

**REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994**

COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, October 1994

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PART ONE

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

I

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

Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS)

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

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

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

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

DECIDES:

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

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

III. Each Committee shall consist of the representatives of 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

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

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

"... The Conference decided to entrust HE. 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).

III

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

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

Resolution No. 1/5-E (IS)

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

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

Noting with deep satisfaction the steps taken and progress achieved by the Standing Committee towards the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among Member States;

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

1. APPROVES the enlargement of the membership of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) so as to enable all Member states of the OIC to participate in the work of the Standing Committee.

2. ENDORSES the representation of the Member States in 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 (ICTVTR), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

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

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

Noting also with appreciation that the Standing Committee on Science and Technology has, in its three meetings, elaborated a comprehensive Action Programme for fostering cooperation among Member States in the field of Science and Technology;

Expressing thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Ministerial Conferences on Trade, Industrial Cooperation and Food Security and Agricultural Development, which provided necessary guidelines for the implementation of the Plan of Action, in these three vital sectors;

Taking note of the report submitted by the General Secretariat highlighting the stages reached in the implementation of the Plan of Action;

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

Also noting with concern the constraints which have impeded the implementation of the Plan of Action in certain sector, due to financial limitations, lack of data and information, and the slow response of Member States;

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

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

2. WELCOMES the establishment of the Longer-Term Trade Financing Scheme under the Islamic Development Bank and urges all Member States to participate in this scheme, as soon as possible, to facilitate its optimum utilization.
3. WELCOMES the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Third Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development.
4. NOTES with satisfaction the holding of the first meeting of the OIC Ministers of Transport and Communications in September 1987 simultaneously with COMCEC-III and decides to convene a meeting of the Group of Experts to consider the possibility of pooling the resources and capacities including maintenance, repair and training services among the aviation companies of Member States.

IV

**RESOLUTIONS 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.

PART TWO

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

I

**REPORT
OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

(Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994)

Original: English

**REPORT
OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION**

(Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994)

1. The Tenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held on 24 - 25 October 1994, preceded by preparatory meetings of Senior Officials on 22 - 23 October 1994.

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. Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros
11. Arab Republic of Egypt

12. Republic of Gambia
13. Republic of Guinea
14. Republic of Indonesia
15. Islamic Republic of Iran
16. Republic of Iraq
17. Republic of Lebanon
18. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
19. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
20. State of Kuwait
21. Malaysia
22. Islamic Republic of Mauritania
23. Kingdom of Morocco
24. Republic of Niger
25. Sultanate of Oman
26. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
27. State of Palestine
28. State of Qatar
29. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
30. Republic of Senegal
31. Republic of Sudan
32. Syrian Arab Republic
33. Republic of Tajikistan
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 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, affiliated and specialized 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 Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah.

Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO), Karachi.

The Association of National Development Financing Institutions (ADFIMI), Istanbul.

The Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC), Istanbul.

Federation of Islamic Countries Contractors (FICC), Rabat.

Islamic Research Center For History, Culture and Art (IRCICA), Istanbul.

Islamic Shipowners' Association (ISA), Jeddah.

The representatives of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Economic Cooperation Organization, FAO, UNDP and IF AD, attended the Session as observers.

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

Opening Session

4. The Opening Ceremony of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of HE. Süleyman DEMIREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

5. At the beginning of his inaugural address, HE. Süleyman DEMIREL welcomed the delegates to Turkey and expressed his thanks to the Member Countries for their unfailing interest in the work of the COMCEC. Outlining the developments in the world economy, The President indicated that growth in developing countries had become an independent source in the recent world economic recovery. HE Süleyman DEMIREL indicated the opportunities and risks stemming from developments in the world and emphasized the importance for the member countries of furthering cooperation to benefit from the opportunities. In this connection, he stressed the significance of increasing the volume of intra-OIC trade. HE. Süleyman DEMIREL, stating the pertinence of the principles of the new Strategy for economic cooperation among the member countries, expressed his confidence that the new Plan of Action and follow-up mechanism would ensure a more effective cooperation among the member countries. The President stated that, in view of the rapid changes taking place in the world, the COMCEC would become an international platform for member countries for exchange of views on current world economic issues and directed the COMCEC to make necessary preparations to that effect. HE. Süleyman DEMIREL concluded his address by wishing success to the delegates.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of HE. Süleyman DEMIREL is attached as Annex 2.)

6. In his statement, HE. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to HE. Süleyman DEMIREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, to HE. Tansu ÇİLLER, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and HE. Aykon DOĞAN, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey, for their keen interest and wise guidance in promoting economic cooperation among the OIC Member States.

HE. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID pointed out that the Nine previous 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 HE Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, is attached as Annex 3.)

7. The Heads of Delegation of the Republic Indonesia, the Republic of Cameroon, and the State of Kuwait made statements on behalf of the three geographical groups of the Member States they represented. While expressing their thanks and appreciation to HE. Süleyman DEMİREL 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 modes of cooperation. The Heads of Delegation praised the progress achieved by the COMCEC 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.)

8. In his statement delivered at the opening ceremony, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, HE. Dr. Osame Jafer FAQUIH, 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 IDB is attached as Annex 7.)

9. Following the Opening Ceremony, HE. Süleyman DEMİREL received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

10. The Ministerial Working Session of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC was held in the afternoon of the same day under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

11. The Ministers adopted the Draft Agenda of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and decided to review Draft Resolutions OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.RES(1) and OIC/COMCEC/10-94/ D.RES(2) prepared by the Senior Officials, instead of reconsidering the agenda items.

(The Agenda of the Tenth 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.)

12. The Heads of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Sudan, Burkina Faso, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Economic Cooperation Organization, 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.

13. Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' ZAIBEDAH binti Haji Ahmad, Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey and Rapporteur of the COMCEC, read out Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.RES(1).

The Ministers approved Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.RES (1) together with "The Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism".

14. Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' ZAIBEDAH binti Haji Ahmad then read out Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.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/10-94/D.RES (2).

15. The Ministers decided to submit, for adoption, Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.RES(1) together with its Annex and Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.RES(2), through their Chairman, His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, at the Closing Session.

Closing Session

16. The Closing Session of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Hüsamettin CINDORUK, Acting President of the Republic of Turkey

17. At the Closing Session, His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Ministerial Session, presented Draft Resolutions OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.RES(1) and OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D.RES(2), as approved by the Ministers.

The Standing Committee adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/RES(1) together with its Annexes and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/RES(1), "Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States" and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/10-94/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 11, 12 and 13 respectively, to the present Report.)

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

Sultanate of Oman and Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahinya.

Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments Among Member States of OIC;

Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Cameroon:

Framework Agreement on the Preferential Trade System Among Member States of OIC,

Republic of Yemen and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

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

19. In his statement delivered at the closing session, HE. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, stressed the significance of the results achieved at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC, and praised the keen interest and wise guidance of HE. 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 Tenth Session of the COMCEC

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

20. HE. Mohammad Daoud NASSERY, Deputy Minister of Planning delivered a statement on behalf of all delegations. HE. NASSERY expressed deep appreciation for the significant results achieved at the Session and for the wise and able leadership and keen interest of President Süleyman DEMIREL in achieving the objectives of the OIC economic cooperation. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, Minister of State of Turkey and Chairman of the Ministerial Session, for his most able and effective chairmanship of the Ministerial Session. HE. Mohammad Daoud NASSERY also thanked Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' ZAIBEDAH, Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey, 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 successful conclusion of the Meeting. Indicating the concrete results achieved at the Session, the Minister expressed his confidence that the decisions adopted would be expeditiously 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 HE. Mohammad Daoud NASSERY is attached as Annex 15.)

21. In his closing address, HE. Hüsamettin CINDORUK Acting President of the Republic of Turkey, 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 the adoption of the Plan of Action and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism, the

OIC/COMCEC/10-94/REP

Acting President emphasized the importance of the activities of the COMCEC to confront the rapid developments occurring in world economy. HE. Hüsamettin CINDORUK wished delegates a safe journey home.

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

II

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

(Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994)

Original: English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS
CONSIDERED AT THE TENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994)**

DOCUMENT CODE

1. Background Report by the General Secretariat of OIC.....OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D(1)
2. Report of the Tenth Meeting of The Follow-up Committee of The COMCEC.....OIC/COMCEC-FC/10-94/REP
3. Report by The OIC General Secretariat on the Draft Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism.....OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D(7)
4. Draft Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member Countries of the Islamic Conference____OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D(2)
5. Report by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on the Establishment of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme.....OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D(3)
6. Report by the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) on the Establishment of a Trade Information Network.....OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D(4)
7. Report by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICC) on the First Private Sector Meeting Among the OIC Member Countries.....OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D(5)
8. Report of the Secretary General on Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.....OIC/COMCEC/10-94/D(6)

ANNEXES

- 1 -

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994)

Original: English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(22-25 October 1994)

A) MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN

- H.E. Mohammad Daoud NASSERY
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning
- H.E. Azim Nasser ZIA
Ambassador to Turkey
- Mr. Mohammed Farook BARAKI
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Mohammed Asef HURNAT
Ministry of Planning

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- Mr. Mirgjind TEFIKU
General Director of International Relations,
Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Mr. Orhan ZARSHATI
Consule General in Istanbul

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- H.E. Sacı AZIZA
Minister of Trade
- HE Rachid HADDAD
Ambassador to Turkey

- Mr. Amar AOUIDEF
Director, Ministry of Trade
- Mr. Ahmed Lakhdar DEBBABI
Chief of the Cabinet
- Mr. Abdelhamid SAIDI
Consul General

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- H.E. Mehmet Aliyev NEVRUZOĞLU
Ambassador to Turkey

STATE OF BAHRAIN

- Mr. Abdul Rahman Salman KAMAL
Director of International Relations
- Mr. Khalid Salman AL-KHALIFA
First Secretary

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- H.E. Mahmudul HASSAN
Ambassador to Turkey
- Mr. Aminur RAHMAN
Joint Secretary External Relations Division, Ministry of Finance

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN

- Mr. Rigobert LAOUROU
General Manager of Coordination of Foreign Resources,
Ministry of Planning

BURKINA FASO

- H.E. Diawara OMAR
Ambassador
- Mr. M.Moustapha SARR
Consul Member

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- HE. Pierre Eloundou MANI
Minister of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. Dieudonne EVOU MEKOU
Advisor of the Prime Minister's Office
- Mr. Haman Adama HALIMA
Director of Cooperation Department,
Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Ms. Josephine FOTSO
Assistant-Director
Department of Political & Intergovernmental Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Thomas BABI KUSSANA
Responsible of Press, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- Mr. Thierry Edgard NDOE MES SI
Diplomate

FEDERAL ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS

- Mr. Hadji Abdallah ABDULHAMID
Minister Plenipotentiary

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- HE. Mohamed ELDIWANY
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- Mr. Roushdı BARAKAT
Minister Plenipotentiary, Commercial Affairs,
General Consulate in Istanbul
- Mr. Kamal REZK
Minister Plenipotentiary,
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- Mr. Moustafa HALAWANI
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- Ms. Amany FAHMY
Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- Mr. Abdoulaye BARRY
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- Mr. Bassy CAMARA
Head of International Conferences Section
- HE Mamouna BANGOURA
Ambassador of Guinea for Riyadh

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- HE. Ginanjar KARTASASMITA
State Minister for National Development Planning
- Mr. Abdulrachman SUKARNO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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- Mr. Soekrisno SABAR
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- Mr. Noor HANDONO
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- Mr. Mohamad WIDODO
Head of the Foreign Technical Cooperation
Bureau of the Cabinet Secretariat
- Ms. Rifana Erni ARJAKUSUMAH
Head of the International Relations Developing Center,
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- Mr. Komara DJAJA
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- Mr. Inu INUGROHO
Private Secretary of the Minister

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- Mr. Ala'a AL-ANI
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- Mr. Kasim Khalid AL UBAIDI
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- Mr. Sameer Numan ABDULLATIF
Assistant Comm. Attach
- Mr. Laith Habeeb AL RAWI
Trade Minister's Escort
- Mr. Kassim AL SEIDY
Iraq Embassy-Iraq News Agency

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

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Secretary General, Ministry of Planning
- Mr. Sami NSOUR
Advisor to the Minister for Science and Technology, Ministry of Planning
- Mr. Yousef EL-ZUBI
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Second Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance
- H.E. Abdulmohsen AL-JIAN
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Controller of International Affairs,
Minister of Finance
- Mr. Meshal ALARDHI
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- Mr. Muhamed EL-AMIN
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Ambassador
- Mr. Taher Bakır ABOSHWYSHA
- Mr. Sifau Ahmed HASHAD
- Mr. Ahmed ALKELANIESADDI

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Ambassador to Turkey

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- Mr. Haddou ESAADI
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- Mr. Jaffar AHMED

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- Mr. Shaher HENEINI
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- Mr. Asma Yahya EL BASHA
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- HE. Hajrudin SOMUN
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- Mr. Prof. Dr. Asif SABANOİÇ

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

- HE Kanat SAUDABAYEV
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REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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- Mr. Branko IVANOV
Assistant of Minister of Economy
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Councillor

UZBEKISTAN

- Dr. İbrakhim MAVLANOV
Head of Economic Cooperation Sector of
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Olimjon TASHPULATOV
Head of Asian and African Countries Department,
Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations

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General Secretary
- Mr Ousman N.R. OTHMAN
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for Economic Affairs and Sc. & Tech.
- Mr. Nabika DIALLO
Director of Economic Affairs, OIC
- Mr. Nouredine MEZNI
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Director Legal Affairs
- Mr. Danial FIKRI
Director in the Department of Economic Affairs
- Mr. Halil Ibrahim SAID
Professional Officer
- Mr. Mohd Mustafa MOKHLES
Administrative Officer

E) THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

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AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRTCIC)**

- Dr. Sadi CİNDORUK
Director General
- Mr. İlhan UĞUREL
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ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (ICDT)

- Dr. Badre Eddine ALLALI
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- Prof.Dr. Abdul Matin PATWARI
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F. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

- Mr. Osama Jaafar FAQUIH
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- Mr. Abdurahman N. HERSI
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Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Ms. Attiya NAWAZISH ALI
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- Mr. Atilla KAPRALI
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- H.E.Dr. Abdullatif A. SULTAN
Secretary General, Org. of the Islamic Shipowners' Assoc.
- Mr. Jaffar Mohammad AHMAD
Director of Cabinet

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- Mr. Abderahim Lahjouji ALAMI
President

G. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

- Mr. Hashmetullah Zaheri ŞARABI
Deputy Secretary General

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

- Mr. Jan DOORENBUS
Representative of UNDP

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**

- Mr. Jan DOORENBUS
Representative of FAO

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC)

- Dr Abdullah EL-KUWAIZ
Associate Secretary General for Economic Affairs
- Mr. Ali AL-ATAR
Economic Specialist, GCC Secretariat General

INTERNATIONAL FOUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

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Director of the Economic Policy and
Resource Strategy Department of IFAD

**ISLAMIC RESEARCH CENTER FOR HISTORY CULTURE
AND ART IRCICA)**

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Director General

**H. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE
(Within The State Planning Organization)**

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Head of the Comcec Coordination Office
- Mr. Mustafa ŞİRİN
Deputy Head of Comcec Coordination Office
- Mr. Ferruh TIĞLI
Coordinator for Organization
- Mrs. Gülbün SÜEL
Executive Secretary
- Mr. Yakup KARACA
Expert, Drafting
- Mr. İsmail AKPINAR
Expert, Drafting
- Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ
Expert, Meeting Halls

- Mr. Ebubekir MEMİŞ
Expert, Coordinator of Documentation
- Mr. Ati SÖNMEZ
Expert, Documentation
- Mr. Kemal ARSLAN
Expert, Computer Services
- Mr. Nazım GÜMÜŞ
Expert, Documentation
- Mr. Adnan TEKŞEN
Expert, Registration and Press Relations
- Mr. Orhan ÖZTAŞKIN
Expert, Meeting Services

**I. ADMINISTRATION OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE
STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

- Mr. Ali IŞIKLAR
Head of the Administration and Finance Department
- Mr. Kadir ÖZDEMİR
Accountant General, Prime Ministry
- Mr. Yılmaz ERCAN
Head of the Budgeting Department, Prime Ministry
- Ms. Mükerrerem ÖZKILIÇ
Head of Section
- Mr. Mevlüt YAŞAR
Expert, Transportation
- Mr. Yaşar GÜLSOY
Expert, Meeting Halls and Documentation

- 2 -

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY
OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Original: Turkish

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY
OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

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

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the tenth session of the COMCEC and to welcome you to Turkey.

We are going through a period of a very rapid transformation, the effects of which will be felt for a long time to come. The winds of change will leave deep impressions on all countries, influencing broad areas from international relations to domestic politics to economy. The world is now in a process of globalization and interdependence. At the same time regional cooperation has assumed greater importance. New and promising possibilities and opportunities have emerged. However, there are still some difficulties and a degree of irresolution. There are also some new problems.

Evidently it is important to reinforce the cooperation among our countries, paying attention to the new trends, in order to take advantage of the opportunities and solve the problems emerging during this new period. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your interest in and contribution to the activities of COMCEC.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

According to international statistics the world economy is emerging from the stagnation of the early 1990s and entering into a period of comparatively rapid growth. Indeed, it is estimated that the world economy, which recorded an average of 2.3% growth in 1993, will attain a growth rate of 3.1% and 3.6 % in 1994 and 1995, respectively.

It appears that this expected growth of the world economy will be result of the recent liveliness observed in the developing countries, rather than of the about 3% growth in the industrialized countries.

In fact, it is expected that the growth in the developing lands, encompassing our countries, will be twice the growth rate of the industrialized countries with an average of 5.6% growth in 1994 and 1995.

However, certain significant differences can be observed in the economic performance of the developing countries in terms of groups of countries. The performance of the East Asian countries in this respect appears to be quite high. In addition to the structural harmonization and liberalization implemented, the recently increased volumes of trade among those countries have been instrumental in achieving this success.

This trend suggests that the developing countries have been the motive power of the recovery of the world economy.

The economic data verify that there has been a change in the particulars of the economic relations between the industrialized and developing countries in the post-cold war period. Contrary to the previous trend, while the industrialized countries entered a period of economic stagnation beginning by 1989, growth was sustained in the developing countries. In addition to the growing demand in the developing countries, the expansion of the trade volume among those countries has played an important role in this trend. As a matter of fact, the volume of trade among the East Asian countries has expanded from 26 % in 1986 to 37 % in 1992.

The relative expansion of the volume of trade among our countries runs a parallel course to this trend. However, it is also fact that the volume of trade among the member countries, though growing from 8% to 10% in recent years, is still much smaller than

what is potentially possible. I believe that our efforts for economic cooperation must be targeted to increase this figure to 30 % and over.

The world trade volume is also expected to grow parallel to economic revival. It is forecast that the world trade which grew 4% in 1993 will expand by 7.2% and 5.9% in 1994 and 1995, respectively.

This rising trend of the world trade volume will be further accelerated when the GATT agreement signed last April is ratified and put into force. The agreement signed in Marrakech, as different from the former agreements, aims to give a quality of permanence to GATT under the title of World Trade Organization. Thus it will be possible to monitor more effectively the elimination of the tariff and non-tariff barriers as envisaged.

The last round of the trade negotiations started in Uruguay in 1986 is significantly different from the previous rounds. With the conclusion of these negotiations, the scope of the multilateral trade system has been expanded to cover all aspects of trade.

Agriculture, textiles, various services, trade investments and copyrights have been included within the scope of the multilateral trade system. These are areas of deep interest for our countries.

Another distinctive feature of the Uruguay process distinguishing it from the previous rounds is the increased number of the countries actively participating in the negotiations.

This universal interest is due to the fact that the significance of the liberalization of the world trade for the economic reform and development efforts of the countries is well comprehended.

It is estimated that when the Uruguay Agreement comes into force, the world trade will expand by 10% and consequently the world output will realize an annual growth of 250 billion dollars.

We, as the Islamic countries, must find the ways to secure a maximum share of this expansion of the world trade.

We are also witness to structural changes in politics parallel to the favourable trends in the state of world economics.

The "Apartheid" regime of the Republic of South Africa is now part of history. It has been replaced by an administration elected by the free will of the people. Important democratic developments are taking place in other parts of the world, in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The former Eastern Bloc countries are now governed by elected administrations.

With the end of the cold war, the process of the intensification and integration of the international economic and political relations has gained new dimensions. The universal acceptance of human rights, democracy, free market economy and environmentalism is the manifest feature of the current period.

On the other hand, we observe with great pleasure the favourable developments of the peace process in the Middle East which concerns our community closely. An opportunity has now come up to finally terminate the conflict in the Middle East, which has a history of nearly half a century.

We must continue to support the peace process in the Middle East and to make every possible contribution to terminate hostilities and establish peace in the region. I believe that in the event the peace process is successfully concluded, the efforts of the countries in the region towards economic development and growth will be more effective. Part of the resources spent for armaments so far can be diverted to economic and social development.

On the other hand, Turkey has declared at the "Conference on Support to Peace in the Middle East," convened in Washington on 1 October 1993 that she would contribute 52 billion dollars to the PLO, 2 million Dollars as a gift and 50 million Dollars as Eximbank credit. Turkey remitted the 2 billion dollars gift to the PLO on 17 January 1994. It is planned to extend the 50 million dollars of Eximbank credit as an investment loan to be made available to the Turkish firms contracting for the infrastructure facilities in the region.

While favourable developments take place to create a climate for a permanent peace in our region, the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis can still be felt. The tension resulting from the recent attitude of Iraq has caused concern in Turkey. We consider that preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries is a fundamental principle to be honoured by the entire international community. We believe that Iraq must not disregard this fundamental principle in her relations with her neighbours. We wish that

Iraq , by abiding by the resolutions of the Security Council, including the aforementioned issue, will assume her place in the international community and the sufferings of the people of Iraq will come to an end.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates.
Dear Guests,

The process of transformation, carrying the world to the 21st century and aimed at securing the existence of mankind in peace and prosperity, also bears some uncertainties and threats.

In the economy, increasing unemployment, growing public deficits and spiralling rates of interest in spite of low inflation in many industrialized countries continue to be a source concern.

The standard of life in the less affluent countries of Africa and Asia continues to decline due to unfavourable external circumstances and insufficient efforts for reforms.

On the other hand, it is important to assist the efforts to improve the economic conditions in Russia who is in the process of transition to the market economy and in the newly independent Republics.

Economic cooperation with the countries in this region will both contribute to the development of these countries and will help to establish security and stability in Eurasia

The world has unfortunately been slow to adopt a determined and rational stance towards the tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Somalia and Ruanda.

I would like to take this occasion to commend the Organization of the Islamic Conference for the solidarity it has manifested towards the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue. The inhuman assaults directed against the Moslem population of Bosnia-Herzegovina still continue. Our community strongly denounces these assaults and the necessary diplomatic interventions are made to put a stop to this tragedy. I hope that we, both as an Organization and individual member countries, will continue to extend moral and material aid to the Moslem Bosnian people. With the approach of winter this aid has become even more urgent now.

Similarly, it is our most cherished wish that the assault on Azerbaijan will soon end and a rapidly established domestic stability will bring happiness and prosperity to the friendly and brotherly people of Azerbaijan.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Islamic Turkish population of Cyprus has been fighting for long years for equality and justice. They want peace and endeavor for a peaceful solution of the Cyprus issue.

The Islamic Conference has always proven their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriots, who are an indivisible part of the Islamic community. The economic difficulties and constraints confronting the Turkish population of Cyprus have become even more severe recently. I would like to take this occasion to point out that it would be beneficial should the member countries of the Islamic Conference develop their commercial, economic and cultural relations with the Islamic Turkish people of Cyprus, as envisaged by the OIC summit resolutions. Thus the Islamic countries will contribute to an equitable and realistic solution of the Cyprus problem, and concretely manifest as well, their solidarity on this issue in a concrete form.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

I believe that COMCEC, which is committed to developing economic and commercial cooperation among our countries, has a very important role in establishing peace and stability in the region.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference of which we are members has therefore a special significance. Our common moral values and cultural heritage provide us with an appropriate platform to act in unison and for mutual assistance. We must utilize these common values very diligently.

However, this must not mean isolating ourselves from the rest of the world. Current conditions require us to promote solidarity among our countries, not by secluding ourselves, but by integrating with the world, with a mentality that contributes to foster cooperation with other countries as well. This kind of an approach can also prevent the attempts to create artificial tensions in the world. The most effective hindrance to such

attempts is economic cooperation. COMCEC has a very important part to play in this field.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

When we look at the agenda of the COMCEC we see that it contains important items and cooperation projects in respect of events taking place in the world. And I am pleased to remark that we have made significant progress in relation to these events.

Under the light of the New Strategy adopted during the Ninth Session of the COMCEC, the preparations for a new Action Plan for Economic Cooperation have already been completed.

The New Action Plan which will be debated during this session is based on the topical principles included in the strategy approved last year, such as cooperation among sub-regional groups, economic liberalization and emphasizing the importance of the private sector and integration with the world economy.

Another feature of the New Action Plan which encompasses important areas of cooperation is that it envisages a follow-up and implementation scheme. I am of the opinion that this scheme will contribute to more effective management of cooperation activities.

The deep interest and support of the member countries and the diligent efforts of the affiliated institutions of our Organization have been instrumental in the rapid progress of the work which give a new dimension and scope to our cooperation efforts.

The First Private Sector Meeting of Islamic Countries was held recently in this city. This meeting, bringing together the representatives of the private sector for the first time, was indeed an important event.

I am sure that you shall very carefully consider the conclusions of the Private Sector Meeting. Such meetings must be regularly convened so that the private sector may assume a leading role in the cooperation existing among us. It is very important to establish a setting whereby our countries can benefit by the boundless dynamism of the private sector.

Another important item of our Agenda is that the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme, the preparatory work of which was undertaken by the Islamic Development Bank, has become operative last August. I wish to congratulate the Bank for the successful conclusion of this task.

This project, realized through your steadfast interest and constructive contributions, following the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme, provides an additional opportunity, although of modest dimensions, to the exporters and investors of member countries. I hope this project will be fruitful and that our countries will take maximum advantage of this opportunity.

Distinguished Ministers,

COMCEC, which has been convening in its tenth session, has proven itself as a regular international platform for member countries, particularly in the field of economic and commercial cooperation.

However, I believe that further efforts must be made to render the COMCEC a more effective platform vis-à-vis the changing world conditions.

As a new step in this context and in addition to its present functions, I believe it would be beneficial to use the COMCEC as a discussion platform to exchange ideas on the economic developments taking place both in member countries and worldwide.

Our Ministers will then meet not only to discuss specific technical projects, but they will also debate the important economic and commercial issues of their countries and of the world and coordinate their stands in respect of the evolution of these events. I believe we can start the preparatory work at this Session in order to apply this idea and other similar ideas as well.

Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, I wish you full success in your work and hope you will have a pleasant stay in Istanbul.

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

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Original: French

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

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Your Excellency Mr. Süleyman Demirel
President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of the COMCEC,
Your Excellency,
Your Excellencies the Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmetullahi Wa Barakatuh.

I wish to say how gratified I feel to have been able to participate in this Tenth Session of the COMCEC which is being convened as in the past in this fabulous and historic city of Istanbul which has contributed so much to the defence and radiance of Islam.

May I also be allowed to express my profound gratitude to HE. the President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC, to the Government and brotherly people of Turkey for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to myself and to the delegation accompanying me, ever since our arrival in this beautiful country.

Mr. Chairman,

You have so kindly accepted as has been your practice, and despite your heavy tasks, to devote your precious time to Joint Islamic action, for the benefit of the economic promotion of our States, by chairing the inaugural session of this annual Session of COMCEC. Your inaugural speech, brimming with sagacity, will guide COMCEC's action in

the future. Likewise, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Her Excellency Madame Tansu Ciller for her message so full of encouragement, and for her personal support to COMCEC.

Lastly, I wish to hail the presence amongst us of Their Excellencies the Ministers and other eminent personalities who have so kindly accepted to honour this meeting with their presence.

Mr. President,

Our meeting is being held at a particularly important and critical juncture of the world economic situation. As a matter of fact, the year 1994 will have been marked at the economic level by the conclusion of the negotiations of the Uruguay Round and the signature of the GATT agreement at Marrakesh. This is to say that tomorrow, even more than in the past, the world economy will be guided by the market forces with the predominance in general of the most performing economies, the most resourceful and the best organized. Hence the least performing and weakest economies, are bound to be steamrolled and marginalized.

Yet, the OIC Member States are all still underdeveloped countries. We can of course rejoice at the national development efforts of some of our Member States. Also, there is no denying that most of our States have adopted bold reforms and elaborated rational developmental plans.

However, the erratic character, worse still, the steady fall in the prices of our export products as opposed to constantly rising cost of equipment and imported products, the excessive indebtedness of several among our States, the budgetary difficulties and shortage in external public aid at favourable terms, continue to delay and even compromise the development of most of our Member States, in the medium term.

The situation of many of our Member States who are amongst the least developed countries is more serious still, and even alarming.

As a matter of fact, according to the report published by UNCTAD in April 1994, the per-capita income in those countries, and more particularly those in Africa, has witnessed a steady decline since the adoption of the Action Programme in favour of the least developed countries for the 1990s.

Thus, one can see that most of the Member States of our Organization are still ill-prepared to sail over the new wave of world economy which is marked by the entry into force of the GATT agreements, over and above the emergence of new economic groupings such as the Free Trade Zone of North America (ALENA) of European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

As I have often pointed out at our various meetings, in the face of the current world situation, strengthening inter-Islamic cooperation is the only way for us to better safeguard our national interests and avoid further marginalization.

This in no way implies of any confrontational policy with the various economic blocks that have already been set up, but rather a better organization on our part, by pooling our immense economic and human potential so as to bolster our negotiation capacity with our partners among the industrialized countries.

We may, rightly, feel satisfied at the initiatives of COMCEC in favour of a closer economic cooperation among our Member States.

In this context, COMCEC has already elaborated and set up important mechanism such as the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme, the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among Member States, the Export Credit Insurance Scheme and Investment Guarantee, and the Islamic Multilateral Clearing Union. The first meeting of the private sector of the Member States which has just successfully concluded its deliberations here in Istanbul, thanks to the close collaboration of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industry and Commodity Exchange, and the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Turkey, is also another happy initiative of COMCEC to consolidate economic and trade cooperation among the OIC Member State.

The new draft COMCEC Plan of Action which has been elaborated in conformity with the directives of the Sixth Islamic Session of COMCEC, has also defined the ways and means to boost economic cooperation among our States.

This plan, once approved by the present COMCEC Session, will be submitted to the Kings and Heads of State of our Member States, at the Seventh Islamic Summit scheduled to convene in Morocco, next December.

We do attach great hopes on this Summit Conference to give a new boost to joint Islamic action and take up challenges encountered as we proceed together towards development and progress.

It is heartening to notice that COMCEC, thanks to the cooperation of all the OIC concerned institutions, and more particularly that of the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, of which I am pleased to make a particular mention here, has already worked out and established a number of mechanisms that will allow for a rapid development of economic and trade cooperation among our Member States. I wish to launch at this juncture a pressing appeal to our Member States, to the Chambers of Commerce and to economic operators in our countries, to make full use of these means that are made available to them to promote economic and trade cooperation among our countries. I also appeal to the OIC institutions to continue to support efficiently the COMCEC action in favour of a stronger inter-Islamic economic cooperation.

In conclusion, may I extend my best wishes of success to your deliberations, and assure you that the General Secretariat will spare no effort in the implementing your decisions and recommendations.

I thank you.

Wassalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. NASIR ABDULLAH AL-RODAN,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Original : Arabic

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. NASIR ABDULLAH AL-RODAN,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

In the Name of God Most Merciful, Most Compassionate,
His Excellency President Süleyman Demirel,
President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC.
His Excellency Dr. Hamid Al Ghabid,
Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
His Excellency Osama Ja'far Falsili,
President of the Islamic Development Bank,

Distinguished Delegates,

God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you. It is a great honour for me, Mr. President, to address this meeting, on behalf of the Arab group, and to express our profound thanks and sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in your hospitable country.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to commend your pioneering role and unflagging efforts that you have been exerting with a view to promoting and strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among our Islamic countries under your able guidance, as chairman of COMCEC.

Your inaugural address clearly reflects your support and commitment to the promotion of the various field of economic cooperation among our countries.

Mr. Chairman,

We are fully aware of the important developments occurring on the global economic scene, such as the recovery of industrial countries from the state of economic stagnation that has prevailed over the past years, their accelerated growth roles and their larger role as contributors to development worldwide.

This positive development led to an increasing world demand on capital markets, increasing interest rates in the world and to the establishment of the world Trade organization with its impact on our countries.

These developments prompt us to take a series of basic steps with a view to achieving greater balance in our economies, through lowering deficits in public budgets, achieving an external balance of payment and increasing the economic efficiency of our resources for better assimilation of and adoption to these development. However, we should indicate in this connection that, although rising growth rates at global level create a favourable climate for a greater volume of exports, this shall not suffice and should be accompanied by closer, economic relations in the context of the various sectors.

This situation dictates that we implement some corrective programmes that aim at redressing the economic course, rationalizing market mechanisms and encouraging the private sector so that it may assume a more prominent role in achieving the objectives of the development and economic cooperation among our countries.

You will concur with me on the importance of national and regional political stability as an indispensable factor in encouraging private investment, and the flow of external resources for investment purposes, particularly amidst increasing world competition.

In the light of the above mentioned, I would like to stress the importance of cooperation on the basis of mutuality of common interests and avoidance of regional disputes in order to provide a favourable climate for economic and social development in the ultimate interest of our people.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Brothers,

COMCEC has moved ahead on the course of economic cooperation in accordance with the resolutions of Islamic Summit Conferences. This is reflected in the adoption of the Plan of Action for the promotion of economic cooperation, which endorses various practical projects and programmes that cope with the economic situation in Muslim countries, such as the Long-Trade Financial Scheme, the General Framework Agreement for Trade Preferences, the Islamic Corporation for Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme.

We are about to put the last touches to the Plan of Action aimed at strengthening economic cooperation, in the light of the main strategies that were approved by previous COMCEC Session; the general objectives of all sectors of economic cooperation have been determined as well as the programme of work for each sector.

We sincerely hope that, at their next meeting, the technical experts will work out the appropriate mechanism that will enable the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Brothers,

It is of good omen that our present Session meets after the announcement of the entry into forces, on 1 August 1994, of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme, under the auspices of the Islamic Development bank. This is the culmination of efforts exerted by COMCEC over the past years, and we sincerely hope that this corporation shall promote a greater commercial cooperation among our Islamic States.

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Brothers,

I wish to refer to one of the important items on our agenda, which is of major concern to a great number of us, namely encouraging the private sector to participate in the reconstruction and development process, given the great potentials, the effectiveness and flexibility of this sector. Several Member States, including the State of Kuwait, have taken a number measures and enacted laws in support of that trend. Some of them have transferred

ownership of some services companies and institutions to the private sector, wishing to raise the efficiency of the services provided and alleviate the financial burden of States.

The first meeting of businessman, on 18 and 19 October, is a clear proof of the importance attached by our States to consolidating and encouraging this important sector and enabling it to contribute to the development of our States.

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Brothers,

I beg your indulgence in referring to the fact that, since the establishment of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, my country has consistently consolidated and supported cooperation among Member State in all fields. It shall maintain its support and its steadfast and principled commitment to the Teachings of our Religion which advocates justice and solidarity

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Brothers,

Before concluding, I wish to express my appreciation for the efforts made by the experts in the preparation of our Session over the last two days. They have undoubtedly facilitated our work and made it possible for us to arrive at constructive resolutions which shall promote cooperation among our States.

In conclusion, may I be permitted, Mr. Chairman, to express, once again, our gratitude to you, and to the Turkish Government and people for their warm welcome and generous hospitality, for which we are deeply appreciative. May God Almighty guide us and bless our endeavors in the interest of the Islamic Ummah.

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh.

**SPEECH OF
H.E. GINANJAR KARTASASMITA
MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Original: English

**SPEECH OF
H.E. GINAN JAR KARTASASMITA
MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Bismillah-hir-Rahmanir-Rahim

Your Excellency
The President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of the COMCEC
Your Excellency Mr. Hamid Al-GABID
The Secretary General of the OIC
Excellencies
Distinguished Colleagues,
Brothers and Sisters

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wabarakutuhu.

It is an honour for me to represent the Asian member countries of the OIC in expressing our gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to our delegations by the Government and the people of Turkey.

We also would like to commend the organizers for the fine arrangements of the meeting.

To be in this historic city of Istanbul, which for centuries had been the centre of the world and the fountain of civilization, is a great pleasure for all of us. Istanbul, indeed, gives the right setting and environment for the Organization and its member governments to form a vision and formulate strategies to create a better world for the Islamic Ummah and pursue our Islamic ideas.

Mr. Chairman,

We have listened with great interest to Your Excellency's inaugural address. We are greatly impressed and indebted to you,, your Excellency, for your views and wise counsel on the issues before us which, we are sure, will be a valuable source of guidance in our meeting.

It is my privilege to extend through Your Excellency, Mr. President, our sincere appreciation to the dynamic and constructive role the Turkish Government and its people have always played in the work of our organization. This reflects due recognition of your personal leadership and commitment to the shared aspirations and views of the Islamic Ummah. On behalf of the delegations of the Asian region we pledge full cooperation to you in guiding our conference to a successful conclusion, Insha Allah.

Mr. Chairman,

The tenth meeting of COMCEC will be noted as a milestone in the history of our organization. A decade has passed since its first meeting. Our organization has grown in strength and commitment to its objectives and has expanded its activities to cover various aspects of cooperation

In the meantime the world has also been undergoing dramatic changes. The confrontational atmosphere of the superpowers no longer exists. As you have clearly pointed out Mr. Chairman not only has the political structure changed, the world economy is also undergoing a process of structural transformation. The economic trend has been moving into a more extensive global commerce, with less restriction in the flow of resources and ideas, and thereby has extended the boundaries of our limitation and opened up new possibilities. This process of change in the past decade has generated a new strength in the world economy, promising a higher level of prosperity.

Nonetheless, parallel to this world's trend, the developing world of which our brothers and sisters in the OIC member countries are a substantial part continue to be plagued by daunting problems such as mass poverty, high indebtedness, limited access to health, education and basic facilities, as well as the widening gap of living standard, level of technology and development between the rich and the poor. In various areas of the world our Muslim brothers and sisters are not only prevented from improving their living standard, but they are also the object of inhuman oppression and gross injustice.

Mr. Chairman,

In these circumstances the dawn of the new economic era will not mean much. To be part of and to participate in the dynamics of change, we have to be able to make the best use of our potentials and improve competitiveness as well as comparative advantages. We have to substantially develop and modernize our human resources, reform our social and economic institutions and improve our physical infrastructure.

These are the tasks before us, in meeting the formidable challenges, and exploiting the opportunities of the more transparent and open world economy. Working together we have a better chance of success than going our own separate ways.

In this context, we place much hope in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as we share the same cultural heritage and ideals. Cooperation, multilaterally as well as bilaterally, will give us additional strength as we give support to and complement each other.

Our meeting at the tenth COMCEC Session has therefore an important mission, that is to give the final form to the Plan of Action within the framework of the New Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among OIC Member Countries. We believe that this new strategy could facilitate the mobilization of our resources and strengthen more effectively our cooperative endeavors in attaining our goals.

In implementing this new strategy the identification of projects which answer the critical needs of OIC member countries becomes very important. More importantly, it is the commitment to effectively implement all the agreed actions that really counts.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that we have not really tapped the full potentials of our individual and collective strengths. The role of our institutions and affiliated institutions, such as the Islamic Development Bank need to be optimized for the benefit of the Islamic Ummah. So does the role of our private sector in promoting more economic and commercial cooperation among members. It is therefore very encouraging to see that our private sector has been included in the process of our cooperation.

We strongly believe that under your guidance, your Excellency, our organization will continue to rise in importance and effectiveness as a vehicle of cooperation among countries in the Islamic world. We, the Asian members of the OIC, herewith appeal to all members to unite, strengthen solidarity and trust our Organization, to be able to meet the challenges in front of us.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. PIERRE ELONDOU MANI
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Original. French

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. PIERRE ELONDOU MANI
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

Your Excellency Mr. President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of COMCEC.

Mr. OIC Secretary General

Distinguished Ministers

Honourable delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the signal honour of taking the floor, on behalf of the African Group, before this august Assembly, on the occasion of the Tenth Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.

I first wish to express my sincere thanks to the government and people of Turkey for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to the respective delegations since their arrival in this historic city of Istanbul. This tradition of hospitality, well nigh legendary, is the symbol of the greatness of your country, of its illustrious past and its firm determination to keep pace with the modern era.

I also wish to extend my sincere congratulation to the Organizing Committee for the smooth functioning of our present meeting.

Your Excellency Mr. President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of COMCEC.
Mr. OIC Secretary General
Distinguished Ministers
Honourable delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Our Session is meeting at a time in which the world economic system is undergoing profound changes, namely the negotiations of the Uruguay Round, the establishment of the World Trade Organization, the convening of a symposium on commercial efficacy, etc. These events usher in a new era and constitute an important turning point in economic and commercial relations and, consequently, dictate to our States, who are not sufficiently inured to the liberal system, a stronger solidarity. Thus, Islamic States, the majority of which are developing, should close their ranks and consolidate their cooperation. Enjoying immense and diversified potentials, they should take up the new challenges, as there can be no mention of efficacy in terms of trade without addressing the means to increase the share of developing countries and of L.D.C.'s in the world trade.

That is why the countries of the African Group commend the effort made hitherto by the OIC, IDB and COMCEC to put at the disposal of the Islamic Ummah the appropriate means whereby to improve inter-Islamic trade. I shall refer, for example, to the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation among OIC Member States, the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme, the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme, the establishment of the Trade Information Network and of the System of Trade Preferences.

As the economies of most Member States, in general, and of African States in particular, are beset by a persisting economic crisis, we believe that the development of the private sector, in support of liberalization, should be a major concern for our states.

Through generating an investment flow, the contribution of the private sector is instrumental in the growth and progress of our countries.

Mr. President of the Republic, at the closing of the Ninth Ministerial Session of COMCEC, last year, you said, I quote: "There is need, more than ever before, to develop economic cooperation which will be instrumental in bringing about lasting peace in our region and in the world." end of quotation. It is in this context that a meeting of the representatives of the private sector was convened, for the first time in Istanbul, given the fact that the private sector is the privileged operator in the framework of inter-Islamic economic cooperation.

However, the conclusions of the private sector indicate insufficient trade among Member States, minimal exchange of trade information and a great number of bottlenecks, namely numerous complex and restricting conditionalities, indeed paralyzing. As a result of this state of affairs, a feeling of frustration emerges that could dull our enthusiasm

Your Excellency Mr. President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of COMCEC.
Mr. OIC Secretary General
Mr. Minister of State of the Republic
Honourable delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Our countries spare no effort in activating South-South cooperation. As far as Cameroon is concerned, it has taken bold economic liberalization measures, under the auspicious aegis of President Paul Biya. Accordingly, since several months, quantitative restrictions have been lifted and the fixing of prices by the administration has been discontinued.

Moreover, the Government has decided not to intervene directly in production, distribution and marketing activities in favour of the private sector. I wish in this connection to appeal to the businessmen of the Islamic Ummah to establish partnership links in joint ventures with their African colleagues.

Despite the economic crisis besetting most countries of the world, Africa remains a sound risk to take.

- May Allah Almighty guide us and bless our effort in the accomplishment of our task.

I thank you.

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. OSAMA JAFAR FAQUIH
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 24 October 1994)

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Thanks to the Lord of the Universe. Prayers and Peace be upon the noblest of His messengers, Prophet Mohamed and his family and companions.

*Your Excellency Mr. Süleyman Demirel. President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC,
Your Excellency Dr. Hamed El Gabid, Secretary General of the OIC,
Excellencies the Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Honorable Brothers and Sisters*

Asslamu Alaikum Warhmatullah Wabarakatuh

It gives me great pleasure to address this august meeting, on behalf of the Islamic Development Bank, conveying our highest appreciations and compliments to our member states and institutions attending this Conference. I also take this opportunity to present our deepest appreciations and gratitude to the President, Government, and People of the Republic of Turkey for hosting these periodic meetings, which have played a leading role in enhancing economic cooperation among the OIC member countries.

Mr President,

As the Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation " COMCEC", your and your predecessor's dedicated efforts for the remarkable achievements of COMCEC can only be congratulated. The IDB takes pride in being a part of the institutional efforts which the COMCEC has successfully mobilized. It is our conviction that the COMCEC's performance and dynamism will continue under your able leadership in achieving the laudable objectives for which was established.

Excellencies,

Since its inception, the Bank has mobilized its resources and efforts to strengthen cooperation among its member countries, and has been exploring their needs as part of its endeavor to attain the noble goals and objectives set forth in its Articles of Agreement, which in the first place seek fostering economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities. As a result of its periodic evaluation of its activities and operations, I would like to inform you that the IDB has embarked on a medium-term strategic plan. The objectives set in the strategy include fostering economic cooperation among member countries, promoting intra-trade, alleviating poverty, enhancing Muslim human resources, and encouraging the utilization of science and technology, preservation of environment, enhancing the role of the private sector in the development process, and encouraging adjustment programmes of member countries. Moreover the strategy gives special priority to the sectors of agriculture, food security and industry, particularly medium and small size industries, education, health, transport and communication.

Real cooperation based on mutual benefits and serving of common interests, has always been, as it is, at the top of the Bank's strategic agenda. Having considered the trade as the main vehicle of establishing closer economic and commercial ties, the Bank accords special significance to the promotion of trade among member countries. In the mist of the underlying current trends dominating the global economy, the tendency to form blocs and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round Negotiations and announcement of the launching of a new World Trade Organization in Marakkesh this year, trade issues have gained paramount importance and priority. The growing tendency of regionalization of world trade and its dominance by powerful trading blocks would entail the Muslim countries and their institutions to consider fresh initiatives in these areas to serve their interests and protect their gains.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Having undertaken the necessary studies, the Bank has now completed all three assignments given to it by the COMCEC since the first session. After the launching of the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme and the conclusion of the model for a multilateral Islamic Clearing Union, I am happy to inform you that the third project, the establishment of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit has now come into being, after being signed by 30 member countries 11 of which have ratified the agreement. Among the documents of your esteemed meeting is a final report submitted by the bank summarizing the most basic developments of this important corporation. The success of this corporation would depend on your enlisting among its membership, by ratifying its agreement, depositing the ratification documents with the Bank, and paying the value of the due portion of the subscribed shares. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal through your chairmanship to all the member countries who have not yet done so to participate in these schemes. These schemes, as you are aware, supplement the Bank's other operational programmes and activities related to project and trade financing and promotion of investment. The IDB's three trade financing schemes can be utilized by our member countries in promoting trade among themselves. The schemes give preferences to imports of developmental inputs and exports of non-traditional goods exported from member countries. The OICIS-NET (OIC Information Network) is another project of which the Bank has been involved. This important project will facilitate the flow of commercial and technical information among them, which is prerequisite for closer ties and links. A pilot project in Phase I is now under implementation, linking 11 member countries through their national focal centers and sectoral nodes. The Bank would continue taking necessary steps towards speeding up the process regarding the establishment of OICIS-NET project and its coordination with TINIC project.

The Bank has taken in recent years a keen interest in human resource development and technical cooperation. By promoting expertise and technology available in member countries, the scope of positive and creative cooperation is widened; as a result, the potentials and resources can be better utilized to yield mutual benefits. The Central Asian Muslim Republics, which have joined IDB or are seeking its membership, along with Albania (already a member), are some of the main beneficiaries of Bank's technical assistance and cooperation programmes. This unique institution continues to accord special attention to Muslim communities across the globe and has established a Special Assistance Programme to help them develop their human resources capabilities by providing wider opportunities in the fields of education, health care and social services and help them preserve their Muslim identity. Out of 47 member countries, 20 member countries are classified as "least developed" and the IDB has been giving a special treatment to the least developed member countries by providing necessary assistance and soft-term funding in all possible ways. In addition to regular operations, a special account has been launched with an allocation of US\$ 100 million for the benefit of these countries.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Let me recapitulate; despite the number and diversity, the achievements made by the IDB or in which it participated in the framework of the OIC are not up to our ambitions. This fact calls upon us, particularly for the remaining part of the 1990s and beyond, to intensify our collective efforts and mobilize our potentials to find more effective ways and means to face the new challenges, foremost among which are the global decline in the flow of development resources, the rise in poverty, crippling unemployment, threatening food security, worsening balance of trade and payments positions for most member countries, falling behind the economic and technological boom and prosperity enjoyed in the developed countries.

To support the IDB's efforts to cope with these challenges, member countries have substantially increased the Bank's capital resource base, from 2 billion ID to 6 billion ID. The IDB on its part will do everything possible, by the grace of Allah, to use these resources in the most effective manner and harness them in order to promote the economic and social development of the member countries and Muslim communities. The IDB is confident that it will continue to enjoy the unreserved support and cooperation of its member countries.

Mr President,
Excellencies,

To confront these serious challenges at the OIC level, the formulation and consideration of the new strategy and plan of action to strengthen economic cooperation among the Islamic countries, which your Conference will be discussing in its agenda, could not have come in a more appropriate time. The IDB has been all too eager since the beginning of the process to contribute to the institutional efforts, along with other sister institutions of the OIC, in developing this new strategy for the Plan of Action. Out of its keenness to elaborate a realistic and practical strategy for action, the Bank was happy to host a meeting of eminent experts last December invited to review and revise the draft document of the Plan of Action to ensure that it meets the exigencies of the new phase and that it is in line with the orientation of our member states. We hope the approval and adoption of the contents of this document by the COMCEC and the member states should mark a new stage of enhanced cooperation. In fact, more efforts need to be put together to make the Action Plan practical and implementable. As conveyed at the last meeting of COMCEC, I wish to take this opportunity to reassure Your Excellencies that the IDB will do all it can to support member countries to achieve the desired objectives enshrined in this new Plan of Action.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Before concluding let me underline the important role that the private sector and its agents can effectively play in implementing the new OIC strategy and the Action Plan. The emerging strategy of development of 1990s has emphasized the necessity of striking a balance in the role of the public and private sectors in the management of the economy. Efforts for privatization, deregulation, free market/ competitive environment, and less attempts at intervention to direct market factors are undoubtedly designed, among other things, to enhance the position of the private sector as the main dynamic agent in the economy. Experiences of a number of member and non-member countries demonstrate the dynamic and constructive role that the private sector can play in producing faster economic growth and transformation in the national economies, given the conducive climate and necessary incentives for stability and sustained economic growth.

The first meeting highlighting the activities of the Private Sector in our countries, held before this Conference marks an important step in the right direction. As underlined at that meeting, the regional cooperation without the participation of the private sector is an incomplete and one-sided activity. While assisting in identifying opportunities and areas for cooperation among OIC member states, the private sector should be involved in institution-building, on the formulation of general and sector-bound strategies of cooperation as part of the regional participatory development strategy. The promising areas and activities through which the private sector and its institutions can participate effectively in the development process and achieve a cooperation based on mutual benefits and service of common interests would be more meaningfully and efficiently identified by the sector itself. Promotion of trade links, joint ventures, technical cooperation, development and acquisition of appropriate technology are some of the key areas where the private sector can play a leading role.

In concluding, Mr President, let me once again thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government and the People of Turkey for continuously supporting the efforts of the COMCEC directed at strengthening brotherly cooperation among member countries and communities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

I pray Allah, the Almighty, to crown our efforts with success.

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

Wassalam-u Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh

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**AGENDA
OF THE TENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994)

Original: English

**AGENDA
OF THE TENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994)

1. Opening Session.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Report by the General Secretariat of OIC
4. Report of the Follow-up Committee.
5. Report by the OIC General Secretariat on the Draft Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism.
6. Report by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on the Establishment of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme.
7. Report by the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) on the Establishment of a Trade Information Network Among OIC Member States.
8. Report by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on the First Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member Countries.
9. Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.
10. Report of the Sessional Committee
11. Any Other Business.
12. Date of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC.
13. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Tenth Session of the COMCEC.
14. Closing of the Meeting.

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

(Istanbul, 22-23 October 1994)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 22-23 October 1994)

1. The Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Tenth 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 22 and 23 October, 1994, 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. State of Bahrain
5. People's Republic of Bangladesh
6. Burkina Faso
7. Republic of Cameroon
8. Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros
9. Arab Republic of Egypt
10. Republic of Gambia
11. Republic of Guinea
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. Malaysia
20. Kingdom of Morocco
21. Republic of Niger
22. Sultanate of Oman
23. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
24. State of Palestine
25. State of Qatar
26. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
27. Republic of Senegal
28. Republic of Sudan
29. Syrian Arab Republic
30. Republic of Tajikistan
31. Republic of Tunisia
32. Republic of Turkey
33. Republic of Turkmenistan
34. Republic of Uganda
35. State of the United Arab Emirates
36. 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 representatives of the General Secretariat and the following subsidiary, affiliated and specialized 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 Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah.

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Karachi.

The Islamic Shipowners Associations (ISA), Jeddah.

The representatives of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), FAO, UNDP and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) attended the Meeting as observers.

4. The Meeting was chaired by HE. Timuçin SANALAN, Deputy Undersecretary of State for the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey.

5. H.E. Timuçin SANALAN 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 Tenth Session of the COMCEC, as prepared by the Tenth 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 Ambassador 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, HE. 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. Timuçin SANALAN 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.

9. 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 Ninth 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.

10. The Senior Officials extended their thanks and appreciation to the General Secretariat and related institutions of OIC for their continuous efforts to promote economic cooperation among the Member Countries.

11. The Senior Officials called again upon 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.

12. The Senior Officials expressed their thanks and appreciation:

- a) to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for successfully hosting the 5th Islamic Trade Fair from 16 to 21 July 1994 in Tehran, and its offer to host the 4th Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development on 14-16 January 1995, and the 3rd Meeting of the Ministers of Telecommunications at a date to be communicated later.
- b) to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Sixth Meeting of the Standardization Experts' Group on 26-27 April 1994 in Istanbul and the 5th Meeting of Focal Points on Technical Cooperation from 13 -16 May 1994.
- c) to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its offer to host the 3rd Experts Group Meeting on Labour and Social Security at a date to be communicated later.
- d) 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.

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 Draft Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States of the OIC and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism

14. Under Draft Agenda Item 5, following a general introduction by the representative of the OIC General Secretariat, the representative of SESRTCIC gave an expose on the Draft Plan of Action and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism, explaining the stages they had gone through in a number of experts' group meetings held at the OIC institutional and inter-governmental levels.

15. The representative of SESRTCIC stated that, at its Tenth Meeting, the Follow-up Committee reviewed the Draft Plan of Action and decided to submit it to the present Session of the COMCEC for adoption and further action. He went on to state that the Follow-up Committee also reviewed and amended the proposal for the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism and decided to submit it, as an integral part of the Draft Plan of Action to the present Session, and agreed that the Plan of Action and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism should become integral parts of the Strategy adopted at the Ninth Session of the COMCEC.

16. The representative of SESRTCIC, in highlighting the main features of the Draft Plan of Action and Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism, indicated that they were based on the principles and guidelines contained in the Strategy, meeting the requirement that it should be a general and flexible policy document subject to revision during its implementation. He went on to explain that the Draft Plan of Action was an updated version of the 1981 Plan of Action and contained the achievements and experiences gained during its implementation.

17. After discussions on the subject, the Senior Officials agreed to submit to the COMCEC for approval, the Draft Plan of Action, together with the Follow-up and

Implementation Mechanism, with the approved amendments, which took into account the differences in the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of Member Countries and their international obligations.

18. Having agreed on the need for early implementation of the Plan of Action in accordance with the principles stipulated in the Strategy and procedures set forth in the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism, the Senior Officials also agreed to recommend to the COMCEC that Member States be called upon to host the inter-sectoral Experts Group Meeting (EGM) envisaged in the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism. They also requested the General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB and other OIC institutions to cooperate with the Member Country hosting the inter-sectoral EGM, and to provide necessary technical support and expertise.

19. The Senior Officials also agreed to recommend that, starting with its 11th Session, the COMCEC would also become a platform for Member Countries where the Ministers could exchange views on current world economic issues, in addition to regular items on their agenda. The topic "Implications for External Trade of Member Countries, of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations and the establishment of World Trade Organization" was recommended as the theme for the 11th Session of the COMCEC. To facilitate the work of the Follow-up Committee, they requested the Ankara Centre, in close cooperation with IDB, ICDT and other related institutions, to submit a working paper on the possible modalities for the implementation of this proposal to the 11th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

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

20. Under Draft Agenda Item 6, the representative of IDB explained the progress achieved regarding the setting up of the Corporation for the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme under the aegis of IDB, and informed the meeting that, as of August 1994, the total amount subscribed by the ratifying Member Countries exceeded the minimum amount of ID 25 million required to make the said Corporation operational. The representative also informed the meeting that the said Corporation would commence its operations by the First of July 1995.

21. The Senior Officials expressed their thanks and appreciation to IDB for its efforts in successfully finalizing this important project after the Longer Term Trade Financing

Scheme. They also expressed their firm belief that this financial facility would play an important role in increasing the volume of trade and flow of investments among the Member Countries.

22. The Senior Officials noted with appreciation that 30 member countries had signed its Articles of Agreement, and 11 of them had ratified it.

23. 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 its benefits would be extended to as wide an OIC area as possible.

**Report by ICDT on the Establishment of a Trade Information Network
Among OIC Member States (TINIC)**

24. 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 information given by 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.

25. The Senior Officials noted with appreciation that the First Meeting of Focal Points of TINIC jointly organized by ICDT and IDB, was held in Casablanca from 19-21 April 1994, and discussed the issues pertaining to cooperation among Focal Points and preparation of the required databases.

26. While appreciating the considerable progress achieved in the TINIC project, the Senior Officials agreed to recommend to the COMCEC that, in view of the fact that necessary studies associated with TINIC and the OICIS-NET were jointly carried out by ICDT and IDB, the consideration of the subject by the COMCEC be deferred until there was need for a Ministerial level decision, and that the COMCEC be kept informed of the progress regarding the implementation of both projects through background reports from the General Secretariat.

27. The Senior Officials also decided to recommended to the COMCEC that Member States, who had not yet done so, be requested to nominate national focal points for TINIC

Report by the Islamic Chamber on the First Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member Countries

28. Under Draft Agenda Item 8, Mr. Al Jassam Aqeel, Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber (ICCI) presented the Report of the First Private Sector Meeting Among the OIC Member Countries held on 18-19 October, 1994, in Istanbul, jointly organized by ICCI and the Turkish Union of Chambers. Highlighting the proceedings of the Meeting, the Secretary General summed up the recommendations of the Private Sector Meeting.

29. Expressing their thanks and appreciation to ICCI and the Turkish Union of Chambers for organizing the Meeting, the Senior Officials stressed the importance of this gathering of the representatives of the Private Sectors from member countries to improve economic cooperation among member states.

30. Taking note of the recommendations contained in the Report of the First Private Sector Meeting, the Senior Officials agreed to encourage and support the Islamic Chamber to continue to hold such meetings annually prior to the COMCEC Sessions, in conjunction with trade fairs, or in any form as may be deemed appropriate by the representatives of the private sector of the Member Countries.

31. They also recommended that ICCI submit progress reports to the COMCEC Session for information and due consideration.

Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries

32. 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 Somalia.

Report of the Sessional Committee

33. 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 10th Session of the COMCEC.

Any Other Business

34. The Senior Officials took note of the proposal made by the delegation of Indonesia to incorporate in the Plan of Action, provisions pertaining to cooperation in the area of urban infrastructure and rural development as well as specific measures in order to make the programmes under the Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (TCDC) more effective and productive. Underlining the importance of the subject, the Senior Officials agreed to recommend to the COMCEC that this proposal be taken up during the implementation process of the Plan of Action.

35. The delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya brought to the attention of the Meeting, the sufferings of the people of Libya caused by the economic sanctions and appealed, through the Meeting, to the OIC Community for solidarity in lifting the sanctions in accordance with the previous relevant OIC resolutions.

Date of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC

36. Under Draft Agenda Item 12, concerning the date of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC, the Senior Officials decided to recommend that the COMCEC hold its Eleventh Session from 21 to 24 October 1995, and the Eleventh Meeting of the Follow-up Committee from 24 to 26 May 1995, in Turkey, respectively.

37. At their closing session, the Senior Officials adopted the Report of the Meeting and reviewed the Draft Resolutions prepared by the Drafting Committee. They decided to submit the Draft Resolutions, through the Rapporteur, to the Tenth Session of the COMCEC

38. 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 TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 23 October 1994)

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 23 October 1994)

1. In accordance with the decision of the Senior Officials Meeting of the Tenth 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 23rd of October, 1994.
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 of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).
3. The Meeting was chaired by HE. Mr. Inamul HAQUE Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Turkey.
4. The Committee heard the activity reports of the OIC Organs present. The report of IFSTAD whose Director General could not attend the Meeting, was introduced by SESRTCIC. The Committee discussed the issues and problems contained in the reports and the oral presentations of the heads of these organisations. (These reports have been circulated as part of the documents of the Tenth Session of COMCEC).
5. The Sessional Committee expressed appreciation for the activities of SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICTVTR, IFSTAD and ICCI in the areas of economic, commercial and technical cooperation among the OIC Member States.

6. The Committee noted that at times the Subsidiary Subsidiary/Affiliated Institutions of the OIC receive instructions during the meetings of the OIC bodies (Islamic Commission, ICFM, COMCEC etc.) regarding the preparation of studies/programmes/projects, over and above the annual work programmes approved by their Boards of director. It recommended that in view of the scarcity of resources such requests should be kept to a minimum and should only be assigned in cases of high priority.

7. The Committee felt that despite 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 also discuss the programmes of work of these bodies in order to remove such overlapping, wherever it may exist. It recommended that the programmes of work prepared by the subsidiary bodies and affiliated institutions for submission to their respective Boards of Directors should be exchanged among them to eliminate duplication.

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 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 greater involvement of the Member States in the work of these organs/institutions. The Member States should also provide the statistical and other information requested from them by the organs of the OIC for preparation of studies etc, promptly and on a regular basis. 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.

10. The Sessional Committee felt that Member States should participate more actively in the work of the Sessional Committee, as this Committee constituted an excellent forum for face-to-face discussions with Subsidiary Organs/Affiliated Institutions regarding their programmes of work and activities. Since very few members participated in the Sessional Committee, the Committee recommended that the heads of the subsidiary bodies/affiliated institutions should be given ten minutes each to address the meeting of Senior Officials to introduce their reports.

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

12. The Committee felt that the OIC General Secretariat should 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.

13. 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 accumulated arrears by a large number of Member States.

14. The Committee requested the Tenth 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.

15. The Committee also requested Member States to impress upon their national chambers, members of the ICO, to fulfill their financial obligations towards the Islamic Chamber promptly and regularly.

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

(Istanbul, 24-25 October 1994)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 24-25 October 1994)

The Tenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul on 24 - 25 October, 1994:

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

Taking into Consideration the Resolutions adopted at the nine 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

**Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among
OIC Member States and the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism**

1. Approves the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.
2. Agrees on the need to urgently implement the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism.

3. Also agrees that the Plan of Action be a general and flexible policy document open for improvement during its implementation.
4. Notes that the Plan of Action takes into account the differences in the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member Countries and their international obligations.
5. Appeals to Member States to host as soon as possible the inter-sectoral Experts Group Meeting that is envisaged in the Follow-up and Implementation Mechanism, and requests SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB and other OIC institutions to provide the necessary technical support and expertise for the successful organization of the same meeting.
6. Agrees that a separate item allowing the delegates to exchange views on current world economic issues which concern the Member Countries be put on the Agenda of the COMCEC in its subsequent Sessions.
7. Requests the Follow-up Committee to undertake, at its next Meeting, the necessary arrangements in the agenda of COMCEC and propose modalities for the implementation of this proposal.
8. Agrees that the topic "Implications of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations and the Establishment of the World Trade Organization on the External Trade of OIC Member Countries", be the theme for the Eleventh Session of COMCEC.
9. Requests ICDT and SESRTCIC, in cooperation with IDB, UNCTAD, WTO and other relevant international organizations to submit, to the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC, background and working paper(s) to facilitate the exchange of views on the subject.

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

10. Notes with satisfaction that the First Private Sector Meeting Among the OIC Member Countries was held on 18-19 October 1994 in Istanbul, and expresses thanks and appreciation for the efforts made by the Islamic Chamber and the Turkish Union of Chambers for the successful organization of the said Meeting.

11. Takes note of the recommendations contained in the Report of the First Private Sector Meeting and supports the Islamic Chamber to continue to hold such meetings annually, prior to the COMCEC Sessions, in conjunction with trade fairs, or in any form as may be deemed appropriate by the representatives of the private sector of Member Countries

12. Requests the Islamic Chamber to submit progress reports to the COMCEC for information and due consideration.

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

13. Endorses the recommendations contained in the Report of the Meeting of the Sessional Committee on the Activities of the OIC Subsidiary and Affiliated Organs held during the Tenth Session of the COMCEC.

Signature and Ratification of Statutes and Agreements

14. 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

15. Notes with satisfaction that the Framework Agreement for the Establishment of a Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of OIC (TPSOIC) is open for signature and ratification.

16. It also notes with appreciation that 14 Member Countries have signed and 5 of them ratified the Framework Agreement and urges Member Countries that have not yet signed and/or ratified it, to do so as early as possible, so that trade negotiations could start without delay.

Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC)

17. Appreciates the efforts made by ICDT and IDB in carrying out relevant studies on the TINIC and OIC IS-NET projects, which were integrated.
18. Agrees that the COMCEC be kept informed of the progress regarding the implementation of both projects through the background Report of the General Secretariat.

Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme

19. Notes with satisfaction that the Articles of Agreement establishing the Corporation for Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme entered into force as of the first of August 1994.
20. Expresses thanks and appreciation for the efforts of IDB in finalizing the said project.
21. 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 to the capital, so that its benefits would be extended to as wide an OIC area as possible.

Methodology for the Harmonization of Standards

22. Appreciates the efforts made by the Turkish Standards Institute (TSI), acting as the Secretariat of the Coordinating Committee 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".
23. Also notes with appreciation that the TSI convened on 26 and 27 April 1994, in Istanbul, the 6th Meeting of the Standardization Experts Group and has forwarded the Report of the said Meeting, and the Draft Statute of Standards and Metrology Organization for Islamic Countries (SMOIC), to the OIC General Secretariat for circulation among the Member Countries for their views and comments.

Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union

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

25. 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.

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

Islamic Trade Fairs

27. Notes with satisfaction that the Fifth Islamic Trade Fair was successfully held from 16 to 21 July 1994 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

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, through 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 from 14-16 January 1995.

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 at a date to be communitated later.

G. 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. Notes with appreciation that the joint meeting of experts and decision makers will be conducted by Indonesia in Jakarta in March 1995, focusing on appropriate measures to make TCDC programmes more effective and productive and to draw up programmes for actual implementation.

52. 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.

53. Notes with satisfaction that the Fifth Meeting of Focal Points on Technical Cooperation was held from 13 to 16 May 1994, in Istanbul.

54. Notes with appreciation that the Sixth Meeting of Focal Points on Technical Cooperation will be held in 1995 in Turkey on a date to be communicated in due course.

I. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS

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

56. 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.

57. Takes note of the proposal made by the Republic of Indonesia to incorporate in the Plan of Action provisions pertaining to cooperation in the area of urban infrastructure and rural development.

58. 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.

J. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Date and Venue of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC

59. Agrees that the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC take place from 21-24 October 1995, and the Eleventh Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be held from 24-26 May 1995, in Turkey, respectively.

60. Requests the Follow-up Committee to prepare the draft agenda of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC.

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

Preparation for the 7th Islamic Summit Conference

62 Requests the OIC General Secretariat to make necessary preparations, in cooperation with COMCEC Coordination Office, for the submission of a progress report on the activities of the COMCEC, to the 7th Islamic Summit Conference to be held in December, 1994, in the Kingdom of Morocco.

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**PLAN OF ACTION TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AMONG
THE MEMBER COUNTRIES
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**

PLAN OF ACTION
TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
AMONG THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ORGANISATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

PREAMBLE

In pursuance of Resolution (1) of the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), based on Resolution 2/6-E (IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, the present document has been prepared under the title of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference for adoption by the appropriate fora of the OIC and implementation by the Member States. The document constitutes, at the level of sectors and areas of cooperation, a policy document with detailed indicative action programmes, to serve as an operational complement of the Strategy to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among the OIC Member States, which was already adopted by the COMCEC.

Since this document is addressed to the realisation of the collective aspirations of a large number of countries, with different levels of development and differing priorities at the national level, it was not found possible or feasible to set for it specific quantitative and temporal targets and objectives similar to those that would normally be found in a typical national development plan. Nevertheless, it was thought important to have certain major objectives, reflecting those already referred to in the new Strategy, that would represent a vision of what OIC cooperation should aim at in terms of not only intra-community achievements, but also in terms of the place and role of the OIC countries in the global economy. In this context, the following major objectives can be enumerated as a reflection of such a vision.

- (1) Realising food security for and raising the standard of living of the Muslim population with a special emphasis on the eradication of poverty, famine and malnutrition in the Islamic world.
- (2) Realising increased and diversified production in various productive and service sectors of the economies of the member countries and promoting trade exchanges within the community.
- (3) Enhancing financial flows by reducing constraints on capital movements and investments among member countries.

- (4) Reducing the development gaps that exist within the OIC community to facilitate smoother cooperation amongst the member countries themselves. and more effective economic and coru
- (5) Improving the quality of human capital and reducing the technology gap betw
community and the developed world by enhancing the level of Research and Development activities.
- (6) Promoting and expanding economic cooperation among the member countries in such a way as to realise a gradual integration of the economies of the OIC countries with a view to setting up an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration, on a step-by-step and initially regional basis. This approach would not only help overcome the possible negative impacts on the OIC countries of the accelerating pace in the formation of global economic groupings, but also support the aspirations of the OIC community for a larger share in world economic activity and a more equitable division of labour vis-a-vis the rest of World.

In the context of a multilateral action plan such as the present one, the realisation of such overall objectives would require more detailed objectives to be set at the level of sectors and areas of cooperation that would ensure the eventual attainment of the overall macro objectives. Consequently, in the present document, a number of objectives are enumerated at the sectoral level aiming to cover the basic and major issues of concern to the member countries • in that particular sector or area, with a cooperative focus to the extent possible. The emphasis on joint action and cooperation is more pronounced in the action programmes under each sector. Yet, because of the encompassing nature of the sectoral objectives, while the programmes had to be kept of indicative in nature, leaving the formulation of the specific projects to member countries, it was found neither possible nor necessary to secure a one-to-one-correspondence between the objectives and the action programmes.

The Plan of Action is composed of two parts, in addition to the Preamble. The next part, constituting the main body of the Plan, covers the objectives and action programmes relating to the sectors and areas of cooperation. This is followed by the part where general and specific activities/projects relating to basic information and data requirements in each of these sectors/areas, together with basic research projects that need to be undertaken on selected subjects, are enumerated.

SECTORAL OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION
FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

The major problems facing the OIC community in the field of food and agriculture are hunger, malnutrition, famine, widespread and mass poverty, desertification and underutilisation of the existing potentials. The insufficiency of food production, together with the impacts of natural phenomena that adversely affect agricultural production as a whole brings a great number of OIC member countries face to face with the need to import the greater part of their food requirements from other countries. This, in turn, means for them heavy food import bills that put a strain on the foreign exchange that is vitally needed for overall development, as well as increase dependence on the major food suppliers. There are also major structural, institutional and policy weaknesses, as well as formidable financing problems, that need to be addressed.

There is, firstly, the rapid population growth and, in many cases, unfavourable age distribution leading to a higher rate of dependency, coupled with massive poverty, especially in the rural areas, since the highest proportion of the labour force is in agriculture.

A second major constraint pertains to inadequate capital formation, due to the lack of sufficient investible funds for agriculture and well-organised agricultural credit systems, especially for the small farmers. The inadequacy of capital formation results, further, in the underdeveloped state and insufficiency of the rural infrastructure of all types, especially roads, transport and communications networks, storage facilities and irrigation systems.

In terms of geographical and natural constraints some countries face problems of different degrees in connection with availability and quality of arable land, water resources and rainfall, forests, potentially irrigable land, and human resources. Moreover, land tenure systems in a number of OIC countries have resulted in the dominance of small holdings. Coupled with this system, and as a consequence of its prevalence, land uses and farming practices are not conducive to application of technological changes and conservation of land and the overall environment.

Another major problem is technological underdevelopment and dependence and low level of technical know-how leading to low productivity, underutilisation of resources and disguised unemployment.

The majority of the OIC countries suffer also from a poor state and/or insufficiency of indigenous agricultural research systems, extension services and low level of education in the rural areas.

Furthermore, there is the problem relating to the proper operation of the market system, especially policy-induced price biases against agriculture.

Finally, the developments that are taking place globally, especially the issues faced in the negotiations relating to agricultural subsidies within the framework of the Uruguay Round, indicate to yet another set of difficulties that would need to be addressed in this vital area.

OBJECTIVES

1. Make maximal utilisation of the existing potentials for food production to attain collective self-reliance and continuity of supply in food at the OIC level, and the improvement of overall agricultural performance in the member countries.

2. Ensure and maintain food security in line with the Declaration of the OIC Food Security Decade.

3. Cooperate to help reduce and eventually eradicate mass rural poverty and to improve the nutrition standards in the OIC community. Containment and moderation of the persistent trend of massive and continuous rural-urban migration resulting from inter-sectoral income differentials would be vital in this respect.

4. Develop measures individually and collectively to contain the devastating effects of natural calamities and of harmful natural phenomena, and to combat plant and livestock diseases and widespread pest infestation which lead to crop failures in the member countries and the OIC region.

5. Create and expand the inter-linkage of the agricultural sector with the rest of the national economy through establishment of joint ventures, by giving a role to private sector, especially in agro-based and agro-related industries, and by developing and improving infrastructure, marketing, storage and transport facilities in the rural areas.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Promoting and expanding cooperation in the area of agricultural research and development of joint activities, by giving a pivotal role to the private sector.

2. Developing modalities of cooperation and joint action among the member countries to enhance food security, promote collective self-reliance and ensure continuity of supply in food for the OIC community.

3. Overcoming major threats to food production caused by plant and animal pests and diseases through Early Warning Systems and other coordinated mechanisms among interested member countries.

4. Identification and implementation of joint ventures in the area of food and agricultural production, with the active participation of the private sector, that will optimally utilise the existing resources and potentials in the OIC member countries in order to expand output and improve productivity in various sub-sectors.

5. Promotion of investments in rural infrastructure by making use of the existing facilities within OIC including those at IDB, and development of agricultural credit systems.

6. Improving the functioning of the overall market systems through appropriate economic policies and measures to help overcome the biases that impede agricultural production, development and foreign investment in agriculture.

INDUSTRY

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

All OIC countries belong to the group of developing countries even though in recent years a small subgroup among them is being considered as newly industrializing countries. Thus, the great majority of the Islamic countries are non-industrialised economies, having as exportables only a limited number primary commodities and/or raw materials.

Dependence on imports of manufactures and capital goods, on the other hand, is overwhelming, as the limited numbers of industries that exist are small scale operations that produce a restricted spectrum of consumer and/or intermediate products. Because of the low level of technology used and its rather out-dated nature, industrial production is not so efficient and is relatively costly, deriving only marginal benefits from the existing resources, which in the case of many countries are observed to be quite considerable.

Furthermore, amongst the OIC countries, not only linkages are lacking, but even basic information on needs and potentials, even in the case of close neighbours, is quite

often missing, causing opportunities for cooperation and mutual gain to remain unutilised.

Finally, despite the urgency of the situation, the positive changes in favour of the OIC countries on the global scene were rather small, as, especially during the recent years, the developed countries have not been very eager to help the developing countries bilaterally or in terms of multilateral action. The possibilities of such action on the part of the developed countries look even more limited in the light of the substantial changes that have taken place in the global political and economic scene.

In short, the OIC group of countries continue to face, in a rapidly changing World, formidable problems in the areas of industrial production, diversification, technology and optimal utilisation of resources.

Consequently, the conditions and time seem right for the OIC countries to initiate and develop joint action aiming to establish, promote and expand industrial cooperation amongst themselves to help accelerate their industrialization, taking fully into account their own national policies and economic priorities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Expand and diversify industrial production in the member countries by strengthening the existing manufacturing facilities and creating new capacities, to reduce the over-dependence on foreign imports, benefit from expanded markets at the OIC level, and to encourage the expansion of the spectrum of exportables for the OIC countries, taking into account the existing OIC agreements.
2. Cooperate to develop and expand the basic national infrastructure in the member countries in order to expand the capacities and efficiency in productive sectors.
3. Cooperate in expansion of agro-industries in the member countries with a view to increasing the levels, technological content and efficiency, output mix and value added in agricultural production.
4. Encourage and support the expansion and development of capital goods industries through joint industrial ventures of appropriate scale in the OIC countries in order to help reduce the extensive dependence on imports of key investment goods.
5. Enhance the level of technology in industrial production and try to reduce the growing technology gap with the developed countries by developing and

strengthening endogenous technological capabilities in the member countries through joint action.

6. Support OIC-level industrial cooperation through special arrangements, priorities and preferential schemes within the OIC framework, with due consideration to be given to the special conditions and requirements of the Least developed and Land-locked Islamic countries.

FROGPAMMES CF ACTION

1. Promoting contacts among industrialists of the member countries to share information and experiences that will help enhance private sector cooperation in this area.

2. Developing appropriate policies and measures' in the member states conducive to OIC cooperation in industrial investment, production and trade of industrial products.

3. Exploring ways and means for a fuller and more optimal utilisation of the existing natural, human and technological resources, facilities and potentials in the member countries to promote industrial cooperation and development in the Islamic world.

4. Organisation of periodic and specialised investment forums under COMCEC, as a catalytic media for the interested parties and agents from the public and private sectors in the member countries, relating to the establishment of joint and other industrial ventures in areas most commensurate with the needs and capacities of the member countries.

5. Establishment of joint industrial ventures, with special emphasis on private sector cooperation, in order to create linkages between member country economies, expand the supply of indigenously produced manufactures and increase the manufactures export capacity of the member countries.

ENERGY AND MINING

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

The importance of energy has increased considerably with the development of economic life and diversification of economic activity. Today, it is a vital input into every aspect of economic life, especially in production activity, and energy usage has become a basic indicator of economic growth and development.

Being a part of the developing world, the OIC countries rightly view energy as an indispensable input into industrialization and, thus, a contributor to their overall development. Thus, procurement of sufficient energy at reasonable cost and its optimal usage for expanded production with minimal damage to the environment is a priority concern for the majority of these countries.

Despite the fact that the OIC countries as a whole are well endowed with potential sources of energy, most of them face energy shortages and energy-related burdens on the balance-of-payments that threaten to impede their development processes. Some are not only poor in natural sources of energy, but they also lack the necessary means to invest for producing new and renewable energy. For others, there are difficulties in proper exploration and exploitation of the existing domestic sources of energy due to usage of obsolete technologies, insufficiency of proper technical know-how and skills, and lack of investible funds to overcome both. As a result, many of the OIC countries face negative energy balances year after that forces them to spend substantial portions of scarce foreign exchange on energy imports.

As for mining and mineral production, the issues are similar. A variety of minerals have always been important inputs for industrial production and they have more recently become so to some extent for agriculture because of the increasingly wider usage of mineral based chemical fertilizers in agricultural production all over the World.

The OIC countries as a whole are well-endowed with mineral deposits of different kinds, figuring among the leading reserve holders and even producers on a global scale, of a number of minerals. Yet, because of the overall underdeveloped state of the economy, the slow pace of industrial production and lack of diversity in the product mix in most of the OIC member countries, not only are the exploration and exploitation of the mineral resources far from optimal, but also production is low, wasteful and costly due to the underdeveloped nature of the production activity where only in rare cases up-to-date-technologies are actually employed. Furthermore, there are even greater problems in the processing of minerals in many OIC countries which result in the exportation of minerals as raw materials at prices mostly controlled by the industrial countries.

OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage greater cooperation among member countries in more efficient exploration and exploitation of their energy and mineral resources, as they deem appropriate, as well as in their processing and production, with a view to making optimal use of their existing resources potentials. In this respect, special attention should be paid to the needs of the least developed member countries as well as to the development of alternative sources of energy for rural areas.
2. Encourage the development of the most efficient methods of energy utilisation by improving the methods of energy management and conservation.
3. Encourage the interested member countries to establish and expand regional and sub-regional networks for distribution of energy among themselves.
4. Encourage and support Research and Development (R&D) activities, within the OIC community, on sources of energy.
5. Develop and strengthen activities relating to the development, transfer and adaptation of related technologies at the country level and through cooperative schemes among OIC countries.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Promoting cooperation among the member countries in order to ensure a more efficient supply, distribution and utilisation of energy and processing of minerals on a sub-regional and regional basis.
2. Securing cooperation and coordination between the scientific research and development centres in the member countries, with a view to consolidating and enhancing the overall R4D capacity in the OIC countries.
3. Endeavouring to secure financial support for the implementation of the energy and mining development projects in the member countries.

FOREIGN TRADE

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

Despite the similarities in the production structures in many of the OIC countries, there are certain inherent complementarities amongst them as well, since they make up a grouping of 50 countries at varying levels of development, dispersed over a large area on three continents and two climatic zones. Yet, this inherent potential does not yet manifest itself in the form of reasonable levels of trade amongst the majority of them. In fact, the intra-OIC trade remained around 10% of the total volume of OIC countries' trade for many years.

One reason is lack of diversification in production in the individual countries and similarities among groups of OIC countries. Many of them, especially the Least Developed group, produce a limited range of primary commodities as exportables. This puts a serious limit on expanded trade relations with other OIC partners.

Since they are able to earn only limited amounts of foreign exchange from the sale of a restricted number of primaries, financing of their trade flows becomes a real problem. More generally, they are faced with formidable problems in their current accounts and overall balance-of-payments. This, in turn, leads to important trade diversions since the private entrepreneurs and traders, who are the main actors in a free trade system, are reluctant to enter into medium or longer-term payments' arrangements with the countries that are unable to finance their trade flows.

Finally, the trade regimes in various OIC countries, with differing sets of trade restrictions and barriers, constitute 'yet another impediment to the free flow of trade among the member countries that prevents a rapid and unhindered expansion of trade within the OIC community.

OBJECTIVES

1. Endeavour to promote trade flows among the OIC countries and the diversification of tradables, keeping in view the mutuality of advantages, respective levels of economic development and the international obligations of the member countries.

2. Expedite the implementation of the Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Countries.

3. Promote and encourage free trade and export processing zones in the Member countries and encourage private sector investments in these zones by parties from other member countries.

4. Develop measures to minimise the problems being faced by the Land-locked member countries by facilitating effective cooperation between these countries and their transit neighbours.

5. Coordinate the views and positions of the member countries in various international fora, in the context of multilateral trade negotiations and/or discussions, particularly within the GATT and World Trade Organisation, with a view to increasing the global share of the OIC member countries and securing better terms for them.

6. Encourage and support the establishment of free trade areas at the sub-regional and regional levels, as basic and transitory stages towards fuller OIC integration, including the eventual creation, in a step-by-step manner, of an Islamic Common Market.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Encouragement of trade promotion activities and joint action within the OIC community at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

2. Continuation of the regular Organisation of the Islamic Trade Fairs on a regular basis by ICDT, in collaboration with ICCICE and other relevant bodies.

3. Undertaking joint action and measures related to financing of trade at various levels among the members countries by making use of IDB programmes mechanisms in the area of trade financing.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

Specialization and division of labour lie at the foundation of a productive and growing economy, and linkages among the various economic agents and locations of differentiated economic activity constitute a vital prerequisite. Not only raw materials and produced goods, but information about various aspects of the economic life will also have to be carried from one place to another. For this reason, existence and smooth operation of facilities and means of transport and communications are essential elements not only for the healthy operation of a modern economy but for overall economic and social development as well. Furthermore, in a world where globalisation and interdependence are increasingly becoming the rule, smooth linkages and healthy communications have gained vital importance not only between the parts of a country, but among countries as well.

The great majority of them being developing countries, the OIC members are faced with considerable problems in the area of transport and communications as well. In many of them, large areas are at best only precariously linked to the capital or to the metropolitan/industrial regions. Transport and telecommunications links are insufficient, underdeveloped and/or outdated, keeping large pockets of the country in relative or absolute isolation.

In terms of linkages among the OIC countries, proper modern facilities either do not exist or are not sufficient to serve today's needs even between neighbouring lands. Many OIC countries have to follow the routes drawn up, the facilities established and operated, and rules made and enforced by global conglomerates to trade or to communicate with one another. Incentives are not there, costs are high and direct exchanges are highly difficult to maintain.

OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen the existing transport, telecommunications and postal connections, promote direct linkages, to the extent possible, among member countries, and establish new facilities and services through joint action at bilateral and multilateral levels.
2. Develop joint schemes and coordinated arrangements, on a sub-regional and regional basis among the consenting member countries, in selected sub-sectors, with a view to expanding and linking them up at the OIC level at a later stage, as and when it would be deemed desirable and feasible.

3. Support and facilitate the establishment of joint private ventures in the area of shipping, and related maritime activities, including the consideration of the establishment of an Islamic Shipping Company could be considered.

4. Facilitate the establishment, through private sector cooperation, of joint ventures in the member countries in the manufacturing of vehicles, machinery and equipment and of building materials relating to transportation and communications, as well as manufacture of high technology electrical and electronic components and telecommunications equipment.

5. Extend the necessary preferences and provide incentives within the OIC community to promote and enhance cooperation in the area of transport and communications, in line with the relevant national and international legal and institutional set-up.

6. Encourage joint action and cooperative schemes in the areas of air transport and telecommunications to be implemented through bilateral and/or multilateral agreements, keeping in view the existing technical capabilities for implementation.

7. Facilitate adequate cooperation and coordination among the member states in various international fora in the relevant fields, taking due account of the activities of the existing sub-regional, regional and global institutions and organizations operating in these areas.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Ensuring an optimal utilisation of the existing facilities and services in the OIC community in the area of transport and communications, their rehabilitation and expansion.

2. Facilitating and strengthening the maritime transport links among the member countries by creating the necessary legal and institutional environment in the areas of registration, provision of facilities, and other procedures.

3. Extension by the OIC member countries of preferential treatment in the area of transport and communications, to other OIC countries or parties that belong to them, in line with their national laws and regulations.

4. Expediting the implementation of the Agreements that have already been concluded within OIC in the area of transport, telecommunications and postal services.

TOURISM

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

The rapid economic expansion realised in the industrialised countries, especially after the Second World War, has not only raised incomes and extended the duration of paid leave for large portions of the society, but it also increased overall welfare, in terms of leisure and retirement benefits. Furthermore, the means of transportation and communication were expanded and improved. Thus, increasing numbers of people started to travel to other countries for business and pleasure, including the less developed regions of the World. As a result, tourism not only developed rapidly into a sector in its own right, but it also became globalised. Today tourism is an important way of contributing to world peace through enhanced global understanding and cultural rapprochement. Furthermore, for many countries, it constitutes a vital economic sector, which not only has become an important source of foreign exchange, but also a generator of local business and employment for the national economy of the host countries.

Tourism is also very important for the OIC countries not only due to their existing and potential tourism resources, but also because their citizens travel in large numbers for business, leisure and other purposes. Consequently, tourism figures in the economic development plans and aspirations of many of these countries with its realised and potential contributions to economic growth. Yet, one can readily observe that the actual shares that the OIC countries are able to command in the global tourism revenues remain quite low.

Information on the tourist venues and facilities of the OIC countries is generally missing with minimal promotion activity being carried out in the countries from where most of the tourists originate. The accommodation facilities and their capacities in many of them are insufficient, and trained personnel for quality service are mostly missing. Transport and communications facilities in many OIC countries are substandard. Their links to the major metropolitan areas in the developed World are mostly determined according to needs in those areas. Furthermore, there is room for improvement in the trade, visa and custom procedures as well as the legal and educational framework in the member countries.

In terms of tourist exchanges amongst the OIC countries themselves, not only are the impediments even greater in terms of the already enumerated shortcomings in various spheres, but also these countries remain effectively disjointed from one another due to the highly restricted and inefficient nature of the existing transportation and telecommunications links amongst the majority of them.

OBJECTIVES

1. Promote and develop tourism in the OIC countries, as an important means to demonstrate the inherent qualities, as well as the true nature of the Islamic civilization and culture, to the rest of the World.
2. Support and develop joint action, at bilateral and multilateral levels, to strengthen, promote and expand tourist activities among the member countries, and in the Islamic world in general.
3. Formulate coordinated OIC action addressed to the improvement and enhancement of supply in the area of tourism, through the establishment of new facilities and activities in the member countries, in order to attain globally competitive standards in terms of facilities, quality of services and diversity of tourist activities.
4. Development modalities of cooperation and coordination to facilitate the transfer of upto-date technology into the tourism sector in the member countries in a manner that would facilitate its smooth assimilation, without harming the historical and cultural authenticity and tradition nor doing damage to the environment.
5. Encourage and promote extensive private sector involvement and cooperation in tourism, through joint ventures, in the area of improvement and enhancement of physical capacities and quality service.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Increasing the public awareness in the OIC countries about the existing touristic resources and facilities in the Islamic world with a view to encouraging tourist visits to other Islamic countries by providing full information to potential visitors.
2. Establishment of direct contacts among the relevant parties concerned with tourism in the member countries on promotion of tourism in the sub-regions, regions and the whole of the Islamic world.
3. Creation of the appropriate legal, institutional and administrative conditions and environment in the member countries in support of an expanded tourist activity among the member countries.
4. Encouraging and facilitating joint tourism ventures and other investments in the member countries by the private sector in the expansion and upgrading of the existing tourist capacities and activities and for the construction of new facilities of appropriate quality and service standards, using upto-date technologies.
5. Encourage and support the activities relating to the development of the necessary human capital in the area of tourism to ensure the availability of managerial and service personnel of international standards.

MONEY, FINANCE AND CAPITAL FLOWS

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

Cooperation and coordination in the area of money and finance have always been a sensitive and controversial issue. Those who are in need of funds are not always ready to take the necessary measures to ensure that the funds supplied, whether on loan or grant basis, are utilised in a manner that would be beneficial for themselves as well as for others. On the other hand international financial institutions follow, in most cases, purely financial and economic criteria in granting funds. In between, it was often hard to strike a balance that would safeguard the interests of both parties.

Since no meaningful and useful cooperation could be carried out in any field without financial arrangements and coordination, there is an urgent need for vision, imagination and courage in taking appropriate action in these vital areas.

The majority of the OIC countries are crippled with a heavy debt burden. They are in a state of debt overhang. As a result, the debt burden has become an extremely limiting factor for any meaningful sustained development process in these countries.

On the other hand, the financial structure, overwhelmingly dominated by the banking sector, is very limited and narrow in many OIC countries, capital and money market institutions are quasi-absent, while the existing ones, with few exceptions, are highly limited in scope.

Furthermore, there are various institutional rigidities in many countries, ranging from exchange control regulations and non-convertibility of the national currency to unfavourable investment environment and restrictions on free movements of capital and profit transfers. Moreover, most of the Islamic countries lack a developed infrastructure that is indispensable for any successful investment.

The developments taking place globally, politically and economically, indicate that many developing countries are likely to face increased difficulties of access to funds either from public or private sources.

The available investible surplus for the OIC community, as a whole, is shrinking gradually. New modalities and a new mentality regarding monetary and financial cooperation will be needed if the OIC countries are to make an optimal use of their available financial resources.

OBJECTIVES

1. Facilitate the flow of financial resources and direct foreign investment flows among the member countries through gradual removal of restrictions on capital movements and ensuring investment protection and guarantees.
2. Promote and develop capital markets, and improve access thereto by other member countries, with a view to encouraging investments on the basis of mutual benefits and sound commercial practice.
3. Develop and promote various means of financial intermediation, such as insurance companies, mutual funds and investment companies, to help widen and deepen the financial markets.
4. Strengthen direct cooperation among the conventional and Islamic financial institutions in the member countries in the area of capital movements, direct finance and payments' arrangements for trade financing.
5. Develop cooperation between Islamic countries to help find effective solutions to the debts of the least developed member states. In this framework, possibilities for developing an OIC sponsored strategy could be explored.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Expanding and intensifying monetary and financial cooperation among the OIC member countries in order to allow for an optimal use of the capacities, facilities and skills that already exist in the OIC community.
2. Development and application of all the necessary institutional and administrative measures by the member countries to encourage an enhanced flow of capital within the OIC community as an essential element of financial cooperation.
3. Developing and intensifying direct cooperation between financial institutions in the member countries, together with the Islamic financial institutions and particularly the Islamic Development Bank, in the areas of development and trade financing, through banking facilities and direct financing.

TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

Looking beyond the year 2000, it is quite apparent that technological developments will have an even more considerable impact than they are having today on overall development and on the daily life with the introduction of new products, new processing methods and a new working environment. Consequently, the development plans, programmes and policies in the OIC member countries should be geared to these developments so that the countries will not only flow them all closely and prepare themselves properly to assimilate them, but they should also create the right conditions in their economies to generate indigenous capacities themselves in this vital area.

The existing educational infrastructure and technological base in the Islamic countries are rather weak and the educational system in many is not able to respond to the requirements of today. The number of scientists and technical manpower is rather limited and the working environment and facilities for them are not developed enough to meet the present needs. The latter fact is very enough reflected in the continuous outflow of skills from the member countries in the form of a brain-drain. It is obvious that much still needs to be done by the Islamic countries with regard to developing their human resources and related capacities.

Furthermore, the basic science and technology infrastructure in the OIC countries is neither large enough nor sufficiently strong to bring about the necessary quantum leap towards self-reliance, although all of them need a strong science and technology base to be able to solve their problems relating to food, shelter, fuel, energy, health, population exploitation of natural

resources and in boosting up their agricultural and industrial production. For all this a critical operational size of scientific capability and level of technology is required in any country. It is also important for the OIC countries to develop such capabilities in order to break their dependence on imported technologies and to improve the efficiency of production.

Finally, there are issues related to the mismanagement of human and material resources and capacities. In many countries there are information gaps. Authorities dealing with technical cooperation and technology are not equipped with the necessary means and finance.

All in all, not only the existing legal, administrative and bureaucratic environment, but a host of other factors exogenous to developing countries as a whole can be seen to underlie the growing technology gap between the OIC countries and the developed world. They have to be addressed and dealt with by means of integrated multi-sectoral approaches and joint action in all related areas, in addition to specific measures to be taken in the areas of technology and technical cooperation per se.

OBJECTIVES

1. Consolidate the existing capacities in the OIC community, including the technical cooperation mechanisms within IDB, in the areas of technical cooperation, technology transfer and indigenous technology development and ensure their optimal utilisation through cooperation and joint action among the member countries.
2. Develop cooperation among the member countries to expand, proliferate and diversify activities in the areas of technical cooperation and technology and to create new capacities and facilities in this regard, with an enhanced role for research and development, with a view to reducing the technology gap between the member countries and the developed World.
3. Strengthen and equip the national focal points in order to expand and enhance technical cooperation through joint OIC action.
4. Give high priority to science and technology inputs and objectives in formulating the national development plans and programmes of the member countries with an emphasis on the establishment, development and consolidation of the national science base for overall development and enhanced OIC action.

5. Strengthen public and private national institutions and establishments in the member countries to enhance and develop the creative capacity for absorption, adaptation and development of technology.

6. Reduce and reverse the "brain-drain" from the OIC community.

7. Endeavour to ensure appropriate financial resources to help meet the needs of technical cooperation activities in' the OIC community.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Developing the national science base and technology development capability in the member countries to effect positive impacts on economic growth and sustainable development.

2. Strengthening of the national institutions operating in the area of technical cooperation and technology with a view to enhancing and building up their capacities and capabilities to facilitate cooperation among member countries.

3. Creation of the conducive environment in the member countries for the promotion and expansion of technical cooperation and technology related activities among them.

4. Designating national focal points, by those member states which have not yet done so, to act as major reference points in the process of exchanging information and" experience and for the idantifica-ion of national needs and capacities in the OIC community with respect to technical cooperation and technology related activities.

5. Promoting, expanding and developing technical and technological cooperation activities and programmes among the member countries taking into proper consideration or the activities and programmes of the COMSTECH.

6. Making best use of existing OIC mechanisms in the field of technical cooperation and inviting the IDB and other OIC institutions and inviting them to increase their allocations in this regard.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

The object of economic and social development is man and his welfare. Yet, development policies and processes have long been pre-occupied with the goods and facilities produced and consumed and the material inputs needed to enhance them. Even human beings who lie at the core of the economic activity have been viewed as inputs into the production processes. Moreover, the quality of life has normally been measured by the amount of material things and related services offered to man as a result of economic development.

Yet, there has recently developed an increasing realisation about the inherent weaknesses in this conventional approach to growth and development, and the issues of "human development" and "human resources development" were given equal prominence on the global agenda. It is understandable that since the object is man and this new approach deals mainly with the needs and qualities of human beings, both materially and in terms of other indicators of the quality of life, the extent and the exact coverage of the issues differ among societies, since they have different historical and cultural backgrounds and are at different levels of development. Nevertheless, the OIC countries face very similar problems in this area, the main differences being in degree rather than being in kind.

The majority of the OIC countries, especially the Least Developed ones among them, suffer from relatively high infant mortality rates and low life expectancy, as well as from the underdeveloped state of health care facilities and services. Thus, large segments of the population, especially the rural poor and the residents of the shanty towns around the big cities, lack or have very limited access to modern health services.

There is, also, the acute problem of the low level of human capital development due to low levels of educational and training standards in the rural areas, in particular, and the Least Developed countries, in general. Many OIC countries lack sufficient numbers of qualified university graduates commensurate with their actual and potential development needs. Others suffer from an acute problem of unemployment among university graduates.

Related to these problems in education is the overall underdevelopment in the area of technology and technical know-how, which manifests itself in high levels of outside dependence for technology and low capacities for absorption for imported technologies and innovations in the majority of the OIC countries.

The population explosion in many OIC countries is exerting enormous pressure on these countries' resources. Many countries suffer, also, from unfavourable age distribution leading to higher rate of dependency as well as widespread and massive poverty.

Furthermore, urban-rural, as well as inter-regional disparities within the countries, in terms of income, standard of living and availability of basic services, is a widespread phenomenon in many OIC countries. High and extensive incidence of poverty in the national economies has extremely negative impacts on productivity, investments and consumption and investments, due to the precariously low level of the earnings of the poor.

The Human Development Index (HDI) rankings for the OIC countries, even after taking account of the shortcomings of the index, are not satisfactory. More than half of the OIC countries fall in the low human development category.

From the above, it may seem that the issues relating to human resources development and the measures needed to tackle these problems involve mainly economic activities, however the technological and cultural dimensions of the problem are also important. Hence cooperation and coordination between COMCEC and COMSTECH and COMIAC would contribute substantially to the implementation of the provisions of the present chapter of the OIC Plan of Action.

OBJECTIVES

1. Consider human welfare as the ultimate objective of effective development so that the policies to be conceived would be human-centred, offering equal opportunities to all the people, with full participation in economic, social and cultural life.
2. Contain and eventually eradicate mass poverty by, inter alia, gradually reducing the urban-rural and intra-country regional income disparities.
3. Integrate population policies into national development strategies, plans and programmes, linking them with programmes on child survival, health, education, housing and employment.
4. Give special emphasis to the development of basic education, in particular primary education, integrating training in basic skills into the curricula.
5. Eradicate adult illiteracy within a defined time-frame by means of well-designed adult literacy programmes.
6. Improve and develop education and training standards in the member countries, especially those in the Least Developed ones, in order to enhance and develop the human capital and overall skill capacities, with a view to catering simultaneously to the man-power needs at the national as well as OIC levels.

7. Elaborate detailed national health strategies and policies to ensure health for all and, in this context, strengthen and develop primary health care and mother and child care, with greater emphasis put on preventive measures and provision of basic minimal living conditions and health facilities.

8. Facilitate the participation of women in development both by improving the education of women and programmes directly targated at them, and by ensuring that general economic and social programmes fully take into account the role of women.

5. Support and participate in the multi-faceted UN-OIC Programme on Human Resources Development.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Endeavouring to eradicate poverty and improve the nutrition status in the OIC member countries.

2. Development of integratged multi-dimensional programmes on basic education and training in the OIC member countries.

3. Improving the quality and efficiency of secondary and higher education to enhance the quality of human capital in the OIC community, with arrangements for assistance and cooperation among member countries.

4. Formulation and implementation of extended health, mother and child care programmes for all in the OIC community, with cooperation and assistance among OIC countries.

ENVIRONMENT

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

There exists an organic relationship between development and protection of the environment, that is they need one another, yet they can also do harm to one another. Development is possible only if it can exploit the resources that the earth can offer, but unbridled development can waste those resources and harm the environment critically. Meanwhile, if economic and social activity can be carried out efficiently and intelligently, development can be achieved in a way to create the means and mechanisms to protect and preserve the environment. So the issue at stake is both to achieve the desired development and to do it by doing minimal harm to the environment. This exactly is the point about sustainable development. The idea is to continue to fulfil the development aspirations of mankind without depleting the natural resources of the earth to render it inhabitable within a few generations.

Yet, the issue is not so simple, not only because mankind is not yet prepared to put voluntary limits on its development aspirations, but also because ways and means of changing production and consumption patterns to fit the requirements of sustainability are not yet fully defined and developed.

The problem is all the more difficult for the majority of the world's population living in the developing countries, because they feel trapped between the need to pull themselves out of the depths of abject poverty and the pressing necessity to protect and preserve the earth's environment as a common heritage for all mankind. It is grossly unfair to ask them to restrain their industrial development, refrain from use of chemical fertilisers, limit the exploitation of their forests and mines. Most of all, it is unfair to ask them to pay for cleaning up the earth and/or be asked to adhere to highly restrictive environmental standards being imposed for past damage done to the earth by the developed countries.

All these arguments aside, however, it is a fact that the problems of environmental degradation have already reached a critical stage. Some important issues of unsustainability in the earth's ecosystem have already become highly apparent and they require urgent action.

Humans and their economic activities consume 40 per cent of the productivity of plant material created each year by photosynthesis. The rate of increase in human use is about 2 per cent per year, meaning a doubling in 35 years. Since humans are but one of among 5 million to 30 million species on earth that make use of these materials, this would appear to be ecologically unsustainable.

Global warming is increasingly being accepted as a fact by all. Recent data on ozone depletion extending over to the temperate zones are raising new concerns about the magnitude and possible consequences of the problem.

Land degradation is proceeding at alarming rates. Thirty-five per cent of the earth's land is already degraded, and this damage is largely irreversible in a human time scale. Soil loss outpaces soil formation by at least a power of ten.

Loss of biodiversity is reflected in the decline of the world's richest habitat, the tropical forests, 55 per cent of which have already been destroyed. Some 5,000 species become extinct every year, a rate 10,000 times higher than in pre-human days.

On the social and economic sphere, the number of poor in the world continues to grow despite a quintupling of the global economy's output since 1950. The gap between rich and poor countries is continuously increasing for the most part of the developing countries. More than 1 billion people still live in abject poverty and suffer extensively from inadequate access to the basic facilities and amenities of decent living, like education, health services, infrastructure, land and credits that are require to give them a chance for a better life. One-third of the world's population has inadequate sanitation and one billion people are living without safe water.

Close to half of the fifty OIC member countries officially classified as Least Developed countries and several others are barely above the said demarcation line. That is, the majority of the Muslims are poverty-stricken and they suffer the same misery that their brothers in the Third World do. Yet,, they are also part of the global family and their lands traverse large areas in the temperate and tropical zones, with a lot of the earth's environmental resources placed on, under and above them. Thus, issues of environmental protection and sustainable development have to be very much on their agenda as well.

O B J E C T I V E S

1. Cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to help conserve the global environment and protect the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems.

2. Encourage greater cooperation and joint action among member countries, in the following areas, keeping in view the vital requirements of the individual countries:
 - a. Planning and improved management of land resources,
 - b. Protection of the quality and supply of fresh water,
 - c. Combating desertification, drought and deforestation,
 - d. Conservation of bio-diversity,
 - e. Protection of oceans, seas, coastal areas and development of marine life and other resources,
 - f. Protection of the atmosphere',
 - g. Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, hazardous and solid wastes, including radioactive wastes.
3. Cooperate to the fullest possible extent, in order to strengthen national and regional capabilities ' for environmental management and development, as an instrument of using optimally the natural resources that the member countries need for their overall development.
4. Cooperate extensively for introducing, promoting and disseminating environmental education and increasing the public awareness about the protection and preservation of the environment.
5. Encourage and support cooperation and joint action in the field of designing and implementing pilot projects for integrated natural and maritime resource management including the exploitation of sea beds and oceans.
6. Initiate and develop joint action to promote research for enhancing institutional reform that will help facilitate capacity-building and development of technical know-how in the field of environment.
7. - Develop new modalities to stimulate and promote the private sector participation in cross-cutting issues of environment, development, technology and social change.
8. Cooperate in the transfer and development of environment-friendly technologies that will use natural resources efficiently and do least damage to the environment.
9. Cooperate in order to strengthen the scientific base for sustainable management of environmental resources, assessment and building up of scientific capacity and capabilities, at the national and community levels.

PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

1. Designing of special programmes on environmental issues among the member countries in the areas of education, training and technical cooperation.
2. Establishment and developing direct contacts and cooperation, at the regional and OIC level, among the scientific and technological communities and decision-makers on» the issues related to the environment.
3. Development of cooperative schemes among the member countries for combating emergencies and other developments that threaten to create environmental hazards and cause damage to public health.
4. Integrating environmental considerations into economic development plans, programmes and policies, as well as in specific areas of economic activity, at the national level, and in the OIC economic cooperation activities and joint action.

THE MECHANISM OF FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION

In the light of the above principles and the lessons learnt from past experience, the following follow-up and implementation mechanism would constitute an integral part of the present Plan of Action:

- a) After the adoption of the Plan of Action, member countries should prepare and compile a list of requirements and available capacities in the sectors identified by the Plan of Action for an effective implementation of the plan including appropriate projects geared to their requirements.
- b) Following the finalisation and adoption of the Plan of Action by the COMCEC, an inter-sectoral experts group meeting (EGM) would be held with a view to:
 - (i) reviewing the requirements for implementing the provisions of the Plan of Action pertaining to each sectors or areas of cooperation, and making proposals, when necessary, to enhance cooperation in this area;
 - (ii) identifying sub-sectors suitable for implementation of projects that would be implementable within a reasonable period of time;
 - (iii) identifying the member countries that would show interest and be ready to participate in the activities/projects in the approved sub-sectors;
 - (iv) constituting "project committees", if necessary, of interested countries in the identified sub-sectors to prepare the necessary studies for specific projects, using the capacities of the relevant OIC institutions, as may be needed, and to propose the required steps for the implementation of said projects.
- c) The inter-sectoral EGM would report to the COMCEC, through its Follow-up Committee, to ensure coordination regarding possible relations and inter-linkages between the various sectors and areas of the Plan of Action.

- d) The actual participation of businessmen would be vital as regards the areas of cooperation of the new Plan of Action, at the level of EGM and especially within "project committees", not only to benefit from their experience and insight in the area of specific project identification and implementation, but also to promote direct links among them, as the ultimate actors of cooperation.
- e) Involvement of the financing institutions in this process, preferably from the very beginning, would be instrumental in overcoming the chronic problem of financing the implementation of approved projects or activities, a problem that impeded OIC joint action in the past.
- f) Ministerial meetings would be held, either separately or concurrently with the annual sessions of the COMCEC, under the chairmanship of the designated member country, if and when the need arises to review the progress achieved at the level of EGM and "project committees". In this context, the Ministerial Meetings would give final approval to schemes worked out and finalised by experts, as well as take the required steps for the implementation of the approved projects.
- g) There would be a regular item on the agenda of the annual sessions of the COMCEC entitled "review of implementation of the Plan of Action", in addition to other items as may be determined by its Follow-up Committee.

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

(Istanbul, 24-25 October 1994)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 24-25 October 1994)

The Tenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in Istanbul, 22-25 October 1994;

A. Economic Measures in Support of Palestine

Recalling the resolutions adopted by Islamic Summits in support of the Palestinian people,

Recalling also the previous resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee at its Ninth Session, at Ministerial Meetings and at meeting of other committees,

Recalling Further the resolutions adopted by the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in support of Palestine,

Noting with great interest the role played by the National Palestine Authority in the Palestinian Self-rule regions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with a view to improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and building up the national economy,

1. COMMENDS the efforts made by the National Palestine Authority in the Palestinian Self- Rule regions in order to reconstruct what occupation had destroyed, with a view to promoting the efforts exerted to build up and consolidate The Palestinian national economy;
2. NOTES and APPRECIATES the assistance provided by Member States to the Palestinian people in order to build up the national economy in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions in the West Bank and the Gaza-Strip;

3. URGES the speedy granting of the required and approved assistance, with a view to helping the National Palestine Authority and the Palestinian people in the building up of the national economy and the consolidation of their national institutions;
4. REAFFIRMS the previous resolutions advocating the provision of all forms of support and assistance as well as economic, technical, material and moral assistance in support of the Palestinian people and the National Palestine Authority and URGES that preferential treatment be accorded Palestinian products as regards importation and exemption of taxes and customs duties;
5. URGES businessmen and investors of OIC Member States to carry out economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions, with a view to building up the national economy and enabling the National Palestine Authority and its national institutions to implement their development programmes, during the coming transitional period, in the various economic, social and health fields,
6. REQUESTS the OIC Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at implementing the previous resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and submit a progress report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

B. Assistance to Lebanon

Commending the efforts made by the Lebanese Government to achieve stability and security, impose its authority and recover its institutions,

Taking into account the difficulties encountered by the citizens living in the areas occupied by Israel and in neighbouring areas,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Lebanese authorities to reconstruct their country and consolidate the steadfastness of citizens living in areas occupied by Israel and taking into account the requirements in this connection,

AFFIRMS its previous resolutions aiming at extending financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon in the light of its needs in the economic, technical and training fields;

REAFFIRMS and REITERATES 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;

INVITES Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and all international and regional organizations to provide all forms of urgent financial assistance and in kind to Lebanon so that it may rebuild what Israel has destroyed and consolidate the steadfastness of the Lebanese in the regions occupied by Israel.

C. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania

a) 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;

b) URGES OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and International Organizations to grant generous economic assistance to the Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.

D. Economic Measures in Support of Uganda

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

Recognizing that Uganda is offering asylum to large numbers of refugees whose number will increase if this state of unrest continues 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.

E. Economic Measures in Support of Afghanistan

Taking into account that Afghanistan is currently faced by serious constraints due to 16 years of war;

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

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

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

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

F. 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 sufferings in this Muslim country.
2. COMMENDS those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.

G. 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 concern at the continued aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan seeking to secure territorial gains while causing great loss of innocent life and property;

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding this conflict;

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 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 unconditional 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.

H. 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 the consolidation of international peace and security,

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina who are facing a 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 in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the Special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21st Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers in Karachi.

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;

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 expulsion of the population which is forcibly prevented from returning to their homes under Serbian occupation 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 provide 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 safeguarded and protected, along the lines of the federation established by the Bosniacs and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina which is open for the participation of the Bosnian Serbs.
6. CALLS on the international community to take all possible measures to prevent any violation of the embargo imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) and consider reinforcing those measures should that country continue to abet or encourage the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. DR. HAMID ALGABID,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 25 October 1994)

Original: French

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. DR. HAMID ALGABID,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 25 October 1994)

Your Excellency Hüsamettin CİNDORUK, Acting President of the
Republic of Turkey and Acting Chairman of the COMCEC
Your Excellency Aykon DOĞAN Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey
Your Excellencies, the Ministers,
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors,
Honourable delegates and guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

First of all, allow me, Mr. Chairman, to express to you my profound gratitude for having kindly accepted to preside over this Closing Ceremony of the Tenth Session of COMCEC in spite of your numerous duties.

This is but an added proof, Mr. Chairman, of your firm commitment to Islamic causes. I also wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express again my sincere thanks to His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC for his unceasing efforts in order to strengthen inter-Islamic cooperation.

The wise guidelines contained in the opening address of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL gave a perfect orientation to our deliberations and this led to the expected results.

I would also like to thank their Excellencies the Ministers who so kindly participated in the deliberations of the Tenth Session of COMCEC and made important contributions, which enabled us to reach all the objectives we had set to achieve.

I further wish to thank the senior officials for a job well done which made our deliberations much easier.

Mr. Chairman,

This Tenth Session of COMCEC is being held at a time particularly important for the world economy, the evolution of which is decisive for the development of our Member States. I am therefore happy to note that the Tenth Session of COMCEC has adopted important measures which will enable our Member States, collectively and individually, to face the new requirements of the world market and of the world economy at large.

Indeed, as a prelude to the Tenth Session of COMCEC, the first meeting of the private sector of OIC Member States was organised. I wish to congratulate the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the Republic of Turkey and all the economic operators who attended the First Meeting of the Private Sector of our States on the full success of their meetings and the very dynamic proposals and recommendations adopted and approved by the Tenth Session of COMCEC.

I appeal to OIC Member States and institutions concerned for the effective implementation of these recommendations with a view to strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among them.

Mr. Chairman,

Nearly fifteen years ago, the Third Islamic Summit adopted the Plan of Action aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among Member States, a Plan which served as a basis for COMCEC action. Today, thanks to the close cooperation between the OIC Member States and institutions concerned, we have, in accordance with the directives of the Sixth Islamic Summit, prepared and approved a new Plan of Action which takes into consideration the changes which took place in the world economy since the adoption of the first Plan of Action in 1981.

This new Plan of Action aims primarily at strengthening the achievements through a better implementation of projects and systems already approved by COMCEC. It also aims at finding the ways and means to a yet more vigorous action in future, in order to strengthen economic cooperation among our States.

I remain convinced that this new Plan of Action will be welcomed by the Seventh Islamic Summit and enjoy all the support of our Member States since it corresponds perfectly to their needs and national objectives of development.

I therefore appeal to all our Member States to go by the provisions contained in the new Plan of Action and to do so with determination and perseverance and to cooperate closely in its implementation.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the OIC institutions, particularly the Islamic Development Bank, for their consistent support to the development process of our Member States and the strengthening of cooperation among the States.

I appeal to all the OIC and international institutions to fully support the implementation of this new Plan of Action.

Allow me also, before concluding, to express my profound gratitude to the people and government of the Republic of Turkey, to the COMCEC Coordination Bureau and to each and every institution and organization that have contributed to the success of our deliberations.

My thanks also go to the translators, interpreters, the secretaries and, in short, to all organizers and actors who have contributed to the success of our deliberations. Thanks for their devotion and efficiency.

I would like to assure you that the General Secretariat shall spare no effort to ensure the rapid and effective implementation of your decisions and recommendations.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MOHAMMAD DAOUD NASSERY
DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF PLANNING OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 25 October 1994)

Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MOHAMMAD DAUD NASSERY
DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF PLANNING OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 25 October 1994)

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

It gives me great pleasure to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for allowing me to address you, on behalf of Members countries, at the closing Ceremony of this 10th session of the COMCEC.

I wish to express my profound gratitude and thanks to HE. President Süleyman Demirel, chairman of the COMCEC, for his valuable, wise and effective speech which guided the work of the conference and enabled us to arrive at the most of suitable and best results.

I would like to thank and congratulate the General Secretariat of the OIC, for preparing such valuable documentation, which strengthen economic and trade cooperation among member countries.

We owe great gratitude to the COMCEC Coordination Bureau, the interpreters, translators and all the supporting Staff who did their best to ensure the success of our conference.

Mr. Chairman, as we are about to close the session of the COMCEC, we should enquire to what extent the resolutions adopted by the ninth session were implemented, hoping that the resolutions adopted by this session will be speedily implemented.

Mr. Chairman, as you are well aware as well as the Honorable Delegates, Islamic countries enjoy great economic and financial resources and it is important to use these resources in a way whereby to become self-reliant and remove the economic pressure exercised by the other nations of the world. It is therefore, necessary to coordinate joint economic action and trade cooperation among member countries.

In this difficult situation fraught with military and economic pressures, some Islamic countries such as Uganda, Somalia, Afghanistan, Albania, Lebanon and Palestine are undergoing severe economic problems and they should be helped so that they may solve their problems and become self-reliant.

Relevant resolutions regarding economic assistance to these Islamic countries have been adopted, as it is obvious that their problems and difficulties can be solved only through the economic and financial assistance of other Islamic countries.

We hope that economic and commercial cooperation among Islamic States will help us unify our stands and improve our joint Islamic action.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you once again, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor, on behalf of member countries, at the Closing Session, and I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the people and Government of Turkey for the generous hospitality, we enjoyed during our stay in Istanbul.

I thank you.

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**CLOSING ADDRESS OF
H.E. HÜSAMETTİN CİNDORUK,
ACTING PRESDDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE
TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 25 October 1994)

Original: Turkish

**CLOSING ADDRESS OF
H.E. HÜSAMETTİN CİNDORUK,
ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE
TENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 25 October 1994)

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Secretary General
Distinguished Delegates
Honoured Guests,

I am happy to note that this Tenth Session of the Standing Committee, whose activities I followed with interest and appreciation, has been successfully concluded.

I would like to thank, in particular, the distinguished Heads of Delegation, the Delegates; H.E. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC; the Islamic Development Bank, the Ankara Centre the Islamic Chamber, the other affiliated Institutions of the Islamic Conference; the interpreters and other administrative and supporting staff, who have all greatly contributed to the success of this Meeting.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Tenth Session of the COMCEC has a special significance for us. With the closing of this Session we come to the end of our first decade of work and cooperation and are embarking on a new phase of cooperation. Important developments did occur and we can rightly qualify the present stage as a turning point.

You will recall that the Economic Cooperation Strategy was adopted by the COMCEC at last year's meeting and it was agreed to draw up a new Action Plan to complement this strategy. It is an important achievement that the text of the Action Plan, was

worked out and completed at various levels over such a short period of time, and was finalized at this Session.

Close and sustained cooperation can be achieved only through a rational and balanced approach, and timely actions in line with a well-defined strategy and targets. This principle has even greater significance for Islamic countries. We do realize that there are unique problems in mobilizing the potentials for cooperation among our countries which cover a large area and have substantial differences in terms of their needs, capacities and structures. A realistic approach which takes the changing conditions into consideration is required to overcome these difficulties.

The new Action Plan adopted at this Session, together with the Strategy Document, meet this fundamental need I have mentioned. I am happy to note that the New Action Plan, through its basic principles, the envisaged areas for cooperation, the follow-up and implementation mechanism, reflects a state of mind in conformity with the trends and circumstances of this age.

In this context, I would like to point out the significance, in terms of a realistic cooperation, of the principles of cooperation among sub-regions, liberalization and integration with the world economy as expressed by the new Strategy, the Action Plan and the Follow-up Scheme.

One of the fundamental principles of economic cooperation in this new period is to assign a weighty role to the private sector. We note with satisfaction that, in line with this principle, the First Private Sector Meeting Among the Islamic Countries was convened in Istanbul last week. Thus, the first successful step has been taken towards making use of the dynamics of the private sector businessmen who are the real actors on the economic scene I hope that work in this connection will be continued. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Islamic Chamber and to the Union of Turkish Chambers for arranging this meeting.

I am also gratified at the information received that the necessary conditions for the implementation of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme, created under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank, have been fulfilled. Thus, another COMCEC project for commercial cooperation is about to become operational. I would like to thank the Islamic Development Bank and the participating countries for the entry into force of this scheme.

The success of cooperation schemes involving numerous countries is a lengthy process. In this connection, COMCEC has a high level performance. However, bearing in mind the potentials to be exploited and the immensity of the needs, it becomes evident that the second decade of the cooperation must be used in a more effective way.

There is no doubt that a more effective economic and commercial cooperation is required in order to reduce the foreign trade deficits, and mitigate the foreign debt burden which are harassing several member countries, as well as increase the share of our countries in the world trade, and improve our export structure, generally based on raw materials and semi-finished goods.

The accelerated course of history in the present century will neutralize the effects of the achievements recorded unless the new measures called for are taken. We must therefore intensify our efforts during the next period and benefit from our past experience.

I wish to reaffirm, once again, that my country will spare no effort in providing every possible support to cooperation efforts, as we have done in the past.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

In concluding my address, I reiterate my thanks to all participants for their contributions. I extend my best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity to all the people of the brotherly Islamic countries.

Hoping that you will carry happy memories from Istanbul, I wish you a safe trip home.

