

**REPORT and RESOLUTIONS
OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995**

COMCEC Coordination Office
Ankara, November 1995

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PART ONE

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE OIC FORMING
THE BASIS AND GUIDING 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 H.E. Mr. Kenan EVREN, President of the Republic of Turkey, with the Chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation..." (Page 18, para 40).

III

RESOLUTION No.8/7-E (IS)
ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION
(COMCEC)

The Seventh Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Fraternity and Revival), held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, 11-13 Rajab 1415H (13 to 15 December 1994),

RECALLING Resolutions of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Islamic Summit Conferences on the COMCEC and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States;

RECALLING Resolution No. 2/6 E(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference on the activities of the COMCEC mandating it to formulate new strategies for the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States and to take appropriate action for its implementation;

RECALLING the Resolutions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers pertaining to the activities of the COMCEC;

ALSO RECALLING the Resolutions adopted at the previous tenth Sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among member countries, particularly in the area of trade;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that, after the Longer-Term Trade Financing Facility which started its operation in 1988, the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit has come into force and that the Corporation will commence its operations by July 1995 under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank;

ALSO NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the efforts of the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, affiliated and specialized institutions of OIC, working in the field of economy and trade, to implement the Resolutions of the COMCEC;

TAKING COGNIZANCE of the importance for the Member Countries of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of the Single European Market; creation and strengthening of regional economic groupings in the Americas, Asia and Pacific; progress in the Middle East Peace Process; conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations;

1. ENDORSES the Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States of OIC adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC.
2. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION that the Strategy of economic cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member Countries and is based on the principles giving emphasis to the private sector, economic liberalization, integration with the world economy, sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member Countries and their international obligations.
3. ALSO NOTES WITH APPRECIATION that the Plan of Action is a general and flexible policy document open for improvement during its implementation, in accordance with the provisions stipulated in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
4. AGREES on the need to urgently implement the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States of OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.
5. APPEALS to the Member States to host, as soon as possible, the Inter-Sectoral Experts' Group meeting envisaged in the chapter on Follow-up and Implementation of the Plan of Action.
6. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the decision of the COMCEC that starting with its eleventh Session it would also serve as a platform for Member Countries where the ministers of economy could exchange views on current world economic issues and, that the topic "Implications for External Trade of Member Countries of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations and the Establishment of World Trade Organization" was designated as the theme for the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC, to be held from 21st to 24th October 1995 in Turkey.

7. APPEALS to the Member States, who have not yet done so, to sign and/or ratify the statutes and agreements approved by OIC in the area of economic cooperation; to take the necessary measures to implement the resolutions of the COMCEC and to join economic cooperation schemes established to that effect.
8. REQUESTS the General Secretariat of OIC to follow up the implementation of the resolutions of the COMCEC and to continue to provide necessary assistance for the efficient organization and conduct of its activities.

PART TWO

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

I

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENT CONSIDERED
BY THE ELEVENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

DOCUMENT CODE

1. Annotated Draft Agenda of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/AA
2. Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC OIC/COMCEC-FC/11-95/REP
3. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat to the Eleventh Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC). . . . OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(1)
4. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(2)
5. Report of the OIC General Secretariat on the Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.. OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(3)
6. Report of the Second Private Sector Meeting for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment Among Islamic Countries and Cairo Declaration.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(4)

DOCUMENT CODE

7. Progress Report to the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) on the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(5)
8. Note on the Election of the Bureau of the COMCEC and Formation of Its Follow-up Committee for the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(6)
9. Statute for the Standards and Metrology Organization for Islamic CountriesOIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(7)
10. Report of the Director General of the Ankara Center.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(8)
11. Brief Report on the Activities of the Islamic Chamber to the 11th Session of the COMCEC.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(9)
12. Activity Report of the Islamic Center for Development of Trade OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D(10)
13. Country Report of the Republic of Turkey on the Implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(1)
14. Industrial Property Protection in Turkey.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(2)
15. The Uruguay Round and its Benefits to Indonesia (Available in English only)... OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(3)
16. Implications of Uruguay Round Agreements for the Activities of the Islamic Development Bank..... OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(4)

DOCUMENT CODE

17. Background Paper on General Evaluation of the Uruguay Round Investment Measures (TRIMs) and Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and Their Implications for Islamic Countries. Presented by ICCL.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(5)
18. Implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements for the Commodity Trade of OIC Countries: A Preliminary Assessment. Presented by SESRTCIC ... OIC/COMCEC/11 -95/URG(6)
19. Uruguay Round Trade in Services, the GATS and OIC Countries. Presented by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(7)
20. The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Available in English Only). Presented by WTO.....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(8)
21. Text of Presentation on the Uruguay Round by the Tunisian Delegation (Available in Arabic only).....OIC/COMCEC/11 -95/URG(9)
22. Text of Presentation on the Uruguay Round by the Egyptian Delegation (Available in Arabic only).....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(10)
23. The Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Implications of Malaysia (Available in English only).....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(11)
24. A Report by the UNCTAD Secretariat on Countries in Accession to the WTO: Main Issues Involved (Available in English only).....OIC/COMCEC/11-95/URG(12)
25. Report of the Sessional Committee of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC.....OIC/COMCEC/11 -95/SC.REP

II

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

(istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

1. The Eleventh Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held on 7 - 8 November 1995. The session was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials, from 5 to 6 November, to consider items of the draft Agenda and prepare Draft Resolutions.

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. Negara Brunei Darussalam
8. Burkina Faso
9. Republic of Cameroon
10. Republic of Chad
11. Arab Republic of Egypt
12. Republic of Gabon
13. Republic of Gambia

14. Republic of Guinea
15. Republic of Indonesia
16. Islamic Republic of Iran
17. Republic of Iraq
18. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
19. State of Kuwait
20. Republic of Kyrgyzstan
21. Republic of Lebanon
22. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
23. Malaysia
24. Kingdom of Morocco
25. Mozambique
26. Republic of Nigeria
27. Sultanate of Oman
28. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
29. State of Palestine
30. State of Qatar
31. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
32. Republic of Senegal
33. Republic of the Sudan
34. Syrian Arab Republic
35. Republic of Tunisia
36. Republic of Turkey
37. Republic of Turkmenistan
38. Republic of Uganda
39. State of the United Arab Emirates
40. Republic of Yemen

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

3. The session was 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 Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhaka,
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca,
The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), Jeddah,
- The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah,
- The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Karachi,
- The International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB), Cairo,
- The Islamic Research Center For History, Culture and Art (IRCICA), Istanbul,
- The Islamic Shipowners' Association (ISA), Jeddah,
- The Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC), Izmir.

4. The session was also attended by the representatives of the following international organizations and United Nations Agencies:

- The Economic Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council, (GCC), Riyadh,
- The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Tehran,
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome,
- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome,
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva,

- The World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva.

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 1.)

Opening Session

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

6. H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL, at the beginning of his inaugural address, expressed his best wishes to the Islamic world and his satisfaction with the ever increasing importance of the role of the COMCEC. Referring to technological, political and economic changes at global level, H.E. DEMIREL stated that COMCEC had to play a prominent role in breaking the vicious circle of poverty and economic backwardness of the Islamic world as a whole. In this context, H.E. DEMIREL, reiterated Turkey's keen interest in putting the COMCEC on a more dynamic track.

In outlining the economic developments in the world in general, the President drew attention to the possible effects of the Results of the Uruguay Round Negotiations, and hoped that the expected expansion of world trade could be utilized to the benefit of OIC Member countries. H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL concluded his address by wishing success to the delegates.

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

7. In his statement, H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, and H.E. 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.

H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID pointed out that the ten 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 H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, is attached as Annex 3.)

8. The Heads of Delegation of the State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Cameroon made statements on behalf of the three geographical groups of the Member States they represented. While expressing their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman 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.)

9. In his statement delivered at the opening ceremony, H.E. Fuad Abdullah Al OMAR, the Acting President of the Islamic Development Bank, 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.)

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

Ministerial Working Session

11. The Ministerial Working Session of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC was held under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

12. The Ministers adopted the Draft Agenda of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC and decided to take up Agenda Item 8 on the Exchange of Views on the Uruguay Round and to review the Draft Resolutions prepared by the Senior Officials, instead of reconsidering the remaining agenda items.

(The Agenda of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex 8.)

13. H.E. Necati OZFIRAT, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting made a brief presentation about deliberations of the Senior Officials on the implications of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations for the External Trade of OIC Member Countries.

(The Text of presentation of the Chairman of the Senior Officials is attached as annex 9. The papers submitted during the Senior Officials Meeting by SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI, IDB, WTO and UNCTAD will be made available separately.)

14. Thereafter, the Heads of Delegation of the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Indonesia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tunisia, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Mozambique and the Republic of the Sudan made presentations. In their presentations, the Heads of Delegation assessed the possible effects of the Uruguay Round Negotiations from their national points of view and explained their positions on the subject. The Heads of Delegation also underlined the necessity for increased economic and technical cooperation and coordination among the OIC Member Countries, to enable them to better cope with the challenges emerging from increased competition and benefit from new opportunities. They also thanked the Government of Turkey

for the hospitality accorded to the Delegates and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

(The country reports presented to the Session will be made available separately.)

15. The Ministers considered and approved Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D.RESU) and Draft Resolution OIC/COMCEC/11-95/D.RES(2), and decided to submit them, for adoption, through their Chairman, His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, at the Closing Session.

16. The Ministers noted with appreciation that the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Uganda were elected vice-chairmen of the Bureau to represent the Arab, Asian and African regions respectively, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur. They congratulated the new elected members of the Bureau and wished them success in their task.

Closing Session

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

18. At the Closing Session, His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Ministerial Session, presented the Draft Resolutions, as approved by the Ministers.

The Standing Committee adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/11-95/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/11-95/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/11-95/RES(1). and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/11-95/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 10 and 11 respectively.)

19. In a special ceremony at the Closing Session, the following Agreements and Statutes were signed by the member states indicated below:

General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation: Islamic Republic of Iran.

Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investment Among Member States of OIC: Islamic Republic of Iran.

Framework Agreement on the Preferential Trade System Among Member States of OIC: Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Gambia.

The Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunication Union: Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Gambia, Republic of Guinea.

The Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council: Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Gambia, Republic of Guinea.

20. In his statement delivered at the closing session, H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, stressed the significance of the results achieved at the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC, and praised the keen interest and wise guidance of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL 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 Eleventh Session of the COMCEC.

(The text of the statement of H.E. Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, is attached as Annex 12.)

21. H.E. Samed SADIKOV, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, delivered a statement on behalf of all delegations. H.E. Samed SADIKOV expressed deep appreciation for the significant results achieved at the Session and for the wise and able leadership and keen interest of President Süleyman DEMİREL in achieving the objectives of the OIC economic cooperation. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Aykon DOĞAN, Minister of State of

Turkey and Chairman of the Ministerial Session, for his most able and effective chairmanship. The Minister expressed his thanks to Her Excellency Ambassador Dato' ZAIBEDAH binti Haji Ahmad, Ambassador of Malaysia to Turkey and Head of the Malaysian delegation, for the preparation of the Report and Resolutions of the Session. The Minister also thanked the Secretary General, Dr. Hamid AL-GABID, and subsidiary, affiliated and specialized 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 excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

(The text of the Statement of H.E. Samed SADKOV, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is attached as Annex 13.)

22. In his closing address, H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the delegations, the General Secretariat and the relevant OIC institutions as well as the representatives of the WTO and UNCTAD, for their valuable efforts and constructive contributions to the work of the Standing Committee. The President, stating his pleasure at the success of efforts to make the COMCEC a platform for discussion of current world economic issues, indicated the relevance of designating "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" as the theme for an exchange of views at the Twelfth Session. H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL wished delegates a safe journey home.

(The text of the closing statement of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL is attached as Annex 14.)

ANNEXES

- 1 -

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE
COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

Original : English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 5 - 8 November 1995)**

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC STATE OF AFGHANISTAN

- H.E. HUIJAT-UL ISLAM SAID MUHAMMED ALI JAWID
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning
- H.E. ABDUL RAHMAN SALEH
Deputy Minister of Commerce
- Mr. ABDUL RAZEQ NAQARAR
Chairman, Board of Studies and Engineering,
Ministry of Communications Islamic State of Afghanistan

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- H.E. SELİM BELORTAJA
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. MIRGJIND TEFIKU
General Director of International Relations,
Ministry of Industry, Transport and Trade

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- H.E. BELKACEM SMAILI
Counsellor
- Mr. AHMED LAKHDAR DEBBAZI

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- H.E. SAMED SADIKHOV
Minister of Economy

- Mr. ASHRAF SHIKHALIEV
Second Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

STATE OF BAHRAIN

- H. E. KARIM EBRAHIM AL SHAKAR
Director of International Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. KHALID SALMAN AL-KHALIFA
First Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- H.E. Md. AMINUR RAHMAN
Joint Secretary, External Relations Division,
Ministry of Finance

BRUNEI DARUSSALLAM

- H.E. PEHIN DATUHJ SULAIMAN BIN HAJI DAMIT
Ambassador to Egypt
- H.E. HAJI KAMIŞ HAJI ALI
Attache, Embassy in Cairo

BURKINA FASO

- H.E. OUMAR DIAWARA
Ambassador to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Mr. GOUNGOUNGA DIEUDONNE
Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planification

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- H.E. EDMOND MOMPEA MBIO
Minister,
Secretary of State for Industrial and Commercial Development
- Mrs. HAMAN ADAMA
Technical Adviser

- Mrs. MOISE AKOM MVONDO
Head of the Department of International Cooperation
- Mr. MOUHAMODOU YOUSSEF
Expert, Ministry of External Relations

REPUBLIC OF CHAD

- H.E. ABBAS MAHAMAT AMBADI
Minister of Commerce and Industrial Promotion
- Mr. HINSALBET GABARIEL SOBDIBET
Director of Studies and Economic Development,
Ministry of Commerce and Industrial Promotion

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- H.E. MOHAMED MAHDY FATHALLA
Ambassador to Turkey
- H.E. Dr. MOHAMED EZZ-ELDINE ABDEL-MONEIM
Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Dr. MOHAMED ROUSHDI BARAKAT
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Head of Commercial Office in Istanbul
- H.E. MOHAMED MAMOUN ABD EL FATTAH
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Head of Commercial Office in Geneva
- Mr. AHMED NASSER
Commercial Consul
- Mr. HISHAM EL KHATEB
Consul in Istanbul
- Mr. HATEM TAG ELDIN
Third Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

REPUBLIC OF GABON

- H.E. JEAN PING
Minister of Finance, Economy,
Budget and Cooperations

- Mr. DOSSOU JEAN FRONCOIS
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**INUGURAL ADDRESS OF
H.E. SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Original: Turkish

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

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

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

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the eleventh session of the COMCEC, hoping that it will benefit the entire Islamic World.

I would first like to say that I am happy to note that the COMCEC, carrying out the economic activities of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which embraces 53 Islamic Countries constituting one third of the world population, is increasingly gaining importance.

The fundamental changes of the age, together with the rapidly developing technology, influences world economy to such an extent that we are almost witnessing a new industrial revolution. In addition to this rapid transformation, the globalization of the economy is accompanied by numerous new opportunities and new horizons unfold for humanity on the road to economic and social progress.

However, I must immediately point out that this favourable picture is only one face of the reality. On its other side lies a world where differences in the level of development of countries and people are becoming more marked and the imbalance is growing.

In short, while political and ideological walls tumble and obsolete systems collapse on the one hand, differences in the level of development

are raising new barriers on the other. The COMCEC has therefore the task of breaking the vicious circle of poverty and economic underdevelopment gripping the entire Islamic World. The steps to be taken in the area of economy and trade by the COMCEC, which encompasses countries with different political, economic and legal structures, will no doubt benefit the Islamic World as well as the world at large.

For this reason, Turkey always endeavours to define the priority areas of the COMCEC and ensure that the resolutions adopted are implemented. Turkey, gratified at the way the OIC enhances its effectiveness and pursues its constructive contributions to matters closely concerning the Islamic World, wishes that the COMCEC be given a more dynamic structure.

The interest shown in the COMCEC sessions, regularly held for eleven years since 1984, and the progress achieved, have substantially contributed to the COMCEC becoming one of the most successful organs of the OIC. I would therefore like to express my appreciation to all the participants on this occasion.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The world economy is once again on a growing trend. A 4% growth rate is expected for next year, which seems to be due to the vitality of the developing countries rather than the 3% growth observed in the industrialised nations. The average growth rate expected for the developing countries in 1995-1996 will be 6%, or twice the growth rate of the industrialized nations.

In this context, we note that the performance of the East Asian countries has been quite successful. This is the outcome of the structural harmonization and liberalization programs as well as of the fast expanding volume of trade among the countries of the region. All COMCEC member countries must definitely catch up with this trend of development and take the necessary steps to bridge the gap separating them from developed nations. On the other hand, the relative increase in the volume of trade between the COMCEC member countries is satisfying. We must aim at increasing this volume, which has risen from 8% to about 10% in recent years, to a level commensurate with its real potential, in namely 30%.

With the Uruguay Round Agreements coming into effect, it is anticipated that the world volume of trade will increase further. It is expected to rise by 10% and consequently the world output will realize an annual growth of 250 billion dollars during the next seven years. With the transformation of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) into a permanent organization entitled the World Trade Organization, it will be possible to monitor the tariff and non-tariff barriers more effectively. The Uruguay Round Agreements have covered agriculture, textiles, various services, investments related to commerce, and intellectual property rights in the scope of the multilateral trade system, a development of particular interest to the COMCEC member countries.

It is our wish that the Islamic countries get a maximum share of this expansion of the world trade. To this end we must cooperate and seek and find the ways to lead us to this goal.

On the other hand, we must contribute to the efforts of Russia and the newly independent central Asian republics to overcome their economic difficulties in the transition from a centrally guided to a market economy. Economic cooperation within this vast region will contribute not only to the development of the above mentioned countries, but also to foster and reinforce security and stability in Eurasia.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would now like to share with you my thoughts on the items on our agenda.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that the realistic strategy defined at our first session eleven years ago and the emphasis put on the importance of commercial cooperation among member countries have played a very important role in getting the present results. As can be seen from our agenda, the weighty themes and cooperation projects of international significance are among the issues that also concern the COMCEC. We believe that, without underestimating what has been achieved so far, we must proceed forward with greater determination.

The New Plan of Action Plan, adopted at the last session, aimed at encouraging cooperation among regional groups, emphasising economic liberalization, private enterprise and integration with the world economy. The basic principle was that the progress of the Islamic world in this

direction would ensure its becoming part of the globalizing economy as well as help member countries of carry out their development on sound and strong foundations.

We note with satisfaction that we, as the COMCEC, have set for ourselves a healthy and realistic strategy which contributes to both regional and global prosperity and stability. We live in an age which believes that security is not a matter of political and military concern, alone, but is also intermingled with economic and social issues.

Another important agenda item is that of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Corporation, the preparatory work of which was undertaken by the Islamic Development Bank, which has become operational last August. COMCEC members should take maximum advantage of this project, which provides additional opportunities to the exporters and investors of the COMCEC member countries and will further contribute to economic cooperation.

I would like to state that I consider it an opportune decision to make use of the COMCEC as a forum to exchange views on economic developments taking place in member countries and in the world and on their problems. Our Ministers will then have the opportunity to discuss not only technical subjects but also economic and commercial issues of interest to both the member countries and the world, and to harmonize their stand in the face of these events. I believe that this practice, which will be started for the first time at this session with the consideration of the Uruguay Round Agreements, will enlighten us on an important issue of concern to all of us.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Honourable Guests,

Optimism and pessimism have become complementary concepts during the post-cold war period. While on the one hand humanity is agreeing on a common desire to advance towards a happy and prosperous future, disharmony and conflicts still persist on the other, and some of these problems are of a very great concern to the Islamic world.

The lack of timely and resolute reaction to the tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Somalia and Ruanda has serious by affected us.

In this connection, I would like to note with appreciation and gratitude the solidarity manifested by the Organization of the Islamic Conference towards the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue. We believe that continued material and moral support of the OIC will contribute to establishing, as soon as possible, a just and lasting peace within the internationally recognized borders of this multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural country.

Intensive efforts are being made within the framework of the OIC to give a concrete form to this support, and the Islamic world is joining forces to assuage the suffering of our Bosnian brothers. I believe that after peace is established, the OIC Member States will make the necessary contributions, within their means, to the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In our troubled region, we wish the Armenians to unconditionally evacuate the Azerbaijan lands they occupy, and we believe that the friendly and brotherly people of Azerbaijan will rapidly attain happiness with the reestablishment of peace. We appeal to all OIC Member States to strengthen their solidarity with our Azerbaijani brothers.

In the context of the Middle East Peace Process initiated to establish a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the signature of a Declaration of Principles, relative to the mutual recognition of Israel and Palestine, the conclusion of the Peace Treaty putting an end to 46 years of warfare between Israel and Jordan, and the agreement signed between the Palestinian National Administration and Israel, concerning broadening of the powers of the Palestinian National Administration in Gaza and Jericho are historical developments.

We witnessed, last Saturday night, the worst attempt to undermine the peace process through inhuman methods used by those trying to reverse the destiny of the people of the Middle East who have long aspired to development and prosperity and are impatiently looking forward to permanent peace. To be against peace is to be against the inherent nature of man.

A climate of peace as the basis of extensive economic cooperation in the Middle East is no longer a dream. We hope that the countries of the region will not miss this golden opportunity.

Turkey is committed to continue to supporting the peace process in the Middle East and devote her best efforts to establish peace in the region.

As members of the OIC, it is our vital responsibility to strengthen our support and contribution to the people of Palestine, in view of our historical solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and in the context of the Casablanca and Amman resolutions, so that the Palestinian people can rise to the level of social and economic development they deserve.

Turkey desires an equitable and realistic peace in Cyprus to be achieved through negotiations and with the free will of the two parties. We think that a federal administration comprising two communities and two sectors, in which the Turkish community of Cyprus will participate with equal rights, will solve the problem and with this understanding we support the goodwill mission of the United Nations Secretary General.

I would like to stress that continued support and solidarity of the COMCEC with the Turkish community of Cyprus, which is an indivisible part of the Islamic world, would be well received.

Turkey attaches great importance to the preservation of the national unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. In this context, we hope that the hostilities in Afghanistan will soon come to an end, peace and order reestablished in the country and a broad-based government representing all concerned parties formed. Turkey supports the efforts of Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations to Afghanistan.

As for the Kashmir dispute, another regional problem, we believe that this problem can be solved by the parties through negotiations on the basis of internationally accepted legal procedures.

Consequently, we will continue to support the efforts of the OIC Kashmir contact group, of which we are a member, in its search for a peaceful solution in Kashmir.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Organization of the Islamic Conference is an appropriate platform bringing together 53 Islamic countries acting in harmony and solidarity in the light of our joint moral values and cultural heritage. We must make optimum use of this platform. However, this must not be construed as isolating ourselves from the rest of the world. We must establish our solidarity by integrating with the world and fostering our cooperation with the other countries. This approach would also serve to eliminate the artificial tensions observed throughout the world. I Would like to emphasize once again that one of the missions of the COMCEC is to accelerate economic cooperation, which is one of the most important tools to be used for the above purpose.

Turkey, fully aware of her great share and responsibility in strengthening and enhancing the efficiency of both the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the COMCEC, one of the most successful organs of the OIC, will continue to make the necessary contributions.

On this occasion, I appeal to the Turkish businessmen to carry out their business, in this spirit with increased enthusiasm.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

Turkey , who is an active member of the OIC, also enjoys an advantageous position in other regional cooperation organizations. The recently established Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) project, comprising 11 member countries, extending from Russia to the Caucasio, is recognized as one of the model regional cooperation projects of the future.

Similarly, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), of which Turkey is one of the founders, has become a 10 -member extensive regional cooperation organization with the participation of the Central Asian Republics.

On the other hand, Turkey is proceeding towards full integration with the European Union. We are of the opinion that investments to be made by Islamic Countries in Turkey, as we join the Customs Union with Europe, will create new opportunities for all of us. The entrepreneurs of

the Islamic Countries should take advantage of the cooperation opportunities in the framework of BSEC and ECO, which bring new dimensions for cooperation to the COMCEC. In this respect, the Islamic private sector also has an important role to play.

In conclusion, I wish you full success in your work.

Thank you.

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

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Original: French

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HAMID AL-GABID,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)**

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies Messers Ministers,
Your Excellencies Ambassadors,
Honourable Delegates and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am always pleased to be able to participate in the annual COMCEC meeting held here in Istanbul. I would like to seize this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to H.E. Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC, to the people and government of Turkey for their generous hospitality as well as for their continued support to COMCEC activities.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC celebrated its 25th anniversary just weeks ago and member state representatives took that opportunity to reassert their commitment to the Islamic Ummah's noble ideal and to pay emphasis on the need for enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation to speed up development within the Islamic Ummah. It is worth noting that the 25th anniversary celebration coincided with the signing of the Marrakech (Morocco) agreements marking the completion of the Uruguay Round negotiations.

These agreements mark a particular phase for the development of the world economy which is increasingly characterised by the globalization and the establishment of large economic groupings. Economic experts have pointed out that the Uruguay Round agreements will have a positive impact on world trade and will contribute to enhancing wealth worldwide.

Unfortunately it is by no means certain that the advantages arising from these agreements will be fairly shared for developing countries, among which the majority of OIC Member States, run the risk of being on the losing side in the implementation of these agreements, unless we demonstrate vigilant acumen and resourcefulness.

Unless we remain vigilant, the prices of raw materials produced by most developing countries will always be lower than those of industrial goods. Moreover, developing countries with no mastery of science and technology and having poor organisational skills for managing their economies at both national and regional levels, will thus find themselves in a weaker position in this open global market controlled by large economic groupings highly structured and increasingly aggressive.

In this context which may lead to a deeper marginalisation of our countries on a global scale, COMCEC represents the ideal weapon which alone can help our states to effectively remove this threat and safeguard their national interests. In this regard I feel elated with the initiatives already taken by COMCEC for enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among Member States, particularly the numerous sectoral meetings at Ministerial level convened under the auspices of COMCEC.

COMCEC also produced and adopted various instruments aiming at enhancing intra-Islamic cooperation in the important trade and investment areas. In this regard, I am glad to mention both the Longer Term Trade Finance Scheme and the Investment Guarantee and Export Credit Insurance Scheme which are being implemented by IDB and have already started to bear fruit.

In this connection, I would like to salute the Islamic Development Bank for firmly supporting the development efforts of member states and enhancing intra-Islamic cooperation and I wish to encourage the IDB management to continue its action in this area.

The trade preferential system among OIC Member States is another important instrument adopted by COMCEC which will substantially contribute to intra-Islamic trade once it is implemented. It may be noted that the level of intra-Islamic trade is still very low and represents roughly 10% of all transactions among our States.

I wish to seize this opportunity to call upon member states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify this important agreement so as to enhance our countries' level of transactions. As soon as this important agreement is ratified by 10 Member States, multilateral trade negotiations will be undertaken and it would be desirable that they start during 1996.

Lastly, I wish to welcome the sound initiative of COMCEC aimed at enabling Ministers concerned to exchange their viewpoints on the main question relating to world economy and trade.

The decision of the 10th Session of COMCEC to organize discussions on the implications of Uruguay Round negotiations for the economies of OIC Member States is to be taken as an encouraging initiative in this respect. I hope that the 11th Session of COMCEC will yield positive results to enable our States to conduct more effective trade negotiations in future on the international arena in order to preserve the national interests of Member States.

The Tenth Session of COMCEC also adopted the new Plan of Action aimed at strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among Member states in implementation of the directives issued by the Sixth Islamic Summit held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 1991. This new Plan which took into consideration the current situation of the world economy, was endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit which urged Member States to implement it rapidly.

I therefore appeal to Member states, the IDB and other OIC institutions concerned to fully support the implementation of this Plan.

I also urge Member States to support other important actions launched by COMCEC such as the adoption of the basic documents of the Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union, the Islamic Standardization System, the Project establishing a Trade Information System for OIC Member States, the Organization of Islamic Trade Fairs and the annual meetings of the private sector of Member states.

In this connection, I wish to congratulate the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry on organising the first two meetings of the private sector of OIC Member States in collaboration with the Union of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Turkey and the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce of the Arab Republic of Egypt. I urge Member States to adopt the required measures with a view to facilitating the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of these meetings.

Allow me here to pay tribute to other OIC affiliated institutions, in particular the Islamic Shipowners Association and the International Association of Islamic Banks for their useful contribution in the strengthening of inter-Islamic cooperation and for their support to the private sector in our States.

I seize this opportunity to appeal to Member States, to extend their full support to these institutions with a view to making the most out of the services they offer in various fields.

The good work done by the subsidiary organs such as the Ankara Centre, the Casablanca Centre, the Islamic Institute of Technology, and IFSTAD, despite serious financial problems, cannot go unnoticed and so I urge Member States to extend all their possible support to these organs by paying their contributions and arrears while making optional use of the services of these organs with a view to speeding up the development of our economies and strengthening inter-Islamic cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic world has huge material and human resources. Let us therefore mobilize our resources and walk straight to collective victory over poverty, ignorance and disease based on solid foundations for a rapid development of the Islamic world on the eve of the year 2000.

This is the mission to which our duty as Muslims calls us today and we, together, can carry it out for the greatest good of our children, for the greatest welfare of the Islamic Ummah.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish full success to our deliberations.

WASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAHI WA BARAKATUH.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. NASSER ABDULLAH AL-ROUDHAN
SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE
OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONAY**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY H.E. NASSER ABDULLAH AL-ROUDHAN
SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF FINANCE OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Your Excellency President Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC,
Your Excellency Dr. Hamid ALGABID, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

It is a pleasure for me, Mr. President, to express on behalf of the Arab Group in the name of which I am taking the floor, our sincere thanks and profound appreciation for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this historical city, which can boast of a deep-seated Islamic heritage.

I also wish to avail myself of this opportunity to commend your prominent role and your unceasing efforts, with a view to promoting economic and commercial cooperation among our Islamic States, through your chairmanship of the Standing Committee for economic and commercial cooperation.

The opening speech of your Excellency has emphasized the importance attached by the Turkish Government to and keen interest in strengthening economic cooperation in all fields and its sustained efforts to overcome any obstacle or difficulty that might impede such efforts^

Our present Meeting is convening amidst events attendant on the establishment of a new world order, a crucial and critical period. The balance of power has changed, regional interests have differed and competitiveness has come to light. It has become most apparent that there is no longer any place but for large groupings, given the accelerating change^ and mutations in world economic conditions which, whether

positive or negative, adversely reflect on our Islamic States, in addition to their chronic economic difficulties, such as a maladjusted balance of payments, budgetary deficits, a greater reliance on industrialized nations, the heavier burdens of external indebtedness, the fluctuations in raw materials prices and ensuing consequences as regards world demand for such materials, and markets that have become consumers markets, instead of remaining producers markets as they were. Moreover, inter-Islamic trade relations are weak, as the overall volume of trade among Member States does not exceed 10 %, due mainly to the lack of complementarity in the economic structures of Member States and to the existence of numerous technical, economic, political, social and institutional obstacles that greatly impede the flow of goods and services among our states. I am convinced that inter-Islamic trade is the first and most important step towards the promotion of joint economic Islamic action, bearing in mind the dynamic potential of trade to activate all the other economic sectors and bring about growing interests founded on mutual benefits.

Mr. President,

It is a source of pride and joy to meet today, ten years after the establishment of COMCEC. We have covered great strides in the various fields of economic cooperation among the Islamic States, thanks to your leadership and directives. Taking into account the vast differences between Islamic States, in terms of socio-economic development, a speedy progress within the COMCEC mechanism is not an easy matter. This calls for political will, determination and arduous work, it also calls for time and patience to yield its fruits. For example, the Longer-Term Trade Financing Programme, The Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential treatment, the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Scheme, the New Plan of Action, the adoption for implementation of new strategic, taking steps to establish an Islamic Multilateral Clearing Union and establishing the Standards and Metrology Organization are issues and mechanisms that deserve support and appreciation, and emphasize the achievements accomplished in the context of the COMCEC.

Dear brothers,

As you can see, our agenda teems with important items which call for careful and serious consideration. I wish, in this connection, to commend the senior official for the efforts they exerted to prepare the draft recommendations that will enable us to adopt appropriate resolutions. I also wish to point at one of the important agenda items, that of an exchange of views on the implications of the Uruguay Round Trade

Negotiations for the external trade of the OIC Member States; this is a serious challenge that will confront Islamic States in the coming years and calls for joint national and regional efforts, as well as coordination of stands to secure as much gains as possible and mitigate eventual ills.

In the context of our agenda, we will consider the report of the Islamic Chamber of commerce and Industry on the second meeting of the representatives of the private sectors of OIC Member States which recently met in Cairo, at the generous invitation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I wish, in this connection, to refer to the issue of privatization, one of the salient landmarks of economic liberalization. Experience has proved the important and effective contribution that could be made by the private sector in promoting development, provided the propitious eliminate is created and the appropriate inducements are ensured, thus securing stability and sustained industrial development. It has been recognized that regional cooperation without the participation of the private sector is incomplete and one-sided.

In conclusion, may I be permitted, Your Excellency, to express to you my most sincere gratitude and profound esteem for availing me the opportunity of extending to the Government and people of Turkey my thanks and deep appreciation for their sustained support in order to promote economic cooperation through the COMCEC.

May God Almighty bless us with success.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MORTEZA MOHAMMAD KHAN,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND
FININANCE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Original : English

STATEMENT BY H.E. MORTEZA MOHAMMAD KHAN,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Your Excellency Süleyman Demirel
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 Delegates,
Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh

It is a privilege for me to represent the Asian member countries of the OIC in extending our thanks and appreciations to H.E. Süleyman Demirel, the President of the Republic of Turkey, the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome, and generous hospitality which, in keeping with the great tradition of this country, has been extended to all of us since we set foot in this country. I greatly appreciate the efforts exerted by the Republic of Turkey and its friendly people to ensure the success of this meeting which serves as a symbol of Islamic solidarity.

I also would like to commend the organizers for the excellent arrangement of the meeting.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

All economic indicators show that the recession of the last few years in the industrial countries has ended and sustainable economic growth in general term has commenced.

After the slow down in world economic growth during the period 1990 to 1993, world economic output increased by 3.7 percent in 1994 and is projected to increase by 3.8 percent in 1995. In the industrial countries, following low growth rates during the same period, a growth rate of 3.0 percent was recorded in 1994, and the same rate of growth is projected for the current year. Although in the developing countries the economic growth rates went above 6 percent in 1993 and 1994. nevertheless, the growth rate in OIC member countries, declined to 3.5 percent in 1993, and below 3 percent in 1994, compared to over 4 percent growth rate gained in 1992.

On the trade side, the world trade expanded strongly in 1994, recording the largest yearly gain since 1976, and growing more than twice as fast as in 1993. The volume of world trade increased by 4 percent in 1993, and by 9.5 percent in 1994. According to forecasts the strong expansion of world trade by about 8 percent is expected in 1995, at a somewhat slower pace than in 1994.

Although the value of world merchandise exports exceeded the US\$ 4000 billion level in 1994, for the first time, on the strength of 12 percent rise, and rose by 9 percent in terms of volume, nevertheless in spite of such changes on global scene due to delinking of growth in world economy and growth in developing countries their turn in favour of developing countries, in general, OIC members in particular, was rather small. For example, on the side of oil producing member countries, the price of petroleum in 1994, was at its lowest level since 1973, and one-third of its 1981-82 peak.

As regards to the total trade in 1993 although OIC members performed better both in terms of volume and relative world trade share compared to the preceding year, nevertheless their total exports share in world trade was 7.3 percent, consisting of 11.1 percent intra-trade within the OIC member countries. Such tura of events shall be reviewed in the context of insufficient financial resources and growing doubts about the sustainability of capital flows to developing countries in general, and many member countries in particular, as well as increasing growth rate of population, heavy debt service burden, unemployment and budget deficit in many of our member countries.

Such an ambiguous economic perspective in many of Islamic countries is further intensified by certain political pressures imposed on Islamic world, the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the prolonged domestic conflict in Afghanistan, and the continuation of problems of Palestine are clear examples of such political pressures which call for a collective coordinated reaction on the side of Islamic world, to cope with these unhumanitarianism.

We therefore, believe the future growth of OIC members and their relief from economic and political constraints, will mainly depend on economic side on their internal policy reforms, increased efficiency in the allocation of resources, maximized intra-trade, increased investments and closer cooperation among themselves and on political side on their solidarity and coordinated actions at international level.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

The agenda of this meeting includes consideration of a number of important issues on important items providing broad guidelines to the member states for diversifying and increasing their economic and commercial relations through multiplication of their mutual cooperation in order to build an economic community of self-reliant and self-sustained nature. It is also a matter of satisfaction that our agenda includes the exchange of views on "implications of Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations on External Trade of OIC member countries". The transition from one international body -the GATT- to its successor, the WTO is an important phenomenon in the last fifty years. It was made all the more complicated by the fact that the new organization has a significantly broader scope and greater responsibilities than the GATT. Its task covers the spectrum from minute administrative details to fundamental questions of legal rights and obligations.

The GATT, under whose rules global merchandise trade has expanded to 13 times its 1950 level, has been seamlessly folded into a new organization which intends to extend its technically and politically complex rules across the whole of world trade. It is estimated that by the full implementation of the twenty agreements contained in the Final Act, global income will increase by about US\$ 500 billion annually, out of which US\$ 60 to 100 billion is expected to be gained by the developing countries, which is equivalent to 1.3 to 2.0 percent of their GDP. However

the magnitude of the gains that developing countries or OIC member states will derive from the activation of the WTO, will vary from case-to-case. In fact it is impossible, at this moment, to form a clear and precise picture as to what effect the WTO will have on OIC member countries. Nevertheless elimination of subsidies on food products under Uruguay agreement will result in higher bills for OIC member countries which are net importers of food. Such higher bills, being reviewed in the context of increasing population, increased food demand, poor agriculture policy, and serious problems of hunger, malnutrition, famine, wide spread poverty, and lower economic growth in those countries call for immediate remedies in the frame-work of coordinated policies by the OIC member states for development of agriculture and food security.

To this end, I have the pleasure to bring to the attention of this august meeting that the Forth Meeting of Agriculture Ministers of OIC, held in January 1995 in Tehran, adopted inter alia, Resolution No. 8/4-MFSAD regarding the establishment of a standing committee on food security and agriculture development, which will enable us to effectively face such ensuing adverse effects. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran has the privilege to host, the Expert Group Meeting foreseen under the paragraph 4 of the same Resolution, for formulating the mandates of this committee. I appeal the member states to participate effectively in the same Expert Group Meeting, in order to enable the OIC member states to cope with those formidable effects.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion of my statement, I would like once again to thank H.E. Süleyman Demirel, the President of the Republic of Turkey, the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the gracious hospitality extended to all delegations.

Thank You.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. EDMOND MOMPEA MBIO,
MINISTER, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRIAL
AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Original: English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. EDMOND MOMPEA MBIO,
MINISTER, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRIAL
AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Your Excellency, Mr. President for the Republic and Chairman of the
COMCEC,
Mr. Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

I would like, first and foremost, to express on behalf of the African group, which my country had hitherto had the signal honour of representing within the COMCEC Bureau, my sincere thanks to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and, through him, to the government and people of Turkey for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Istanbul.

May I also be permitted to extend my congratulations to the newly-elected Bureau of the COMCEC and, in particular, to the sister country of UGANDA, which replaces us as representative of the African Group.

I cannot fail at this juncture, to express wholehearted appreciation to the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to the COMCEC Coordination Bureau and to the attending delegations for the clarity and precision with which their respective teams submitted the documents that constitute the basis of our work.

Your Excellency, Mr. President of the Republic of Turkey,
Mr. Secretary General of the OIC,
Mr. Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey,
Distinguished Delegates,

Our Meeting is being held 15 days exactly after the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, the main international forum for the promotion of multilateralism, the struggle in favour of peace and cooperation for development.

It is also being held at a time when the world economy is undergoing profound changes with the conclusion, last year, of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization, thus auguring the liberalization of international trade.

All these changes have seriously affected the already fragile economies of developing countries in general, and those of the OIC Member States in particular.

The difficult times in which we live as well as the challenges of the future, which our Organization will have to face, incite us, to-day, more than ever before, to ponder at length on the ways and means likely to promote at best and accelerate a greater interaction among our respective countries, linked by a common destiny.

As far as they are concerned, the countries of the African Group commend the efforts hitherto made by the OIC, through the Ankara Center, the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade, The Islamic Development Bank and COMCEC, to mitigate the adverse effects of the changes in national economies, by means of in-depth studies on the implications of the Uruguay Round Negotiations for the external trade of our States and of seminars to be organized in this connection.

Your Excellency, Mr. President of the Republic of Turkey,
Mr. Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,

Since the North-South economic relations are undergoing a lethargic phase, due to the growing egoism of the major economic and financial world powers, we must confer a much more substantial connotation to-our

notion of Islamic Solidarity which liaises, in the light of the New Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States, adopted by the Seventh Casablanca Islamic Summit.

To translate into tangible facts the principles and noble ideals of our charter is our only way to salvation as regards the consolidation of a truly fraternal Solidarity. Hence, we should note with satisfaction the recent initiative of the COMCEC which, at its Ninth Session, recommended the participation of the private sector in its activities.

The promotion of a genuine economic cooperation dictates an increased trade among our countries which, although endowed with immense potentials, have still not met expectations (11.6% only of the volume of world trade). The two meetings of the private sector, held respectively in Istanbul, in 1994, and in Cairo, last October, have pinpointed the main causes thereof.

- A timid trade among Member Countries;
- Shortcomings in the dissemination of commercial information;
- Several bottlenecks, namely numerous complex conditionalities, restrictive and even paralyzing, to name only a few.

As we indicated last year, before this august Assembly, a sense of frustration prevails which could erode the enthusiasm of each of us.

Yet, our economic survival lies in our ability to close ranks and to create the propitious conditions for investment.

As far as it is concerned, Cameroon, since 1990, has carried out a major reform programme of its economy, through privatization, the progressive withdrawal of the State from production and distribution sectors and no longer involving itself in price control. In fact, bold and favourable decisions in the interest of private investments.

That is why, I strongly urge the businessmen of the Islamic Ummah to invest in Africa where all the propitious conditions are available.

In the Name of Mighty Allah, I thank you.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. FUAD ABDULLAH AL OMAR,
ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. FUAD ABDULLAH AL OMAR,
ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Praise be to Allah and Peace and Blessings be upon His Prophet who was sent as a mercy for all mankind, and upon his family and his noble companions!

Your Excellency, Mr. President Suleiman Demirel,
President of the Republic of Turkey,
Chairman of the esteemed Committee,

Your Excellency Dr. Hamid Al-Gabid,
Secretary-General of the Organization of
Islamic Conference,

Your Excellencies,
Dear Brothers and Sisters, Members of Delegations,
Distinguished Guests,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh!

It is indeed a source of great pleasure and honour for me, Mr. President, to address this distinguished assembly today and to present, on behalf of the Islamic Development Bank, highest appreciation and tribute to the President, Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the cordial welcome and kind attention accorded to all of us since we came to this great country, renowned for its traditional hospitality and generosity.

I am pleased to present, on behalf of the Islamic Development Bank, my deepest gratitude to the Secretariat of your esteemed Committee for having invited the Bank to participate in the activities of your esteemed Committee to achieve its desired economic targets.

Mr. President,

I would like to refer here to the comprehensive keynote address you have delivered at the Conference. It represents a natural extension of the sound ideas and enlightened views you have always given to the Committee. I would also like to pay tribute to your continued support of its activities and efforts. I am convinced, Mr. President, that this meeting will devote due attention to what is contained in your valuable address and will be guided by your directives and views.

I would also like to express highest appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Hamid Al-Gabid, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for the sound principles and noble ideas contained in his speech today in the field of joint Islamic action.

I am pleased to warmly congratulate His Excellency and ourselves on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which is a symbol of Islamic solidarity and its instrument to express its just causes.

Mr. President,

I would like to commend here the sincere efforts undertaken by this Committee during the past eleven years to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among the Islamic countries. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) indeed values highly the outcome of its constructive cooperation with COMCEC in this field.

The IDB has been pleased to receive since the first COMCEC meeting in 1984 in Istanbul the Committee's recommendations to undertake studies, research and activities serving the goals of development and trade in member countries. The Bank has always been willing to participate with

COMCEC within its potentials in the implementation of the economic resolutions adopted by Islamic Summits, Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers and sectoral ministerial meetings.

With a view to enhancing performance and making arrangements for better efforts in this respect, the IDB has recently entrusted to a Committee of Eminent Personalities the task of evaluating its operations *during* the past twenty years. The Committee has prepared its report which shall be submitted to the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors by the end of this month in the Republic of Indonesia. The Bank had earlier requested another team of Specialists to review the adequacy of its resources, ways of utilizing them in the service of the desired targets and optimal ways of mobilizing and developing them to ensure a sustained growth of the Bank's operations.

Mr. President, I am pleased to inform your esteemed Committee that one of COMCEC's projects, I mean the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) celebrated the commencement of its operations and fruitful activities three months ago. This new mechanism shall, by the Grace of Allah, contribute towards promoting fruitful cooperation through the services it would render in the insurance of risks, thus expanding the scope of trade and promoting the flow of investments among member countries. We also hope that the risk coverage by this Corporation would encourage the banking sector to provide financing facilities for the development of intra-trade and enhancing the competitiveness of member countries' exports vis-à-vis non-member countries' imports.

COMCEC should emphasize to the Islamic States that the success of this Corporation in the achievement of its goals depends, in the first place, on the expansion of its membership. The IDB would like to join your call to member countries to take necessary steps to complete procedures related to their adhesion to the ICIEC.

You will find in the Report submitted to you by IDB further details on this promising Corporation to which we wish full success under the commercial changes governing the world, particularly following the Final Act of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Mr. President,

Your esteemed Committee's awareness of the significance of these changes has led it to devoting a special session in its programme today for an exchange of views on the outcome worldwide of the GATT Agreement and its impact on member countries and its eventual critical incidence on the future of world trade.

As you may be aware, the challenge facing the Muslim Ummah lies in its ability to identify and absorb international changes and deal with a rapidly changing economic system characterized by a tendency towards economic blocs.

Your esteemed Committee is indeed aware that the OIC countries should deal on an equal footing with these groups. This is something which would not be possible if the countries individually join the new economic order; serious efforts should rather be made for integration among them to expand the productive base, intensify specialization and utilize relative benefits to strengthen their competitiveness in the international markets, including the benefits made available by the Uruguay Act to regional groups and the commercial preferences existing among them.

While looking forward to the directives and recommendations which would emanate from your deliberations on this subject, the IDB is indeed pleased to participate in this session for exchange of views by a paper reviewing the impact of the GATT Agreements on its operations in the member countries.

Mr. President,

The new strategy for economic and commercial cooperation is indeed of extreme significance, as reflected in the mechanisms for its implementation, including sectoral meetings. The IDB, while looking forward to further participation in the implementation of this strategy, would be pleased to consider the possibility of supporting some of these sectoral meetings and providing the necessary assistance to convene them.

It may be pointed out in this respect that the first meeting of Commercial Attaches of Islamic countries in South East Asia was held in cooperation between IDB and the Malaysian Industrial Bank a few weeks ago. Its recommendations comprised a call for such meetings at the level of Officials responsible for trade in the Islamic countries.

Experience has proved the importance of the private sector in economic development and trade promotion whenever the appropriate economic climate and market mechanisms are ensured for that. The IDB appreciates the significance of this sector in utilizing opportunities for cooperation among member countries and achieving a constructive linkage based on the principles of exchange of benefits and service of common interests. In recognition of this role, the IDB has set up a new Department, within its new internal organizational structure, with the basic task of developing and supporting this role.

In this respect, I would like to point out that your distinguished meeting will consider the outcome of the second meeting concerning the role of the Private Sector and the part it can play in promoting development and trade. This, as you may note, is in line with the orientations of the Bank and its strategic plan towards this sector.

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,

The achievements made in the framework of fruitful cooperation between IDB and COMCEC are indeed worthy of admiration. However, the aspirations for development and trade in member countries still require further efforts and resources. This calls upon us to intensify modes of cooperation to face the challenges in front of *us and* keep pace with economic and technological progress. The IDB would indeed be pleased to always respond to the requirements of cooperation and work with COMCEC to achieve the fruitful initiatives it may take in this respect, among a new pipeline of ambitious projects which may stem from the second Plan of Action.

It is my pleasure to reiterate my warmest thanks to Your Excellency and to COMCEC for giving IDB this opportunity to express its views in the service of our common goals. I would also like to reaffirm my highest appreciation and tribute to the President, Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for their warm reception, for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of this meeting and for the constant support which the Republic of Turkey extends to this Committee in its efforts to consolidate the bonds of economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC member countries.

May Allah Almighty crown with success our activities and give you ample reward! His Almighty says in Surah 18, Verse 30: "Verily, We shall not suffer to perish the reward of those who do a (single) righteous deed".

May Allah protect *yau and* lead you to righteousness and may He bless your meeting with success!

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

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**AGENDA
OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

. Original: English

**AGENDA
OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

1. Opening Session.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Renewal of the Members of the Bureau.
4. Report by the General Secretariat of OIC.
5. Report of the Follow-up Committee.
6. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member Countries.
7. Progress Report by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on the Establishment of the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Corporation.
8. Exchange of Views on 'Implications of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations on the External Trade of OIC Member Countries'.
9. Consideration of the Activities of the OIC Subsidiary and Affiliated Organs Working in the Field of Economy and Trade (Sessional Committee).
10. Report by Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on the Second Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member Countries.
11. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.
12. Any Other Business.
13. Date of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC.
14. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC.
15. Closing of the Meeting.

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**TEXT OF PRESENTATION BY H.E. NECATİ ÖZFIRAT,
UNDER-SECRETARY OF THE STATE PLANNING
ORGANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING
RELATED TO THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS**

(istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Original: English

**TEXT OF PRESENTATION BY H.E. NECATİ ÖZFIRAT
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE STATE
PLANNING ORGANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF TURKEY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING
RELATING TO THE PROCEEDINGS
ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS**

(Istanbul, 7 November 1995)

Mr. Chairman;
Excellencies;
Distinguished Delegates;

In my capacity as Chairman of the Senior Officials' Meeting, I will submit to you a summary of the proceedings of the exchange of views we had on the "Implications of the Uruguay Round for Member Countries".

Deliberations of the Senior Officials on the subject were based on the papers submitted by various OIC institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD.

In their papers, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD gave valuable information about the contents of various Agreements concluded within the framework of the Uruguay Round and their possible implications for the World economy and trade. They also pointed out some possible implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements for developing countries, including OIC member countries.

In the papers submitted by the Ankara Center, the Casablanca Center, the Islamic Chamber and the Islamic Development Bank, possible implications of different Agreements of the Uruguay Round for the economies and external trade of member countries were elaborated in detail.

The said papers focused on the examination of the possible implications for the member countries, of the Agreements on Trade in Goods, the General Agreement on Trade in Services, the Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures, the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the financial implications of the Uruguay Round.

The papers submitted by the OIC and other international institutions are available to the honourable delegates in three languages.

In this connection, the Senior Officials have noted, among others, that:

The participation in the Uruguay Round was considerably wider than in any previous multilateral trade negotiation and, in particular, that developing countries played a notably active role, bringing about a more balanced and integrated global trade partnership;

A large number of member states took part in the Uruguay Round;

The Uruguay Round Agreements have significant implications for the economic development and external trade of the OIC member countries;

The establishment of the World Trade Organization will monitor the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements with a more effective and dispute settlement mechanism to allow for a speedier resolution of bilateral trade disputes between trading partners;

In our deliberations during the Senior Officials Meeting we have also noted some possible implications of the Uruguay Round for member countries.

In this context, we have noted that:

The Uruguay Round Agreements will have different impacts on member countries depending on the differences in their productive capacities and structures of foreign trade;

The Uruguay Round Agreements contain provisions conferring differential and favorable treatment on developing economies, including special attention to the particular situation of the least developed countries;

The Implementation of market-oriented economic policies and structural reform programs are important for member countries for an effective participation in a more liberalized and more competitive world trade system that would result from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

The Senior Officials recognized that if the OIC community is to become an active participant in global economic and commercial relations, coordinated efforts would be the most important means for mitigating losses and, turning losses in to profits.

We, as the Senior Officials, have concluded our deliberations by stressing the need to closely monitor the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and requesting the General Secretariat and relevant institutions of OIC to design and propose technical assistance programmes to assist those among the member countries which might have difficulties in responding to the challenges.

This completes my presentation of the summary of the deliberations which took place at the meeting of the Senior Officials.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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RESOLUTION (1)
OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

The Eleventh Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul on 7-8 November 1995;

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

Recalling the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States endorsed at the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Also recalling the resolutions of Ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC;

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted at the ten previous Sessions of the COMCEC and the recommendations made at the Eleventh meeting of its Follow-up Committee;

Affirming the commitment to alleviate obstacles facing closer economic cooperation among OIC Member Countries with a view to promoting their economic integration;

Also taking into consideration the Resolution adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC calling for an exchange of views on important world economic developments concerning member countries at the annual sessions of the COMCEC and deciding that "Implications of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations for Member Countries" would be the theme of the Eleventh Session;

Noting the progress reports submitted by the General Secretariat of OIC on the items of the agenda;

Having considered the papers submitted by SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI, IDB, WTO and UNCTAD on various aspects of the Uruguay Round Agreements and their implications for member countries.

Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States

1. Agrees that, instead of holding one intersectoral meeting, a series of meetings be held to deal, on a priority basis, either with one area or a number of interrelated areas at a time, to implement the Plan of Action ;
2. Invites Member States to host sectoral meetings in the areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action;
3. Welcomes the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host two sectoral experts group meetings in the areas of "Transport and Communications" and "Food Agriculture and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action;
4. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host a sectoral meeting within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action;
5. Notes with satisfaction that the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair will be held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia from 22 to 27 October 1996, concurrently with the Third Private Sector Meeting;
6. Welcomes the offer made by the Republic of Lebanon to host the 7th Islamic Trade Fair in 1998;
7. Appeals to member states to participate effectively in the Islamic trade fairs;
8. Notes with appreciation that a Draft Statute of the Standards and Metrology Organization was finalized at the Sixth Meeting of the Experts' Group on Standardization, held in Istanbul from 26 to 27 April 1994;

9. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to recirculate as soon as possible the text of the Draft Statute to Member States and the Islamic Chamber for their examinations and comments;
10. Urges the OIC Member Countries to send their comments on the Draft Statute to the General Secretariat by the end of February 1996;
11. Requests the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Turkish Standards Institute, to organize an Experts' Group meeting to review the Draft Statute of Standards and Metrology Organization. In preparation for this meeting the OIC General Secretariat may write to member states for their views on the draft statute, and also provide to the Experts' Group the views expressed in the Senior Officials Meeting on the subject preceding the 11th Session. The revised Draft Statute may be submitted to the 12th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee;
12. Underlines the vital importance of the food security and agricultural development for the Member Countries.
13. Notes with appreciation that the Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development was successfully held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 14 to 16 January 1995.
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.

Activities of the OIC Organs and Institutions Working in the Field of Economic Cooperation

15. Takes note of the Report of the Sessional Committee on the Activities of the OIC Subsidiary and Affiliated Organs which was held during the Eleventh Session of the COMCEC and the recommendations thereon;
16. Notes that the subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions have taken steps towards increased cooperation and systematic coordination among themselves to

improve their methods of sharing information with each other and with Member States in order to avoid duplication of work;

17. Appeals to Member States to take the measures needed for a greater involvement in the work of the OIG subsidiary and affiliated organs and specialized institutions;

18. Notes with concern the increasing serious financial difficulties faced by the subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions due to the non-payment of the mandatory contributions by most member states and to their accumulated arrears;

19. Urges Member States and National Chambers of Commerce who have not yet done so to pay their mandatory contributions regularly and settle their arrears to the budget of the subsidiary organs, and the ICCL, respectively;

Establishment of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)

20. Notes with satisfaction that the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investments and Export Credit (ICIEC) commenced its operations in July 1995. Expresses thanks and appreciation to IDB for its efforts in successfully finalizing the establishment of the Corporation;

21. Appeals to the member states who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of the Corporation and to pay their respective shares to its capital so that its benefits would be extended to as wide an OIC area as possible.

Cooperation Among the Private Sectors of the OIC Member Countries

22. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce for hosting and organizing the Second Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Islamic Chamber, which was held from 30 September to 2 October 1995 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt;

23. Notes with appreciation that a great number of businessmen participated in the Second Private Sector Meeting where initial contacts were made, leading to trade exchanges and the establishment of joint-venture projects;
24. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Second Private Sector Meeting and in the Cairo Declaration;
25. Appeals to the governments of OIC member countries to encourage their federations of chambers of commerce and industry to develop a framework of cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programs to enhance trade and investment among Islamic countries;
26. Appreciates the efforts made by the Islamic Chamber to host the Third Private Sector Meeting in Jakarta, in collaboration with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, concurrently with the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair in October 1996 and calls upon the member countries to take the measures needed to ensure effective participation of their private sectors in that meeting.
27. Appreciates the offer of the Republic of Uganda to host the Fourth Private Sector Meeting;

**Implications of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations
For the OIC Member States**

28. Expresses thanks and appreciation to SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI, IDB, WTO and UNCTAD for the preparation and submission of reports evaluating various aspects of the Uruguay Round Agreements and their possible implications for member countries;
29. Welcomes the establishment of the World Trade Organisation in January 1995;
30. Welcomes the fact that participation in the Uruguay Round was considerably wider than in any previous multilateral trade negotiations and, in particular, that developing countries played a notably active role in bringing about a more balanced and integrated global trade partnership;

31. Appreciates that a large number of member states took part in the Uruguay Round;
32. Notes that the Uruguay Round Agreements have significant implications for the economic development and external trade of the OIC member countries;
33. Welcomes the establishment of the World Trade Organization to implement the Uruguay Round Agreements with a more effective dispute settlement mechanism to allow for a speedier resolution of trade disputes between members;
34. Calls upon the world community to resist protectionist measures and pressures of all kinds to be able to live in a fairer and more open multilateral trading system for the benefit and welfare of their peoples in the new era of global economic cooperation;
35. Recalls with satisfaction that the negotiations embodied provisions conferring differential and favorable treatment on developing economies, including special attention to the particular situation of the least developed countries;
36. Stresses the importance of implementation of market oriented economic policies and structural reform programmes for an effective participation in a more liberalized and more competitive world trade system that would result from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements;
37. Recognizes that the Uruguay Round Agreements will have different impacts on member countries depending on the differences in their productive capacities and structures of foreign trade;
38. Recognizes that effective implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements would necessitate adjustments in the economic and administrative structures of the member countries to safeguard their interests and take maximum advantage from the opportunities to be created thereby;
39. Recognizes that if the OIC community is to become an active participant in global economic decision making and commercial relations, coordinated efforts would be the most effective means for mitigating losses and turning losses into profits;

40. Agrees on the need to closely monitor the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement and to request the General Secretariat and related OIC Institutions to design and propose to member countries for implementation of technical assistance programs to assist those among them which might have difficulties in responding to the new challenges;

Organizational Matters

41. Elects the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Uganda as Vice-Chairmen of the Bureau of the COMCEC to represent the Arab, Asian and African regions, respectively, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Rapporteur, to assume their posts as of the 12th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; as a result of this election, the composition of the Follow-up Committee is as follows:

Republic of Turkey	Chairman	(Permanent)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Vice-Chairman	(Permanent)
State of Palestine	Vice-Chairman	(Permanent)
State of Kuwait	Vice-Chairman	(Representing the Arab Region)
Republic of Indonesia	Vice-Chairman	(Representing the Asian Region)
Republic of Uganda	Vice-Chairman	(Representing the African Region)
Kingdom of Morocco	Vice-Chairman	(Current Chairman of the Summit)
Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Rapporteur	
Arab Republic of Egypt	Member of the Previous Bureau	
Islamic Republic of Iran	Member of the Previous Bureau	
Republic of Cameroon	Member of the Previous Bureau	

42. Agrees that the Twelfth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC take place in Istanbul from 11 to 13 May and from 2 to 5 November 1996, respectively;

43. Notes that the Habitat II Conference will be organized in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 3 to 14 June, 1996 and appeals to Member States to give full support to this Conference and actively participate in it at the highest level.

44. Decides that "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" be the theme for the exchange of views sessions to be organized during the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC;

45. Requests the Follow-up Committee, at its Twelfth Meeting, to draw up the draft agenda of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC and recommend alternative themes on which an exchange of views would take place during subsequent sessions of the COMCEC.

46. Requests the OIC General Secretariat to communicate the dates of the Twelfth Session of the COMCEC and the Twelfth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee to Member States;

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

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995)

The Eleventh Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in Istanbul, 5-8 November 1995;

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 meetings of other committees,

Recalling Further the resolutions adopted by the 22nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in support of Palestine,

Noting with great interest the role played by the Palestine National 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. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. COMMENDS the efforts made by the Palestine National 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;

3. EXPRESSES great appreciation for the assistance provided by some 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;

4. URGES the speedy granting of the required and approved assistance by the concerned Member States and OIC bodies, with a view to helping the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people in the building up of the national economy and the consolidation of their national institutions;

5. 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 Palestine National Authority and URGES that preferential treatment be accorded Palestinian products as regards importation and exemption of taxes and customs duties;

6. URGES businessmen and investors of OIC Member States to contribute to the implementation of economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian Self- Rule regions, with a view to building up the national economy and enabling the Palestine National Authority and its national institutions to implement their development programmes, during the coming transitional period, in the various economic, social and health fields;

7. Given the obstacles raised by Israel in the face of the Palestinian labor force, the OIC Member States call for providing work opportunities to this Palestinian labour force, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people and putting an end to unemployment.

8. The OIC Member States call for bilateral agreements to be concluded with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social fields, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

9. 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 neighboring 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,

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. 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;

3. REAFFIRMS and REITERATES the appeal made by the 22nd 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;

4. 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

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. 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;
3. URGES OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and International Organizations to grant generous economic assistance to 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 constraints on its meager resources as a result of the influx of refugees from neighboring countries who flock into the country;

Recognizing that Uganda is offering asylum to large numbers of refugees whose number will increase if the state of unrest continues to escalate,

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.
2. 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.
3. 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 17 years of war;

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

Aware that over 15 million Afghans were killed, about 15 million disabled and more than 5 million displaced;

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

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. 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. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

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

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

G. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Recalling Resolution 17/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan after attainment of independence and sovereignty;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

Expressing its sympathy towards the consequences of the natural disasters which struck the territory of Kyrgyzstan, thus affecting the socio-economic level of the brotherly people;

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. APPEALS to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyzstan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Kyrgyzstan to fulfill its economic programme;

3. APPEALS to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan.

4. REQUESTS the secretary general to follow up this matter and to report to the ICFM and the COMCEC.

H. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Recalling the Resolutions adopted at the 21st and 22nd Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers regarding the situation in Azerbaijan resulting from aggression by neighboring Armenia;

Confirming the 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 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 the 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;

Attaching primordial importance to the immediate evacuation of the occupied Azeri territories and to the return of the refugees to their homes.

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

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. 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.

3. APPEALS to 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.

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

I. Economic Measures in Support of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Inspired by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference emphasizing 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 still 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 and 22nd Meetings of the OIC Foreign Ministers which were held in Karachi and Casablanca respectively and the Seventh OIC Summit.

Welcoming and fully supporting the cease-fire agreement reached on October 5, 1995 between the Government of the Republic and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the one side, and the Bosnian Serbs on the other, which has gone into effect on October 13, 1995.

Expressing its appreciation for the recently concluded special meeting of the OIC Contact Group Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers which were held in Kuala Lumpur, highlighting the OIC's firm commitment to finding an equitable and just solution to the Bosnian problem, as well as its resolve to contribute to the peace process in cooperation with the International Contact Group.

Also expressing its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilisation Group for Bosnia-Herzegovina, formed during the OIC Kuala Lumpur meeting, towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. NOTES with deep concern the consequences of the killing, torture, and expulsion and ethnic cleansing 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. CALLS upon the International Community to take immediate efficient measures to stop forthwith the genocide and crimes against humanity in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to provide every economic support and assistance to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. DEMANDS that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected along its internationally recognized borders, and support the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is open for the participation of the Bosnian Serbs and which represents a solid basis for a just and lasting solution by being a catalyst for restoring confidence among its peoples.

J. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Sierra Leone faced with the influx of Liberian refugees.

Having taken note of the resolution adopted on the question by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415h (13-13 December 1994),

Recalling the relevant resolution of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Recalling also resolutions 57/19-P, 8/20-E and 8/21-E adopted respectively by the Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers;

Considering that the worsening of the armed conflict in Sierra Leone has taken a more serious and extensive turn than expected, thus systematically entailing material and human losses, the disruption of economic activities and the displacement of the most productive section of the local population;

Seriously concerned over the negative consequences of the effects of the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone on the economy, security and environment of Guinea as a result of the influx of refugees from these countries into Guinea;

Having examined the Secretary General's report on the question;

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. URGENTLY APPEALS to the international community and the member States to extend substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Sierra Leone so as to enable them to cope with this critical situation resulting from the presence on their respective territories of hundreds of thousands of refugees due to the spread of the armed conflict to Sierra Leone and the increasing influx into Guinea of refugees, who are Muslims in their majority, coming from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

3. URGES Member States and the international community to provide Sierra Leone with emergency aid to help it attenuate the sufferings of more than one million displaced people and other Sierra Leonean refugees living in the neighboring West African countries as well as the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

4. INVITES the General Secretariat to follow up the question and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and to the COMCEC.

K. Assistance to the Kashmiri People

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, from 24-29 June 1995,

Having taken note of the Resolution adopted on the question by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 13 to 15 December 1994,

Recalling the Resolution No. 8/22-P of the Twenty -Second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,

Having taken note of the Secretary Generals Report on the question,

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. APPEALS to Member States and Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Philanthropists, to contribute generously towards providing relief and humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.

3. INVITES the General Secretariat to follow up the question and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the COMCEC.

L. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Yemen

Having taken cognizance of the recommendation of the 19th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 24-29 June 1995,

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen which arose from the burdens of reunification and the big losses caused by the aborted secession attempt in June 1994;

Appreciating the efforts exerted by the Yemem Government on reconciliation, rebuilding of what was destroyed by the war and the development of the Yemeni economy;

Taking into consideration further burdens borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighboring African countries;

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries;

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. CALLS upon the OIC Member States and the other regional and international organizations to extend all kind of economic assistance to help the Yemeni Government rebuild what has been destroyed by the war of secession and supports its efforts for development.

M. Economic Assistance to Countries Affected by Drought and Natural Disasters.

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by natural disasters, drought and desertification, and the ensuing damaging effects on economic and social conditions specially in the sectors of agriculture and food, economic and social infrastructures as well as public services and utilities;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by some Member States and the Islamic Development Bank which have extended and continue to extend technical and financial assistance as well as aid to Member States stricken by drought and natural disasters;

Fully aware that afflicted Member States, most of them belonging to the category of the Least-Developed, cannot by themselves, bear the growing burden of anti-drought and anti-desertification campaign and the implementation of major related projects;

Having taken cognizance of the report and recommendations of the 19th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. EXPRESSES its gratitude to Member States, which have provided and are still providing assistance and food aid to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.

3. URGES the international community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.

4. APPEALS to Member States to extend assistance to OIC countries of IGADD to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which is threatening them.

5. REQUESTS the General Secretariat, the IDB and the International Islamic Relief Agency to convene a meeting in coordination with UN Specialised Agencies (particularly the Office of the International Decade for the Prevention of Natural Disasters ("INDR") and the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs, in the framework of the International Decade for Disaster Prevention, with a view to organizing a meeting of experts entrusted with examining and recommending appropriate measures aimed at preventing and alleviating the effects of natural disasters in Bangladesh and other Member States affected and/or threatened by natural disasters.

N. Assistance to Sahelian African States Afflicted by Desertification, Drought and Locust Invasion

Having taken cognizance of resolution 27/7-IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit on Islamic Solidarity with the Peoples of the Sahel;

Taking into account the need for the urgent implementation of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel, which could be compromised if not implemented as soon as possible.

Taking note of the Secretary General's report which reviewed, inter alia, the steps already taken in elaboration and approval of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme;

1. EXPRESSES deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. URGES Member States to provide emergency assistance to Sahelian countries so as to allow them face the critical situation arising from food deficit and threat of Locust invasion in the region.

3. EXPRESSES its appreciation of the efforts made by the OIC General Secretariat, CILSS and the IDB in the elaboration and finalization of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.

4. REAFFIRMS the necessity of giving priority to the rapid implementation of the Special OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme for the Sahel.

5. APPEALS urgently to Member States to contribute generously and substantially to the funding of the OIC/CILSS/IDB Programme in favour of the Sahel Populations so as to crystalize the OIC Member States solidarity with these populations, alleviate their sufferings and ensure sustained development for the Sahel region.

6. WELCOMES the offer made by the State of Kuwait to host the meeting of the Expert Group entrusted with the task of studying the new programme for the Sahel and expresses its hope that this meeting could be held as soon as possible.

7. REQUESTS the OIC General Secretariat to follow up this matter and report to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and to the COMCEC.

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

(Istanbul, 8 November 1995)

Original: French

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

(Istanbul, 8 November 1995)

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Ambassadors,
Distinguished delegates and guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAHI WA BARAKATUH.

I would like to avail myself of the opportunity of this closing session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency President Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC for honouring with his presence, our closing session and for the wise guidance in the conduct our deliberations.

I would also like to express thanks to the Ministers who effectively and efficiently contributed to the success of our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past four days, first our experts and then our Ministers have conducted an in-depth study on the issues contained in the agenda of this session, adopted decisions and made appropriate recommendations. The participants accorded a special attention to this session, the first one to be held after the 7th Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) in December 1994. As we all know, the Seventh Islamic Summit by offering the opportunity to our Heads of state and Government to study the basic issues faced nowadays by the Islamic world notably within the framework of the economic and social development of our States, has contributed to the success of the initiatives taken by the COMCEC under the wise guidance of its Chairman.

The Summit had already outlined ways and means liable to enable our States individually and collectively to overcome the challenges facing them, to ensure their development and strengthen their economic cooperation through the new Plan of Action approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit.

This reflects the importance of the discussions we have just had and which were centered on highlighting our achievements, the implementation of the New Plan of Action and future cooperation in world commercial negotiations.

The Ministers and Senior Officials, during their in-depth and fruitful studies took stock of the achievements of inter-Islamic cooperation and have come up with new perspectives for the strengthening of economic cooperation among Member States.

I note with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the provisions adopted by the COMCEC so as to ensure the promotion of commerce and intra-Islamic investments and thus obtain positive results, thanks to the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme.

I also note with a large measure of satisfaction that the Insurance Corporation for Export Credit and Investment Guarantee aimed at increasing commerce and inter-Islamic investments, has become operational.

I would like to reiterate my congratulations and encouragements to Islamic Development Bank for the efficient and diligent implementation of the new schemes.

In the same vein, I avail myself of this opportunity to appeal, once again, to the Member States which have not done so to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among Member States, so as to facilitate as early as possible the commencement of the multilateral negotiations.

In fact, the implementation of this agreement is very important for our States in the present context of world trade.

I would like to reiterate my deep satisfaction at the increasingly important role played by the private sector under the auspices of the COMCEC, in the development of our States and strengthening of the inter-Islamic cooperation. In this respect, I convey once again, my congratulations to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its valuable contribution in this field.

I also note with satisfaction, Mr. Chairman, the opportunity provided to our Ministers so as to enable them to exchange their views on the results of the trade-agreements which have topped the Uruguay Round negotiations and on the establishment of the World Trade Organization.

I feel confident that this laudable initiative of the COMCEC will enable our States to better coordinate their efforts during the international negotiations which will soon be starting, by creating better conditions for the safeguard of the interests of our Member states.

Mr. Chairman,,

Please allow me, to express my thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of our deliberations, and, particularly, to our guests who have honoured with their presence our deliberations during this session as well as to all the experts and Senior Officials.

Finally, I would like to re-echoe my deep gratitude to you Mr. Chairman, to the Government and the People of the Republic of Turkey, for the generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful country which has so much served the Islamic cause. I am also thankful to the COMCEC Coordination Bureau and the Ankara Centre for the excellent preparations made for this Session.

I pray to Almighty Allah to guide us to the right path so as to enable us to translate into reality our projects and resolutions in order to significantly contribute to the well-being of our populations.

WASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAHI WA BARAKATUH.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. SAMED SADIHOW,
MINISTER OF ECONOMY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 8 November 1995)

Original: English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. SAMED SADIKHOV
MINISTER OF ECONOMY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 8 November 1995)

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

As we approach the conclusion of the 11th Session of the COMCEC, it gives great pleasure and I feel greatly privileged to take the floor, on behalf of all colleagues and delegations gathered at this Conference, to express our deep thanks and gratitude to H.E. President Süleyman DEMİREL for his valuable and wise speech which guided our work and enabled our meeting to achieve the best results.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the General Secretariat of the OIC, 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 aware as well as the Honourable Delegates, Islamic countries enjoy great economic and financial resources, and it is of utmost importance to use these resources as rationally as possible, so that Member States may become self-sufficient.

We perceive economic and commercial cooperation among Islamic States as a starting point for a unity of views and joint action.

Our thanks and gratitude go also to the people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm friendship and gracious hospitality offered to us since our arrival in the beautiful and historic city of Istanbul.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you once again, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor, on behalf of member countries, at this Closing Session.

Thank you.

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

(Istanbul, 8 November 1995)

Original: Turkish

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

(Istanbul, 8 November 1995)

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

I am happy to note that another COMCEC session has been successfully concluded.

I would like to express my thanks to all Heads of Delegation and Delegates, H.E. Hamid AL-GABID, Secretary General of the OIC, the Islamic Development Bank, the Ankara Center, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, the other affiliated Institutions of the Islamic Conference, the Representatives of the World Trade Organization and the UNCTAD, the administrative staff, the interpreters and the supporting staff for their valuable contribution to the success of this Meeting.

This session marks the first step of COMCEC into its second decade. I hope that the effective and productive cooperation within the framework of the COMCEC will continue in the future. The needed infrastructure has already been established to a large extent. The Plan of Action for Economic Cooperation, elaborated with a flexible approach and taking into in consideration the current world trends, constitutes a sound framework for the coming years. An important characteristic of the Plan of Action is that it envisages an implementation and follow-up mechanism. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan who have generously accepted to host the sectoral meetings for the implementation of the Plan of Action.

I would like to reiterate that the firm and vigorous attitude of all Member States in supporting economic cooperation would be an indispensable and important element of success.

We have noted with satisfaction at this session that the Export Credit Insurance and Investment Guarantee Corporation has become officially operational. This Corporation, translating concretely a COMCEC project, will contribute to the development of trade and investment relations among our countries. I would like to express my appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank, for its valuable contribution to the realization of this project.

We have initiated, at this session, an exchange of views on the current issues which closely concern the economies of the world and of Member States. In this context, the possible implications of the Uruguay Round Trade Negotiations for the foreign trade of our countries has been debated at length. I believe that these discussions were very useful for sharing our experiences and crystallizing our ideas on how to take maximum advantage of existing circumstances. I would like to congratulate you for your decision to have an exchange of views on "Privatization Experiences of the Member States" the next COMCEC session.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,.

I would like to share with you my observations on foreign trade, which is the main topic of your exchanging views session.

Liberal trade policies substantially enhance the efficiency of national economies. We have noted with satisfaction that a large number of developing countries have participated in the Uruguay Round.

In this rapidly changing world, an increasing number of variables must be taken into consideration by the decision makers of the world and the management of the economy is becoming more complex. As a result of this situation, any misjudgement could lead to grave consequences. Unique advantages and new opportunities could be missed. Therefore, the performance of national economies is largely dependent on a careful observation of, and harmonization with, regional and global developments.

Consequently, it will be possible to establish an internal stability fostering a well-balanced development, while taking maximum advantage of the opportunities for regional and multilateral cooperation.

Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to reaffirm that Turkey will continue to provide any possible support to the efforts of cooperation among Islamic countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the "Urban Summit" of HABITAT-II will convene in our beautiful city in June 1996. I feel confident that the solidarity evinced by the Islamic countries at the COMCEC sessions will be manifested, at the highest level, during the HABITAT-II Summit, for the salvation of humanity.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all the delegates participating in this session for their support and extend my best wishes of prosperity and success to the people of the brotherly Islamic countries.

Thank you.

