

REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS

OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993

COMCEC Coordination Office
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PART ONE

**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.

PBOMPTED 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. In

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, it 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 payments' 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 Hasher States;
4. Exchanging expertise, technical experience and skilled sanpower in tne energy sector Ting Meaner 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 States¹ 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;

3. 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. KEKAN EVREM, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Final Communiqué 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

RESOLUTION 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 COMCEC 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 (ICYVTR), 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 Hag, 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.

VI

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE
SIXTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMCEC

RESOLUTION NO. 2/6-E (IS)
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
(COMCEC)

The Sixth Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Concord and Unity), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal from 3 to 5 Jumada Al-Thani, 1412H (9-11 December 1991),

Recalling Resolution No. 1/3-E (IS) and No. 13/3-P (IS) of the Third Islamic Summit Conference on the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among the Member States and on the establishment of the OIC Standing Committees, respectively;

Recalling Resolution No. 1/4-E (IS) of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference assigning priority to six areas of the Plan of Action five of which come under the purview of the COMCEC, namely, Agricultural Development and Food Security, Industry, Trade, Transport and Communications and Energy;

Recalling Resolution No. 3/5-E (IS) and No. 1/5-E (IS) of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference on the Implementation of the Plan of Action and of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) Chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey, respectively;

Also recalling the Resolutions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers pertaining to the activities of the COMCEC for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

Noting with appreciation that in previous seven Sessions of the COMCEC, each held concurrently with a ministerial meeting in a specific area of economic cooperation, action has been initiated in the priority areas of the Plan of Action, in compliance with the time table set at the Fourth Islamic Summit, as well as in the areas of Technical Cooperation and Infrastructure and Public Works, and that effective action has been initiated to implement various projects pertaining to these areas;

Also noting with appreciation the efforts of the General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions working in the field of economy and trade in following up the implementation of decisions of the COMCEC pertaining to different areas of the Plan of Action;

Noting with satisfaction that the Framework Agreement for the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of the OIC (TPSOIC) was adopted at the Sixth Session of the COMCEC, and opened by the General Secretariat to the signature and ratification of the Member States;

Also noting with satisfaction that the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for the Export Credit Insurance and Guarantee of Investment which was drawn up and finalized by the Islamic Development Bank was adopted at the Seventh Session of the COMCEC and that the preparations for the activation of the Scheme are underway;

Taking cognizance of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of a Single European Market as well as developments in eastern Europe and the implications of these developments for the Member Countries;

Emphasizing the important role the private sector could play in strengthening, expanding and diversifying the economic cooperation among Member States.

Reaffirming the need to develop new strategies for the Plan of Action taking into consideration the structural changes that have taken place in the global economy and the developments in the economies of the member countries since 1981.

1. Requests the COMCEC to take the necessary steps, including convening expert group meetings and workshops to formulate new strategies for the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member States to be submitted by the Secretary General to the COMCEC for approval and appropriate action as early as possible.

2. Urges the 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 among the Member States.

3. Invites the Member States to take necessary measures to implement the decisions of the COMCEC and to join economic cooperation schemes established thereby.

RESOLUTION NO. 3/6-E(IS)
ON THE
STATUS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION POLICY IN THE
ISLAMIC WORLD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Sixth Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Concord and Unity), held in Dakar Republic of Senegal, from 3 to 5 Jumada Al-Thani, 1412H (9-11 December, 1991),

Recalling Resolution No.1/20-E of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers which expressed deep concern at the continuing and escalating international economic crisis in recent years and which has adversely affected the developing countries in general, and the least developed countries, in particular, causing disequilibrium in the structure of the world economy;

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary General on this subject (Document No.IS/6-91/EC/D.1/Rev.2);

1- Emphasizes that the efforts being undertaken by the developing countries to foster sustained economic growth, however important, cannot succeed in reactivating the desired growth and development without a favorable international economic environment.

2- Urges the Member States to continue to pursue their efforts for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States in a manner which would optimize the complementarity of their economies, and to actively contribute to the formulation of New Strategies for it under the auspices of the COMCEC.

3- Highlights the important role the private sector can play in strengthening the Joint Islamic Action and urges Member States to make favorable arrangements to strengthen contacts between firms, companies, banks and other economic institutions of Member States.

4- Requests the COMCEC to consider within the framework of its forthcoming reviews of the Strategies and of the Plan of Action on economic Cooperation among Member States to study ways and means for the promotion of inter-regional cooperation and progressive economic integration leading to the setting up of an Islamic Common market taking due account of the existing regional integration groupings working in the same fields.

5- Requests the Secretary General to keep the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers informed on the progress on this matter.

6- Urges the Member States to actively contribute to the formulation of the New International Order with a view to achieving economic growth and sustainable development.

P A R T T W O

REPORT AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS
OF THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

I

R E P O R T

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

(Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993)

Original : English

R E P O R T
OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION

(Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993)

1. The Ninth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held on 3 and 4 September 1993, preceded by preparatory meetings of Senior Officials on 1-2 September 1993.

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

1. Islamic State of Afghanistan
2. Republic of Albania
3. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
4. Republic of Azerbaijan
5. State of Bahrain
6. People's Republic of Bangladesh
7. People's Republic of Benin

8. Burkina Faso
9. Republic of Cameroon
10. Republic of Chad
11. Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros
12. Arab Republic of Egypt
13. Republic of Gambia
14. Republic of Guinea
15. Republic of Indonesia
16. Islamic Republic of Iran
17. Republic of Iraq
18. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
19. State of Kuwait
20. Republic of Kyrgyzstan
21. Republic of Lebanon
22. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
23. Malaysia
24. Islamic Republic of Mauritania
25. Kingdom of Morocco
26. Republic of Niger
27. Republic of Nigeria
28. Sultanate of Oman
29. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
30. State of Palestine
31. State of Qatar
32. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
33. Republic of Senegal

34. Democratic Republic of Sudan
35. Syrian Arab Republic
36. Republic of Tajikistan
37. Republic of Tunisia
38. Republic of Turkey
39. Republic of Turkmenistan
40. Republic of Uganda
41. State of the United Arab Emirates
42. Republic of Yemen

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

3. The Session was also attended by H.E. Dr. Hamid Al-GABID, the Secretary General of OIC, and the following subsidiary and affiliated OIC institutions:

- The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), Ankara.
- The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), Dhaka.
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca.
- The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), Jeddah.
- The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah.
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE), Karachi.
- The Association of National Development Financing Institutions (ADFIMI), Istanbul.
- The Islamic Shipowners Association, Jeddah.

The representatives of UNDP and of the Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FCIC) attended the Meeting as observers.

(A copy of the List of Participants in the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee is attached as Annex 1).

Opening Session

4. The Opening Ceremony of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

5. At the beginning of his inaugural address, H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL welcomed the delegates to Turkey and expressed his thanks to the Member Countries for their unfailing interest in the work of the COMCEC. He welcomed the new members from the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia and said that they added a new dimension, to the OIC Community. The President stressed that, despite the concrete achievements as far as the projects of the COMCEC were concerned, Member States had yet to prove to the Islamic Community and the world at large their will to strengthen economic cooperation amongst themselves. H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL emphasized the significance of promoting cooperation among Member Countries to achieve the solidarity required by the contemporary world. Underlying the relevance of the New Strategy in this context, the President stated that cooperation among

private sectors should be assigned top priority. H.E. DEMİREL concluded his address by wishing success to the delegates.

The Head of the delegation of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Papa Abdou CISSE, conveyed the high appreciation of H.E. President Abdou DIOUF, Chairman of the Sixth Islamic Summit, to the Republic of Turkey for the eminent role it plays within the Islamic Ummah and proposed that the opening address of His Excellency Süleyman DEMİREL be considered as an official document of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL is attached as Annex 2.)

6. In his statement, H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, to H.E. Tansu ÇİLLER, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Alternate Chairperson of the COMCEC, and H.E. Erdal İNÖNÜ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, for their keen interest and wise guidance in promoting economic cooperation among the OIC Member States. The Secretary General expressed his confidence that the vast experience and able leadership of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL would significantly contribute to the success of the COMCEC.

H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID pointed out that the previous Eight 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 Member States to adopt measures to promote their economic and commercial exchanges.

(A copy of the text of the Statement of H.E. Dr, Hamid AL-GABID, is attached as Annex 3.)

7. H.E. Dr. Haris SILAJDZIC, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, then addressed the Meeting. The Minister, while expressing his thanks to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL and the Government of Turkey for giving him the opportunity of participating in the Session, proceeded to give an account of the Geneva talks as well as of the latest developments concerning the deterioration of the situation threatening the existence of Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina. H.E. SLAJDZIC expressed his thanks to the OIC which had stood by Bosnia-Herzegovina at diplomatic, economic and material levels in its struggle to exist.

8. The Heads of Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Uganda made statements on behalf of the three geographical groups of the Member States they represented. While expressing their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMÎREL for his wise guidance as Chairman of the COMCEC, the Heads of delegation referred to the increasing economic difficulties of Member Countries and the

need for more effective nodes of cooperation. The Heads of Delegation praised the progress achieved by the CCMCSC in the field of economic cooperation among Member Countries. They thanked the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and the People of Turkey for their continued support to economic cooperation among OIC Member States as well as for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

(The texts of the Statements made on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African Member States are attached as Annexes 4, 5 and 6 respectively).

9. In his statement delivered at the opening ceremony, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed ALI, summed up the activities of the Islamic Development Bank and highlighted the progress achieved by the Bank in terms of the studies assigned to it by the COMCEC.

(The text of the Statement of the President of IDS is attached as Annex 7.)

10. Following the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial working Session

11. The Ministerial working Session of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC was held in the afternoon of the same day under the

Chairmanship of His Excellency Erdal İNÖNÜ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

12. The Ministers adopted the Draft Agenda of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC and decided to review Draft Resolutions OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(1) and OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(2) prepared by the Senior Officials, instead of reconsidering the agenda items.

(The Agenda of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC, the Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials and the Report of the Sessional Committee are attached as Annexes 8, 9 and 10 respectively).

13. The Heads of Delegation of Pakistan, Libya, Afghanistan, Sudan, Palestine and Tunisia made statements in which they thanked the President and the Government of Turkey for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. They also stressed the significance of the projects on the agenda of the COMCEC and called upon the Member Countries to adhere to the various Agreements, Schemes and Projects, drawn up in the field of economic cooperation.

14. Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' ZAIBEDAH binti Haji Ahmad, Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey and Rapporteur of the COMCEC, read out Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(1).

The Ministers approved Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(1) together with "The Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States".

15. Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' ZAIBEDAH binti Haji Ahmad then read out Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/B.RES(2) containing resolutions on economic measures in support of Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Uganda and Somalia.

The Ministers also approved Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(2).

16. The Ministers decided to submit, for adoption. Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(1) together with its Annex and Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(2), through their Chairman, His Excellency Erdal İNÖNÜ, at the Closing Session.

Closing Session

17. The Closing Session of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

18. At the Closing Session, His Excellency Erdal İNÖNÜ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Ministerial Session, presented Draft Resolutions OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(1) and OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D.RES(2), as approved by the Ministers.

The Standing Committee adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/RES(1) together with the Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among OIC Member States and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/RES(1), "Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States" and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/9-93/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 11, 12 and 13 respectively, to the present Report).

19. In a special ceremony at the Closing Session the following Member States signed the Agreements indicated below:

Republic of the Gambia:

- Agreements on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments Among Member States of OIC,

Republic of Uganda:

- Framework Agreement on a Preferential Trade System Among Member States of OIC.

Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Islamic States Telecommunication Union.

Republic of Sudan:

- The Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunication Union and the Statute of Islamic Civil Aviation Council.

20. In his statement delivered at the closing session, H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, stressed the significance of the results achieved at the Ninth Session of the COMCEC, and praised the keen interest and wise guidance of H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL in promoting economic cooperation among Member

States. The Secretary General assured the Meeting of the OIC General Secretariat's full cooperation in the follow-up work to ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Ninth Session of the COMCEC.

(The text of the statement of H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, is attached as Annex 14).

21. H.E. Syed Mohammad Ali JAWED, Minister of Planning of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, delivered a speech on behalf of all delegations. H.E. JAWED expressed deep appreciation for the significant results achieved at the Session and for the wise and able leadership and keen interest of President Süleyman DEMİREL in achieving the objectives of the OIC economic cooperation. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Erdal İNÖNÜ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey and Chairman of the Ministerial Session, for his most able and effective chairmanship of the Ministerial Session. H.E. JAWED, also thanked Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' ZAIBEDAH, Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey and Rapporteur of the Session, for the preparation of the Report and Resolutions of the Session. The Minister also thanked the Secretary General, Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, and subsidiary and affiliated institutions of OIC for their contributions in the preparation of the Meeting. Indicating the concrete results achieved at the Session, the Minister expressed his confidence that the decisions adopted would be implemented by the Member States, the General Secretariat and

the OIC organs concerned. The Minister thanked the Government and People of Turkey for the generous hospitality extended to delegates and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Syed Mohammad Ali JAWED is attached as Annex 15).

22. In his closing address, H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the delegations, the General Secretariat and specialized institutions of the OIC, for their valuable efforts and constructive contributions to the work of the Standing Committee. Stating his pleasure at the concrete steps taken to implement the projects on the COMCEC agenda, and particularly at the work initiated to implement the objectives and basic principles of the Strategy adopted at the Session, the President emphasized the importance of the activities of the COMCEC to confront the rapid developments occurring in world economy. H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL wished delegates a safe journey home.

(The text of the closing statement of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL is attached as Annex 16).

II

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

(Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993)

Original : English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS
CONSIDERED AT THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul/ 1-4 September 1993)

	DOCUMENT CODE
1. Background Report by The General Secretariat of OIC	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(1)
2. Report of The Ninth Meeting of The Follow-up Committee of The COMCEC	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/REP
3. Report by The OIC General Secretariat on The Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member States of OIC	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(11)
4. Recommendations on Modalities and Mechanisms of Implementation and Follow-up of The Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries.....	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(14)
5. Report by The ICCICE on The Possible Role of The Private Sector in the Overall Activities of the COMCEC	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(2)
6. Progress Report by ICDT on The Establishment of a Trade Information Network Among the Member States of OIC (TINIC)_____	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(3)
7. Progress Report by IDB on OIC Information Systems Network (OIC-IS NET)	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(4)

	DOCUMENT CODE
8. Report By IDB on The Establishment of The Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarentee Scheme	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(13)
9. Report of the Director General of the Ankara Center (SESRTCIC).	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(6)
10. Progress Report by The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD).....	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(7)
11. Brief Report on the Past and current Economic Situation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(20)
12. Report of the Activites of the Islamic Chamber.....	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(9)
13. Further Consideration of the Possibility of Expediting the Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among Member States	OIC/COMCEC/9-93/D(12)
14. Note presented by the Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries	
15. Report on the Activities of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) (Dhaka).....	(ICTVTR/COMCEC-9)

A N N E X E S

- I -

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993)

Original : English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993)**

A) MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN

- H. E. Syed Mohammad ALI JAWED
Minister of Planning
- Mr. Azim NASSER-ZIA
Charge d'Affair of the Islamic State of
Afghanistan to Turkey
- Mr. Mohammad Farouq BARAKI
Member of Economic and Financial Department
for International Relations
- Mr. Mohammed Sami HAMMOON
Vice President of Foreign Economic
Relations Department

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- H.E. Bashkim KOPLIKU
Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Reform
- H.E. Skender SHKUPI
Ambassador of the Republic of Albania
to Turkey
- Mr. Selim BELORTAJA
Director General of the National Center for
Promotion of Foreign Investments

- Mr. Victor KASIMATI
Director of the Department of the
Economic Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Genc PECANI
Expert on Multilateral Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Orhan ZARSHATI
General Consul of the Republic of Albania
in Istanbul

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- H.E. Abdelmadjid FASLA
Ambassador of the Democratic Republic
of Algeria to Turkey
- Mr. Belkacem SMAILLI
Counsellor,
Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic
of Algeria to Turkey

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- H.E. Saleh MAMMEDOV
Minister of Finance
- H.E. Mehmet ALIEV,
Ambassador of the Republic of
Azerbaijan to Turkey
- Mr. Samir SHARIFOV
Chief of the Division of Multilateral Economic
and Financial Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Tofiq ABDULLAYEV
First Secretary,
Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

STATE OF BAHRAIN

- H.E. Shaikh Isa Bin Mohamed AL-KHALIFA
Ambassador of the State of Bahrain
to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Dr. Ali Abdulla AL-DOY
Counsellor,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- H.E. Mr. M. Saifur RAHMAN
Minister for Finance
Government of Bangladesh
- H.E. Mr. Muhammad Lutfullahil MAJID
Secretary,
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
- H.E. Major General (Ret) Mahmudul HASAN
Ambassador
Bangladesh Embassy in Turkey
- H.E. Syed Muazzam ALI
Director General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. A. Y. Badrul HAYE
Deputy Chief
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN

- H.E. Robert TAGNON
Minister of Planning
- Mr. Cocou TOUKPONOU
Executive Secretary of the Minister
of Transport

BURKINA FASO

- H.E. Oumar DIAWARA
Ambassador of Burkina Faso to
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Mamadou E.LENGANI
Director of Foreign Trade,
Ministry of Industry,
Commerce and Mines
- Dr. Mahmoud COMPAORE
Chief of OIC and African and Arab
Cooperation Section,
Ministry of External Relations

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- Mrs. Hainan ADAMA HALIMA
Deputy Director of Trade
- Mr. Mouhamadou YOUSSEFOU
OIC Expert at the Ministry of External Relations
- Mr. Thomas BABIKUSSANA
Press Attache at the Ministry of Trade and
Industrial Development

REPUBLIC OF CHAD

- Mr. Hinsalbet SOBDIBET
Director for Studies and Economic Development

FEDERAL ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS

- Mr. Hadji Abdallah ABDULHAMID
Consul General of the Federal Islamic Republic
of the Comoros to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- H.E. Youssry MUSTAFA
Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade
- Mr. Raouf Adly SAAD
Deputy Assistant,
Foreign Minister for International
Economic Affairs
- Mr. Saleh FARAD
Commercial Minister Plenipotentiary
- Mrs. Eager EL-ISLAMBOULI
Counsellor,
Head of Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Mohsen HELAL
Commercial Counsellor,
Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade
- Mr. Moustafa EL HALLOWANI
Consul of the Arab Republic of Egypt
in Istanbul

REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA

- Mr. Momodou Ebrahim NJIE
Counsellor,
Embassy of the Republic of Gambia to
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Mam Abdoulie NJIE
Principal Economist,
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

- Mr. Fade BANGOURA
Chief of Cabinet at the Ministry of Trade,
Transport and Tourism
- Mr. Abdoulaye BARRY
National Director of Trade

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- H.E. HARTARTO
Coordinating Minister for Industry and Trade
- H.E. Sukarno ABDULRACHMAN
Ambassador,
Indonesian Embassy to Turkey
- H.E. Rachadi ISKANDAR
Ambassador,
Secretary of the Directorate General for
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Gofar BAIN
Special Assistant to the Minister of Trade,
Ministry of Trade
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Head of Sub Directorate for Economic Cooperation
of the OIC of the Department of Foreign
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- Mr. Aizirman DJUSAN
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- Mr. I.G.Putu SURYAWIRAWAN
Senior Official of the Ministry of Industry
- Mr. Des ALWI
Third Secretary,
Head of Economic Section of the Indonesian
Embassy in Ankara
- Mr. Deden HERMANSJAH
Senior Official of the Office of the
Coordinating Minister of Industry and Trade

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- Mr. Seyyed Abbas ARAGHCHI
Director of OIC Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Mr. Masoud MORTAZAVI
Expert,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

- H.E. Mohammed Mehdi SALEH AL-RAWI
Minister of Trade
- H.E. Rafi Dahham Mejwel EL-TIKRITI
Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Turkey
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- Mr. Muhsin Khadim AHMED
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Third Secretary,
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- Mr. Zahir HABIB
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HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

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Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
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- Mr. Khalid Jassim AL-RUBIA'AN
Director of the Economic Cooperation Department
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Head of the Department,
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- H.E. Kasim Macidovic URAZBAYEV
First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance
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REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

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- Mr. Rashid S. BEYDOUN
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- Mr. Mahmoud Muhtar SHENGIR
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MALAYSIA

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Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

- H.E. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Moummed VALL
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KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

H.E. Rachidi EL GHAZOUANI
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Undersecretary of Ministry of Finance,
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THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

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Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Turkey
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Minister of State and Deputy
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- H.E. Necdet SEÇKİNÖZ
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Chief Adviser to the President of the
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Executive Secretary of the President of the
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REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHISTAN

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D) THE OIC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF OIC

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Secretary General
- H.E. Ousman N.R.OTHMAN
Assistant Secretary General
- H.E. Nabika DIALLO
Ambassador,
Director of Economic Affairs
- Dr. Sayed Anwar ABU ALI
Director of Legal Affairs
- Mr. Mohammad SHOAIB ANSARI
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Administrative Officer (EAD)
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E) THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

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- Mr. İlhan UĞUREL
Senior Economist
- Dr. Abdelrahman ZEINELABDIN
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- Mr. Selim İLKİN
Senior Economist

THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

- Dr. Badre-Eddine ALLALI
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**THE ISLAMIC FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
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- Mr. Arafat R. ALTEMIMI
Director General
- Mr. Mohamed Ali TOURE
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**THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL
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- Prof. Dr. A.M. PATWARI
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Adviser to the Bank
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Acting Director,
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Senior Economist,
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Assistant Secretary General

THE FEDERATION OF CONTRACTORS FROM ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (FCIC)

- H.E. Lahjouji ABDERAHIM
President

THE ISLAMIC SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION

- Mr. Jaffar Mohammed AHMED
Director of Cabinet

6) OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

- Mr. Jorge CHEDIEK
Programme Officer

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
H. E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul/ 3 September 1993)

Original : Turkish

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
H.B. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Honourable Guests,

This is the first time I address you in my capacity as Chairman of the COMCEC. However, I have always closely followed and supported the work of the Organization of the Islamic Conference since its establishment, and the activities of the COMCEC. This support shall never fail you. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Member Countries and all participants for their unfailing interest in the work of the COMCEC and their valuable contributions to our Sessions.

Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

This Committee is part of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It is the economic facet of the political forum of

the Organization. Member States, with various political, economic and social views, gather under the umbrella of our Organization; Countries from Asia, Africa and the Middle East are Members of the Organization.

New members from the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia have now been added to our community, following recent world developments. They have added a new dimension to our Organization. I have no doubt that we shall greatly benefit from their views and contributions. I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to wish them once more a warm welcome.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

With the addition of our new members, our Organization will have to meet the needs of a much larger population and a wider area. Our member countries are situated worldwide and have different development levels.

Being in various parts of the world, Member Countries tend to cope with their economic problems within the framework of the conditions prevailing in their respective countries and in accordance with the requirements of their respective regions.

Public opinion also tends to follow more closely the developments in their respective regions, as they are more likely to have an impact on their daily lives.

It is a difficult task to make headway within an institution like the COMCEC. It requires political will, determination and hard work. It also requires time, and progress will be slow. This being the case, our cooperation must keep alive the interest and support of the authorities as well as those of public opinion.

Our people must therefore be kept adequately informed of the activities of the COMCEC so that they may endorse our efforts.

Distinguished Guests,

Looking back at the activities performed to date by the COMCEC, I note that remarkable steps have been taken to promote cooperation among Member Countries.

The Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme, the Framework Agreement for a Trade Preferential System, the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme are projects which provide opportunity, albeit modest, to Member Countries. I also noted with satisfaction that the work aimed at establishing a Clearing Union has been finalized and that important progress has been achieved as regards Harmonization of Standards.

These are remarkable accomplishments indeed. There is, however, a point I wish to stress: Member Countries must prove to the Islamic Community and the world at large their will to strengthen cooperation in the framework of the COMCEC by adhering, as early as possible, to the agreements and

arrangements concluded, in order to accelerate their implementation.

Distinguished Ministers,

I firmly believe that the COMCEC will henceforth enter a new phase. I am further convinced that, in the light of world developments, our Organization must acquire a new substance.

Traditional political blocs are disappearing and liberal trends are on the rise in the world. Technological advances disregard boundaries and generate important changes. There is constant progress in the information, transportation and communications fields. Thought is being given to a globalization process.

Whereas the world is involved in a process of economic, political and cultural integration, we nevertheless note that some dangerous trends are being stirred and abetted. In this connection, I refer particularly to those who discriminate between Christians and Moslems. The number of the latter is increasing after the collapse of communism.

Distinguished Guests,

Given the fact that economic activities have, to a large extent, embarked upon a process of international interaction, various issues must be assessed in a spirit of greater solidarity.

Our Organization has a special significance in this regard. Due to its nature, it differs from regional organizations. The fundamental elements that bring our populations closer together are a common religion and shared values. It is but natural that we benefit from these factors. But, shall we do it by isolating ourselves from the rest of the world? This is no longer possible in today's world.

The contemporary world requires a solidarity which, instead of being isolationist, must be all-embracing and contribute to strengthen cooperation among member countries. Such an approach may even be able to prevent the artificial tensions which are being fomented by some factions in the world. The main deterrent in this regard is economic cooperation and the COMCEC may be instrumental in this context.

Distinguished Ministers,

It is my firm belief that economic cooperation in the framework of the Islamic Conference should be secured through the regional institutions to which member countries belong.

For example, Turkey is a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as well as of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC); it is at the same time an active member of the COMCEC. However, none of these organizations vie with one another; in Turkey's view, they are complementary. Bilateral

relations, established with countries in our region, reinforce other arrangements.

Our main cooperation objective at the BSEC and ECO is the establishment of the physical and legal infrastructure needed to ensure, as much as possible, the free circulation of persons, goods and services in the region covered by these two organizations.

We firmly believe that trade and economic cooperation will be greatly enhanced, once such an infrastructure is in place.

In our view, the COMCEC constitutes an important means whereby this cooperation could also extend beyond the region to which we belong, supported by our brothers with whom we share common values. We believe that, thanks to the COMCEC, a sister African country will more easily find business opportunities in our region, and every country in our region can benefit from cooperation channels created or to be created by the COMCEC with a sister African country.

Turkey is also an associate member of the EEC. The customs union will be established by the end of 1995. This is a different kind of integration. However, any COMCEC member country, which so wishes, will be able to benefit from access to European markets through Turkey.

I believe that a situation similar to that of Turkey could be achieved through the regional cooperation arrangements to which any COMCEC member country adheres.

Within such a complex structure, the fundamental factor which will weave a fabric beneficial to each member country, and ensure a smooth flowing circulation is the private sector. Viewed from this angle, the private sector may be compared to the blood running in our veins. We have to create the adequate infrastructure to ensure such sound circulation.

Honourable Guests,

The new cooperation strategy, drawn up thanks to the valuable contributions of Member Countries and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, reflects extremely important principles and objectives. Objectives which today constitute the basic elements of progress and development, namely economic liberalization, free trade, the role of the private sector, integration and globalization, environmental protection and development of human resources.

For all those reasons, I believe that, at the next stage, our priorities should focus on the establishment of cooperation among the private sectors of our respective countries. The private sector is the instrument that will enable us to exploit at best the potentials existing in each member country, and will

create among us the required mechanisms at the lowest cost. It is of crucial importance that we evolve the means whereby to reap the greatest benefits from the boundless creativity of the private sector. It is, however, necessary to do so in consultation with the private sector. This will provide the COMCEC with stronger momentum.

I sincerely hope that you will give due consideration to this issue during your deliberations.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Guests,

The cooperation that we aim to achieve will not only strengthen the bonds of peace and friendship that unite us, but will also contribute to the stability to which our region and the world at large aspire.

Public support to our efforts will increase if we promptly implement the resolutions adopted to date, as well as those to be adopted at this meeting. I wish to reiterate, at this juncture, that Turkey will spare no effort in providing full support to the efforts made to strengthen economic cooperation among member countries.

I wish you full success in your work and a pleasant stay in Turkey.

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STATEMENT BY H.E. OB. HAMID AL-GABID,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Original : French

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HAMID AL-GABID,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Your Excellency, Mr. Süleyman DEMÎREL,
President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of the COMCEC,
Your Excellency, Mr. Erdal İNÖNÜ, Deputy Prime Minister of
the Republic of Turkey,
Your Excellencies, the Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to extend, on behalf of the OIC, my best greetings to you, Mr. President, and, through you, to the great people of Turkey; I would also like to express our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome and fraternal and generous hospitality accorded to us on the soil of Turkey, which has so greatly contributed to the propagation of Islamic culture and civilization in the world.

It has now become a tradition for us to gather each year in this beautiful and historical city of Istanbul, in order to assess intra-Islamic cooperation within the framework of the COMCEC.

However, our meeting, this year, has a particular significance as it is the first to take place after the demise of President Turgut ÖZAL, who spared no effort in promoting intra-Islamic cooperation during his tenure as Chairman of the COMCEC.

Let us pay tribute to him and may he be accorded Allah's blessings and mercy in his final abode.

President Süleyman DEMÎREL, who now stands at the helm, as President of Turkey and new Chairman of the COMCEC, is an eminent statesman whose outstanding leadership qualities we fully appreciated when he was Prime Minister of Turkey and Alternate Chairman of the COMCEC.

I would like to reiterate to President Demirel my sincere congratulations for his accession to these two high offices, and express my conviction that the COMCEC will greatly benefit from his extensive experience.

I also avail myself of this joyful occasion to express my sincere congratulations to H.E. Mrs. Tansu ÇİLLER for her accession to the Premiership of the Republic of Turkey and the Alternate Chairmanship of the COMCEC.

COMCEC is indeed lucky to continue to benefit from Mrs. CİLLER'S great capability and experience.

I would also like to greet H.E. Erdal İNÖNÜ, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

Mr. Chairman,

Our meeting comes at a particularly difficult moment for the Islamic Ummah; a period witnessing the sluggish beginnings of a new world order rising from the rubble of the old international system, whose hallmark was the antagonism between blocs.

The setting up of the COMCEC by the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit, thanks to the decisive initiative of H. M. Khaled Ibn ABDEL-AZIZ, then sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (may Allah bless him with his mercy) was indeed an act of faith and of Islamic solidarity, but it was also a joint response to the new challenges growing out of the frustrated hopes of the 1970s for a new international order, and the re-emergence of the hegemonistic designs of the 1980s. Today, as any hopes of benefitting from the dividends of the peace between the blocs have been dispelled, the nucleus of the new world order which, until quite recently, was claimed to be fairer and more equitable, has already proven to be tainted with the same flaws of the old order, in view of its most harmful impact on the economic, political and cultural conditions of the less affluent of this world, the Muslims in particular.

Today, we witness a double unpunished crime of aggression and genocide against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, unfolding before an impassive International Community. In every way, this conflict reveals that double standards, so reviled in the past,

are still the norm, a fact which does not bode well for a fair and equitable new international order based on the universal principles of liberty, equality and respect for the fundamental rights of mankind.

With all the means at its disposal, the Organization of the Islamic Conference has endeavoured at best to awaken the conscience of the world and call its attention to the dire consequences that could ensue from this shameful tragedy transpiring in the very heart of the world, which claims to be civilized, and loudly voices its commitment to the principles of liberty and the protection of human rights.

The international community, paralyzed in the face of the divergent interests of the major powers in the Balkans and the emerging various alliances in the region, remained impassive before the flagrant violations of the principles of the UN Charter. Yet it is undoubtedly an aggression against an independent and sovereign state, in addition to being flagrant violations of the decisions taken by the International Conference, held in London, on the former Yugoslavia, and the aberrations of international negotiations which, slipping from concession to concession to the Serbs, have entrenched their territorial acquisitions through the use of force and heinous "ethnic cleansing" and placed the victim before an inhuman dilemma: abdicate or disappear.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate the support of the OIC to the courageous decisions taken by the Bosnian Parliament with regard to the new plan worked out by the Geneva negotiations. This stand proves, once again, the spirit of cooperation manifested by the Bosnian side throughout the UN/EEC process aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We call for appropriate changes to the peace plan so as to take into account the legitimate concerns of the Bosnian Muslims. It would indeed be a serious error to persist in legalizing a de facto situation brought about by genocide and aggression; it would be a dangerous precedent for peace and security in the region of the Balkans as well as worldwide.

The delineation of the map of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be an imperative action for everyone, so that the country becomes a viable state, an undivided entity, with access to the sea. All the zones, basically Islamic, which were occupied through the use of force and subjected to ethnic cleansing must be evacuated, and all the needed conditions ensured so that all the displaced persons may return to their land in honour and dignity. The territorial adjustments must correspond to the percentage of the communities that constitute the State, the international legal identity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be maintained and international guarantees must be provided throughout the peace process.

The OIC urges the International Community, in particular the Security Council and the co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, to give due recognition of the stand taken by the Bosnian Parliament and exert efforts to ensure a just and equitable settlement, in consonance with the principles agreed upon by the London Conference.

I wish, at this juncture, to hail the efforts made by the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference who provided a substantial humanitarian assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the Muslim people and refugees, and put some of their troops at the disposal of the UN forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A special tribute must be paid to the government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the very positive role played by them, whether at NATO and other international organs' levels, or at that of the ministerial mission recently sent by the OIC to the capitals of the permanent members of the Security Council and other European Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The stands taken by the International Community in the face of the Bosnian tragedy is, to a great extent, similar to that of the major powers with regard to the tragedy of the Palestinian people. In both cases, an entire nation has long been denied the enjoyment of the most elementary rights recognized worldwide to

other peoples, and is falling prey to a ferocious aggression and the loss of its national soil, in defiance of international law and humane principles.

We rejoice today at the emerging outline of a peace plan between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We would nevertheless point out that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East must necessarily be preceded by the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Al Quds Al Sharif. The Palestinian people must exercise their inalienable national rights, including the right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent Palestinian State on their national soil, with Al Quds Al Sharif as their capital.

The Holy city of Al Quds is at the very heart of the Palestinian question, and is an integral part of the territories occupied in 1967. The rules applying to the other occupied territories also apply to it, according to the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, the continued occupation and aggression of Israel against the Palestinian and Arab people, the ethnic cleansing of

the Serbs against the Bosnian Muslims, the unjust war imposed on Azerbaijan by Armenia; tomorrow, maybe, our sister Republic Albania will have to face, alone, its own tragedy, just as our Palestinian, bosnian and Azeri brothers do.

Such occurrences should galvanize the OIC Member States into endeavouring, more than even before, to intensify intra-Islamic cooperation which shall provide our Ummah with economic bases" that will enable muslims and their nations to contribute more efficaciously and more vigorously to the solution of the problems of our era.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the fact that COMCEC was entrusted with the promotion of the rapid economic development of our Member States, through a closer cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels, it is opportune, today, to assess our action and identify the means whereby to better adapt this action to the realities of the present world.

It is gratifying to note, in this connection, that, in the framework of the COMCEC, two meetings of experts have already taken place to draw-up the new strategy aimed at strengthening the cooperation and economic integration process among Member States.

I wish to emphasize that, in order to be effective, this strategy should take due account of the following:

- Compile a list of organizations existing at regional level, which share similar objectives of cooperation and economic integration, support them and profit by the experience acquired in this domain;
- Provide OIC assistance to the regional organizations involved in economic cooperation;
- Identify the ways and means whereby to efficiently implement the decisions taken by Islamic Summits, the COMCEC and Ministerial Meetings held at all levels, with a view to promoting cooperation and gradually ensuring economic integration among Member States;
- Build-up the means and capacities of the General Secretariat, and those of the relevant subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions so that they may be able to carry out the tasks entrusted to them for the implementation of the new Plan of Action to be drawn up;
- Take due account of national policies as well as of the solidarity needed among OIC Member States:

In this connection, special attention should be paid to the difficult situation encountered by the least developed,

landlocked and/or Sahelian Member States in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Within the frameworks of the implementation of the Plan of Action to strengthen intra-Islamic cooperation, I had proposed during the Seventh Session of the COMCEC, that dynamic measures be taken to raise the total amount of intra-Islamic trade from 10% in 1990 to 50% by the year 2000.

I remain convinced that this objective can be achieved if we demonstrate the political will needed to attain it.

Mr. Chairman,

Trade is one of the driving forces of development. However, we note today, more than ever before, that the GATT negotiations have come to a standstill, that developed countries are organizing themselves into powerful economic blocs and that they are escalating protectionism to the detriment of products from developing countries.

Producers and economic operators in our countries are victims of the protectionist policy of developed countries, and all forms of pressure are increasingly brought to bear on us in our endeavours to increase our production and exports, in order

to acquire the foreign currencies required to import the equipment direly needed by our industries, agriculture, transport and communications and social infrastructures.

The condition of our countries is further aggravated by the growing deterioration of the terms of trade and the natural disasters which regularly plague some of our countries, such as drought in the Sahelian African member Countries and the various wars and internal conflicts that devastate economic and social infrastructures and reduce populations to utter misery.

The only alternative for us to cope with these challenges is to organise and strengthen intra-Islamic cooperation in order to promote the numerous human and material resources which Allah bestowed on us, namely by encouraging the private sector to play a more active role in our joint effort.

In this respect, the initiative of a private group in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, supported by the OIC General Secretariat, has indeed been encouraging. A joint mission, sent within this framework, to Cameroon and Benin, two Member States of our Organisation, revealed the existence of enormous potentials which need to be rationally exploited.

Such initiatives deserve to be more systematically undertaken so that the political decisions and commitments of our ministerial Councils and Summit Meetings can be conveyed by a

network of private groups and non-governmental institutions which, alone, can ensure their concrete and effective implementation.

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Deputy Prime Minister,
Dear Brothers,

It is gratifying to note that the COMCEC continues to exert all possible efforts to set up the instruments needed to attain our common objectives. I avail myself of this opportunity, to laud the efforts made by each and everyone to render operational the Trade Preferential System among Member States, the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Scheme and the Integrated Information Systems in the trade and business fields.

I therefore call on all Member States to continue to work closely together with a view to implementing the decisions taken by the COMCEC so as to ensure the full success of the systems set up under our various agreements.

I am convinced that the Ninth Session of the COMCEC will not fail to adopt the adequate measures needed to strengthen intra-Islamic Cooperation. On its part, the General Secretariat shall spare no effort to ensure the implementation of your decisions and recommendations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman and I wish every success to your deliberations.

Wassalamou Alaykoum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatouh.

4 -

SPEECH OF H.E. YOUSRI MOUSTAFA
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND
FOREIGN TRADE OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Original : Arabic

**SPEECH OP H.E. DR. YOUSRI MOUSTAFA
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND
FOREIGN TRADE OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Bismillahi Al Rahman Al Rahim

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members,

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahaatullah Wa Barakatuh.

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this Ninth Session of the COMCEC which is a true image of the close cooperation existing within the Islamic world.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express my warm thanks to H.E. Süleyman Demirel, the President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, who graciously sponsors it. My thanks are also extended to the Turkish Government, headed by H.E. Mrs. Tansu Çiller for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference, and I wish the Turkish people progress and prosperity.

The experiment of the joint Islamic action, in addition to the various international changes that have occurred in recent years call for a number of policies, the most important being the following:

1. To finalize the operational programme of the strategy aimed at promoting economic cooperation and development to be agreed upon by us all. It will constitute the framework for our activities to which we should be committed to ensure a better future for our people, taking into account the Islamic values and aspirations, the realities dictated by the changing international variables and the recommendations on the Strategy for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Islamic States, made by the Dakar Conference, and previous Meetings of Experts, the most recent of which was held in Cairo in February 1993; taking also into account those to be made by our present Session.

2. To consolidate existing organs and mechanisms involved in economic affairs, and consolidate as well the organization of the Islamic Conference to enhance its effectiveness so as to enable it to ensure a sustained economic development, as well as raise its efficiency so that it may achieve Islamic economic cooperation, and integration.

3. To increase the resources earmarked for socio-economic development in our Islamic countries, consolidate intra-Arab economic relations, identify input markets and facilitate their

circulation in their interest and mutual benefits. It is no secret to you that economic interests and mutual benefit are one of the mainstays of international relations in our contemporary world.

4. To provide the appropriate socio-economic conditions needed to bring the Islamic economy and society to the threshold of the 21st century, inter alia widen the scope of joint developmental efforts and enlarge the role of the private sector in this connection. It might be opportune, in this regard, to request the relevant OIC organs to undertake a study on the possibilities of widening the base of private property in Member States, through appropriate means, such as promotion, and financing for the purchase of public financial fixed productive assets, whose ownership each Member State decides to transfer to the private sector.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,

May I be permitted to recall to your excellencies some of the principles of the Plan of Joint Islamic Action approved by the Makka Al Mokarrama Conference of 1981, and reaffirmed by the Dakar Declaration of 1991. They all aim at attaining the objectives of the Islamic Ummah, through greater self-reliance, promotion of Islamic cooperation in all productive and investment areas, and a wider scope of commercial exchanges in goods and services among Islamic States; to this end, better conditions and

appropriate facilities should be provided by all the organs established by the OIC. The Declaration emphasized the pilot and ongoing role of the COMCEC, the need to lift all constraints on Intra-Islamic trade and encourage the principle of privileged nation in all forms of transactions among Islamic States, taking all the measures needed to set up the Islamic Common Market, according to the resolution adopted in 1993, in Karachi, by the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

A brief look at recent economic developments at the level of the Arab region indicates a drop in the flow of external resources to the Arab States, a paucity of direct foreign investments and an unchanging annual growth rate of Arab trade by 3%.

The flow of external resources to the Arab States dropped from about US\$ 12.4 billion in 1985 to US\$ 6.7 billion in 1991 and, accordingly, net transfers (excluding interest and transfer of profits) dropped from US\$ 7.7 billion to US\$ 1.6 billion over that same period.

The share of Arab States in direct foreign investments was about US\$ 2.3 billion in 1991, or merely 1.3% of said investments worldwide, which amounted to US\$ 184 billion during that year. The direct intra-Arab investments was of the order of US\$ 228 million, in 1987, which rose to US\$ 923 million in 1991. It is noteworthy that the various Arab economic conferences and meetings have endorsed the principle of the free circulation of

inputs among Arab States to facilitate the establishment of Arab joint ventures, given the fact that the availability of said inputs varies from one country to another and their combination, through free circulation, would yield steady returns to the various Arab economics.

The volume of Arab trade has remained unchanged over recent years, its annual growth rate never exceeding 3%.

The main characteristics of Arab trade have not variant for a long time, as regards the ratio raw materials and fuels-overall exports, and that of manufactured goods-overall imports. However, there are indications of a weaker reliance by Arab States on export of raw materials and tangible emphasis by them on industrial exports.

As regards geographical distribution, Western Europe, Japan and the United States have still the largest share in Arab trade, and intra-Arab trade accounts only for 9% of total foreign trade, despite the numerous available opportunities and the potentials for unlimited growth.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,

I have endeavoured in the above paragraphs to give a brief outline of the conditions prevailing in the Arab region, as regards investments, flow of resources, and trade, laying emphasis on the fact that the Islamic world is an indivisible

whole. Hence, cooperation among our States is an inescapable fact and a duty ordained by the Almighty in His Holy Book. We must remain committed to the economic cooperation process among Member States and lay the bases that will enable us to grow and develop. The course of the Islamic World, sponsored by Islamic Summits, has secured numerous achievements. The Organization of the Islamic Conference was established to consolidate this noble work; the Islamic Solidarity Fund was set up, as well as the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, as a standing experts' committee to consider the various cooperations fields. Three Standing Committees were also established: one for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, one for Information and Cultural Affairs and the third for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), under whose umbrella we meet today.

The COMCEC has to its credit successes in new fields, and has laid sound bases for economic and commercial cooperation among Islamic States. The fruits of its labour are three important agreements: the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States, which came into effect in 1980; the Agreement on the Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments, which entered into effect in 1988, and the Framework agreement on the System of Trade Preferences among Member States.

Egypt was at the forefront of cooperation with all Islamic States, under these three agreements; it ratified the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation in 1978, signed the Agreement on the Protection and Guarantee of investments in 1985 and is presently considering the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferences among Member States.

I wish, at this juncture, to recall the recommendations made by the Second Meeting of Expert on the drawing up of a new strategy for economic cooperation, which met in Cairo from 16 to 18 February 1993, and devised new ideas for economic cooperation among Islamic States, notably:

1. To encourage joint ventures among the various groups of Islamic States;
2. To encourage economic activities in order to create a climate propitious to integration;
3. To give a more effective role to the private sector in the economic activities of the organization;
4. To lay emphasis on technical cooperation, exchange information and technology, develop human resources and encourage the complementarity of skills among Member States;
5. To encourage the recourse to modern methods and mechanisms, in order to promote joint investments among Member States, giving a prominent role to the private sector and

emphasizing the importance of joint ventures as a main basis for cooperation.

This issue was one of the main points considered by the Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, which was held in Istanbul in May 1993. It was also considered by the Senior Officials who met two days ago.

Before concluding my statement, I wish to indicate Egypt's stand as regards the most important issues to be considered by our present Meeting:

1. It fully supports the recommendations of the Second Meeting of Experts on the drawing up of a new strategy for economic cooperation among Member States. I take pleasure, in this connection, to inform you that Egypt's economic policy is in consonance with these recommendations;

2. It attaches importance to the involvement of the private sector in the economic development of Islamic Member States, and to a prominent role given to it through COMCEC. In this regard, it supports the recommendation made at various meetings to the effect of establishing a business forum, in coordination with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange, to consider investment opportunities and projects in Member States and promote them, reporting regularly to the COMCEC;

3. To accelerate the procedures needed for the implementation of the Trade Information Network of the OIC, so

that it can become operational and provide facilities that will promote economic commercial and investment cooperation among Member States.

4. It deems that the IDE Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme is one of the most up-to-date mechanisms to promote cooperation among OIC Member States. We hope that further efforts shall be made by our countries to ensure that this scheme becomes operational as early as possible.

And, finally, I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate my thanks to the Government of Turkey for its hosting of this Session and the measures it has taken to ensure its success.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,

I thank you for your kind attention.

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

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STATEMENT OF H.E. M. SAIFUR RAHMEN
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
NINTH SESSION OF COMCEC

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Original : English

STATEMENT OF H.E. M. SAIFUR RAHMEN
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Bismillah-hir-Rahmanir-Rahim

Your **Excellency** Hr. Salesman DEMİREL,
President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of the COMCEC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues and Brothers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalumu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Habarakatuhu.

I deem it a privilege and an honour to take part in the Ninth Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) being held in this historic and beautiful city of Istanbul. Turkey has, for centuries, played a leading role in favour of the Islamic Ummah. As a founding member of the OIC, she has made sincere and persistent efforts to promote all-round cooperation amongst the Muslim Countries.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to pay our sincere tribute to the late President of the Republic of Turkey and our

great brother and friend Turgut ÖZAL in whom we have lost a pioneering Islamic leader. I vividly recall my last meeting with him during the Eighth Session of COMCEC here in Istanbul last year. I was deeply touched by his personal commitment to the cause of the Islamic Umma and his care and concern for the welfare of Muslims throughout the world. As Chairman of the COMCEC, the late President Turgut ÖZAL has guided our deliberations with exemplary dedication and sincerity. We are indeed grateful to him for the outstanding contributions that he made to strengthen and consolidate cooperation among the OIC countries, particularly in the areas of economic and commercial cooperation. May Allah grant his soul eternal peace.

On behalf of the Asian Members of the COMCEC. I have the pleasure and privilege to convey the deep appreciation of the members of our group for the inspiring and thought-provoking inaugural address of His Excellency Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey. The distinguished President, in his inaugural address, has clearly underscored the important role the COMCEC could play in promoting and enhancing the economic and commercial interests of the OIC Countries. President Demirel has correctly identified the substantive issues must consider at this Meeting and for which effective measures and concrete actions should be taken so that our deliberations at COMCEC could be meaningful and productive. His words of wisdom, we hope, will guide our deliberations to fruitful conclusions.

May I also put on record our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government and the brotherly people of Turkey for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality that have been extended to us since our arrival in this historic city. We compliment them for the excellent arrangements that they have made for this conference.

Mr. Chairman

The current Session of COMCEC is taking place at a crucial juncture in the history of our Ummah. We have witnessed momentous changes during the last decade of an eventful century. The end of the cold war, the east-west reconciliations and the rising tide in favour of democracy, and the free market have dramatically transformed the international scene governing relationship between states and between regions. We had hoped that these changes would lead to a new era of cooperation and dialogue. Unfortunately, however, simmering discontent and violent conflicts still ravage various parts of the world. It is particularly tragic that the Muslim countries located in different continents, have become targets of various forms of aggression and persecutions. Mr. Chairman, it is to be regretted that while nations are committing themselves to a more democratic social order respect and for human rights, in some parts of the Globe we are faced by double standard practices in dealing with crucial international issues. We feel dismayed at the gross violations of human rights and perpetration of genocide in

Bosnia-Herzegovina under the very eyes of the countries who claim to be the champions of human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

The international economic scene continues to be alarming and complex, the members of the OIC are developing countries and about half of them are least developed. In the midst of the current global recession and uncertainties, they are undergoing a critical phase. Unfortunately, The evolving East-West reconciliations have as yet not had any appreciable impact on bridging the gap between the North and the South. The continued economic recession and uncertainties and the emergence of new trade blocs and rise of protectionism have created serious problems for all OIC countries. Furthermore, unstable exchange and interest rates have not only compounded the debt problems but also resulted in the reduction in the capital flows and investments. The imposition of a new standard also aggravated the crisis.

We must face these challenges with unity and solidarity. The members of our Organisation account for 20% of the world population, 50% of the world's oil resources and 40% of the world's exports of raw materials. There are enough complementarities in our economies for mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, scientific and technological cooperation and manpower exchanges. By a concerted

joint plan of action, as mandated by the historic Makkah declaration, we may judiciously use our resources for our common benefit. We may substantially enhance our trade and economic cooperation through rationalisation of tarriff structures and introduction of preferential trading arrangements amongst Muslim countries. In recognition of these vast potentials, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh at the Third Islamic Summit Conference, held in Taif, in 1981 floated the idea of forming an Islamic Common Market as a long term OIC objective. We should take practical steps to that end and approach this issue on a mutually reinforcing basis at bilateral, sub-regional, regional and interregional levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Our objective is to build a strong prosperous, and self reliant Islamic Ummah. We should, therefore face the challenges and opportunities to our Ummah with unity, solidarity and commitment. We seek Almighty Allah's blessings to attain these lofty goals.

I thank you Mr. Chairman

I thank you all.

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SPEECH OF THE HONOURABLE MATTHEW RUKIKAIRE
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Original : English

**SPEECH OF THE HONOURABLE MATTHEW RUKIKAIRE
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Your Excellency Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC,
Your Excellency Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey,
Your Excellency, the Secretary General of the OIC,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalaam Alaykum.

I would like at the outset, to extend, on behalf of the African group, our deepest sorrow to Your Excellency, Mr. President, and through you to the government and people of Turkey for the tragic demise of H.E. President Turgut ÖZAL. When we met last year, it was under his chairmanship and we recall vividly the very many words of wisdom imparted to the 8th Session of the COMCEC. The African Group is deeply indebted to the leadership provided by the late President to the COMCEC, in particular, and to the OIC in general. We pray for his soul.

We are greatly honoured and encouraged that the mantle of leadership has been passed into the very competent hands of H.E. President Süleyman DEMIREL under whose chairmanship the 9th Session of COMCEC is being held. We trust that, under your leadership, the COMCEC will grow to greater heights and we wish you the best of luck and Allah's guidance.

I would also like to join the Secretary General of the OIC in congratulating Your Excellency on your election as President of the Republic of Turkey. We wish you Allah's guidance.

Through you, Your Excellency, we would like to express our gratitude to the government and people of this country for the exceptional traditional hospitality that we continue to receive during these COMCEC meetings. A visit back to Istanbul, is something all of us look forward to.

Your Excellency,

We have been greatly inspired by your statement and it has set a clear tone for our meeting. Your analysis of the OIC growth and its potential and the projection of the direction into which it must move have been noted. I would like to single out the emphasis you have put on regional cooperation and eventual integration as well as on the role of the private sector. You are also looking forward to the free circulation of people, goods and services within the OIC. All these are noble ideals.

We do appreciate your observation that Turkey, as a prospective full member of the EEC, would become a vital bridgehead linking OIC member countries to the crucial industrial markets in Europe.

We are meeting at a time when most of our economies in Africa are undergoing major economic transformation. These developments, naturally, call for enormous resources, but more importantly require closer economic and commercial cooperation among African countries and among OIC Member States. We therefore call upon all members of the OIC to sign and ratify all the relevant agreements aimed at promoting this cooperation.

One of the instruments of this economic transformation was to liberalise and privatise economic activity. We therefore call on the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and the IDB to intensify efforts to promote cooperation among the private sectors of the OIC Member States. The Member States themselves should ensure that the private sector is given an environment enabling it to contribute to national development. There is indeed a complementarity within the OIC which could effectively be exploited to the , mutual advantage of us all. Some member countries have enormous resources that could be invested while others have comparatively low cost labour, as well as growing regional markets. Real investment flows must therefore be generated and these could be in the form of direct investments or joint ventures.

On the African Continent, major efforts are needed to create viable and effective regional economic groupings aimed at harmonizing economic policies and exploiting larger markets. Some of these groups are already showing real dividends. We want the OIC to note and acknowledge these developments so as to indicate that investment possibilities exist within the OIC and, consequently, resources should be redirected appropriately. Investment in one OIC state in Africa opens up new market horizons even in non-OIC African Countries, to the mutual benefit of them all.

Your Excellency,

Time and events dictate that Member States make use of the OIC and of its organs to foster closer economic and commercial cooperation among themselves. We therefore need to work tirelessly, within the COMCEC, to translate its resolutions into practical terms. This is the only way our economies can grow and ensure the progress and well being of our people.

Having heard the deeply touching statement of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, my colleagues will agree with me and allow me, on their behalf, to express our solidarity with the suffering people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and hope that the forces of evil will be defeated.

Your Excellency,

Let me once again thank you for honouring us with your presence and for your inspiring statement. Please convey our thanks to your government and the people of Turkey for the hospitality extended to us during our meeting.

Finally, it is my pleasure to convey to you the greetings and best wishes of H.E. President Y. MUSEVEWI, President of the Republic of Uganda

I thank you.

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**SPEECH OF DR. AHMAD MOHAMMED ALI
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Original : English

**SPEECH OF DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 3 September 1993)

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Glory and Praise be to Allan Almighty and Peace and Blessings be upon our Prophet who has been sent by his Lord as a Mercy to the Worlds, and upon his Family and Companions.

Your Excellency, President Süleyman DEMİREL,
President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the
COMCEC,
Your Excellency, Erdal İNÖNÜ, Deputy Prime Minister and
Alternate Chairman of COMCEC,
Your Excellency, Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General
of the Organization of Islamic Conference,
Your Excellencies,
Heads and Members of the Distinguished Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh!

On behalf of the Delegation of the Islamic Development Bank,
I would like to express to Your Excellency my warmest
congratulations for assuming the Chairmanship of the OIC Standing
Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC). It is

also my great pleasure to express my sincerest thanks and highest tribute for the valuable efforts that Your Excellency exerts in supporting this Committee, and for the generous and continued sponsorship by the Republic of Turkey of COMCEC activities.

It is not surprising that COMCEC is accorded this sponsorship by no less a personality who hosted the first Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Countries which was held in Turkey when our dear Organization was established. Your Excellency has had a prominent role at the initial stages - a role that had found expression in immense activities that have since been carried out, and are still being carried out, by the Republic of Turkey within the Organization. The leadership of The Republic of Turkey of COMCEC is but an expression of its active and prominent role in the Organization.

This continued sponsorship by the Republic of Turkey has had a positive impact on the efforts of COMCEC at implementing the recommendations and directives of the Makkah Al Mukarramah Declaration and the Plan of Action for the development of economic and commercial cooperation. This is in addition to the Resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences in the field of economic cooperation among the Islamic countries.

While welcoming your Chairmanship of the Committee, at the first meeting to be held after the passing away of Late President Turgut Özal, we simultaneously pray to the Almighty Allah to keep

his soul in peace and give him ample reward for his commendable efforts he exerted to serve this Committee during his two terms that he served respectively as Alternate Chairman and then as Chairman. His keenness at attending all meetings and participating actively in all activities, as manifestations of his desire for the economic development of our Muslim Ummah and its aspirations for better living conditions, must be placed on record.

We no sooner arrive to this time-honoured City than we are highly impressed by the remarkable preparations made to ensure the success of this Meeting. It is our duty, therefore, to record *our* deepest gratitude and to express our highest appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements and for the generous hospitality and brotherly welcome extended to all participants.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to extend my welcome to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina and through him to the Mujahideen in Bosnia-Herzegovina. IDB is exerting the utmost of its modest efforts at its disposal in cooperating with the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in matters of humanitarian assistance. His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina has appealed for support for its reconstruction after peace is achieved in that dear part of the world. I would like to emphasise in this respect that the Board of Executive Directors

of IDB has approved a sum of 15 million dollars to be the basis of the reconstruction fund. I pray for Allah Almighty to grant victory to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Chairman,

We should pause to give serious reflection to the valuable address with which you have opened this Conference. It contains ideas and directives to which the Conference should devote due attention so that they can be added to Your Excellency's distinguished record in supporting joint efforts of Member Countries of the OIC and to the great assistance extended by Turkey to COMCEC since its establishment.

Of particular significance is the importance which Your Excellency has attached to the reinforcement of economic cooperation between Islamic Countries at the level of regional groups, as a complementary measure for achieving the goals of economic cooperation at the level of COMCEC. To this must be added the desire for enlarging the scope of cooperation between regional groups as a means of reinforcing cooperation at the level of the entire Islamic Ummah. I am pleased to confirm that IDB has accorded special importance to the question of regional cooperation between its Member Countries.

Your Excellency has also referred to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Cooperation between ECO and IDB is developing rapidly since the Cooperation Agreement between the

two Organizations was signed during the Summit Meeting of the ECO which your esteemed country hosted last July.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman to hail the address of H.E. Br. Hamid Al Gabid, the Secretary General of the OIC, which has outlined the course of joint economic cooperation throughout the existence of COMCEC. It also contained very useful observations on the means of reinforcing economic cooperation between Member Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Your speech has addressed the importance of the main item of the agenda of this meeting and you have praised the working out of new strategies for cooperation between Member Countries in the light of the deep and rapid changes that are currently being witnessed in the world, as well as in the light of the experience of COMCEC in its first generation.

IDB, takes pride in the outcome of its constructive cooperation with your esteemed Committee, and commends your continued efforts at achieving common goals in the field of economic development and trade promotion. The Bank is indeed pleased to note that you have placed at the top of your agenda today an item pertaining to this subject. This is considered a major issue, not only on the agenda of this blessed gathering, but on all COMCEC agenda since its establishment. The emphasis which the Committee lay on this subject demonstrates in fact the

attention which it devotes to the new strategy and its keenness to formulate a practical, realistic and global strategy comprising all aspects of economic cooperation. This is particularly with regard to its implementation, with realistic regard to its ability to take into consideration existing circumstances, actual needs and available and potential means.

It is hoped that the Plan will take into consideration all aspects of economic cooperation, and lay down the means for mobilizing needed efforts in a coordinated framework for achieving a definite target in each field. It should be expressed in terms of the specific level which joint action should reach during the 1990s and the higher level which should be achieved during the first decade of the next century. For the Specialized Organs, it is also hoped that the plan would lay down subsidiary objectives as well as specific duties so that each organization shall achieve the targets and obligations assigned to each of them in accordance with its field of specialization.

The IDB hopes that the directives of your esteemed Committee regarding the preparation of the Plan would benefit from all resolutions of Summit meetings, Conferences of Foreign Ministers and sectoral Ministerial meetings held with the support of COMCEC or other organizations with regard to joint economic action. These could constitute a basic source of reference for this Plan which should also devolve to the private sector the responsibilities which suit its potential to achieve its targets.

The Plan should also stay away from generalizations, as mentioned earlier, and focus on realistic objectives, laying down mechanisms and modes of implementation, that take into consideration negative and positive aspects of earlier experiments. A close scrutiny should be made of the valuable ideas and initiatives reflected in previous resolutions in the various economic fields and which we have not been able to implement. The plan should comprise a linkage between each element and the party entrusted with its implementation. It should also have a follow-up follow-up mechanism for implementation according; to time schedules.

The IDB which has been honoured in closely cooperating with the Committee, weald be pleased to provide all possible assistance in organising series of meetings for the experts who will be entrusted with the formulation of sectoral plans on clear and specific basis.

It would also be pleased to organize a meeting of an expert group to review the new strategy, as soon as its draft is completed.

In this context, the IDB would like to hail the commendable efforts exerted by the Ankara-based Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC). I would like to refer, in particular, to the two documents which SESRTCIC has prepared under the title of "New

Strategies to Enhance Economic Cooperation among OIC Member Countries". This comprises valuable information and useful guidance for the elaboration of objectives on a serious strategy for joint Islamic action.

Mr. Chairman,

The speed in working out the strategy by your esteemed Committee is certain to enable the IDB to have a clearer perception of Economic cooperation, and to give it the opportunity to adopt a number of projects and programmes which fit within the framework of the strategy of COMCEC.

It is a pleasure for IDB to inform the esteemed Committee that a strategic medium-term plan has been marked out. The plan, whose principal basis is cooperation, will be submitted to IDB's Board of Governors to be held in Gambia in November 1993. Through this plan, IDB aims at enhancing participation in the process of economic and social development in Member Countries, with particular emphasis on the opportunities for cooperation between Member Countries in specific fields. The priorities of the plan include communications and transport, promotion of inter-trade transactions, agriculture, food security, the development of small and medium-size industries, health and education and the reinforcement of cooperation with the private sector.

Mr. Chairman,

Your esteemed Committee has referred to the role which can be played by the private sector as part of an active participation in the achievement of the goals assigned to COMCEC. This role should consider modalities of the private sector for participation in implementing activities closely related to its field of competence. The Islamic Chamber OF Commerce and Industry has prepared a paper showing the mechanism of the private sectors' participation. Indeed, the IOB attaches maximum importance to this issue. Out of its concern at giving the private sector better opportunities for consolidating economic cooperation and rapprochement, the IDB Trade Promotion Department is presently in the process of formulating a number of scenarios that aim at increased trade exchange between Member Countries. This Department of the Bank will organize meetings between businessmen and trading institutions in order to explore the opportunities for trade exchanges, promotion of exports and complementary in commodity exchange. It will send joint missions of businessmen from one country to another and to the Central Asian Republics.

IDB has also chosen the topic "Obstacles and Opportunities for Investment in Least Developed African IDB Member Countries," as the theme for its annual Symposium which will be held this year in conjunction with the meeting of its Board of Governors in Banjul, The Gambia. This Symposium aims mainly at studying the

obstacles which prevent the promotion of the private sector's investments in the category of countries which are in most pressing need of such investment, and its participation in their development process.

I would like to refer in this context to the fact that the IDB in the spirit of its Articles of Agreement and its policies and procedures, has been exerting efforts at encouraging member countries' consultants and contractors to participate in the implementation of the maximum number of projects co-financed by IDB.

This is out of the desire expressed by IDB and financing institutions closely related to it to find ways and means of increasing the participation of member countries' contractors in the implementation of such projects. The Bank effectively contributed towards the establishment in 1986 of a Federation of Consultants from Member Countries and, subsequently in 1991, a Federation of Contractors from Member Countries.

After an in-depth study of preferential treatment to be granted to member countries' contractors and suppliers, the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank decided that tenders for contracts that can be implemented by Member Country contractors will be confined to such contractors.

Mr. Chairman,

The agenda of your esteemed meeting contains an item related to a progress report on the establishment of an Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit. I am pleased to inform you that the Bank has made significant progress in this direction as detailed in the Progress Report pertaining to this item. The report has been made available to this august Meeting. The Articles of Agreement of that Corporation have been signed by 29 Member Countries and ratified by 8 of these countries, 5 of which have already paid the first installment of their shares in the Corporation. The total value off the shares subscribed by member Countries that have ratified the Articles amounts to IB 20 million. The Articles will become affective when the total value of the shares subscribed by ratifying countries has reached ID. 25 million.

In this context, I would like to report that IDB has selected an international firm to provide consultancy services, particularly with regard to the development of a business plan, preparation of the organizational chart and staff requirements of the Corporation, preparation of its operational rules and regulations and its marketing plan, as well as similar other studies designed to enable the Cooperation to start its activities on sound principles. The study is expected to be completed with the submission of the final report by the end of this month.

Steps are being taken to make the Corporation operational as soon as possible. Indeed, the budget for administrative and establishment expenses has been prepared and two competent staff with experience in export guarantee have already been appointed.

Mr. Chairman,

The Agenda of your meeting also include an item related to a progress report on the implementation of the Trade Information Network which COMCEC had earlier decided to link with the OIC Member Countries' Information Systems Network (OICISNET). This would enable the trade information Network to function as specialized database in Trade Information in the framework of the OICISNET when it becomes operational. The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), which cooperates with IDB in this respect, has submitted a report to your esteemed Committee regarding the preparation of a data directory. As for the progress achieved in the establishment of the OICISNET, you may recall that after the preparation of the feasibility study regarding the establishment of this Network, the document was sent to all member countries together with a detailed plan for the implementation of Phase I. This phase links a number of countries, such as: Pakistan, Turkey, Senegal, Oman, Malaysia, Egypt and Morocco. IDB has also asked these countries, the OIC Organization and their affiliate Agencies to designate coordination centres for linkage during the experimental stage.

In implementing this Network, the IDB has sought the assistance of a high-level Advisory Committee. This body held its first meeting in the last week of February 1993, in conjunction with the first coordination meeting of the national focal points, the OIC and other regional organizations in countries participating in the pilot project of the Network. These meetings adopted a number of valuable recommendations and programmes for cooperative action.

Two task forces of specialists are presently at work: one is involved in developing databases and the other is focussing on communications, in the framework of a detailed study which also comprises aspects of cooperation with other international, regional and national institutions for developing all aspects of the Network. The general pattern has been worked out for a Memorandum of understanding to be signed with most of the national focal points in countries where the pilot project will be implemented. The Bank has approved a joint Plan of Action with ICDT (Casablanca, Morocco), with regard to the trade information system and the linkage of networks. Among the institutions with which IDB is cooperating at this stage is the South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Center (SITTDEC), which was set up within the context of the non-aligned countries, with its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,

Your institution, the IDB, represented by its delegation to this meeting, will pay the utmost attention to the precious views and useful initiatives put forward at the meetings of your esteemed Committee. I am convinced that these meetings would prove constructive in our endeavours for further consolidation of efforts to achieve economic development and social progress in the Muslim Ummah.

I pray to Almighty Allah to crown the activities of your meeting with success and I reiterate my sincerest thanks to the President, Government and people of Turkey for their warm welcome and the excellent arrangements which have paved the way for the success of this auspicious meeting.

"And say: Work (righteousness) and God, His Apostle and the believers will observe your work". (S.IX, V.105)

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

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AGENDA
OF THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993)

Original : English

**AGENDA
OF THE NINTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 1-4 September 1993)

- 1 - Opening Session.
 - * Inaugural Statement by H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey, Chairman of the COMCEC.
 - * Statement by H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC.
 - * Statements by Heads of Delegation on Behalf of the Three Regional Groups of the OIC Member States.
 - * Statement by H.E. Ahmed Mohammed ALI, President of IDB.
- 2 - Adoption of the Agenda.
- 3 - Background Report by the General Secretariat of OIC.
- 4 - Report of the Follow-up Committee.
- 5 - Report by the OIC General Secretariat on "The Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member States of OIC."
- 6 - Report by ICCICE on the Possible Role of the Private Sector in the Overall Activities of the COMCEC.
- 7 - Progress Report by ICDT on the Establishment of a Trade Information Network Among the Member States of OIC.
- 8 - Report by IDB on the Establishment of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme.
- 9 - Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.
- 10- Report of the Sessional Committee.
- 11- Any Other Business.

- 12 - Adoption of the Resolutions of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC.
- 13 - Date of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC.
- 14 - Closing Session.

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENIOR OFFICIALS
OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 1-2 September 1993)

Original : English

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

(Istanbul, 1-2 September 1993)

1. The Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 1 and 2 September 1993 to discuss the items of the Draft Agenda and prepare draft resolutions to be submitted to the COMCEC for adoption.

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

1. Islamic State of Afghanistan
2. Republic of Albania
3. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
4. Republic of Azerbaijan
5. State of Bahrain
6. People's Republic of Bangladesh
7. Burkina Faso
8. Republic of Cameroon

9. Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros
10. Arab Republic of Egypt
11. Republic of the Gambia
12. Republic of Indonesia
13. Islamic Republic of Iran
14. Republic of Iraq
15. Republic of Lebanon
16. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
17. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
18. State of Kuwait
19. Republic of Kyrgyzstan
20. Malaysia
21. Kingdom of Morocco
22. Republic of Niger
23. Republic of Nigeria
24. Sultanate of Oman
25. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
26. State of Palestine
27. State of Qatar
28. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
29. Republic of Senegal
30. Republic of Sudan
31. Syrian Arab Republic
32. Republic of Tajikistan
33. Republic of Chad

34. Republic of Tunisia
35. Republic of Turkey
36. Republic of Turkmenistan
37. Republic of Uganda
38. State of the united Arab Emirates
39. Republic of Yemen

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

3. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the General Secretariat and the following subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions of the 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)

A representative of UNDP and the Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FCIC) were present at the Meeting as observers.

4. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Necati ÖZFIRAT, Acting Undersecretary of State for the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey.

5. H.E. Necati ÖZFIRAT inaugurated the Meeting by welcoming the participants to Turkey and explaining the work programme of the Meeting.

6. The Senior Officials reviewed the Draft Agenda of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC, as prepared by the Ninth 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 set up an open-ended Drafting Committee, under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, Her Excellency Dato' ZAIBEDAH binti Haji Ahmad, Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey, to prepare the Report of the Meeting and the draft resolutions to be submitted to the COMCEC. An open-ended Sessional Committee was also established under the chairmanship of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to review the activities of the OIC organs and institutions working in the field of economy and trade.

Report by the OIC General Secretariat

8. Under Draft Agenda Item 3, H.E. Ousman N.R. OTHMAN, Assistant Secretary General, in charge of the Economic, Science and Technology Department of the OIC General Secretariat,

introduced the Background Report of the General Secretariat. In his introduction, he congratulated the Chairman, H.E. Necati ÖZFIRAT and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and for the traditional hospitality extended to the participants.

Mr. Nabika DIALLO, Director of Economic Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat, summed up the Report, highlighting the developments which had taken place since the Eighth Session of the COMCEC in the implementation of the various resolutions on economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States. He also indicated the progress achieved in the priority areas of the OIC Plan of Action, which had been considered under the auspices of the COMCEC since its First Session held in November 1984.

9. The Senior Officials extended their thanks and appreciation to the General Secretariat and related institutions of OIC for their continuous efforts for the promotion of economic cooperation among the Member Countries. They requested the General Secretariat to ascertain that the Member States receive all necessary documents 4 weeks before the Meetings.

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10. The Senior Officials decided to call upon the Member States to sign and ratify the OIC Agreements and statutes and join in the existing schemes in the area of economic cooperation, in order to expedite their implementation.

11. The Senior Officials expressed their thanks and appreciation:

- a) to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its offer to host the 5th Islamic Trade Fair from 16 to 20 July 1994 in Tehran, the 4th Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in 1993 and the 3rd Meeting of the Ministers of Telecommunications on from 16 to 19 November 1993.
- b) to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its offer to host the 3rd Expert Group Meeting on Labor and Social Security in 1993.
- c) to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and to the Government of the Republic of Lebanon for their willingness to host the 6th and 7th Islamic Trade Fairs in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

12. The Senior Officials agreed to recommend to the COMCEC that the General Secretariat of OIC be requested to contact the Member States with a view to accelerating the formalities for their adhesion to the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System. They also decided to recommend that all Member States be invited to exchange bilaterally, and through COMCEC, lists of concessions and to conduct informal consultations on them in preparation for future negotiations.

Report of the Follow-up Committee

13. Under Draft Agenda Item 4, the representative of the OIC General Secretariat presented the Report of the Follow-up Committee which contained recommendations pertaining to the projects and issues on the agenda of the COMCEC. The Senior Officials continued their consideration of the remaining Draft Agenda Items in the light of the recommendations of the Follow-up Committee.

Report by the OIC General Secretariat on the Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member States of the OIC

14. Under Draft Agenda Item 5, the representative of the OIC General Secretariat explained the steps taken for the implementation of the Sixth Summit's decision regarding the formulation of a new strategy for economic cooperation among member countries and the recommendations of the ninth meeting of the Follow-up Committee in this regard.

15. After extensive discussions on the subject, the Senior Officials agreed to submit to the COMCEC the recommendations of the Follow-up Committee pertaining to the approval of the modalities of implementation of the New Strategy, and the future course of action to be taken to fulfill the mandate of the Sixth Islamic Summit.

16. Having agreed on the need to revise the 1981 Plan of Action in the light of the experience gained in its implementation as well as of the recent changes in the global economy, the Senior Officials also agreed to recommend to the COMCEC that:

- a) SESRTCIC be asked to prepare, in collaboration with IDB, ICDT and others related OIC institutions, the first draft of the revised Plan of Action in form of a policy document covering the main areas of economic cooperation.
- b) This first draft be considered at a workshop of experts in the field of multilateral economic cooperation with a view to improving the said draft before it was taken up by an expert group meeting from member countries to be held sufficiently in advance of the 10th meeting of the Follow-up Committee.
- c) Following the review by the 10th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, the draft revised Plan of Action be ultimately submitted to the 10th session of the COMCEC.
- d) Should the 7th Islamic Summit Conference be held at the beginning of 1994, the basic principles and main objectives of the Strategy and Modalities of its implementation could be submitted together with related documents to the Summit with a progress report explaining the work done and the future course of action to finalize the revision of the Plan of Action.

17. The Senior Officials urged IDB to sponsor the workshop. They also urged Member States to host the Expert Group Meeting that has been programmed.

Report of the Islamic Chamber on the Possible Role of the Private Sector in the Over-all Activities of COMCEC.

18. Under Draft Agenda Item 6, the representative of the OIC General Secretariat introduced the topic and the representative of the Islamic Chamber presented its report on the possible role of the private sector in the overall activities of the COMCEC. Appreciating the efforts of the Islamic Chamber in promoting cooperation among the private sectors in the OIC member countries, the Senior Officials recommended that a flexible approach be adopted in this regard. Since the involvement of the private sector would be amongst the issues to be considered while the 1981 Plan of Action, was updated, the Senior Officials agreed that private sector meetings, including sectoral meetings, be convened prior to the annual sessions of the COMCEC and, necessary, during the Islamic Trade Fairs.

19. The Islamic Chamber, in collaboration with the General Secretariat, IDB and other relevant OIC Institutions, should define the priority areas and prepare the necessary studies for the private sector meetings and organize these meetings in consultation with the General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office.

Report by ICDT on the Establishment of a Trade Information Network Among OIC Member States

20. Under Draft Agenda Item 7, the representative of ICDT presented a progress report on TINIC, highlighting the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the project. The report of the representative of ICDT was complemented by the representative of IDB on the establishment of the OICIS-NET project currently under study by the Bank.

21. While appreciating the efforts of ICDT and IDB, the Senior Officials agreed to recommend to the COMCEC that ICDT expedite its preparations for TINIC which was to become, as decided, a database system specialized in trade information within the OICIS-NET when in operation.

22. The Senior Officials also noted the concrete steps taken as regards the establishment of the OIC-IS-NET Project. The Senior Officials noted with appreciation the ongoing cooperation between the IDB and ICDT for the finalization of two complementary projects, the OIC-IS-NET and TINIC. They also noted that the Board of IDB Executive Directors had approved the necessary administrative budget for the implementation of the pilot project.

Report by IDS on the Establishment of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme

23. Under Draft Agenda Item 8, the representative of IDB explained the progress achieved regarding the establishment of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Corporation under the aegis of IDB.

24. The Senior Officials noted with appreciation that 29 member countries had signed its Articles of Agreement while 8 of them had ratified it.

25. The Senior Officials agreed to recommend to the COMCEC to invite Member Countries, which had not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of the Corporation and subscribe to its capital so that it would become operational as early as possible.

Matters Related to Economic Assistance to some
Islamic Countries

26. Under Draft Agenda Item 9, the Senior Officials approved the contents of the Draft Resolutions calling for economic assistance to Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Uganda and Somali.

The representative of Saudi Arabia made a statement on the assistance provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to many

countries, including the ones referred to in the said Resolutions.

Report of the Sessional Committee

27. Under Draft Agenda item 10, the Senior Officials noted the recommendations contained in the Report of the Sessional Committee and agreed to include them in Draft Resolution (1) to be submitted to the 9th Session of the COMCEC.

Date of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC

28. Under Draft Agenda Item 13, concerning the date of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC, the Senior Officials decided to recommend that the COMCEC hold its Tenth Session from 22 to 25 October 1994 and the Tenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee from 14 to 16 May 1994, in Istanbul.

29. At their closing session, the Senior Officials adopted the Report of the Meeting and reviewed the Draft Resolutions prepared by the Drafting Committee, that reflected the consensus reached by the Senior Officials on the Draft Agenda items and on other issues raised during the Meeting. They decided to submit the Draft Resolutions, through the Rapporteur, to the Ninth Session of the COMCEC.

30. At the end of their 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 provided as well as to the supporting staff and interpreters for their untiring efforts, which ensured the success of the Meeting.

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REPORT OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COHCEC

(Istanbul, 2 September 1993)

Original : English

REPORT OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 2 September 1993)

1 In accordance with the decision of the Senior Officials Meeting of the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, the Sessional Committee of the COMCEC on the Activities of the OIC Subsidiary and Affiliated Organs met on September 2, 1993.

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives from the following Subsidiary Organs and Affiliated Institutions of the OIC:

- Statistical, Economic and 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 Chamber for Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE).

3. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Inamul HAQUE of Pakistan.

4. The report of IFSTAD, whose Director General could not attend the Meeting, was introduced by Dr. Sadi CINDORUK, Director General of SESRTCIC.

5. The Committee heard the activity reports of the OIC Organs present, and discussed the issues and problems contained in them. (These reports have been circulated as part of the documents of the Ninth Session of COMCEC).

6. The Sessional Committee expressed appreciation for the activities of SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICTVTR, IFSTAD and ICCICE in the areas of economic, commercial and technical cooperation among the OIC Member States, which support and complement the activities of COMCEC.

7. The Committee felt that despite earlier efforts, some overlapping continued to exist in the work of the Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions of the OIC. It suggested that the Annual Coordination Meetings of the Subsidiary Organs of the OIC should pay special attention to this aspect in order to remove such overlapping in the work programmes of these bodies, wherever it may occur. The Sessional Committee felt that it might be useful to undertake a review of the charters of the Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions in order to remove any ambiguities and overlapping areas that might exist.

8. The Committee also felt that the Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions should improve their methods of sharing information with each other and with Member States.

9. The Committee called for increased cooperation and coordination among the various OIC institutions in undertaking joint information, research and technical cooperation activities for the benefit of the OIC community.

10. The Committee expressed concern at the lack of interest and participation on the part of many countries in the activities of the Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions, and recommended that ways and means should be considered to ensure greater involvement of the Member States in the work of these organs/institutions. It also underlined the need for feedback from Member States in the form of information, as well as suggestions, on the work being undertaken by the Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions of the OIC.

11. The Sessional Committee felt that Member States should participate more actively in the work of the Committee, as this Committee constituted an excellent forum for face-to-face discussions with Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions regarding their work programmes and activities.

12. The Committee reiterated that the documents/reports of the OIC Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions should be made available to the Member States at least 30 days in advance of

meetings in order to allow participating delegations to come prepared with their views, comments, recommendations, etc.

13. The Committee felt that the OIC General Secretariat might issue, on a 6-monthly basis, a comprehensive calendar of events planned by the Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions in order to keep the Member States informed, as well as to encourage them to participate in these events/programmes.

14. The Committee took note of the continuing serious financial difficulties faced by the Subsidiary Organs due to the non-payment of the mandatory contributions to their budgets and the accumulated arrears by a great number of Member States.

15. The Committee requested the Ninth Session of the COMCEC to appeal to the Heads of Delegation of Member States in arrears to intervene at the appropriate level in their respective governments with a view to clearing their arrears and regularizing their future mandatory contributions to the annual budgets of the SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICTVTR and IFSTAD.

16. The Committee also requested the national chambers, and members of the ICCICE, to fulfill their financial obligations towards the Chamber promptly and regularly.

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R E S O L U T I O N (1)
OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 3-4 September 1993)

Original : English

**RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 3-4 September 1993)

The Ninth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 3 to 4 September, 1993:

Recalling the relevant Resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers;

Taking into Consideration the Resolutions adopted at the eight previous Sessions of the COMCEC, the recommendations made by its Follow-up Committee and the recommendations of the preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials;

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

A. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States

1. Approves the document on the "Modalities and Mechanisms of Implementation and Follow-up of the Strategy to Strengthen

Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries" as recommended by the Follow-up Committee. In view of its complementarity to the document entitled the "Objectives and Basic Principles of the Strategy" adopted at the Eighth Session of the COMCEC, decides to combine the two documents under the title the "Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries", and agrees on the need to revise the 1981 OIC Plan of Action, in the light of past experiences and considering the evolving world economic developments. This revised Plan of Action would constitute an integral part of the New Strategy.

2. Asks SESRTCIC to prepare, in collaboration with IDB, ICDT and other relevant OIC institutions, the draft of the revised Plan of Action that would be in the form of a policy document covering the main areas of economic cooperation.

3. Agrees that this draft would be considered at a workshop of experts in the field of multilateral economic cooperation with a view to improving the said draft before it is circulated to Member States for their views and comments, and subsequently taken up at an expert group meeting from member countries to be held sufficiently in advance of the 10th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

4. Also agrees that, following the review by the 10th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, the draft revised Plan of Action be submitted to the 10th Session of the COMCEC.

5. Decides that the basic principles and main objectives of the Strategy and modalities of its implementation, be submitted to the 7th Islamic Summit Conference, together with related documents, along with a progress report explaining the work done and the future course of action for finalizing the revision of the Plan of Action.

6- Requests the IDB to sponsor the Workshop, and appeals to member states to host the Experts' Group Meeting that has been programmed.

Possible Role of the Private Sector in the Overall Activities of the COMCEC

7. Appreciates the efforts of the Islamic Chamber in promoting cooperation among the private sectors of the OIC Member Countries and agrees that a flexible approach should be adopted on this subject. While the involvement of the private sector would be amongst the issues to be considered during the exercise of updating the 1981 Plan of Action, agrees that private sector meetings, including sectoral ones, be convened prior to the annual Sessions of the COMCEC and, where necessary, during the Islamic Trade Fairs.

8. Requests the Islamic Chamber to define, in collaboration with the General Secretariat, IDB and other relevant OIC Institutions, the priority areas, prepare the necessary studies for the private sector meetings and organize these meetings, in

consultation with the General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office.

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

9. Endorses the recommendation contained in the "Report of the Meeting of the Sessional Committee on the Activities of the OIC Subsidiary and Affiliated Organs held During the Ninth Session of the COMCEC".

Signature and Ratification of Statutes and Agreements

10. Urges Member Countries that have not yet signed and/or ratified various statutes and agreements in the field of economic cooperation drawn up or concluded within the framework of OIC, to do so at an early date.

B. COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States

11. Notes with satisfaction that the Framework Agreement for the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC (TPSOIC) stands ready for signing and ratification.

12. It also notes with appreciation that 10 Member Countries have signed and 3 of them ratified the Framework Agreement and urges Member Countries that have not yet signed and / or ratified it,

to do so at the earliest, so that trade negotiations could start as soon as possible.

13. Requests the General Secretariat of the OIC to contact Member States with a view to accelerating the completion of the formalities for their adhesion to the Framework Agreement.

14. Invites all Member States to exchange, bilaterally or through COMCEC, their respective proposed lists of concessions and to conduct informal consultations on them, in preparation for the future negotiations on concessions.

Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC)

15. Appreciates the efforts made by ICDT and IDB in carrying out relevant studies on the TINIC and OIC IS-NET projects.

16. Urges the Member States, who had not yet done so, to nominate national focal points for the Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC).

17. Requests ICDT to work out, in close cooperation with the focal points and IDB, taking into account existing resources in member countries and similar operational networks, the preparations needed to set up the required data-bases and report thereon to the Tenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme

18. Notes with appreciation that 29 Member Countries have signed the Articles of Agreement establishing the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Corporation and 8 Member Countries have ratified it.

19. Invites Member countries who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of the Corporation and to pay their respective shares of the capital, so that it can become operational as early as possible.

20. Expresses satisfaction for the efforts exerted by IDB to finalize the organizational and administrative measures needed to establish the Corporation, taking into account the experience and relevant capacities available in the member countries.

Methodology for the Harmonization of Standards

21. Appreciates the efforts made by the Turkish Standards Institution (TSI), acting as the Secretariat for the Harmonization of Standards Among the OIC Member Countries, in finalizing the "Methodology for the Harmonization of Existing Standards in Islamic Countries and the Preparation of Common Standards" in the light of the views and comments forwarded by Member States.

22. Also notes with appreciation that the TSI convened on 4 and 5 April 1993, in Istanbul, the 5th Meeting of Experts' from OIC member countries in the field of standardization.

Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union

23. Notes that the OIC General Secretariat has circulated among Member Countries the "Model of a Multilateral Islamic Clearing Arrangement" prepared by IDB and approved at the Seventh Session of the COMCEC.

24. Invites Member Countries to consider working out clearing arrangements among themselves provided that:

- a) Such arrangements are flexible in their coverage of goods and their membership is on a voluntary basis; and,
- b) Given the differences in economic and trading systems, as well as in monetary rules and regulations among Member States, clearing arrangements should be concluded between sub-groups of Member States wishing to participate, keeping the establishment of a comprehensive multilateral Islamic Clearing Union as an ultimate objective.

25. Appreciates the readiness of IDB to provide technical assistance to those member countries wishing to work out such arrangements among themselves.

Islamic Trade Fairs

26. Notes with appreciation that the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to host the 5th Islamic Trade Fair in Tehran from 16 to 20 July, 1994.

27. Requests the ICDT and ICCICE to continue to extend assistance to the Iranian authorities concerned, with a view to ensuring the success of that event, and appeals to Member States to actively participate in the Fifth Islamic Trade Fair.

28. Takes note with appreciation of the offer made by the Republic of Indonesia to host the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair in 1996.

29. Also takes note with appreciation of the offer made by the Republic of Lebanon to host the Seventh Islamic Trade Fair in 1998.

C. INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

30. Notes, in the light of the Report of the OIC General Secretariat, that, in pursuance of the decision of the Third Ministerial Consultation on Industrial Cooperation, the meeting of the "Task Force for the Promotion of Joint Ventures" was convened by IDB in Jeddah on 1 and 2 November 1987, which considered in detail the mechanism for the promotion of joint ventures among the Member Countries as outlined by the Ministers.

31. Invites Member States, who have not yet done so, to examine

the recommendations of the Task Force on the proposed mechanism and communicate their views and comments thereon to the OIC General Secretariat to facilitate their consideration by the Fourth Ministerial Consultation, and appeals to Member States to host the Fourth Ministerial Consultation in order to finalize this scheme.

32. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the Resolutions of the Ministerial Consultations on Industrial Cooperation and submit progress reports thereon to OIC conferences and the COMCEC.

D. FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

33. Notes the Resolutions adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, held in Islamabad from 18 to 20 October 1988, and the ensuing steps taken to consider the establishment of an OIC Food Security Reserve, as contained in the report of the OIC General Secretariat.

34. Urges Member States and the relevant OIC organs to take the measures needed for the implementation of the Resolutions adopted at the three previous Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development.

35. Appreciates the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development by the end of 1993.

36. Urges the Member States to actively participate in the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development/ scheduled to be held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

37. Notes with appreciation that the General Secretariat, in collaboration with IDB, the African Development Bank and the Government of the Republic of Senegal, had organized in Dakar the Symposium on Food Security in Islamic Countries in conjunction with the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference.

38. Calls upon Member States to implement the recommendations of the Dakar Symposium on Food Security.

39. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the Resolutions of Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development and submit progress reports thereon to OIC Conferences and the COMCEC.

E. TRANSPORT

40. Notes the action taken since the First Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of Member States held in Istanbul from 7 to 10 September 1987, to implement its Resolutions, as indicated in the report of the OIC General Secretariat.

41. Calls upon Member States and the OIC organs concerned to take the measures needed for the implementation of the Resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of

Member States, and appeals to Member States to host the Second Meeting of the Ministers of Transport.

42. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the Resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Transport and to submit progress reports thereon to OIC Conferences and the COMCEC.

F. COMMUNICATIONS

43. Notes, in the light of the Report of the OIC General Secretariat, that the Report and Resolutions of the Second Ministerial Meeting on Communications held in Bandung, Republic of Indonesia from 5 to 8 November 1991, have been circulated, for implementation, to the Member States and agencies concerned.

44. Calls upon Member States and the OIC organs concerned to take the measures needed for the implementation of the Resolutions of the First and Second Ministerial Meetings on Communications.

45. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Third Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications to be held from 16 to 19 November 1993, in Tehran.

6. ENERGY

46. Notes the action taken since the First Ministerial Meeting on Energy, held in Istanbul on 5-6 September 1989, to implement its resolutions, as indicated in the report of the OIC General Secretariat.

47. Calls upon Member States and the OIC organs concerned to take the measures needed for the implementation of the Resolutions of the First Ministerial Meeting and appeals to Member States to host the Second Ministerial Meeting on Energy.

48. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the Resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Energy and submit progress reports thereon to OIC Conferences and the COMCEC.

H. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

49. Notes with satisfaction that the Meetings of Focal Points for Technical Cooperation (FOPTCIC) are being held annually on a regular basis, in Istanbul, and thanks the Republic of Turkey for hosting them. It also appreciates the ongoing support extended by Turkey and by the OIC institutions such as IDB, SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICTVTR and IFSTAD which contributed to the success of these meetings.

50- Expresses its appreciation for the activities of SESRTCIC, ICDT, IFSTAD, ICTVTR and IDB in the area of Technical Cooperation among the OIC Member Countries, in conjunction with and complementary to the activities of the COMCEC.

51- Calls upon Member States and the OIC organs to implement the Resolutions of the First Ministerial Meeting on Technical Cooperation held from 7 to 10 October 1990, in Istanbul.

52. Notes with satisfaction that the Fifth Meeting of Focal Points on Technical Cooperation will be held in May 1994, in Istanbul.

I. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS

53. Notes the Resolutions adopted at the First Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure and Public Works, held in Istanbul from 6 to 9 October 1991.

54. Calls upon Member States and the OIC organs concerned to take the measures needed for the implementation of the Resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Infrastructure and Public Works.

55. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to follow-up the implementation of the Resolutions of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Infrastructure and Public Works and to submit progress reports thereon to OIC Conferences and the COMCEC.

Date and Venue of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC

56. Agrees that the Tenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and the Tenth Session of the COMCEC take place in Istanbul, from 14 to 16 May, 1994 and from 22 to 25 October 1994, respectively.

57. Requests the Follow-up Committee to prepare the draft agenda of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC.

58. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to communicate as soon as possible the dates of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and the Tenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee to the Member States.

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STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

I. OBJECTIVES AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

OIC Economic Cooperation;

1. will aim at establishing a more integrated OIC community, in line with the recent developments concerning the formation of large economic blocs as one of the means to ensure fuller participation in the globalisation process.
2. will benefit from the experience of regional and inter-regional cooperation involving the OIC member countries, based upon the principle of mutuality of interests for all participating countries, to serve as an intermediate step towards economic integration among the member countries.
3. will emphasize the cooperation among member countries in their development efforts. Such cooperation will help:
 - (i) create powerful economic units capable of facing the challenges emanating from the emergence of large economic blocs, and
 - (ii) bring about structural transformations in the OIC economies to attain economic efficiency and social welfare through economic liberalization.

4. will pursue the objective of increased economic integration in such a way as to support the basic aspirations of the OIC community for a larger share in world economic activity and a more equitable division of labour vis-à-vis the rest of the world. Towards such an end, the OIC member countries would coordinate their positions, without prejudice to their national and regional interests as sovereign states, in order to fully participate in the global negotiations and in the decision-making process that aim at helping improve the world monetary, financial and trading systems.

5. will aim at establishing and expanding economic and technical cooperation with the newly-independent non-OIC Islamic countries, with a view to enhancing Islamic solidarity and cohesion.

6. will embrace all the basic requirements for human development and well-being by means of a comprehensive approach designed to solve the problems of immediate concern to the member countries, with particular attention to the special problems of the Least Developed, Land-locked and/or Sahelian member countries.

7. will aim at facilitating the diversification of trade and production of goods and services in member countries, through an enhanced role by the private sector and more efficient and rational operation of public enterprises, in order to increase complementarities and facilitate access to international markets.

8. will be based on a realistic and gradual approach, taking into account the existing programmes and projects within OIC and in member countries. Such programmes and projects should not involve unnecessary additional public financial commitments, in view of the more prominent role to be given to the private sector in the implementation of economic cooperation. In order to enhance this role, the OIC member countries would endeavour, within the framework of their economic policies and orientation, to encourage economic liberalization with a view to creating a sound economic environment for integration and benefiting more fully from the globalization process and the increasing interdependence at world level.

9. will aim at narrowing the technology gap with the industrialized countries as well as at developing new technologies.

10. will aim at increasing food production through optimal utilization of the resource potentials and raising the efficiency of distribution systems which will help eradicate famine and malnutrition, and ensure food security in the OIC community.

11. will take into account joint action for the protection and preservation of the environment at national, regional and global levels, without jeopardizing basic economic development objectives.

12. will aim at enhancing the development of human resources in Member Countries.

13. will focus on joint action to promote technical cooperation among Member Countries.

14. will aim at augmenting and diversifying industrial production, especially through joint venture projects by giving priority to private sector projects/ in order to enhance international competitiveness.

15. will aim at promoting, expanding and creating trade among the member countries through appropriate action that would be conducive to the realization of greater integration in stages and over time, taking into account the existing OIC schemes and programmes, and without prejudice to their obligations towards the rest of the world.

16. will aim at encouraging member countries to focus on development of infrastructure by benefiting from the services of international and regional financial institutions, which will lead to a more integrated infrastructure among OIC Member Countries.

II. MODALITIES AND MECHANISMS

17. Considering the aspirations of Member States, maximum use should be made of the existing programs and projects within the

OIC and priority should be given to the identification of mutually beneficial new feasible projects and schemes involving the private sector and including joint ventures. These would contribute to the cooperation process, produce greater impact and yield higher benefits within the short and medium term and would offer prospects for identifiable action in the future.

18. Jointly approved time-framed programs should be worked out at the sectoral level defining the priorities and an action plan for each sector. COMCEC should define the objectives and ways and means of working out project ideas, and take appropriate action in their realisation, implementation and follow-up. In formulating theme programmes, due consideration should be given to the problems of the least developed Member Countries.

19. In fulfilment of its mandate and in pursuance of the relevant Islamic Summit resolutions, the COMCSC shall take all the necessary measures to coordinate, support, and follow-up the ministerial meetings that will be organized in different priority areas of economic cooperation which are of importance to Member Countries, thus creating a suitable climate for further economic cooperation among OIC members.

20. The OIC shall give priority to joint projects that can be undertaken by small groups of Member Countries at regional, sub-regional or inter-regional levels, without any financial obligation to the rest of the Member Countries. This approach should facilitate a gradual transition to a more integrated OIC

economic community over time by potential extension and/or interlinking of the initial schemes.

21. The OIC Member Countries, through their economic policies and orientation, will encourage economic liberalization with a view to creating a sound environment for economic integration and benefiting more fully from the globalization process and increasing interdependence in the world.

22. The private sector should be given a more effective role in OIC economic cooperation activities in order to introduce a new dimension and dynamism into the cooperation efforts among Islamic Countries. The private sector would be called upon to act as a locomotive for trade, investment activities and development cooperation. The initiative of the private sector shall undoubtedly be positively reflected in bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In order to support this trend, the organization should encourage and support every initiative to assemble the representatives of the private sector from member countries to exchange information, ideas and expertise, consider problems and issues of mutual interest, examine the possibility of direct cooperation, and establish joint projects.

In this regard it is recommended to establish a business sector forum in coordination with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCI) to consider and promote investment opportunities and projects in member

countries and to report regularly to the COMCEC. To this end, the General Secretariat should circulate periodical reports to the COMCEC on the results of these meetings.

23. A concerted effort will be made to take into account the complementarities among Member Countries and make use, on a priority basis, and to the extent possible, of the resources, skills, technology, facilities and capacities already available in the Member Countries, with due regard to national legislation, rules and procedures, international commitments and objective market conditions. Towards this end, the necessary arrangements must be made to facilitate the exchange of information, and expertise and to promote technical cooperation among Member Countries, as well as development of human resources and complementarity of skills. In this connection, priority should be given to technical cooperation within the framework of COMCEC.

24. More favourable consideration should be given to the improvement and coordination of the overall economic, legal and administrative environment and simplification of procedures in the Member Countries to facilitate economic and technical cooperation amongst them. In this context, special consideration would be given to the extension of preferential treatment to the parties from the Member Countries, with due regard to the existing national legislation, rules and regulations and international commitments.

25. Innovative ways and mechanisms to encourage joint investments among the Member Countries will have to be developed within the framework of the General Agreement on Economic and Commercial Cooperation and under the secure environment provided by the Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments, now that both of these agreements have become operational. In the same context, viable, operational, and efficient measures and policies can be adopted to promote joint ventures among the member countries by giving a more prominent role to the private sector. Joint ventures would be one of the main modes of cooperation in all areas, taking advantage of the complementarities in factor, endowments, production externalities, and enlarged markets.

26. The OIC and the Member Countries should coordinate their efforts with the aim to:

- (a) avail the General Secretariat with the necessary means and facilities to enable it to organize expert group meetings as and when necessary.
- (b) facilitate the generation of practicable and tangible cooperation ideas at expert level;
- (c) enable the full evaluation of these recommendations and their translation into effective, action-oriented and implementable resolutions;

- (d) facilitate the formulation of well prepared and substantive agenda items for the Ministerial Meetings.
- (e) ensure the commitment of Member States to the effective implementation and follow-up of the provisions of the resolutions adopted.

27. Cooperation issues, activities or projects will be included in the agenda of the ministerial meetings and be made subject of resolutions after full preparation and exhaustive initial study. These would involve:

- (a) making available, by the sponsor(s) of a proposal, of a full initial report on the identification of the subject matter, its relevance, justification, financial implications and cooperation aspects of the issue in question;
- (b) the collection of full data and information at the levels of the OIC General Secretariat, subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions, and the preparation of a background document on the subject, with contributions from the relevant member state and international institutions, when the initial idea is approved; and
- (c) a detailed examination of the subject by meeting(s) of experts from the Member Countries and the OIC-relevant

bodies, where appropriate recommendations to comprise the substance of the eventual resolution itself would be drawn up on the subject for submission to the appropriate higher fora.

28. The resolutions adopted will consist of practicable, implementable and realistic projects and activities that lend themselves to joint action among the Member Countries to allow for proper monitoring and effective follow-up.

29. A concerted effort will be made to keep the agenda of especially the ministerial meetings short, current and focused on implementable proposals. Subsequent resolutions on a given subject should be placed on the agenda only in cases where significant progress is to be reported and/or new elements were to be included in the original resolution. In the case of resolutions that have exhausted their usefulness for one reason or another, measures might be taken by the Member States to remove them from the OIC agenda.

30. Measures should be taken by the Member States to secure full participation at required levels in the various OIC meetings in order to render the economic cooperation activities of the OIC more effective and beneficial.

31. The COMCEC will undertake a periodic review of the strategy to evaluate its implementation in view of the results achieved and take appropriate decisions regarding future action.

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RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS
RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(Istanbul, 3-4 September 1993)

Original : English

**RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS
RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME ISLAMIC COUNTRIES**

(Istanbul, 3-4 September 1993)

The Ninth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in Istanbul, 3-4 September 1993;

A. ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE

Recalling the Resolutions of Islamic Summits on the question of Palestine;

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the Committee and other resolutions adopted by OIC Ministerial Conferences in support of the Palestinian people;

Noting with great concern the deteriorating economic conditions and standard of living of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian occupied territories due to the economic blockade and other arbitrary measures aimed at destroying the Palestinian national economy and impeding the efforts made to build up an independent national economy;

Recalling the resolutions of the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

1. SUPPORTS the Palestine Liberation Organization and the concerned Arab States in their efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on international legitimacy, UN resolutions and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 recover the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and attain their aspirations for freedom and independence.

2. URGES Member States and the international community to extend urgent financial assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian people to enable them to build up their independent national economy in the forthcoming transitional period; in particular, infrastructure, industrial, agricultural and energy development, and housing projects, assessed at about US \$ 3 billion over the next four years.

3. WELCOMES and appreciates the assistance extended by Member States, United Nations institutions and international organizations, and requests them to maintain all forms of support to the Palestinian people in order to solve the economic problems in the occupied territories and ensure economic development.

4. REAFFIRMS previous resolutions aimed at extending all forms of economic, technical, material and moral support,

assistance and backing to the Palestinian people and grant Palestinian products preferential treatment in terms of tax and customs duty exemption as is done by the European Communities.

5. REQUESTS the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to follow-up the implementation of the resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and to report to the 10th Session of the COMCEC on the progress achieved in this respect.

B. ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF LEBANON

Recalling the resolutions adopted at previous COMCEC sessions to extend financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon;

Considering the appeal made by the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers to the International Community calling for a generous contribution to the International Fund for the Reconstruction of Lebanon to ensure the effectiveness of this Fund;

Appreciating the achievements of Lebanon in unifying its State institutions, imposing its legal authority, ensuring security and stability and initiating a reconstruction process;

Strongly condemning the continued Israeli aggression against Lebanon, in particular the recent aggression of July 1993 which

killed hundreds of civilians, expelled thousands from their homes, destroyed and wrecked tens of thousands of houses, schools, hospitals and government buildings and ruined the infrastructure in a large area of Lebanon resulting in immense losses assessed at hundreds of millions of dollars;

Hailing the national and Islamic steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupying forces;

Commending the stand of the Lebanese government reflected in its commitment to the territorial rights of Lebanon, its refusal to yield an inch of its territory to the Israeli occupier and its determination to call for the implementation of international resolutions, notably Resolutions 242, 338, and 425;

Noting that Lebanon aims at securing the return of the Lebanese citizens expelled from their homes as a result of the recent Israeli aggression, providing them with assistance so that they may remain steadfast in the face of Israeli aggressions;

1. REAFFIRMS its previous resolutions calling for financial economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon, in the light of its needs for vocational training, and in economic and technical fields;

2. REAFFIRMS the appeal made by the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to the International Community calling for a generous contribution to the International Fund for

the Reconstruction of Lebanon to ensure the effectiveness of this Fund;

3. INVITES Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and all international and regional organizations to continue to provide all forms of urgent assistance and in kind, in the form of financial assistance to Lebanon so that it may rebuild what the recent Israeli aggression has destroyed, and enable those whose homes were wrecked to return to their land and pursue their resistance.

C. ECONOMIC MEASURES IK SUPPORT OF AFGHANISTAN

Taking into account that Afghanistan is currently faced" by serious constraints due to 14 years of war;

Noting that about 70 to 85 % of its economic and social infrastructures were destroyed;

Aware that over 1.5 million Afghani were killed, about one million disabled and more than 5 million displaced;

Recognizing that about ten million mines were planted in different parts of the country;

URGES the Member Countries to provide assistance to Afghanistan to solve its problems.

D. ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Recalling Resolution No. 10/21 Ec. adopted by the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, on economic assistance to the Republic of Albania;

Also taking note of the Chapter IV/e entitled "Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania" in the Background Document submitted by the OIC General Secretariat to the present Session;

1. EXPRESSES its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy;

2. URGES OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and international organizations to grant generous contributions in the form of economic assistance to the Albanian government so that it may successfully implement its development programme.

E. ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Recalling the Resolution adopted at the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers regarding the situation in Azerbaijan resulting from the aggression by neighbouring Armenia;

Confirming full solidarity of the Member Countries of the OIC with the Government and people of Azerbaijan at this grave and very critical time of the country's history;

Expressing its deep at with the continued aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan seeking to secure territorial gains while causing great loss of innocent life and property;

Deploring the Armenian hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh district of Azerbaijan followed by the occupation of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which forced almost one million Azeri people to flee their homes in the face of the the brutal attacks and gross violations of human rights by this aggression;

Recognizing the need to demonstrate in more concrete terms the solidarity of the OIC Member Countries with the Government and people of Azerbaijan;

Welcoming and appreciating the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies, United Nations institutions and international organizations;

1. URGES the international community to make serious and tangible efforts and take immediate action to end the occupation of the Azeri territories by Armenian forces and ensure their withdrawal thus restoring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

2. **APPEALS** to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic assistance with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Azeri people.

3. **REQUESTS** the international organizations to maintain urgent humanitarian and financial assistance to Azerbaijan.

F. ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Inspired by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference which emphasizes the common goals and destiny of the peoples of the Islamic Ummah and their commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted within the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina facing the dire situation resulting from the brutal inhuman attacks by the Serbs.

Taking also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina held consecutively in Istanbul and Jeddah as well as by the Special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad.

Expressing its alarm at the critical situation arising from the continuing aggression by Serbia and Montenegro against the

Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and at the flagrant violations of the human rights of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly Muslims living in that Republic;

Deeply concerned over the tragic humanitarian situation in the Bosnian cities and towns under Serbian siege;

Appalled by the Croatian policy of encroachment in Bosnia-Herzegovina and by the serious deterioration of the living conditions of its defenseless civilian people.

Disillusioned by the indifference of the international community in ending the suffering of the civilian people of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

1. EXPRESSES its deep concern at the killings, torture, and expulsions of the Muslim population which is forcibly prevented from returning to their homes in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina thus changing the demographic structure of the country.

2. APPEALS to Member States, Islamic institutions and philanthropists to make generous donations as well as financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB Programme aimed at providing humanitarian and material assistance for reconstruction purposes to the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

3. EXPRESSES its appreciation for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

4. CALLS upon the International Community to take immediate efficient measures to stop forthwith the genocide and crimes against humanity in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

5. DEMANDS that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina be preserved and protected.

6. CALLS on the international community to take all possible measures to prevent any violation of the embargo imposed on the Yugoslav Federation (Serbia-Montenegro) and consider appropriate economic measures against Croatia should that country pursue with its present policy towards Bosnia-Herzegovina.

G. ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF UGANDA

Aware that the Government of the Republic of Uganda is currently experiencing serious strain on its meagre resources as a result of the influx of refugees from neighboring countries who flock into the country;

Recognizing that Uganda is offering asylum to large numbers of refugees whose number will increase as hostilities continue to escalate,

1. INVITES Member States and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugee problem and other related consequences.

2. REQUESTS that this resolution remain on the COMCEC agenda until the problem is solved.

H. ECONOMIC MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

Deeply concerned at the critical situation in Somalia and expressing the desire for early restoration of peace and order in that sister member country,

1. APPEALS to OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia to end the human suffering in this muslim country.

2. COMMENDS those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. DR. HAKID AL GABID
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC
AT THE CLOSING CERMONY

(Istanbul, 4 September 1993)

Original : French

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. DR.HAMID AL GABID
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY
(Istanbul, 4 September 1993)**

Your Excellency, Mr. Süleyman DEMİREL,
President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman the COMCEC,
Your Excellency, Mr. Erdal İNÖNÜ,
Vice-Prime Minister of the Republic off Turkey,
Your Excellencies, the Ministers,
Honourable Delegates and Guests,

I Mould like to express again ay happiness at fearing been able to participate in this Ninth Session of the COMCEC, and to thank you again for chairing this meeting.

Your cogent opening address, providing wisdom and guidance, has significantly contributed to the success of our deliberations. I am truly convinced that the guidelines contained in this speech will inspire the COMCEC for a long time to come.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Their Excellencies the Ministers who have graced this meeting with their presence, and to the Senior Officials, whose preparatory work has greatly contributed to the success of this Ninth Session of COMCEC.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past few days, under your wise and dynamic guidance, the Ninth Session of COMCEC has considered issues of great import for the future of the Islamic Ummah and the well-being of our peoples. It considered all its Agenda items with great diligence and care. Our deliberations were characterized by the traditional cordiality and fraternity which constitute the strength of Islam.

Mr. Chairman,

The current session of the COMCEC, which focused on the implementation of the Sixth Islamic Summit decisions and the finalization of a number of projects, will undoubtedly contribute to the development of Member States.

The results achieved by this meeting prove once again our common desire to further strengthen intra-Islamic cooperation in order to exploit at best the considerable potentials of our Ummah.

We noted, in this connection, that some countries, beset by difficulties, have sought an economic assistance from Member States and OIC institutions. I am confident that, just as in the past, their appeal will be favourably heeded by said States and Institutions.

Our meeting has approved the second part of the background report on the New Strategy to strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member States.

The decision taken by this Session to ensure a greater contribution by the private sector to the development of our countries and the promotion of intra-Islamic cooperation is another important measure, in consonance with the directives of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, and the message addressed by H.E. president Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the COMCEC in his inaugural speech.

As we have always pointed out, the Islamic world abounds in natural and human resources which, if developed, would accelerate the development of our countries and promote the well-being of our peoples.

That is why the General Secretariat has taken the initiative of supporting, by all possible means, the action of the governments of Member States aimed at strengthening the private sector which constitutes, as duly recognized today, one of the most important pillars of development. It is truly encouraging to note that the decision taken by the Ninth Session of the COMCEC will contribute to the development of intra-Islamic cooperation through a more active participation of the private sector in that cooperation effort.

It is also just as important to render operational all the cooperation instruments already approved by the COMCEC. I will emphasize, in this connection, the importance of the Framework Agreement on the System of Trade preferences among Member States and the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Corporation. These two instruments will most certainly become vital means whereby to consolidate intra-Islamic cooperation and the development of our States. I am happy to note that the ninth session of the COMCEC has already taken the appropriate measures in this regard.

I urge Member States to lend the attention needed to the implementations of the decisions taken by Islamic Summits, the COMCEC and other OIC Ministerial Meetings aimed at strengthening intra-Islamic cooperation.

At present, the world is grouping into economic blocs, a closer economic cooperation among our states is therefore the only alternative, justified politically, likely to secure their development and spare them further marginalization.

I cannot fail, at this juncture, to express my thanks to the Islamic Development Bank for its contribution to the development of our Member States and to the implementation of the decisions taken by the various Islamic Meetings.

May I be permitted to reiterate, here, the support of the OIC to Bosnia. We have all been deeply moved by the intervention

of H.E. the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I had the opportunity, again yesterday, to discuss with President Abja IZETBEGOVITCH, the recent developments in his country. I reaffirm that the main lines adopted by the various OIC Ministerial Meetings, as summed up in my statement at the opening of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC, constitute the sole valid basis for a just and equitable solution to the problem created in Bosnia by the Serbian aggression perpetrated against the Bosnian people.

I am happy to note that the Ninth Session of the COMCEC has reiterated its support to Bosnia and to the other peoples of the Islamic Ummah who need our solidarity.

Before concluding, I wish to reaffirm the support of the General Secretariat, and its readiness to mobilize all its available means to ensure a rapid and effective implementation of your decision.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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SPEECH OF H.E. STED MOHAMMAD ALI JAWED
MINISTER OF PLANNING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
At THE CLOSING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 4 September 1993)

Original : English

**SPEECH OF H.E. SYED MOHAMMAD ALI JAWED
MINISTER OF PLANNING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 4 September 1993)

Mr. President, Chairman of the COMCEC,
Excellencies,
Honourable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I be permitted to express my pleasure and honour at taking the floor, on behalf of the Member Countries, at the Closing Ceremony of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to express my profound and sincere thanks to H.E. President Süleyman Demirel, Chairman of the COMCEC for his valuable and wise speech which guided our work and enabled our meeting to achieve the best results.

I also wish to thank the Deputy Prime Minister for his very useful and constructive views for the strengthening of cooperation among member countries.

Mr. Chairman,

I cannot fail to express our gratitude to the COMCEC Coordination Bureau, the interpreters, translators and all the supporting staff who worked so diligently to ensure the success of our Session.

Mr. Chairman,

We have come to the end of the Ninth Session of the COMCEC. We must however enquire to what extent the resolutions approved and adopted by the eight previous sessions were implemented, while remaining responsible for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by this Session.

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellency and all the Honourable Delegates are well aware that Islamic States are richly endowed with Natural and Economic Resources.

There is need to use such Economic and Natural Resources as rationally as possible, so that Member States may become self-sufficient and free themselves from Economic and Military dependence. We should coordinate our activities and make suitable arrangements for Economic, Commercial and Industrial Co-operation among Islamic States.

Today, countries, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lebanon, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Albania, Uganda, Somalia, are

Annex 15 to OIC/COMCEC/9-93/REP

facing serious problems, and it is but natural that they be granted Islamic assistance.

According to Resolution (2) on matters related to economic assistance to some Islamic countries, it is obvious that their problems can be solved through the economic and financial assistance of donor countries.

Mr. Chairman,

we perceive Economic and Commercial Co-operation among Islamic States as a starting point for a unity of views and joint Islamic action.

I hope that, in the near future, these countries shall be able to become self-sufficient and recover their historical importance.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you once again, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity of taking the floor, at this Closing Session, on behalf of the Member Countries. I also wish to add that the generous hospitality accorded to us is a token of friendship to all our nations.

Thank you.

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CLOSING ADDRESS OF H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE
NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4 September 1993)

Original : Turkish

CLOSING ADDRESS OF H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE
NINTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4 September 1993)

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Ninth Meeting of the COMCEC is ending today and I believe that it has been very beneficial. I would like to thank each and everyone for their contributions to the success of this Meeting. The distinguished Heads and Members of Delegations, H.E. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, the Islamic Development Bank, the Ankara Center and the other specialized institutions have all seriously worked in order to achieve our objectives.

Decisions have been taken, which will be in the interest of all Member Countries. The work accomplished with a view to defining new strategies for cooperation, in keeping with the world developments, have reached a satisfactory stage. The Strategy Document, the second part of which has now been

finalized and endorsed, will bring a new substance and direction to the economic cooperation efforts of our Organization.

I would like to take this occasion to emphasize in particular certain aspects of the new Strategy in the context of the consensus reached at this Meeting.

- It has been agreed to identify ways and means whereby to facilitate the integration of the economies of the Islamic countries in the world economy. To this end, it was decided to lay emphasis on the development of joint projects at regional level.

- It has been agreed to seek areas of cooperation which, though more modest, have a higher potential for better results, instead of wasting time on cooperation projects that are difficult to implement. The COMCEC should not waste time on projects which are no longer valid, or of current interest.

- The options relevant to the participation of the private sector in the COMCEC activities have become more defined. We will rapidly implement our resolution to establish a forum for businessmen that will meet in conjunction with the COMCEC Sessions. Another issue I wish to emphasize in this context is the important place of the small or medium-scale industries in the economies of Member Countries. I do believe that we could derive better returns from such projects. It may be of interest to consider this point at future Meetings.

Distinguished Ministers,

You have also decided at this Meeting to draw up a new "Plan of Action". This plan will be worked out in the light of the approved new Strategy and our past experience. It is also in our best interests to finalize this Plan as early as possible. I am confident that the Member Countries and the concerned institutions will neither spare their support nor their contributions in this respect.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The need to exert further efforts for cooperation and ensure a more effective solidarity among our countries has become of crucial importance vis-à-vis the rapidly changing conditions in the world. Unfortunately, our world is still beset by events that shame mankind. I refer, in this connection to the address of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina who described the developments in his country. I am sure that you have all noted this address with due consideration. It is an historic obligation and responsibility for the Islamic Community to provide the necessary support to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In my opening address at this Meeting, I referred to developments in Azerbaijan. As President of the Republic of Turkey I would like to make a declaration from this rostrum addressed, in particular, to the public opinion.

Despite all our efforts, the Armenian hostilities against Azerbaijan have unfortunately not ceased. As a result of recent attacks 200.000 new Azeri refugees are stranded. The escalation of the conflict can acquire dangerous dimensions. I would urge all countries to persuade the Armenians to immediately and unconditionally evacuate all the lands they have occupied, or else bear the consequences of their actions.

I would also like to take this occasion to address myself to developments in the Middle East.

Turkey is closely following the recent developments of the Middle East Peace Conference. We naturally rejoice that an agreement has been reached between Palestinians and Israelis prior to the 11th round of negotiations, which started last Tuesday in Washington. We would like to congratulate all those who contributed to this happy event.

The climate surrounding the 11th round of negotiations is most promising, and we hope that it will finally lead to the lasting peace and stability to which all the peoples of the region have long aspired.

Distinguished Guests,

We are looking forward to the future, and we are confident that these conflicts will come to an end. We sincerely hope that peace will prevail in the world. Our present and

future endeavours in the framework of COMCEC are geared towards this end. There is need, more than ever before, to develop economic cooperation activities which will be instrumental in bringing about lasting peace and stability in our region and in the world. Turkey, which attaches a special importance to the activities of COMCEC, will continue to provide all possible support to its activities.

Before concluding, I would like to thank, once again, all the delegations of member countries for their constructive work and valuable contributions and reiterate my best wishes to you all and to the people of the sister countries you represent.

I would like to thank the interpreters who have greatly contributed to the success of this Meeting as well as the administrative and supporting staff, who have assisted us at every stage of the Meeting, for their dedicated work at all levels.

I wish you a safe journey back to your homes carrying pleasant memories of Turkey.

