countries, its fourth edition having been completed.
- Publications : The Centre continued to issue its magazine TIJARIS, which highlights recent commercial developments in the Islamic World and to update its directories on Trade Promotion Organizations and Training Institutions in the area of Trade.
- Documentation: Matters related to the establishment of a Documentation Fund, the procuring of equipment for the Documentation service of the Centre and the conclusion of agreements of cooperation with various international organizations were raised.
- Trade Promotion Activities: This domain of its activities was mainly concentrated on the preparations for the Islamic Fair to be held from 10-19 October 1988, in Cairo, Egypt, and the Second Meeting of Trade Promotion Organizations, which held its second meeting in June 1987, in Tangiers, Morocco.

In his Report, the representative of the ICDT also informed the Committee of the Conference, Meetings and Seminars attended by the ICDT. The representative of the ICDT concluded his Report by drawing attention to the financial difficulties being faced by

the Centre due to the non-payment of mandatory contributions on the part of the Member States.

7. Dr. A. M. Patwari, Director of ICTVTR, reported to the Committee that the Centre had gone into full operation with the offering of short-term training courses starting from 1985 and the long-term training courses starting from December 1986. In this connection, Dr. Patwari stated that the ICVTR had trained 205 trainees from different Member States under its short-term training courses, seminars and workshops.

He informed the Committee that the third academic year would start on 16 October 1988 and nominations of students and trainees from the Member States were already pouring in. He also reported that the ICTVTR had successfully organized the First International Seminar on "Technical and Vocational Education in the Member States of the OIC" from 14-17 July 1988. He concluded his report by giving information on the Centre's physical infrastructure.

8. Mr. M.S. Ansari, Acting Director of the IFSTAD reported to the Committee that data bases on Information, Consultancy, Scientific and Technical Cooperation had been established.

He further pointed out that the IFSTAD had organized training courses, seminars and workshops in various Member States.

The Acting Director of the IFSTAD informed the Committee that the scholarship programmes for students in Islamic countries and for moslem minorities in other states had been instituted. He added that the IFSTAD had already established networks for scientific cooperation on various subjects including, among others, oceanography, biotechnology, etc.

The Acting Director of the IFSTAD concluded his report by stating that the IFSTAD had been nominated in July 1988, as the focal point for Scientific and Technological Development between the OIC and the UN system.

9. Mr. N.A. Meerza, Representative of the ICCICE, in his report to the Committee stated that, while the Chamber had been successful in identifying and putting forward a large number of proposals for establishing joint ventures in the fields of industry, agriculture and other sectors, due to various obstacles, mostly in the form of bureaucratic red tape, not a single proposal had so far been implemented. In this connection, the representative of the ICCICE quoted the case of the joint venture project on "Deep Sea Fishing Industry" to be established in Pakistan that had been found technically viable and eligible for direct financing by the IDB. He noted that the project had still not been implemented due to these bureaucratic constraints.

With a view to overcoming these obstacles the Representative of the ICCICE proposed that in addition to the recommendations

made by the Task Force set up by the First Industrial Cooperation:

- the projects could be located in a Member State and involve the participation of two or more individual parties belonging to the same Member States.

The Representative of the ICCICE also reported that it had successfully organized, in collaboration with UNIDO, a meeting for the promotion of joint ventures among Islamic countries, hosted by the Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Maritime Commerce and Commodity Exchange of Turkey (UCCET) in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1987.

The Representative of the ICCICE pointed out that during the meeting 81 projects were agreed upon by Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and U.A.E. with a total investment cost of 720.8 mln U.S. dollars.

The Representative of the ICCICE concluded his report with an indicative list of projects for possible financing by the Islamic Development Bank and the National Development Finance Corporation of Pakistan.

10. Dr. Ashraf-uz Zaman, the Representative of the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB) informed the Committee that the Association had completed its tenth year of existence and had

grown into an internationally recognised body. Dr. Zaman pointed out that the Association continued to play an important role in strengthening the ties between Islamic banks, furthering their cooperative bonds, coordinating their activities and providing technical assistance and expertise for the establishment of Islamic banks. He also reported that a Joint Meeting of Experts of Central Banks and Islamic Banks, in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan, was held in Pakistan, in April 1988.

The representative of the IAIB also provided detailed information on:

- Training and upgrading of manpower working in Islamic Banks, Islamic banking studies and research
- Relationship with Central Banks and Monetary Authorities
- Relationship with regional and international agencies
- Publication activities
- Development and evolution of Islamic Banks, activities and operations.

11. The Sessional Committee deliberated upon the reports presented during the meeting, and:

1. Deeply appreciated the activities of the above OIC subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions in the areas

of economic, commercial and technical cooperation in conjunction with and complementary to the activities of the COMCEC.

2. Noting the efforts of the OIC bodies to avoid duplication in their activities, urged them to pursue their efforts in this regard.
3. Noted with deep concern the continuation of the financial difficulties of the OIC subsidiary and affiliated organs, arising from the non-payment of the mandatory contributions and arrears on the part of member states. This situation impeded the full realisation of the work programmes of these bodies.
4. Proposed that the Member States be urged to cooperate with the OIC bodies by responding to the announcements of their activities and by providing them with the requisite information and technical support.

- 7 -

R E S O L U T I O N (1)
OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(Istanbul, 6-7 September 1988)

Original : English

RESOLUTION (1) OF THE FOURTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

(Istanbul, 6-7 September 1988)

The Fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held from 6 to 7 September 1988 in Istanbul:

Recalling Resolution No. 13/3-P (IS) of the Third Islamic Summit Conference establishing the COMCEC,

Recalling Resolution No. 1/3-E (IS) on the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference,

Recalling Resolution No. 1/4-EF (IS) adopted at the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference determining trade, industry, food security and agricultural development, transport and communications, science and technology and energy as priority areas of economic cooperation contained in the Plan of Action,

Bearing in Mind the provisions of Resolutions No. 1/5-E (IS), and No. 3/5-E (IS) adopted at the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference :

- a) endorsing the decisions of the COMCEC and the arrangements made regarding the organization of its work,
- b) stressing and appreciating the important role of the COMCEC in the implementation of the Plan of Action and urging Member Countries to give necessary support to the COMCEC in this regard,

respectively,

Taking into Consideration the Resolutions adopted at the First, Second and Third Sessions of the COMCEC and the recommendations made by its Follow-up Committee,

Taking Note of the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers,

Noting the decisions adopted at the Second Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held on 14-16 March 1986 in Istanbul,

Noting the decisions adopted at the Third Ministerial Consultation on Industrial Cooperation held on 27-28 June 1987 in Istanbul,

Also Noting the decisions adopted at the First Ministerial Meeting on Transport held on 7-10 September, 1987 in Istanbul,

Noting with Satisfaction the progress achieved since the Third Session of the COMCEC in the implementation of the Plan of Action and, in particular, that:

The Task Force Meeting on-the Promotion of Joint Ventures was held on 1-2 November 1987 at the Headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah,

The Experts' Group Meeting on "Export Credit Guarantee and Insurance Scheme" was convened on 25-26 January 1988 at the Headquarters of IDB in Jeddah,

The Ad-hoc Experts' Contact Group Meeting on a Trade Information Network Among the OIC Member Countries (TINIC) was held upon invitation by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) on 22-24 February 1988, in Casablanca,

The Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments has been signed by 17 and ratified by 11 OIC Member States and came into force as of February 26, 1988,

The Experts' Group Meeting on Food Security and Agricultural Development was held on 28-31 May 1988, in Cairo,

The Third Islamic Trade Fair of the OIC Member States is to take place in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 10 to 19 October 1988.

AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

A. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Activities of OIC Organs and Institutions Working in
the Field of Economy and Trade

1. The activities of the OIC subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions working in the areas of economic, commercial and technical cooperation in conjunction with and complementary to the activities of the COMCEC were appreciated.
2. The efforts of the OIC bodies to avoid duplication in their activities were noted and they were urged to pursue their efforts in this regard.
3. The continuation of the financial difficulties of the OIC subsidiary and affiliated organs, arising from the non-payment of the mandatory contributions and arrears on the part of many Member States was noted with concern. This situation impeded the full realisation of the work programmes of these bodies.

4. Member States were invited to respond promptly to the inquiries made by these institutions to enable them to complete necessary studies for the implementation of their work programmes.

Signature and Ratification of Statutes and Agreements

5. The Member Countries who have not yet done so were urged to sign and/or ratify at an early date various statutes and agreements in the field of economic cooperation drawn up or concluded within the framework of OIC.

B. COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade
Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC

6. A Declaration was issued, expressing the willingness of the Member States to participate in a trade preferential system to be established among themselves and indicating the basic principles and guidelines to be followed during the establishment and operation of such a system. The text of the Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States is attached herewith.

Draft Framework Agreement on a Trade Preferential System
Among the QIC Member States

7. The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) was asked to expedite the finalization of the Draft Framework Agreement on the establishment of a trade preferential system among the Member Countries incorporating the views and suggestions of the Member States and ensuring its conformity to the basic principles and guidelines contained in the Declaration of Intent, and to submit it to the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

8. The Member States were requested to communicate their views and comments on the Draft Framework Agreement to ICDT for inclusion in the said Draft.

Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC)

9. ICDT was requested to convene at the earliest possible date the Study Group established at the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, and to consider possibilities for the establishment of TINIC in close cooperation with similar or complementary projects in existence or under consideration, with a view to avoiding any additional cost.

10. The Study Group was requested to submit its report to the Fifth Session of the COMCEC.

Regional Export Credit Insurance Scheme.

11. It was noted with appreciation that the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) had revised the feasibility study on the establishment of a Regional Export Credit Insurance Scheme and circulated it among the member countries for their views and suggestions, in accordance with the recommendations of the Experts' Group Meeting convened at IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, on 25-26 January 1988.

12. The Member States who have not yet done so were urged to communicate their views and comments to IDB on the "Detailed Study on the Establishment of an Export Credit and Guarantee Insurance Scheme Among OIC Member Countries", in order to enable IDB to proceed with its work towards the implementation of the project and to submit its report to the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union

13. In view of the necessary studies still to be undertaken for the establishment of a Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union and further direction needed at the technical level, IDB was invited to continue to pursue the matter until any notable progress towards its implementation was achieved.

Methodology for the Harmonization of Standards

14. Member States were urged to transmit their comments on the Methodology for the Harmonization of Standards to the COMCEC Coordination Office so that an Experts' Group meeting could be convened to finalize the document with a view to benefiting from existing local and regional specialized organizations. It was requested that the outcome of the meeting of the expert group be submitted to the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

C. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

15. Regarding the methodology agreed on at the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee pertaining to the renewal of the members of the Bureau of the COMCEC and the composition of its Follow-up Committee, the Follow-up Committee was requested to reconsider the issue in its Fifth Meeting and to formulate new alternatives that would satisfy the Member States. In undertaking this task, the Follow-up Committee was requested to give due consideration to the importance of the continuity in the work of the COMCEC and to the right of Member States to take part in its activities.

16. It was agreed that Energy would constitute the subject matter of the Ministerial Meeting to be held concurrently with the Fifth Session of the COMCEC in 1989.

17. Recalling the decision adopted at the Second Session regarding the dates of the annual sessions of the COMCEC and the meetings of its Follow-up Committee, the dates for the Fifth Session of the COMCEC and the Fifth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee to take place in Istanbul, were announced as 3-6 September 1989 and 23-25 May 1989, respectively.

18. The Follow-up Committee was requested to consider possibilities to further improve the rules and procedures governing the activities of the COMCEC as well as to provide more substance to its work.

ANNEXES :

1. Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States
2. Report of the Follow-up Committee (Available through the COMCEC Coordination Office)
3. Report of the Sessional Committee (Annex to the Report of Senior Officials' Meeting)
4. Report of the General Secretariat (Available through the COMCEC Coordination Office)
5. Supplementary Reports on Industry, Agriculture and Transport (Available through the COMCEC Coordination Office)

Original : English

DECLARATION OF
INTENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A TRADE PREFERENTIAL SYSTEM
AMONG THE OIC MEMBER STATES

The Member States of the Organization of the Islamic
Conference:

Recognizing that liberalization of trade among the Member
Countries of OIC constitute a driving force for the promotion
and expansion of trade amongst themselves, an effective
instrument for the enhancement of economic cooperation and
attainment of collective self-reliance and a means of raising the
standard of living of their peoples,

Recalling the objectives enshrined in the Mecca Declaration
and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among
the Member States adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference
and the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial
Cooperation Among the Member States, in particular the provisions
of chapter III on trade,

Determined to establish close linkage amongst various
schemes within OIC in the areas of trade, investment and finance,

together with improvements in production of goods and services in the Member States in the framework of their overall development goals,

Taking into Consideration the Resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) on the preparation of a Framework Agreement that would include, inter alia, a set of basic principles, guidelines, methodology and time-table for the setting up of a System of Trade Preferences Among the Member States,

1. DECLARE their intention to establish a multilateral Trade Preferential System (TPSOIC) on the basis of the following principles:

- i. The System shall be reserved for the exclusive participation of the OIC Member States and inter-regional, regional and sub-regional groupings composed only of OIC Member States;
- ii. The System shall be based and applied on the principle of mutuality of advantages in such a way as to ensure benefits to all participants on an equitable basis;
- iii. The System shall be implemented through multilateral trade negotiations among countries parties to the System, with a view to liberalizing trade amongst

themselves, in a phased manner allowing for a gradual development and expansion of the System;

- iv. The System shall be subject to periodic reviews in the light of experience gained and results obtained;
- v. The System shall not be conceived as a substitute to any of the existing and future trade preferential arrangements involving the Member States, but rather as a supplement to them;
- vi. The System shall not prejudice any legal obligations of the Member States vis-a-vis third parties.

2. DECIDE that a Framework Agreement based on the above principles be prepared to determine the negotiating approaches, rules and methodology for the establishment and operation of the System.

RESOLUTION (2) ON ISSUES
TABLED UNDER AGENDA ITEM

"ANY OTHER BUSINESS"

(Istanbul, 6-7 September 1988)

Original : English

RESOLUTION (2) ON ISSUES
TABLED UNDER AGENDA ITEM
"ANY OTHER BUSINESS"

(Istanbul, 6-7 September 1988)

The Fourth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) held from 6 to 7 September 1988 in Istanbul,

AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING :

A. MEASURES TO SUPPORT PALESTINE

1. Recalling the resolutions adopted by Islamic Summit Conferences on the support of the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national territory,
2. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers on Palestine,
3. Recalling the resolutions adopted at the previous sessions of the COMCEC,

4. Proudly Expressing its appreciation of the valiant uprising of the militant Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO,

5. APPEALS to all Islamic States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to provide all forms of material and moral support to the Palestinian people and their valiant uprising through the PLO, with a view to strengthening their steadfast resistance, building their economy, defeating Zionist occupation, and practicing their national rights to sovereignty and national independence;

6. CONDEMNS all Israeli practices against the Palestinian people including murder, deportation, detention, bone-breaking, abortion of pregnant women, demolishing of homes, imposition of military, economic and social siege, and the liquidation of national Palestinian institutions in violation of all international conventions, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention;

7. KINDLY REQUESTS all Member States to contribute to the establishment of vital economic and social programmes for the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland and to facilitate the entry of Palestinian exports to their markets, granting them preferential treatment without prejudice to their commitments towards third parties, on the basis of a certificate of origin to

be issued by the PLO taking due account of the Islamic boycott of the Zionist Entity;

8. WELCOMES the measures adopted by the European Economic Community which grant preferential treatment to the Palestinian exports in the European markets, and call upon the European Economic Community to continue to exert pressure for the implementation of the provisions of its resolutions concerning direct transactions with Palestinian producers;

9. INVITES all states to offer all forms of support, including financial and political support, to the Palestinian people to enable them to realize their national rights;

10. REQUESTS the OIC General Secretariat to report on the subject to the forthcoming meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

B. ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

11. Reaffirming its previous resolution on providing financial and economic assistance to Lebanon, as well as providing markets for its basic products on a preferential basis without prejudice to the commitments of the Member Countries towards third parties,

12. Taking Note of the continuing tragic state of affairs and of the country's needs for various economic, educational and technical assistance,

13. APPEALS to brotherly Member States and concerned financial and humanitarian institutions to provide emergency humanitarian relief to Lebanon while emphasizing that such assistance should be in the form of food, medical supplies, scholarships as well as in the field of electricity and communications;

14. REQUESTS the OIC General Secretariat to report on this subject to the forthcoming meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC.

C. MEMBER COUNTRIES FACING GRAVE NATURAL DISASTERS

15. Cognizant of the needs of some Member Countries afflicted by natural calamities,

16. Expressing the willingness to assist the Member Countries afflicted by such calamities,

17. Noting with Deep Concern the serious situation created in the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Sudan owing to the recent flood and drought disasters,

18. Noting with Deep Concern the serious damage caused to human life, crops, and habitation,

19. Emphasizing the need for Islamic Solidarity to help the brotherly people of Bangladesh and Sudan in their current distress,

20. LAUNCHES an appeal to the Member States and the specialized agencies of the OIC to make generous and immediate donations to the people of Bangladesh and Sudan to overcome their current distress;

21. CALLS UPON the international and regional organizations to provide food, medicine and material assistance to meet the catastrophic situation caused by the floods and drought in Bangladesh and Sudan;

22. INVITES the Member States to extend every possible assistance to those Member Countries which were afflicted by natural calamities.

D. NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORDER

23. Taking Note of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 42/120 of Dec. 7, 1987 entitled "New International Humanitarian Order",

24. Noting Further the contributions of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues,

25. Emphasizing the importance of the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues as a follow-up mechanism for the dissemination and implementation of appropriate solutions suggested by the Commission,

26. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the Co-Chairmen and members of the Independent Commission for their humanitarian endeavours;

27. INVITES Member States to support international efforts to promote human welfare and the valuable work being done by the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues.

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SPEECH OF H.E. TAN SRI ABDUL RAHMAN JALAL,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DELIVERED AT THE
CLOSING SESSION

(Istanbul, 7 September 1988)

Original : English

SPEECH OF H.E. TAN SRI ABDUL RAHMAN JALAL,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DELIVERED AT THE
CLOSING SESSION

(Istanbul, 7 September 1988)

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah

Mr. President, Chairman of the Standing Committee for
Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC,

Mr. Prime Minister, Alternate Chairman,

Distinguished Ministers,

Excellencies,

Honourable Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. Chairman,

In the absence of H.E. Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary
General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I am aware
of the great honour you have accorded me to address the joint
concluding Session of the Fourth Meeting of the Standing
Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation and the First

Ministerial Meeting on Communications. May I express my most profound gratitude for this.

H.E. President Kenan EVREN's inspiring inaugural address yesterday contained a comprehensive analysis of the positive results achieved so far in the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action since the formation of this august body. His wise counsel on the future activities and orientations of this forum will guide us Insh-Allah in accomplishing our tasks in the vital field of economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency the President for his untiring dedication to the service of the development of our Islamic World for our benefit and the benefit of our children.

In the same vein, H.E. Prime Minister Turgut ÖZAL's remarks outlined the state of rapid economic and technological development that is currently taking place in the world to-day, particularly in the developed world, and the current economic situation of our developing Islamic world.

The Prime Minister had rightly reflected the need for us all to exert every possible effort to improve our economies and to step up our cooperation if we are not to be left behind in all vital fields of economic activity, particularly in the field of

advanced technologies, in the deployment of computer science which has already become an indispensable tool for data collection and evaluation, in rapid modern communications in the business world, which indeed are fast becoming a part of our every-day life. We cannot but agree that unless the means are found and the effort exerted, we all may stand to lose immensely. If I may be permitted to do so, I would like to add that we in the Islamic world will begin to recede in rapid geometric proportions, until our position is totally eclipsed by a highly developed North. This indeed is the danger, and this indeed is what we, at this Forum, are trying to avoid.

We appreciate also the statement made by the Prime Minister regarding Turkey's willingness to share the knowledge and experience she has acquired in any field of technology. This reflects clearly on the part of Turkey, under the far-sighted leadership of her President, the spirit of brotherly and unselfish cooperation in the service of economic development of our member States. We cannot but appreciate highly this positive spirit and approach to the strengthening of every element of cooperation we can muster for our common good.

It is a worthy example for us to emulate.

Distinguished Chairman, Brother Delegates,

We have deliberated fully in a spirit of brotherly accomodation and understanding throughout the last three days,

sparing no effort to solve some of the issues confronting the Islamic world, and sparing no effort to resolve outstanding issues which were brought to the Drafting Committees in the long hours we met in this Hall as well as at the Ministerial Meeting on Communications at the ETAP MARMARA. The Meetings reflected clearly the consensus on our part on the genuine desire of us all to evolve practical and feasible measures in such processes of joint action in all areas of economic and commercial activities. The conclusions indicate the further progress we have made in reaching formulae for resolving key issues of the Agenda, as is evident in our adopting the way to proceed on projects pertaining to the Trade Preferential System for Islamic countries and its "Declaration of Intent", the "Multilateral Clearing Union", the "Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries" etc.

We have concurred on "ENERGY" as the next subject for a Ministerial Meeting to be held concurrently with COMCEC V next year. We have debated issues of flood and other natural calamities afflicting our countries. We were agreed on the joint steps we could take subsequently to deal with this item and this I regard as progress.

Indeed all the deliberations were made with the seriousness of purpose fitting this high Forum. At the same time, efforts to achieve progress in other priority areas which require further discussions and consultations have also been

initiated. The success that we have achieved at this stage reflects once again the understanding and harmony of purpose we have shown one another which has become a feature and characteristic of our Meetings and is truly commendable.

The extent of the success at cooperation we have achieved so far does reflect the enormous efforts and sacrifice that have been made by Member Countries as well as the precious contribution made by all distinguished delegates of Member States, including the voluminous background work undertaken by various OIC subsidiary organs, affiliated centres, the Islamic Development Bank and other related institutions.

At this point, I would also like to add that, like all of us, I was deeply moved by the spirit of Islamic solidarity and brotherhood shown by the distinguished delegates during the deliberations and subsequent adoption of a Resolution on the catastrophic floods in Bangladesh and in Sudan. I am confident that the esteemed Member States will come forward with immediate and generous assistance to our unfortunate brothers and sisters in those seriously affected countries.

I am also happy to note again that this Session of the COMCEC was concurrently held with the First Ministerial meeting on Communications of the OIC Member States. The Report and Recommendations of the Communication Ministers clearly set the tone of practical measures which can be pursued in this important

sector of economic activity. I am confident that the measures of cooperation in the fields of telecommunications and postal services, which have been considered by the Ministers of Communications, will produce far reaching results as far as our economic collaboration and solidarity is concerned. I would like to felicitate the Honorable Ministers of Communications for having achieved this precious success.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to assure you on behalf of the General Secretariat of the OIC of our full cooperation in the follow-up work aimed at ensuring the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Fourth Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation. The General Secretariat shall also exert its utmost efforts to help implement the recommendations approved by the First Ministerial Conference on Communications.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

May I, in conclusion, express on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat, on my own behalf and on behalf of the subsidiary organs of the OIC our profound appreciation and gratitude to H.E. President Kenan EVREN and H.E. Prime Minister Turgut ÖZAL for the great personal care and attention they have devoted to the overall work of the Standing Committee which has, under their supervision and leadership, become the guiding force for the

commercial and economic development activities of this cherished Organization. We would like to thank them for the generous hospitality and the warm friendship which have been showered on us whenever we are in this beautiful city of Istanbul.

I would also like to express our utmost appreciation and thanks to the Honourable Ministers and all distinguished Delegates for the invaluable contributions they have made to the success of these Meetings. Needless to mention, our grateful thanks go as well to the COMCEC Coordination Office, interpreters who have been with us all along and to all others who have worked assiduously for the success of the Conference.

Mr. Chairman, with this may I conclude my statement with my most sincere gratitude and grateful thanks to Your Excellency and to H.E. the Prime Minister Mr. Turgut ÖZAL. May ALLAH bless you both and may ALLAH bless us all in this our noble efforts.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF H.E.TURGUT ÖZAL
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 7 September 1988)

Original : Turkish

STATEMENT OF H.E.TURGUT ÖZAL
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

(İstanbul, 7 September 1988)

Your Excellency the President of the Republic,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

At the closing of the Fourth Session of the COMCEC and the First Ministerial Meeting on Communications, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you for the constructive efforts and valuable contributions you have made for the success of this meeting.

May I also express my satisfaction with the notable and steady progress made in the field of cooperation among the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The meticulous and tireless efforts of the General Secretariat and the specialized institutions of the OIC in this respect are also praiseworthy. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to these august bodies which have made valuable contributions toward realizing economic cooperation among Member Countries.

In this connection, I would like to indicate once more that my Government will continue to extend every possible support to the economic cooperation activities aimed at the success of our endeavours towards enhancing the solidarity of the Islamic community.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

During this session of the COMCEC, which comes to an end today, we have covered another important priority area of economic cooperation, namely, communications. I believe the institution of modern telecommunication linkage will further strengthen relations among our countries. The decisions adopted by the Ministers of Communications will certainly ensure the implementation of the projects which would contribute to the promotion of a harmonized system of communications infrastructure. This, in turn, will provide a solid basis for a more fruitful and wider range of economic cooperation, fostering, in my opinion, easier contacts between business circles and individuals in our countries.

Under present world economic conditions which continue to have negative bearings on the external payments situation of many brotherly Islamic countries, we should try our best to mobilize and combine our means and resources for increasing the

volume of the intra-OIC trade and for securing a larger share of the world market.

Bearing this in mind, I consider the Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System as an important step in promoting trade among Member Countries.

It is a source of satisfaction to observe that while the existing projects on the agenda of the COMCEC were given a new impetus, new projects were initiated at the meetings we have just concluded. Nevertheless, I believe that we should continue our endeavours to enrich these activities with further projects for cooperation.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank once more all the Delegations attending the present meeting for their constructive efforts and contributions. I would also like to reiterate my Government's most sincere and best wishes to your brotherly Governments. I hope that you have enjoyed your stay in Turkey and I wish you all a safe journey back home.

CLOSING SPEECH OF H.E. KENAN EVREN
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 7 September 1988)

Original : Turkish

CLOSING SPEECH OF H.E. KENAN EVREN
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 7 September 1988}

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Esteemed Guests,

COMCEC, launched approximately four years ago, is now concluding its Fourth Session. I would like to begin my address by thanking the distinguished delegates as well as the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs for their efforts and valuable contributions to the success of the present meetings.

The Fourth Session of the COMCEC has initiated new cooperation projects in the field of communications, an important area covering all aspects of cooperation in today's world. I believe that no efforts will be spared to make these projects operational and available to the Member Countries as early as possible.

I am pleased to note that concrete developments have also taken place during this Session on the COMCEC Agenda items concerning projects related to the development of commercial cooperation.

The adoption, during this Session, of the Declaration of Intent on the Establishment of a System of Trade Preferences is an important step toward the realization of this project. It will be possible to start multilateral negotiations for the expansion of trade among the Member Countries as soon as the Draft Framework Agreement, to be drawn up in line with the principles set forth in the Declaration, is approved in a forthcoming COMCEC Session.

We also observe that work on the Regional Export Credit Insurance Scheme and the Trade Information Network has reached a certain level of maturity. These projects, when operational, will be highly appreciated for the important benefits that will accrue to the economies of our countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

During this Session, developments regarding various ongoing activities on projects in the areas of agriculture, industry and transport were also submitted for guidance to the Ministers of the COMCEC through the reports of the Follow-up Committee and the General Secretariat.

As I have stated in my opening speech, the expansion of the scope of activities of the COMCEC, stemming from the inputs of annual ministerial meetings on various areas of economic cooperation, while lending more substance to the COMCEC, requires a more meticulous follow-up of project implementation and coordination of activities.

I would therefore like to stress once again the importance of taking the necessary measures to enable the COMCEC to follow-up and coordinate all activities of economic cooperation in various fields within the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and to efficiently carry out the duties entrusted to it by the Islamic Summit Conference.

I am convinced that the Follow-up Committee will take up the subject of a follow-up mechanism as well as the working methods of the COMCEC in the framework of the restructuring activities being carried out in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and present workable suggestions.

Distinguished Delegates,

Before concluding I would like to thank you once again for your contributions to the success of the Session and to the strengthening of the economic cooperation among Member Countries.

I would also request you to convey to the brotherly Heads of State and People of your respective countries most sincere greetings in my name and in the name of the Turkish people, and wish you all a pleasant journey back home.