

**REPORT and RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**

**Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999**

COMCEC Coordination Office  
Ankara, November 1999

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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 CHAIRED BY HEADS OF STATE

Resolution No. 13/3-P(IS)

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

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

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

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

DECIDES:

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

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

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

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

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

## II

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. 27/8-E (IS)  
ON  
ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND  
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (COMCEC)

The Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Dignity, Dialogue, Participation), held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 9-11 Sha'aban 1418H (9-11 December 1997).

**Recalling** Resolution No. 2/6-E(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 9-11 December 1991 on the activities of the COMCEC mandating it to formulate new Strategies for the enhancement of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States and to take appropriate action for its implementation;

**Recalling** Resolution No. 8/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994) which endorsed the Strategy and the Plan of Action;

**Recalling** Resolution No. 24/24-E adopted by the Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

**Recalling** the resolution of the ministerial level meetings in different areas of cooperation held under the auspices of the COMCEC.

Also **recalling** the Resolutions adopted at the thirteen previous sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among Member Countries, particularly in the area of trade;

**Further recalling** the deliberations of the World Food Summit held in Rome from 13 to 17 November, 1996 and considering the crucial importance for the survival of humankind including the well-being of the people of the Islamic Ummah, the principles and commitments embodied in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World food Summit.

**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 and underlining the pivotal role played by the Ankara Centre in the preparation of the New Plan of Action;

**Recognizing** the importance for the Member Countries of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of regional economic groupings and signing of the Uruguay Round Agreements and creation of the World Trade Organization and its subsequent Agreements particularly "Information Technology Agreement" and "Telecom Pact";

**Appreciating** that starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy could exchange views on current world economic issues and, that the topic "implications on external trade of Member countries of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade Negotiations", "Privatization Experiences in Member Countries" and "Implications of Regional Economic Groupings particularly the European Union on the Economies of Member States" were the themes for the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> sessions of the COMCEC, respectively.

**Having taken note** of the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;



1. **Expresses satisfaction** that the Islamic Development Bank has successfully organized a Coordination Meeting for Member States to consult among themselves and better prepare for the WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore during the period 9-13 December 1996 and to adopt collectively a common stand regarding the issues raised in the Agenda of that meeting, as resolved by the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

2. **Appreciates** the technical assistance programmes being designed by the Islamic Development Bank to assist member countries which are either members of the WTO or in the process of accession to the Organization, and the role of the Bank in calling for consultative meetings of member countries and the Seminars and Workshops it organizes for this purpose.

3. **Notes with appreciation** that the Strategy for Economic and Commercial Cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member countries and is based on the principles giving emphasis to 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.

4. **Also notes with appreciation** that the New 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.

5. **Appreciates** the efforts of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in organizing Private Sector Meetings as directed by the COMCEC for an effective implementation of the Plan of Action.

6. **Also appreciates** the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for organizing the Fourth Private Sector Meeting in Karachi from 27-29 October 1997.

7. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Lebanon to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair and that of the UAE to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair in the years 1998 and 2000 respectively.
8. **Emphasizes** the need to urgently implement the New Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member Countries of the 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.
9. **Requests** the Member States to take appropriate measures including necessary cooperation, coordination and consultation among themselves to make efforts with the required possible economic and technical support from international community particularly from the developed countries and relevant international organizations and financial institutions to increase their food production capacity with a view to arriving at national food security as well as enhancing the purchasing power of their people.
10. **Invites** the Member States to host sectoral meetings in the areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action.
11. **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.
12. **Notes with appreciation** the hosting of the sectoral expert group meeting in the area of "Money, Finance and Capital Flows" by the government of the Republic of Turkey, on 1-3 September 1997 in Istanbul.
13. **Notes with appreciation** the hosting of a sectoral expert group meeting on foreign trade, within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action by the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 24-25 October 1997 in Karachi.

14. **Thanks** the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Third OIC Ministerial Meeting on Posts and Telecommunications from 8-11 July 1996 and calls upon the Follow-up Committee to monitor implementation of the relevant resolutions and the Tehran Declaration.

15. **Invites** IDB to continue its active support in view of ensuring effective and urgent implementation of the New Plan of Action.

16. **Welcomes** the organization of an International Seminar on "Human Resources Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation in the Member States of the OIC" by the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh in September 1998 in Dhaka.

17. **Also welcomes** the hosting of Seminar-Workshop by the Republic of Senegal in cooperation with IDB to familiarize the African member states with the Plan of Action, and recommends that similar seminars be held in other regions and sub-regions of OIC.

18. **Recognizes** that the Exchange of Views organized during the annual sessions of the COMCEC would be utilized to coordinate the positions of the Member States vis-a-vis major world economic issues.

19. **Notes with appreciation** the offer of the Republic of Gabon to organise in February 1998 a sub-regional seminar for the OIC States of Central and East Africa on "the role of IDB in the promotion of the private sector" in cooperation with IDB and the other concerned institutions of the OIC.

20. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Burkina Faso to host in 1998 a regional workshop on Industry for East, West and Central African OIC member states in cooperation with the IDB and other related OIC institutions.

**21. Notes with appreciation** the offer of the government of the Republic of Turkey to host an Expert Group Meeting in the area of Technology and Technical Cooperation in May 1998.

**22. Welcomes** the offer of the government of the Republic of Indonesia to host a Ministerial Meeting on Tourism to be preceded by an Expert Group Meeting on Tourism within the framework of the COMCEC and Plan of Action.

**23. Notes with appreciation** the offer of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an experts'group meeting in 1998 on health and sanitary issues to be followed by a ministerial meeting on the same topics.

**24. Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of the resolutions adopted by COMCEC and to continue extending to the latter every necessary assistance and fulfil its tasks and report thereon to the next session of the Islamic Summit.

PART TWO



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





I

LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENT CONSIDERED  
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE FIFTEENTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)



Original : English

**LIST OF BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED  
AND/OR PRESENTED AT THE FIFTEENTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC**

**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**

	<u>Document Code</u>
1. Draft Agenda of the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC	OIC/COMCEC/15-99/DA
2. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat . . . .	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(1)
3. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries- 1999.....	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(5)
4. Annual Report on Inter-Islamic Trade (Summary). . . . .	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(13)
5. Report of the Follow-up Committee.....	.OIC/COMCEC-FC/15-99/REP
6. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.....	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(2)
7. Expansion of Intra-Trade Among OIC/IDB Member Countries in Preparation of the Ummah for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.....	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(9)
8. Monitoring Report on the World Trade Organization (WTO).....	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(3)
9. Recent Development within the Framework of the WTO A New Round.....	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(6)
10. Matters Related to World Trade Organization Activities.....	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(10)
11. Progress Report on IDB's Technical Assistance to Member Countries in Matters Related to WTO. . . . .	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(16)
12. Report on the Sixth Private Sector Meeting for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment Among Islamic Countries.....	.OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(11)

**Document Code**

13. Final Report of the International Seminar on Exchange of Views on the "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries".....
14. New Trends in Human Resource Development in the Field of International Trade.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(12)
15. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(4)
16. Initial Implications of the Introduction of the European Common Currency "The Euro" for the Economies of the OIC by SESRTCIC.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(7)
17. Impact of Regionalization Trends on OIC Countries by SESRTCIC.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(8)
18. Annual Report on Inter-Islamic Trade by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(13)
19. The Impact of the Euro on OIC Member States by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(14)
20. Brief Report on the Activities of the Islamic Chamber to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(15)
21. Proceedings and Recommendations of the International Seminar on Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation as well as Progress in Member States of the OIC by IIT.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(18)
22. Impact of the Euro on OIC Member Countries by IDB.....OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(19)
23. Country Reports on "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries" by;
  - Turkey
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Cameroon
  - Jordan
  - Pakistan
  - Bahreyn
  - Mali

II

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

(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)



Original : English

REPORT  
OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND  
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)

1. The Fifteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held on 6 - 7 November 1999. The Session was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials on 4 - 5 November, held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Akın İZMİRLİOĞLU, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey, 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. Republic of Albania
2. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
3. Republic of Azerbaijan
4. State of Bahrain
5. People's Republic of Bangladesh
6. Republic of Benin
7. Negara Brunei Darussalam
8. Burkina Faso
9. Republic of Cameroon
10. Arab Republic of Egypt
11. Republic of Guinea
12. Republic of Indonesia
13. Islamic Republic of Iran
14. Republic of Iraq
15. Republic of Lebanon

- 16.Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- 17.Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 18.Republic of Kazakhstan
- 19.State of Kuwait
- 20.Kyrghzs Republic
21. Malaysia
22. Republic of Mali
- 23.Islamic Republic of Mauritania
24. Kingdom of Morocco
- 25.Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 26.Sultanate of Oman
- 27.Islamic Republic of Pakistan
28. State of Palestine
29. State of Qatar
30. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
31. Republic of Senegal
32. Republic of Sudan
33. Syrian Arab Republic
- 34.Republic of Togo
- 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 Uzbekistan
41. Republic of Yemen

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Bosnia Herzegovina, participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as guest.

3. The Session was attended by the OIC General Secretariat, and the following subsidiary, affiliated and specialized OIC institutions:



1. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
  2. The Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT)
  3. The Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT)
  4. Islamic Research Center for History Culture and Art (IRCICA)
  5. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
  6. Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
  7. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO)
4. The Session was also attended by the representatives of the following international organizations:
1. Economic Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
  2. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
  3. The Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)

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

#### Opening Session

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Fifteenth 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, in welcoming the delegates to Istanbul, expressed his thanks and appreciations to the Member States, the OIC General Secretariat and other OIC institutions for their continuing interest and constructive contributions to the achievements of the COMCEC. H.E. DEMIREL expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Member States for the solidarity and sympathy they have extended to the people of Turkey who suffered one of the most devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey recently. H.E. DEMIREL, stressing that economic

cooperation among Member States as the safest way to meet the challenges facing the OIC community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, indicated the importance of reflecting the decisions of the COMCEC in the newly established international fora of G-20. President DEMİREL concluded his address by wishing success to the delegates.

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

7. H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC also addressed the Session. In his statement, H.E. Azeddine LARAKI expressed his profound thanks and appreciation to H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, and to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, for their keen interest and wise guidance in promoting economic cooperation among the OIC Member States.

(A copy of the address of H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex 3.)

8. The Heads of Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Cameroon made statements on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African OIC groups of Member States, respectively. In their statements, they expressed their deepest sympathy for the people of Turkey for the devastating earthquake that hit the Marmara region last August, causing immense human suffering and extensive material damage. 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 crises in the world economy and the problems faced by Member States, and called 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 States. They thanked the President, the Government and 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. Ahmed Mohamed ALI, the 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 tasks 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 Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

12. The Ministers adopted the Draft Agenda of the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC and decided to take up Agenda Item 7 on the Exchange of Views on "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries".

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

13. H.E. Dr. Akın İZMİRLİOĞLU, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, made a presentation summarizing the outcome of the deliberations of the Senior Officials on "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries".

(The text of presentation of the Chairman of the Senior Officials is attached as Annex 9.)

14. Thereafter, the Heads of Delegation of the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Togo, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Bahrain, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of Indonesia and the Sultanate of Oman presented their country reports on "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries".

(Country reports, submitted in writing, are available separately).

15. The Ministers then adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/15-99/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/15-99/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/15-99/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/15-99/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 10 and 11.)

16. The Ministerial Session was followed by a Symposium which was organized within the framework of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Development Bank. The programme and documents of the symposium are available separately.

**Closing Session**

17. The Closing Session of the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

18. A resume of Resolutions adopted at the Ministerial Session was given by H.E. Ambassador KaramatuUah Khan GHORI, Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Rapporteur of the Meeting.

19. At a special ceremony, during the Closing Session, the Statute of Islamic Institute of Standards and Metrology (SMIIC) was signed by the Republic of Turkey, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine.

20. In his statement H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC, stressed the significance of the results achieved by the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC, and praised the keen interest and wise guidance of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL and the Government of Turkey in promoting economic cooperation among Member States. H.E. LARAKI 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 Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC.

(The text of the Statement of the Secretary General of the OIC, is attached as Annex 12.)

21. In their statements the Heads of Delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic and the People's Republic of Bangladesh expressed their 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. They extended profound thanks to H.E. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, for his

excellent manner in presiding over the Meeting. The Heads of Delegations expressed their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Karamatullah Khan GHORI, Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Rapporteur of the Meeting, for the preparation of the Report and Resolutions. They also thanked the General Secretariat and the subsidiary, affiliated and specialized institutions of the OIC, for their contributions to the successful conclusion of the Meeting.

22. In his closing statement, H.E. Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the delegations, the General Secretariat and the relevant OIC institutions, as well as to the representatives of the other international organizations for their valuable efforts and constructive contributions to the work of the Standing Committee and to the supporting staff and interpreters for their tireless efforts which contributed to the success of the Meeting. H.E. BAHÇELİ stressed the significance of the decision taken at the Session and wished delegates a safe journey home.

(The text of the closing statement of H.E. BAHÇELİ is attached as Annex 13.)

## ANNEXES





-1-

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
OF THE  
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
COMCEC**

**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**



Original: English

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE  
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
COMCEC

(Istanbul, 4 - 7 November 1999)

**A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC**

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- MR. ADRIAN MARA  
Chief of Multilateral Department, Economic Cooperation Directorate,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. QAMILE SHEHI  
Specialist, Regional Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- H.E. RABAH HADID  
Ambassador of Algeria to Turkey and Azerbaijan
- Mr. MESSAOUD MEHILA  
Counsellor, Head of the Economic and Trade section  
of the Embassy of Algeria in Turkey

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- H.E. FARHAD ALIEV  
Minister of Commerce
- H.E. OKTAY HAGVERDIYEV  
Deputy Minister of Economy
- Mr. ELMAN ARASLI  
Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Saudi Arabia

- Mr. GISMAT GOZALOV  
Vice-Consul

**STATE OF BAHRAIN**

- Mr. KARIM AJL-SHAKAR  
Director, International Directorate of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. KHALID AL-KHALIFA  
First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

- H.E. SAVED ALAMGIR FARROFK CHOWDHURY  
Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
- H.E. NAZIMULLAH CHOWDHURY  
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey

**REPUBLIC OF BENIN**

- Mr. BAKO BOUKARI  
Chief of International and Interat'rican Organisations Department,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**





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, 6 November 1999)**

Honorable Ministers,  
Honorable Secretary General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Distinguished Guest,

It is a pleasure for me to extend my best regards to this august meeting and to express my satisfaction at seeing you once again. I hope that your work will be beneficial for the Islamic world and mankind as a whole.

We are holding our fifteenth session this year and are gratified by the continued interest of our sister countries and collaboration in the COMCEC activities which is the underlying factor of any cooperation.

I would like to take this occasion to thank the Member States, the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Development Bank and the Specialized Institutions for their dedicated work and valuable contributions to the work of the COMCEC.

I would also like to express my profound gratitude to the Member States and to the Islamic Development Bank for sharing in our sufferings caused by the devastating earthquake that shook our country last August and for the material and moral aid they extended to us.

The praiseworthy assistance and solidarity manifested by the international community leads us to believe in and hope for a better and peaceful world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Distinguished Delegates,

We are currently at a turning point, standing at the threshold of a new "Millennium". The balance sheet of the past century holds assets as well as liabilities. The basic realities of the balance sheet which will be carried over to the 21<sup>st</sup> century are the emergence of global economy, universal law and the awareness of the need to look for global solutions to global problems.

Globalization, as a process which has marked the last years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has changed and re-shaped relations between countries, economies and peoples. Relations between different communities, whether economic or technological, cultural or political intermingle and increase.

The process of global integration has accelerated as a result of the worldwide expansion of new developments: the market mechanism, enhancement of economic efficacy, opening of national markets to free competition, withdrawal of governments from economic and commercial activities, and electronics gradually gaining ground in the world trade.

The recent revolutionary developments in communication technologies, that challenge time and space, have turned national boundaries into mere lines on the map. Countries who cannot conform to the rules of globalization will find it difficult to co-exist in the world and adapt to global competition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We should therefore be better prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century through enhanced international cooperation and solidarity among countries.

The OIC Member States have varied national economies, but are all part of a single global economy, confronted with similar challenges. We must strengthen cooperation among us by bearing in mind the economic realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We, in Turkey, regard globalization not as a threat, but as a golden opportunity. Turkey has taken important steps and covered great strides in this connection to strengthen its market mechanism and integrate its economy with

the global economy over the past decade. The benefits and experience accrued by Turkey are a source of power for the sister Islamic countries as well.

Distinguished Delegates,

The 1997 financial crisis that broke out in Asia was a liability for of the world economy that should give us food for thought. Starting as a financial crisis, it later intensified and spread to all the sectors of the affected countries and to other regions of the world as well. Although this crisis did not ensue in a global stagnation, it nonetheless brought about economic and social consequences, for developing countries, notably our Member States.

The studies and evaluations carried out in the international arena indicate that, although the global economic and financial conditions prevailing in 1997-98 have improved substantially, there is need to act with caution. It is estimated that the world economy will grow by a high percentage, namely, 3% during the current year, and 3.5% over the next year. This will allow our member countries to have a bigger share of the world trade.

The recent crisis has proved that global economies have an impact on national economies as it is not always possible to predict such developments and impacts and to take the required measures.

Consequently, Member States, while taking the structural adjustment measures needed for their economies, must also actively contribute to the efforts initiated to improve the international economic and financial system.

In this connection, I believe that it will be advantageous for Member States to make added efforts in line with their own interests in the context of implementation of the multilateral trade system established by the Uruguay Round.

We appreciate the support provided by the Islamic Development Bank to the endeavours of Member States to become active members of the World Trade Organization.

Another important development in the world economy for our member countries is the creation of the G-20 group. This new group, bringing together the G-7 countries, 11 emerging economies, and the Bretton Woods institutions, will follow up developments in the world economy and find ways whereby to make timely interventions in any future crisis. Turkey and Saudi Arabia, among Member States, have been invited to join this group. The formation of this group will make it possible for our Member States to be assessed at their true value in the world and be afforded the opportunity to have a say in the trend of the global economy. We shall endeavour to have the views and suggestions emerging from the COMCEC debates reflected in the G-20 activities.

Distinguished delegates,

While mankind is endeavouring to unite around shared values and goals in order to establish peace, stability and cooperation in the world, threats and risks such as terrorism, ethnic nationalism, racism, xenophobia and intolerance unfortunately still prevail.

We can overcome such obstacles and arrive at a better and more fair world order only through cooperation and solidarity. I would like to re-emphasize my belief that we must join ranks to fight against such risks and threats.

I would like to take this occasion to refer to certain regional problems in our part of the world which closely concern our Member States. Aggressive nationalism in the Balkans, which have been a geopolitical crossroad throughout history, has emerged once again over the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the greatest obstacle to peace and stability in Europe.

Aggressive nationalism based on ethnic cleansing first in Bosnia-Herzegovina, then in Kosovo, has been stopped thanks to the firm attitude and timely intervention of the international community. The sister Islamic countries acted both in Bosnia and Kosovo in full awareness of their responsibilities arising from history and geography and, from the outset, have repeatedly urged the international community to rapidly intervene in the situation in Kosovo. I

was a first hand witness of conditions in the region when I visited Kosovo on 15 October 1999. The Moslems of Kosovo were deeply grateful for the assistance of the international community. I believe that, as sister Islamic countries, we must mobilize all the means at our disposal to alleviate the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Kosovo and provide for their urgent needs, headed by permanent housing. I think it would be beneficial for the OIC and the Islamic Development Bank to take up this matter with greater determination. The active contribution of the Islamic countries to the reconstruction of Kosovo will be instrumental in establishing peace and stability in Southeast Europe. In this connection, I would like to reiterate that it will be beneficial to make further contributions to the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

One of the most important developments which bolsters our optimism for security and stability at the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the golden opportunity of having a permanent peace in the Middle East. We hope and wish that this process will progress in all countries of the region, including Syria and Lebanon. The Treaty, recently signed in Sharm El Sheikh, proves that the bottleneck in the peace process has been cleared and an historical step has been taken towards honoring all agreements by all parties.

The greatest wish of Turkey is to be able to contribute to the advent of an environment which will enable the Middle Eastern people, belonging to different religions, languages, races and nationalities, to co-exist in peace. History cannot be replayed, but we can, together, build a common future to. I hope that the leaders of the Middle East will draw a message of cooperation from history instead of a lesson in hostility.

The establishment of permanent peace in the Caucasus rests on international legitimacy. I once again call upon Armenia, which continues to occupy one fifth of the Azerbaijani territories, to abide by the requirements of international law. The establishment of a permanent and just peace in the Caucasus is the natural right of the sister country of Azerbaijan. Those who take determined and bold steps in the direction of peace shall be recorded in the most glorious pages of history. We must take resolute steps to support Azerbaijan in its good intentioned steps in the direction of peace. In this connection, I would

like to re-emphasize that, as Islamic states, it is our fraternal duty to pursue our humanitarian aid to over one million Azeri brother and sister refugees.

We must closely follow the events occurring in North Caucasia as they are very serious in relation to the already vulnerable structure of Caucasia, and might threaten peace in the region. Turkey attaches great importance to the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, and the free market economy in Russia, which are instrumental in the peace, stability and welfare of Eurasia. We hope that Russia will be able to solve all its problems, including events in North Caucasia on the basis of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

We are determined to continue supporting Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. We think it is important that the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India be solved through dialogue and on the platform of international legitimacy.

There must be continued support to the just cause of the Moslem Turkish community in Cyprus. Support by the sister Islamic countries to the good intentioned attitude towards a fair, permanent and viable solution to the problems of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on the basis of the equal sovereignty of the two Cypriot communities and relations with the TRNC in all fields will contribute to solidarity within the Islamic World.

We appreciate the common sense used by the sister country of Indonesia to bring about a rational and internationally legitimate solution to the Eastern Timor problem.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an unequivocal fact that, at the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the prosperity of nations will be determined by the development level of their human resources. Return on investments in education and health will be higher than ever in the next century, given that investment in men is the key to increased and more productive employment and reduced social and regional imbalances.

International statistics indicate that most of our countries are below world standards in terms of human development indexes, particularly in education and health care. I believe that we must exert further efforts in these vital fields both as individual countries and in the context of international cooperation.

I would like to state on this occasion that I find it quite meaningful and justifiable that the topic selected for the exchange of views sessions this year is to be "Development of human resources in member countries". The manpower factor will have a prominent place at the hub of the information society and international competition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I am confident that the exchange of views and information on this topic will positively contribute to our experiences and help us overcome difficulties in equipping our young and dynamic population with wider knowledge and skills, and work out policies to be implemented in this regard.

Distinguished Delegates,

We, in the Islamic World, must keep up with the world, contribute to the new approaches and solutions sought at this juncture as the established rules and institutions of international relations are being questioned everywhere, and new approaches are gaining impetus.

As members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which has a history that goes back nearly thirty years, we must follow the trends I have been trying to delineate carefully, keep abreast of them and take the necessary measures.

The new Economic Cooperation Strategy and the Plan of Action adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit in 1994, as a result of our efforts to review our cooperation and solidarity and work out a new approach and understanding, parallel to the world developments, has been an important step in this direction.

On the other hand, we have, at the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the COMCEC, established certain institutional structures and schemes in the

field of economic and commercial cooperation and acquired a great deal of experience.

The level of economic and commercial cooperation among our countries is yet far below our expectations in spite of all the aforementioned initiatives and experience. I believe that, given this situation, we must endeavour again to update our cooperation efforts, revise some of the agreements concluded in the past to bring them in line with current conditions, and establish a more effective cooperation and coordination among the institutions of our organization.

I would like to take this occasion to express my pleasure at the decision taken by the coordination meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Countries, held during the 54<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, to convene a "Special Meeting of the Foreign Ministers", in Istanbul in March 2000, with a view to making an assessment of the past 30 years and discussing the problems and opportunities of the coming period.

I hope that Member States will participate and contribute at best to this special meeting, which Turkey will be honored to host in Istanbul. I believe this meeting will provide us with an excellent opportunity to evaluate the economic cooperation among our countries as well as the future oriented strategies.

Distinguished Delegates,

International economic and political relations will basicall emanete from the coming together of regional groups. Countries left outside these groupings will become marginalized.

The conditions of the new age which is charting a new course for international relations call for closer cooperation among our countries which share a common historical, moral and cultural heritage and are bound to one another by fraternal ties. Turkey is convinced that regional cooperation is the key to international peace, stability and prosperity.



The COMCEC is an important milestone promoting economic and commercial cooperation among our countries. The future is promising and teems with opportunities in spite of the numerous problems confronting us. I am also fully confident that we shall jointly endeavor to fulfill the aspirations of our peoples and rationally use our opportunities.

I wish you success in your work which I believe will be beneficial for the economic cooperation between our countries and hope that you will carry back pleasant memories of Istanbul.



- 3 -

**ADDRESS OF H.E. DR. AZEDDINE LARAKI,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**



Original: Arabic

**ADDRESS OF H.E. DR. AZEDDINE LARAKI ,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**

*Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim*

His Excellency Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey  
and Chairman of the COMCEC,

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh*

At the very outset, let me address my sincere sympathy to the government and brotherly people of the Republic of Turkey for the immense loss of lives and property caused by the catastrophic earthquake that struck Turkey two months ago. We pray to Almighty Allah for mercy on the departed souls and for granting the people of Turkey the strength and fortitude to overcome very soon this enormous grief and material loss at the earliest.

Let me also address my sincere greetings to you all. It is with a profound sense of appreciation and gratitude for the dynamic leadership with which His Excellency Süleyman Demiral, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC has been guiding the work of this important OIC body, that I address my sincere thanks to him for his kind

presence amidst us on the occasion of the opening of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the COMCEC.

I also take this opportunity to thank the government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting this meeting and extending the traditional generous hospitality to all the delegates. My thanks are also due to the COMCEC Co-ordination office and all other institutions of the OIC system, for their preparatory work which, I am sure, would greatly contribute to the success of this session.

The 15<sup>th</sup> session of COMCEC also marks the last annual session of the Standing Committee before the commencement of the new millennium in few days. The 21<sup>st</sup> century promises to be full of significant developments and further development of some important trends that now characterise the emerging world economic order. This will have an impact on various economies of different states, including OIC states.

The mandate of the Standing Committee is not only to review the progress of implementation of its various resolutions, but also to prepare and pursue a time-framed programme of activities aimed at strengthening economic and commercial co-operation among member states in the third millennium. The Committee is also expected to pay attention to the various aspects of the difficulties for the firm stand and invigoration of the economies of member in the emerging world economic order characterised by globalisation of world economy and the unleashing of intense forces of competition. This aspect of the activity of the Standing Committee has made it imperative for it to focus present needs and contribute to helping the member states in meeting their current expectations and overcome future challenges.

With the wealth of experience it has acquired over the last two decades of its existence, I am sure, the Standing Committee will be able to become the most ideal forum to undertake a thorough review of the state of economic and commercial co-operation among the member states and proceed to a rationalisation of their work programmes should the exigencies of the situation so warrant.

Another area where bold action has become imperative, is the less-than-expected pace of implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Co-operation Among the Member States which has remained one of the major pre-occupations of COMCEC. In view of the importance of the intensification of economic co-operation among Member States in bringing about overall socio-economic progress and prosperity for the people of the Ummah, there is a need for a fresh review of the progress achieved so far and identifying the root causes which have hindered speedy realisation of the lofty aims and objectives of boosting intra-OIC economic co-operation enshrined in the Plan of Action. This work must be characterized by comprehensiveness and creative ways and means for ensuring political will side by side with identifying technical obstacles on the way to achieving robust interactions among the member states in the economic arena.

It is both encouraging and satisfying that under the auspices of COMCEC, several agreements and statutes have been prepared and adopted over the last two decades. The unfortunate reality, however, is that very few of these have come into force due to lack of required number of states that have signed and ratified them. This matter needs to be addressed seriously as laying a sound legal foundation of intra-OIC economic cooperation, which these legal instruments are meant to provide, is a *sin qua non* of stimulating economic co-operation.

The on-going efforts of the Standing Committee for developing a sound and vibrant private sector in the OIC member states through the active support of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry needs a fresh impetus and further efforts and creativity.

I am certain that the Committee will pay adequate attention towards reviewing and addressing these issues while deliberating on the agenda items before it. I am confident that these deliberations will enormously contribute to the successful conclusion of this meeting.

I wish the 15th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation every success. Thank you.



**- 4 -**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MUHAMMED IMADI,  
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE  
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**



Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MUHAMMED IMADI,  
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE  
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**

H.E. the President of the Republic of Turkey  
H.E. the Vice-Prime Minister  
H.E. the OIC Secretary General  
Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of my brothers, Head and members of Arab delegations participating in this Session, and in my own name, it is a pleasure for me to extend to H.E. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and, through him to this august Government and to the fraternal Turkish people, our best regards and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the kind welcome, warm hospitality, excellent preparations and the glad reunion we have encountered since our arrival in this good land. We must also express our admiration for the great achievements of Turkey in the various fields. It is also a pleasant duty for me to convey to you, Mr. President, the warm regards of President Hafez al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic. We, in Syria, believe we are the closest people to you, sharing geography, common borders, kinship and cultural relations, the same history and trade relations that are ever developing.

Each and every Arab felt deep sorrow for the tragedies endured by our brothers as a result of the devastating earthquake that shook Turkey. May Almighty God grant us the wish that it will be the last upheaval to occur. We share the sorrow and plight of the victims' families.

May I emphasize, dear brothers, the pride derived by all our Arab States from their membership of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and our firm determination to close ranks, within the OIC, to secure the noble objectives assigned to it by our leaderships in order to enhance our solidarity, promote our cooperation, strengthen our struggle, liberate our occupied lands and lay down

the foundations for peace, security, justice and a life in dignity and prosperity for our people.

The principles of the Organization of the Islamic Conference emphasized that our commercial cooperation emanates from a mutual respect for sovereignty, independence and each other's interests, commitment to legitimacy and international resolutions and a fraternal dialogue to solve our problems. This is the way to safeguard joint Islamic action and our common interests vis-à-vis a world witnessing changes in power and balances; we must therefore achieve a closer solidarity to ensure further strength and fortitude.

The securing by our Arab Palestinian people of their legitimate rights, the termination of the Israeli occupation of the entire Golan and South Lebanon, in abidance by the resolutions of international legitimacy, the principle of land for peace and an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people are the only course towards a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. There is therefore need for your support and solidarity with our endeavours to achieve said objectives.

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

World economic development and international events require, to quote President Demirel, accelerated action to achieve the objectives for which the Organization was established.

Hence, we lay stress on the importance of the issues at hand and the responsibility of our present session as well as commend the farsightedness of President Süleyman Demirel who wrote to his brothers, the Monarchs, Heads of State and Emirs reiterating the importance of the Session and the urgent need for participation in it so as to share in the responsibility for decisions to be taken in respect of issues raised.

Our Sessions have hitherto covered great strides to prepare the Ummah for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and enable it to confront the challenges of globalization, emphasizing the importance of economic, financial and commercial cooperation

and of drawing benefits from our various experiences with a view to widening the scope and developing our cooperation.

The progress made in trade exchange and the establishment by the Islamic Development Bank of the Trade Information Network and the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit, the Islamic Trade Fair, the Islamic Multilateral Clearing Union, cooperation among Central Banks, the Financing Institution of the Private Sector and the Infrastructure Fund can be instrumental in overcoming the obstacles that impede trade and investments among us. Such closer relations will bring about specialization in specific industries that can lead to joint ventures which can be promoted and financed by the IDB, and covered by the umbrella of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investments. Such joint ventures can be executed by Islamic contractor firms and hopefully become a model for efficiency and management.

The Arab States endorsed the COMCEC recommendations as regards raising the present low level of intra-OIC foreign trade to a level closer to our aspirations. They also apply an open-door policy as regards investments and the circulation of capital.

An appropriate environment for local and foreign investments, in addition to a developed financial market, a transparent ownership system and a specialized and qualified labour force are factors that will attract the contribution of the private sector to the financing and execution of infrastructure projects. Moreover, regulating rules, clear-cut and transparent contractual agreements are vital and essential requirements.

The axes of trade exchange and encouragement of investments will reflect positively on agricultural and industrial coordination and become instrumental in transport and communication projects and, in the final analysis, constitute a tool for coordination and complementarity in the context of the joint economic Plan of Action.

Our emphasis, dear brothers, on economic issues in no way detracts from the importance of cooperation in other fields, such as education, culture, science and information. Each and every one of these fields plays a role in the promotion of our cooperation and the development of our economic course.

The development of human resources to attain economic development and social progress in a nation having the greatest percentage of children and youth, must be a priority item in the policies of all our States. Our human resources are the most productive wealth if trained ethically, culturally and educationally. Exchange of expertise and experiences, joint research, sound bases for exchange of visits of students and professor, generalization of training programmes, the establishment of open universities and emphasis on education and vocational training are all means whereby to positively secure our objectives.

The existence of qualified men will be an important inducement in attracting investments and enhancing our competitiveness.

Whatever our past achievements, we are fully aware of the importance of the directive given by President Demirel, namely that our achievements should be at the level of the great ambitions and aspirations of our Leaders in the interest of this Ummah.

Our brothers, the senior officials have, over the past two days, made great efforts, considering, debating and bringing to fruition the agenda items to arrive to recommendations aimed at widening and developing our cooperation. They deserve our deep thanks and appreciation.

We fully endorse the efforts made to propagate a sound ethical behaviour, a stand that we have always endorsed and maintained.

In conclusion, I extend my thanks to President Demirel, to the Vice-Prime Minister, to the OIC Secretary General, to the President of the Islamic Development Bank and to the Heads of Institutions and centers, with a special appreciation to the host countries of the General Secretariat and OIC institutions.

My sincere thanks and amity to the Head and members of the Arab delegations who gave me the honour of taking the floor on their behalf.

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. FERHAD ALIEV,  
MINISTER OF COMMERCE OF  
THE REPUBLIC AZERBAIJAN  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**





Original: Turkish

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. FERHAD ALIEV,  
MINISTER OF COMMERCE OF  
THE REPUBLIC AZERBAIJAN  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**

His Excellency Süleyman DEMİREL,  
Distinguished Heads of Delegation,  
Distinguished İzzettin EL RAŞİ, Secretary General of OIC,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the fifteenth session of the COMCEC, I would like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to the Organisation Committee for giving me the opportunity to speak at this meeting on behalf of the Asian Group of Countries and to address your Excellency here today. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Turkish Nation for their hospitality in this historical city of Istanbul.

Your Excellency,

During all your life, you have made great efforts to reinforce solidarity and cooperation between Islamic countries.

Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting under the leadership of H.E. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey and the results thereof are significant in terms of improving the cooperation between the member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

I am happy to convey the cordial greetings of H.E. Haydar ALIYEV, President of Azerbaijan.

Today, the global security of Asia has become the most important topic in bilateral and multilateral relations among the states. By way of the negotiated and signed agreements, and with the contribution of the countries, both individual and collective, the security of Asia has been related to the security of the whole world, and the whole continent has benefited by individual states, and all individual states have benefited from other states.

The right for economic security of these countries, the adoption of measures to protect their economic rights, and the implementation of the international policy accepted carry utmost importance for all of the Asian states.

It is not surprising that the crisis has been prevented thanks to mutual agreements, and those agreements that have allowed for the quotas and limitations on crude oil production. This is particularly important for the economic development of these countries.

Last year, through the efforts of H.E. Haydar ALIYEV, President of Azerbaijan, several projects, including numerous meetings in which Asian states participated and contributed to the solution of many international and regional problems, the TRASECA Project on the revival of the former Silk Road, the implementation of the 19 agreements signed for the exploitation of the oil fields in the Azerbaijan region of the Caspian Sea, and the written cooperation among our countries for the construction of the Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline have all played a role in the development of our region. I would like to underline particularly the services of the Secretary General of OIC and the Islamic Development Bank, as well as the cooperation of our countries with this Bank.

Your Excellency,

In the light of the invaluable opinions discussed at this meeting, I believe that the member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference will take the necessary precautions to use their human resources more efficiently, and to

attain a higher economic level while respecting our historical and religious traditions as well.

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to H.E. Süleyman DEMIREL, President of the Republic of Turkey, for organising this important and high level meeting which will play a significant role in the political and economic development of our countries.

Thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY H.E. BELLO BOUBA MAIGARI,  
MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF COMMERCIAL  
AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**



Original: French

**STATEMENT BY H.E. BELLO BOUBA MAIGARI  
MINISTER OF STATE, IN CHARGE OF INDUSTRIAL  
AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**

H.E. the President of the Republic, Chairman of the COMCEC  
Mr. OIC Secretary General  
Mr. President of the Islamic Development Bank  
Ladies and gentlemen

May I be permitted, at the outset to express on behalf of the African group, my sincere thanks to H.E. the President of the Republic, to the Government and our brothers, the people of Turkey, for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to us since our arrival in Istanbul, this century-old city teeming with history.

Our thanks are also extended to the COMCEC Secretariat and to all the supporting staff for the quality of the organization and that of the documents submitted to us.

Before proceeding further, I must, on behalf of my peers of the African group, express most sincerely to the Turkish people, their Government and President our heartfelt condolences for the devastating earthquake of 17 August, which sorrowed so many families.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, in which we participate today, is held in a context characterised by profound political and economic changes worldwide. The problems confronting our countries are so

intricate and the challenges to be taken up so important that only regular concentration can enable us to face them with hopes of success. That is why our meetings are, in my opinion, the most important framework in the quest for concerted and effective solutions.

We therefore hope that our Session, held at the threshold of the millennium, will arrive at concrete and realistic proposals, that take account of our real means and a genuine understanding of the interests of our states as a whole.

You are all aware that the Ministerial Conference of the world Trade Organization, scheduled for the end of this month in Seattle, will be both a test and a challenge for our fragile economies. It is gratifying to note that awareness is emerging thanks, notably, to the action of the Islamic Development Bank that we all appreciate and which we highly recommend.

We sincerely hope that our present Session will propose a concrete action to significantly increase the volume of trade among our countries, as it is our firm belief that it is through the pooling of the composite advantages of our respective countries that the Islamic Ummah can take up the challenges and achieve progress.

The rousing success of the recent meeting of the Private Sector, held in Yaoundi, Cameroon, on African soil, bears witness to the fact that concentration and dialogue are the only safe and viable course for our economies.

Long live the Organization of the Islamic Conference  
Long live South-South Cooperation.

I thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**



Original: English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*

H.E. Mr. Süleyman DEMİREL, President of the Republic of Turkey,  
H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary-General of the Organization of the  
Islamic Conference,  
Their Excellency Heads of Delegations and Delegation Members,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.*

It is a great honour and pleasure to have this opportunity to speak before this august assembly on behalf of your institution, the Islamic Development Bank. First, I would like to extend to the President, Government and People of the Turkish Republic my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the warm reception and great hospitality we have been receiving since the beginning of this series of meetings, as well as for the excellent preparations made to render them successful. This is indicative of the keenness of the Republic of Turkey as represented by Your Excellency to support and sponsor joint Islamic action and to boost the level of co-operation among members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. I would like also to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the member countries and institutions participating in this Conference.

It gives me great pleasure, as well, to take this opportunity to thank the COMCEC Co-ordination Bureau for inviting the Islamic

Development Bank to participate in the work of your Committee to contribute, as much as possible, to the realization of the objectives we all aspire to achieve.

Your Excellency

Your Chairmanship of this Committee has many meanings and indications, foremost among which is the great responsibility entrusted to Your Excellency. The speech Your Excellency has just delivered contains many sound ideas about the various items on the Agenda of this meeting. I am sure that Their Excellency the Ministers will devote to Your Excellency's suggestions every conceivable attention and be guided by your insightful views in dealing with the issues in hand.

I would like also to extend my sincere thanks to Br. Dr. Azzeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, for his invaluable speech, ideas and review of the course of joint Islamic action and cooperation among member countries. Your organization, the Islamic Development Bank, is pleased to be a partner in, and a supporter of this joint action at a time when our member countries are on the threshold of a new epoch that is fraught with challenges.

Your Excellency

As this is our first meeting since the great natural disaster of the destructive earthquake has struck this historical city of the Republic of Turkey, I would like to take this opportunity to convey, through Your Excellency, our heart-felt condolences to the Government and people of this dear country. Meanwhile, we pray to Allah the Almighty to grant us patience and fortitude to bear this natural disaster and to protect us from all sorts of affliction. We are for Allah, and unto Him we return!

With the grace if Allah, your organization, the Islamic Development Bank, has responded to this calamity, and its Board of Executive Directors has decided to offer all that is possible to the

Republic of Turkey to support re-construction efforts by allocating US\$ 300 million of diverse financing package for operations proposed by the Republic of Turkey in this connection.

Your Excellency

The Agenda of your meeting includes many important issues, among which two trade-related issues are of special importance to the Bank's activities and functions. The first relates to the relation of member countries with the international trade developments through the World Trade Organization (WTO). In its 12<sup>th</sup> Session, your esteemed Committee entrusted the Islamic Development Bank with the task of providing a forum for the exchange of views and consultation among member countries to co-ordinate their positions vis-à-vis the subjects submitted to the Ministerial Conference of the WTO. The Bank organised meeting in preparations for the First Ministerial Conference of the WTO which was held in Singapore and the Second Ministerial Conference which was held in Geneva. Response of member countries to the efforts of the Bank in this respect was positive, constructive and encouraging. Preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be held in Seattle, USA, are being made. The Bank has prepared a basic paper on the background of the forthcoming Conference. In collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Bank has attracted a number of experts to prepare detailed studies regarding the issues to be discussed in the Third Ministerial Conference. These included the fields of agriculture, trade in services, trade and investment in an attempt to study the issues of interest to the member countries. These studies have also dealt with the technical aspects on which future trade negotiations would concentrate. The Bank has also organized a consultation meeting on the sixteenth of last month at the Bank's Headquarters for experts from member countries. This meeting aimed at exchanging views, in the context of preparing for the Third Ministerial Conference, regarding the subjects of common interest. Studies prepared for this purpose were distributed to help in forming views and positions

and enable member countries become aware of their situation vis-à-vis the subjects which could be dealt with during the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO and to exchange views regarding these subjects in a the consultative meeting to be organised by the Bank on the eve of the Conference to be held in Seattle, USA.

All this comes in the framework of IDB support for member countries in their contributions to the activities of the WTO, and to facilitate joining the Organization with the same terms and conditions applied to the developing counties when they joined it at the time it was founded.

The Bank also provides an assistance programme aiming at enhancing the institutional and human resource capacities of member countries to enable them join the World Trade Organization. This programme includes the provision of consultative services, organization of workshops and seminars regarding the Uruguay Agreements.

Your Excellency

The second trade-related issue on your Agenda has to do with the Resolution of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference relating to Preparation of the *Ummah* for the Twenty-first Century and its urging to raise the percentage of intra-trade among member countries of the OIC.

The Bank has laid down a programme which aims at attracting US\$ 4 billion annually, including one billion dollar from the Bank, to raise the percentage of intra-trade by about 3 percent over the next three years. The Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved the policies needed to achieve this objective. Among these policies were the 'Two-steps Murabaha' Programme and the 'Murabah Syndication' Programme.

Provision of financing is not enough to render this programme successful; the programme should also receive full co-operation and

support from all member countries. For this reason, the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Muslim Countries urged member countries to take the necessary procedures to remove all barriers to the flow of intra-trade, and to enable member countries benefit from the financing provided by the Bank. Also H.E. Mohamed Khatemi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his capacity as chairman of the Islamic Summit, has directed a message to all Kings and heads of states to request them to cooperate with IDB to render this programme a success in increasing the level of intra-trade among member countries.

Your Excellency

The third issue related to the Agenda, which I would like to mention, has to do with the Sixth Meeting of the Private Sector. This is because of the interest the Bank takes in encouraging and boosting the role of the private sector in development. No doubt that these successive meetings of the representatives of the private sector would provide a suitable ground for emphasizing such role and strengthening co-operation among member countries. I mentioned to your august assembly during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in 1996 that the Bank was studying, through a new department for business development, the optimal ways and means which could boost the private sector and make it grow.

With the grace of Allah the Almighty, the Bank has adopted two initiatives which, Allah willing, would help encourage the private sector to play a greater role in development. The first of these two initiatives relates to the establishment of the Bank's Infrastructure Fund, which has been established as a special investment instrument that concentrates on infrastructure development in the member countries, with a capital of US\$ 1,500 million. The Fund aims at financing projects in the field of energy, communications, transportation, water and other similar infrastructure projects. It also aims at facilitating participation of private sector companies not only in the investment projects of the Fund, but also in the implementation and management of these projects.

Since the Fund's activities are limited to the financing of infrastructure projects, it was found that there was a need for another organization, which would cater for the financing needs of the private sector in a more comprehensive way. In this context, the Bank's Board of Governors has approved in its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held last Wednesday in Jeddah the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for Private Sector Development. This constitutes the Bank's second initiative in this area. The Corporation's objectives could be summarized as boosting economic development in member countries through the support and encouragement of the private sector in accordance with the principles of *Shari'ah*. The Articles of Agreement provide that the approved capital of the Corporation is US\$ 1,000 million. The Agreement shall be effective as soon as it is signed by the Bank, the Bank's Host Country and four other member countries. With the grace of Allah, Twenty-four member countries signed the Agreement during the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors. Once the required number of member countries has signed the Agreement, the member countries will have a new organization similar to the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Thus the private sector would gain a partner which would help activate its role in strengthening social and economic development in member countries.

The new Corporation would complement the work of the Bank and the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), the establishment of which came through an initiative from your esteemed Committee. Thanks to your increasing support, I am pleased to inform you in this context that the insurance coverage of ICIEC stood at US\$ 468 million in 1999, realizing an increase of 66 percent over past year's figure. This achievement was realized despite the fact that membership of ICIEC is less than half that of the OIC. Currently, membership of ICIEC stands at 23 member countries, including IDB. There are 8 more countries in the process of joining. I



urge member countries, which have not so far joined ICIEC to take the necessary steps to do so.

Your Excellency

The Islamic Development Bank is proud and honoured to cooperate with your esteemed Committee; it will continue to actively seek to realize the noble objectives, for the realization of which your esteemed Committee works.

It gives me pleasure to end my speech by reiterating my thanks to Your Excellency and to Their Excellency the Ministers for your continued support of your organization, the Islamic Development Bank, and its efforts while celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the President, Government and People of the Republic of Turkey for all the efforts they are exerting to render these meetings successful.

I pray to Allah the Almighty to grant success to our endeavours, to guide us to what is in the best interest and well-being of our member countries.

*Wa Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh!*



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**AGENDA  
OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC**

**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**



Original : English

**AGENDA  
OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION  
OF THE COMCEC**

**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**

1. Opening Session.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Reports by the OIC General Secretariat.
  - World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member Countries.
  - Report of the Follow-up Committee.
  - Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.
4. Report by IDB on the Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade in Preparation of the Ummah for the 21st Century
5. Matters Related to World Trade Organization Activities
6. Report by ICCI on the Sixth Private Sector Meeting for Trade Promotion and Joint Venture Investments Among OIC Member Countries.
7. Exchange of Views on the "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries".
8. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.
9. Date of the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC.
10. Any Other Business.
11. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC.
12. Closing Session.



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**TEXT OF PRESENTATION BY H.E. DR. AKIN İZMİRLİOĞLU  
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING,  
ON THE "HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
FOR SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND PROGRESS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES"**

(istanbul, 6 November 1999)





Original : English

**TEXT OF PRESENTATION BY H.E. DR. AKIN İZMİRLİOĞLU  
UNDERSECRETARY OF THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING,  
ON THE "HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
FOR SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND PROGRESS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES"**

**(Istanbul, 6 November 1999)**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

As the Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting, I will submit to you a summary of the discussions we had on the subject of "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries".

While deliberating on the subject, the Senior officials have considered in detail, the observations and recommendations contained in the Report of the Seminar on the subject, held from 11 to 13 April 1999, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This workshop was jointly organized by the Islamic Institute of Technology in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and the Islamic Development Bank.

The Report of the Seminar and the papers submitted to it by the OIC and other international organizations are available to the honourable delegates.

During their discussions on the subject, senior officials have emphasised a number of characteristics and trends, concerning human resources issues in the member countries.

We have noted that:

Human resources development means basically the development of the human capabilities. These capabilities include basic education, literacy, health and nutrition, clean and safe environment.

More than 1 billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in an unacceptable condition of poverty, mostly in the developing countries.

For the OIC countries, human capability development for sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation, and social progress is of utmost importance and of high priority and should be addressed as such.

In terms of per capita income, most of the OIC countries, are low and lower-middle income economies and adult illiteracy is high in many of them. Concerning access to safe drinking water, health services and sanitation, most OIC countries exhibit low access ratios.

Those developing countries which will fail to embrace technologies in a meaningful manner will remain trapped in poverty and backwardness, while the others will march ahead.

Economic growth is necessary for human resources development and the alleviation of poverty. The alleviation of poverty and inequality calls for a strategy to target specifically the disadvantaged population for social adjustments so that they can share in the benefits of growth.

Following these considerations, the Senior Officials have made certain recommendations regarding the course of action to be taken to promote human resources development which is the main prerequisite for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Some of these recommendations are the following:

The requirements of skilled personnel in different sectors of the economy and society should be assessed and catered for, through appropriate educational and training Programmes.

A reasonable percentage of GNP, around 6%, may be earmarked for public expenditure on education, most of which may be allocated for primary and adult education to eradicate illiteracy from the Member States of the OIC by the year 2010. Emphasis should be given on quality of education along with the quantity.

There should be joint collaboration between private and public sectors and NGO's for development of human capabilities. Training Programmes should be developed for private sector and small and medium scale enterprises.

To keep abreast with the phenomenal scientific and technological advancement in the world, the best possible emphasis needs to be given to scientific and technological education training and research.

Human Development Index (HDI) for the member countries should be developed keeping in view the cultural and religious values of Muslim societies.

Private sector and NGO's should come forward and join hands with the public sector for the purpose of human resources development and employment. This will help making the people literate and socially and economically productive.

-Recognition should be given to the decisive contribution which women would make to the effectiveness of development; therefore, women should be involved systematically in all policies to alleviate poverty.

-The achievement of a literacy rate of 100% in each Member should be aimed at before the year 2005, if not already achieved, and for this purpose adult and non-formal education and Distant-education Programmes should be emphasised.

-Member countries should take maximum advantage of the existing facilities and programmes within OIC, particularly those of Islamic Institute of Technology and the training, technical assistance and technical cooperation programmes of the Islamic Development Bank, pertaining to development of human resources.

-In OIC there should be a follow-up programme and mechanism to monitor the human resources development in the member countries.

The points of agreement which came out of the discussions, some of which I have just submitted to you, are included in the Draft Resolution number one which is already made available to the honourable delegates in three languages.

This completes my presentation of the summary of the deliberation on the subject of this year's exchange of views we held at the level of Senior Officials.

Thank you.

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**RESOLUTION (1)**  
**OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC**  
**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**



Original: English

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

**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**

The Fifteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 4 to 7 November 1999;

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

**Recalling** the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Member States approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

**Taking into consideration** the resolutions adopted at the fourteen previous Sessions of the COMCEC and the recommendations made at the Fifteenth Meeting of its Follow-up Committee;

**Reaffirming** the commitment to remove all obstacles to closer economic and commercial cooperation among OIC member states with a view to promoting their economic integration;

**Taking into consideration** the Resolution adopted at the Tenth Session of the COMCEC calling for holding exchange of views, at the annual COMCEC sessions, on important world economic developments concerning member states;

**Taking cognizance** of the need to follow up the outcome of the exchange of views sessions and coordinate the positions of Member States in relevant international fora in the areas covered at these sessions;

**Noting** with appreciation the holding of the International Seminar on "Human Resources Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation as well as Progress in Member States of OIC" organized by the Islamic Institute of Technology (HT) in collaboration with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), from 11 to 13 April 1999 in Dhaka, the results of which constituted a major input for the exchange of views conducted during this Session;

**Noting** the progress reports submitted by the OIC General Secretariat and related institutions on the agenda items;

### **Reports of the General Secretariat**

#### ***A. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat***

1. **Expresses appreciation** for the Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(1)) on the progress achieved by the member states and OIC institutions in the field of economic and commercial cooperation;
2. **Notes with satisfaction** that the Export Financing Scheme and the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investments and Export Credit, established by the Islamic Development Bank, in pursuance of a decision of the first COMCEC Session, are functioning successfully, and **urges** Member States who have not yet done so, to join these schemes as early as possible;
3. **Also notes with satisfaction** that IDB is operating the OIC Information Systems Network (OIC-ISNET) and invites member states to make the necessary arrangements to get maximum benefit out of it;



4. **Appreciates** that the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) has established the Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC) which is accessible either through the Internet or through OIC-ISNET, and recommends to the Member States to make full use of it,

5. **Urges** Member States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify at an early date the various OIC agreements and statutes in the field of economic cooperation.

6. **Appreciates** the efforts made by the OIC institutions working in the area of economic and commercial cooperation, namely, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), ICDT, IIT, IDB, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB) and the Islamic Shipowners Association (ISA) and **appeals** to member states to give the needed support and assistance to these institutions so that they may continue to perform their functions effectively.

**B. *World Economic Developments With Special Reference to OIC Member States***

7. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to SESRTCIC and ICDT for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, annual economic reports on the OIC countries (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(5), OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(13)) containing up-dated information on economic and trade developments in member states in the context of global economic developments;

8. **Takes note** of the studies prepared by IDB, SERTCIC and ICDT on the impact of the Euro on the economies of the member states, especially on their foreign exchange needs and reserves, exchange rates and export revenues.

9. Regarding global economic developments **notes** that:
- i. Global economic and financial conditions have started showing signs of improvement since the turbulence in emerging markets in 1997-98 and several emerging market economies in crisis have begun to show signs of recovery; nevertheless developing countries did not gain from this recovery;
  - ii. Despite some indications of return to broad price stability, macroeconomic instability still persists in much of the world economy, continuing to pose challenges for economic policies of a large number of developing countries.
  - iii. In spite of the recent tendency of raw material prices to partially recover, primary commodity prices remained largely susceptible to market fluctuations and the terms-of-trade are generally still not in favour of developing countries.
  - iv. Although the OIC member states constitute a substantial part of the developing world, their rate of growth is still below the average attained by other developing countries; however, average growth has varied within OIC sub-groups.
  - v. The global financial crisis of 1997-98 continues to affect adversely the external trade of the OIC Member States and the burden of their foreign debt still remains a serious obstacle to their development.
10. **Notes** the need for more cooperation and coordination amongst the OIC member states to ensure an increase in their intra-trade and capital flows at sub-regional, regional and interregional levels;
11. **Calls** upon the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with IDB, ICDT, ITT and SESTRCIC to lend extend the necessary technical assistance to member states in order to acquaint them with the new management skills and

techniques of international trade, resulting from the globalization of economic activities and the technological innovations in the information and communication fields;

12. **Requests** SESRTCIC and ICDT to continue to monitor world economic and trade developments and their implications for the member states and report regularly to the concerned OIC fora.

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

13. **Urges** the OIC General Secretariat to closely pursue the follow-up actions and the results of the three sectoral experts' group meetings, namely, "Money, Finance and Capital Flows" held in Istanbul on 1-3 September 1997, "Foreign Trade Facilitation of OIC Member States" in Karachi on 24-25 October 1997 and "Technology and Technical Cooperation" in Istanbul on 6-8 May 1998, with a view to forming these "Project Committees" for the project proposals tabled during these meetings, as stipulated in the Plan of Action;

14. **Requests** member states to forward to the OIC General Secretariat their responses to the project proposals put forward at the sectoral experts' group meetings for the formation of the above-mentioned project committees at the earliest possible date;

15. **Encourages** the member states, who are the original proponents of projects which received positive response from the required number of member states, to expedite the formation of the project committees as envisaged in the Plan of Action, with a view to implementing the projects proposed during the expert group meetings.

16. **Welcomes** the offers of the member states to host sectoral experts' group meetings as indicated below:

- i. The offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host sectoral experts' group meetings in the areas of "Transport and Communications" and "Food, Agricultural and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action.
- ii. The offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an experts' group meeting in the area of "Health and Sanitary Issues".
- iii. The offer of Sudan to host sectoral experts' group meetings on "Energy and Mining" and "Human Resources Development".
- iv. The willingness of the State of Palestine to host a workshop on "Environment and population" and an expert group meeting on "Labor and Social Issues".
- v. The offer of Burkina Faso to host a regional workshop on Industry, for east, west and central African OIC member states, in cooperation with IDB and other related OIC institutions.
- vi. The offer of Gabon to organize a sub-regional seminar for the OIC member states of Central and East Africa on "The role of IDB in the promotion of the private sector".
- vii. The offer of Indonesia to host an International Workshop on Employment and Manpower Exchange in Jakarta.

17. **Invites** member states to host, where appropriate, sectoral or intersectoral experts' group meetings in areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action; calls upon **IDB** to continue to extend the necessary assistance to member states to that end.

18. **Appreciates** the report submitted by the OIC General Secretariat on the causes and possible remedies for the slow progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(2)).

19. **Expresses** concern over the slow progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action and recommends to the Follow-up Committee at its next meeting to suggest possible remedies So alleviate the situation on the basis of the report of the OIC General Secretariat.

20. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to continue to submit to the Annual Sessions of the COMCEC a periodical review of the implementation of the Plan of Action, taking into account the rapid developments in the world economy.

**Report by IDB on the Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade  
in Preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

21. **Appreciates** the comprehensive report submitted by IDB regarding the expansion of trade in preparation of the Ummah for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(9)).

22. Thanks the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of related OIC institutions for the preparation of the Ummah for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, in Tehran in June 1998 and commends the Islamic Development Bank's efforts to implement the resolution of the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit for increasing intra-trade by specifying quantitative targets in a fixed time frame.

23. **Appreciates** the decision by the Bank to approve \$ 1 billion from its own resources, to be used as a catalyst to raise \$ 4 billion through syndication and two steps murabaha financing.

24. **Urges** member states to continue their cooperation to eliminate all obstacles impeding Intra-Trade among themselves taking into account the IDB document.

25. Appreciates the holding of the first national focal point meeting on intra-trade, held in Jeddah on 27-28 September 1999 at IDB headquarters and **urges** the member states to implement its recommendation.

26. **Urges** member states, which have not yet done so, to designate their respective national focal points.

27. **Requests** IDB to consider provision of technical assistance for capacity building of already existing focal points in member states and help in the establishment of additional focal points.

28. Urges Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Amongst OIC Member States; join the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) and the Export Financing Scheme (EFS), in order to enhance capacity building and efficiency in the areas of trade promotion, finance and trade facilities.

#### **Matters Relating to WTO Activities**

29. **Takes note with appreciation** of the report submitted by the OIC General Secretariat on the activities of World Trade Organization (WTO) and the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report.

30. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat, IDB, SESRTCIC, ICDT and ICCI for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, monitoring reports on the World Trade Organization matters (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(3), (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(6), (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(10), (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(16)).

**31. Appreciates** the IDB initiative to organize a consultative meeting that was held in Jeddah in October 1999 in preparation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> WTO Ministerial Meeting to be held in Seattle and the subsequent multilateral trade negotiations.

**32. Calls** upon IDB to pursue its programme of technical assistance to the OIC Member States seeking accession to WTO, as well as to extend assistance to the OIC Member States who are already members of WTO, in order to enable them to participate more effectively in the world trading system.

**33. Invites** IDB, ICDT and other related institutions to provide assistance to member states in the context of future multilateral trade negotiations.

**34. Urges** IDB and ICDT to pool and coordinate their efforts to reinforce the human and institutional capacities of OIC member states, so as to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system on equitable and fair basis.

**35. Urges** member states to take full advantage of the consultative meeting to be organized by IDB during the Seattle Ministerial Meeting in order to forge common positions on the issues on the Agenda of the ministerial meeting.

**36. Emphasizes** the importance of consultations to be carried out by member states prior to, and during, the Seattle Meeting taking especially into account the conclusions of the Consultative Meeting of OIC Member States held under the auspices of the IDB in Jeddah on 16-17 October 1999 and the papers initiated thereupon, the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, of OIC Summit Conferences, and Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFMs) as well as the Final Document of the 12th Non-Aligned Summit in Durban on 3 September 1998.

**37. Decides** to invite WTO and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) representatives to the 16<sup>th</sup> sessions of the COMCEC.

**Report by ICCI on the Sixth Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member States**

***Sixth Private Sector Meeting***

38. **Appreciates** the efforts made by ICCI to organize annual Private Sector Meetings, prior to the annual COMCEC sessions and calls for their continuation;

39. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for hosting and to ICCI for organizing the Sixth Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Cameroon, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines of Cameroon, from 4 to 6 October 1999, in Yaounde;

40. **Takes note with appreciation** of the report submitted by ICCI on the Sixth Private Sector Meeting (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(II)) which shows a growing interest of the private sector representatives in these meetings, reflected in the number of participating countries, business transactions made and joint venture projects agreed upon through bilateral and multilateral contacts;

41. **Notes with appreciation** the recommendations contained in the Report of the Sixth Private Sector Meeting which focused on steps to be taken to strengthen the role of the private sector in economic cooperation among member states and **urges** them to take steps to implement these recommendations through designated focal points, including the ICCI, to monitor the progress in this regard along with the participation of the OIC, IDB, ICDT and the immediate representative of the past current and forthcoming Chairmen of the Islamic Summit, the country having hosted the Private Sector Meeting and as well as any other interested country.



42. **Encourages** the federations of chambers of commerce and industry of the member states to develop a framework for closer cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programs aimed at enhancing trade and investments among the Islamic countries;

43. **Appreciates** the offer of the State of Qatar to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting in October 2000; the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meetings in 2001 and 2004 and the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting in 2002, and **calls on** member states to encourage their private sectors to actively participate in these Meetings.

#### *Islamic Trade Fairs*

44. **Expresses satisfaction** at the holding by ICDT of the Seventh Islamic Trade Fair from 12 to 18 October 1998, in Tripoli, Lebanon, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Lebanon.

45. **Appreciates** the offer of the State of Qatar to host the 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair scheduled to be held from 15-20 October 2000 in Doha and **appeals** to Member States to actively participate in it.

46. **Also appreciates** the offers of the Republic of Senegal to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair in the year 2002 and the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair in the year 2004.

**Exchange of Views on "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation in the Member States of OIC"**

47. **Takes note** with appreciation of the conclusions contained in the Report of the International Seminar on "Human Resources Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation as well as Progress in Member States of OIC" (OIC/COMCEC/15-99/D(20)) organized by the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) in collaboration with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Islamic Development Bank, from 11 to 13 April 1999 in Dhaka, with the contributions of high government officials, prominent scholars and experts from universities and research centers, as well as from OIC and other international institutions;

48. **Expresses appreciation** to IIT for the preparation and submission of the report of the Seminar and papers submitted by member states, IIT, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB, ICCI and other international organizations on various aspects of human resources development in OIC member states.

49. **Taking into consideration** the results of the Seminar, comments made and country reports presented by member states on the subject, **observes** that:

- i. Human resources development means basically the development of the human capabilities. These capabilities include basic education, literacy, health and nutrition, clean and safe environment.
- ii. More than 1 billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in an unacceptable condition of poverty, mostly in the developing countries.
- iii. For the OIC countries, human capability development for sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation, and social progress is of utmost importance and of highest priority and should be addressed as such.

- iv. In terms of per capita income, most of the OIC countries, are low and lower-middle income economies with a high adult illiteracy in many of them. Concerning access to safe drinking water, health services and sanitation, most OIC countries exhibit low access ratios.
- v. In most OIC countries, particularly those which are of low and lower middle income status, a vicious circle of low income - low economic growth - high poverty - low social progress - low human capability development - persists.
- vi. Economic growth is necessary for human resources development and the alleviation of poverty. Maintaining economic stability must clearly be of the highest priority if efforts to reduce poverty are to be continued. This is because macroeconomic instability is not only harmful to rapid growth, but also affects the poor directly.
- vii. A reasonable percentage of GNP, should be earmarked for public expenditure on education, most of it for primary and adult education, to eradicate illiteracy from the Member States of the OIC by the year 2010.
- viii. To keep abreast of the phenomenal scientific and technological advancement in the world, the best possible emphasis needs to be laid on scientific and technological education, training and research.
- ix. The Human Development Index (HDI) for the member states should be developed keeping in view the cultural and religious values of Muslim societies.
- x. For poverty alleviation among females the greater emphasis should be laid on the improvement of the general economic status of women and the household, by promoting income generating activities including small scale production and marketing of products.
- xi. The achievement of a literacy rate of 100% in each member state should be aimed at before the year 2010, if not already achieved, and for this purpose adult and distant-education programmes should be emphasized.

- xii. Member states should take maximum advantage of the existing facilities and programmes within OIC, particularly training, technical assistance and technical cooperation programmes of the Islamic Development Bank pertaining to development of human resources.

### **Organizational Matters**

**50. Decides** that the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC be held in October, the exact dates of which will be communicated to the member states in due course.

**51. Agrees** that the Sixteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be convened, from 9 to 11 May 2000, in Istanbul;

**52. Decides** that "Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization" be the theme for the exchange of views at the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC, and requests SESRTCIC, in collaboration with related OIC institutions, namely, ICDT, ICCI and IDB and other international organizations, to organize a workshop on the topic, prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> COMCEC and submit its report to the Session;

**53. Invites** member states to send to the OIC General Secretariat, sufficiently in advance of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, country reports reflecting their experiences on the subject matter for the exchange of views;

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

**55. Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to communicate to Member States the dates of the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC and the Sixteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee.



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

**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**





Original: English

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

**(Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999)**

The Fifteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in Istanbul, 4-7 November 1999;

**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 earlier by the Standing Committee at Ministerial Meetings and at meetings of other committees,

**Recalling Further** the resolutions adopted by the 26<sup>th</sup> 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, including East Jerusalem, 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 States 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, as well as 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 to Palestinian products as regards importation and exemption of taxes and customs duties.
6. **Urges** businessmen and investors of 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. **Appeals** to Member States, in view of the obstacles raised by Israel in the face of the Palestinian labour force, to provide 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. **Urges** the Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social field, 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 effort's aimed at implementing the previous resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and submit a progress report there on to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **B. Assistance to Lebanon**

**Taking** cognizance of the difficulties encountered by Lebanon as a result of the continued occupation by Israel of part of its southern territory and western areas and of recurrent Israeli aggressions as well as of its devastator of Lebanese, cities, villages, installations and public utilities

**Realizing** the extent of Lebanon's crucial need to finance the reconstruction of its infrastructure and the development of its economic sectors,

**Appreciating** the efforts made by the Lebanese authorities to secure the funds needed to finance the implementation of its plan for urban reconstruction and economic development through all available means, including assistance and loans,

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and relevant OIC bodies.

2. **Condemns** the recurrent Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon, seeking to destroy the process of national reconstruction which the Government of Lebanon is engaged in, and also **condemns** the continued Israeli occupation of parts of Southern Lebanon and of the western Bekaa Valley.
3. **Reaffirms** previous Resolutions on the provision of financial, economic, and humanitarian aid to Lebanon to meet its economic, technical and training needs.
4. **Reiterates** the appeal made by the Twenty-second ICFM to the international community calling for a generous contribution to the International Fund for the Reconstruction of Lebanon so as to render it effective.
5. **Renews its invitation** to the Member States of the OIC and all international and regional organizations to provide all forms of urgent financial and in-kind assistance to Lebanon that it may rebuild what the Israeli occupation has destroyed and reinforce the resistance of the Lebanese people in the areas occupied by Israel.
6. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

### **C. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania**

**Recalling** relevant resolutions of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States 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.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **D. Economic Measures in Support of Uganda**

**Recalling** relevant resolutions of the 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit, 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

1. **Invites** Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugee problems and other related consequences as well as implement its economic, social and cultural programmes.
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **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 1.5 million Afghans were killed, about 1.5 million disabled and more than 5 million displaced;

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

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Urges** the Member States to provide assistance to Afghanistan to solve its problems.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **F. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Somalia**

**Recalling** earlier resolutions of the 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**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 appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Urges 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.

4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

### **G. Economic Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic**

**Recalling** relevant Resolution 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

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

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

**Expressing** its sympathy for the consequences of the natural disasters which struck the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, thus affecting the socio-economic level of the brotherly people;

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and to contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyz Republic either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Kyrgyz Republic to fulfil its economic programme.
3. **Appeals also** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyz Republic.
4. **Requests** the secretary general to follow up this matter and to report to the next COMCEC Session.

## **H. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Recalling** the relevant Resolutions adopted by the previous Islamic Summit Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC 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;

**Referring** to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding the conflict.

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

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

1. **Appeals** to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic and humanitarian assistance with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Azeri people.
2. **Calls upon** the international organizations to continue to grant humanitarian, financial assistance to Azerbaijan.



3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **I. Economic Measures in Support of Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Guided** 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 Bosnia-Herzegovina who were victims of the brutal aggression 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Eighth Islamic Summit Conference and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Expressing** its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilization Group for Bosnia-Herzegovina, formed in 1995 during the Kuala Lumpur meeting of the OIC Contact Group Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by Member States and OIC relevant bodies. It also stresses the importance of the continuation of the activities undertaken by the OIC Assistance Mobilization Group and noted with appreciation the Islamic Chamber of

Commerce and Industry's special programme to assist the private sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. **Commends** the contributions of the OIC Member States at the Donors Conference for the Rehabilitation of Bosnia which was held in Brussels in April 1996.

3. **Appeals** to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations as well as provide financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB programme aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the reconstruction of the country.

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 and Herzegovina.

5. **Urges upon** the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. **Demands that the sovereignty,** territorial integrity and the political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected along its internationally recognized borders, and support the Federation of Bosnia and 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.

7. **Requests** the OIC Member States, at the same time members of the Peace Implementation Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its Coordination Committee to seek directing the biggest part of

international assistance for reconstruction of Bosnia to the regions inhabited by Muslims of Bosnia.

8. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **J. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea**

**Noting** that the Republic of Guinea has been facing for long years the influx of refugees on its territory of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone and more recently from Guinea Bissau.

**Recalling** all relevant resolutions adopted on the question by Islamic Summits, ICFM and COMCEC.

1. **Makes an urgent appeal** to the international community and Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with a substantial financial and material assistance to enable it to overcome this difficult situation resisting from the presence on its national territory, of hundreds of thousands of refugees due to the armed conflict in Liberia to Sierra Leone and the increasing influx into Guinea of refugees whose majority are Muslims coming from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

2. **Underlines** the necessity for such assistance in order to enable the efficient organization of the eventual return of refugees to their respective countries.

3. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank to extend financial assistance in the form of grant or soft term loans to the Republic of Guinea to enable the latter build the required social infrastructure for these refugees while reducing the degradation of the environment resulting from the presence of so many refugees.

4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **K. Assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone**

**Recalling** the pertinent Resolutions adopted by the Eighth Islamic Summit the 26<sup>th</sup> ICFM and the 14<sup>th</sup> COMCEC.

1. **Appeals** to the Member States and the international community to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone so as to enable its people to undertake the much needed process of rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of returnees and displaced inhabitants of about 1.5 million.

2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to use his good offices to accelerate the approved process for projects already identified for Sierra Leone.

3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **L. Assistance to the Kashmiri People**

**Recalling** all previous resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on assistance to the Kashmiri people.

1. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Islamic Development Bank and Philanthropists, to grant generous humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.

2. **Also appeals** to Member States and the Islamic Institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in the OIC countries.

3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **M. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Yemen**

**Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> ICFM and 14<sup>th</sup> COMCEC.

**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 as well as the devastating flood which swept the Republic of Yemen in 1996.

**Appreciating** the efforts made and success achieved by the Government of Yemen in implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform.

**Taking into consideration** the heavy 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** its appreciation for the efforts of Yemeni Government in overcoming its economic difficulties and the implementation of the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and the success achieved in that regard.
2. **Also Expresses** its appreciation for the assistance extended by some of the Member States and by the relevant organs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

3. **Renews its call** to the Member States and all regional and international organizations to extend all kinds of economic assistance to the Yemeni Government to support its efforts aimed at implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and at wiping out the ravages suffered by Yemen as a result of the floods as well as alleviating the heavy burden of sheltering large number of refugees from neighbouring African countries.

4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **N. Economic Assistance to Tajikistan**

**Recalling** Relevant Resolutions Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

**Taking into account** the objectives and principles of the OIC Charter as well as members' commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

**Deeply concerned** at the critical situation which Tajikistan has faced after 5 years of bloody civil war, which resulted in the death, injury and displacement of thousands of people as well as destruction of its economic and social infrastructures;

**Noting** the return of about 200 thousands Tajik refugees to their homeland which necessitates a great financial and technical support;

**Recalling** the report of the World Food Programme which estimates that 25 Per cent of Tajikistan's population is in dire need of food aid;

**Noting with concern** the marked spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and diarrhea, victims of which are especially infants, children and women;

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** to the assistance extended by some Member States.
2. **Appeals** to all members and Islamic financial institutions to make their generous contributions to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Tajikistan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Tajikistan to fulfil its rehabilitation programmes.
3. **Urges** the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Tajikistan.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **O. Economic Assistance to Guinea Bissau**

**Noting** the political and social disorders that have recently erupted in Guinea Bissau and their consequences on the economic activities of the country, namely the loss of the agricultural and export products marketing campaign, the mass displacement of the population and the physical destruction of the basic socio-economic infrastructure, such as schools, dispensaries, hospitals, markets, residential areas, etc.

1. **Urges** Member States and the International Community to provide Guinea Bissau with urgent aid so as to facilitate the reinsertion of its peoples in active life.
2. **Appeals** to Member States and to OIC institutions to participate in the rehabilitation and economic revival programme of Guinea Bissau.

3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

**P. Alleviating the Effects of Floods and Torrential Rains  
In Sudan**

**Recalling** the relevant resolutions adopted by the Eighth Islamic Summit 26<sup>th</sup> ICFM and 14<sup>th</sup> COMCEC.

**Noting** the devastating natural disaster suffered by Sudan as a result of floods and torrential rains in many parts of the country;

**Realizing** the tragic effects involved, including the sweeping away of farms, the destruction of thousands of homes and the wiping out of infrastructures which, in turn, led to the displacement of tens of thousands of citizens, the shortage of food and agricultural products, the pollution of the environment and the ensuing dangers to public health;

1. **Commends** the Member States which have already extended prompt relief, namely: the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Kuwait and State of the United Arab Emirates.

3. **Urges** Member States to respond to this humanitarian appeal by extending the necessary assistance.

4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

**R. Economic Assistance to Countries Affected by Drought  
and Natural Calamities.**

**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;

1. **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.
2. **Expresses also its gratitude** to IDB for its continuing assistance to Member States afflicted by drought and natural disasters and encourages the Bank to continue its assistance in this domain.
3. **Appeals** to the International Community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.
4. **Calls upon** the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend urgent assistance to OIC countries of Inter-governmental Authority for Development and the Campaign Against Drought (IGAAD) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which has been threatening them for too long.

5. **Notes with appreciation** the meeting of Donor Countries and national and Regional Financial Institutions convened by Kuwait at IDB Headquarters in June, 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programmes.
6. **Welcomes** the contribution of 30 million US\$ made by the State of Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US\$ contributed by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
7. **Also notes with appreciation** that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked upon the implementation of its new programme for the control of drought and desertification in the African Sahel countries.
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Having taken cognizance** of resolution (27/7-1S) 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.

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. **Notes** with appreciation the meeting of Donor Countries and national and Regional Financial Institutions convened by Kuwait in June 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programme.
7. **Welcomes** the 30 million US \$ contribution made by Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US \$ provided by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
8. **Notes also** with appreciation that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked upon the implementation of its new programme for the control of drought and desertification in the African Sahel countries.
9. Urges member states to announce their contributions to the new programme in favour of the African Sahel countries.
10. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.



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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AZEDDINE LARAKI,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

**(Istanbul, 7 November 1999)**



Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AZEDDINE LARAKI,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

**(Istanbul, 7 November 1999)**

*Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim*

His Excellency Devlet BAHÇELİ, Deputy Prime Minister  
of the Republic of Turkey,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh*

As we come to the close of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), let us express our thanks and gratitude to Allah almighty, for enabling us to conclude the meeting successfully.

During the effective deliberations over the last four days, the Committee dealt with a number of pressing issues and undertook an in-depth review and analysis of several practical issues which are of crucial importance in ensuring speedy implementation of its various resolutions. The enlightened deliberations resulting from distinguished delegates' clear perceptions of the problems and prospects lying ahead for the economies of the member states will enormously contribute to the success of the Committee in better tuning the activities of the COMCEC to meet the requirements of the member states in the new millennium.

The Committee, continued with an earnest review of the effectiveness of the follow-up and implementation mechanism of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States — a process that was initiated at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. Needless to emphasise, this review has become over-due and assumed greater urgency in view of the less than expected implementation of the OIC Plan of Action and the urgency since its adoption two decades ago.

It was also in the fitness of things that the Committee deliberated on the ways and means of further intensification of efforts with a view to contributing to the development of private sector in the member states. The Committee's efforts at devising an effective modality for further integration of the private sector with the activities of the COMCEC and working out the most practical way of ensuring implementation of the resolutions of the annual private sector meetings which are organised, under its auspices, by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry were very timely.

To Conclude, Mr. Chairman, I would like, as in the past, to reiterate my conviction that the successful conclusion of this meeting or any other session of the COMCEC can be translated into concrete results only if the required political will of the member states are forthcoming in the form of their effective participation in the various programmes and activities planned at the level of the Standing Committee to implement the provisions of the Plan of Action for the Strengthening of Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States. I sincerely hope that the successful conclusion of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of COMCEC will help generate added impetus in this respect.

Before Concluding, I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC for his wisdom that has so much contributed to the success of this meeting. His key note address provided



valuable food for thoughts for the delegates and made significant impact on the deliberations of the Committee.

To end, Mr. Chairman, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to their Excellencies the Ministers who have honoured this meeting with their presence and to all those who have actively contributed to make the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of COMCEC a success. Thank you.

*Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi WaBarakatuh*



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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. DEVLET BAHÇELİ  
MINISTER OF STATE AND DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

**(Istanbul, 7 November 1999)**



Original: Turkish

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. DEVLET BAHÇELİ  
MINISTER OF STATE AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

**(Istanbul, 7 November 1999)**

Honorable Ministers,  
Honorable Secretary General,  
Distinguished Delegates  
Distinguished Guests,

I wish to express my satisfaction at the successful conclusion of another COMCEC Session. It was a great pleasure for me participate in the COMCEC Sessions for the first time and to chair the Ministerial meeting of this important cooperation forum.

I would first like, to convey my thanks to the sister Islamic countries for the deep concern they expressed as regards the devastating earthquake of 17 August. The solidarity manifested by the Islamic countries and the international community at that time is beyond praise . I would also like to express my gratitude to the Islamic Development Bank in this connection.

Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The components of international economic cooperation change with the transformation of national economies, international solutions and global dynamics. Experience indicates that approaches centered on multiple projects, which envisage a step-by-step progress, rather than a

cooperation concept which is too ambitious, and not based on concrete foundations, are more effective in achieving results.

Globalization and localization trends run parallel in this age, and the international economic order is transformed into a system integrated in an electronic environment. It is therefore important to safeguard local values within this system in order to contribute to human experience without becoming marginalised.

As we stand at the threshold of a new age, a new millennium, it is imperative to interpret global dynamics correctly and make steadfast and intensive efforts to fulfil our ideals. Our common cultural values and our glorious Faith, Islam, are the foundations in this regard.

It is my conviction that, in this connection, the COMCEC which constitutes an important platform for multilateral economic and commercial cooperation among our Member States, has a potential for valuable services to our Community, drawing upon its past experience.

Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Once again, we have debated some important topics during this COMCEC Session, aimed at developing economic and commercial cooperation among our sister countries.

In this connection, I believe that the decision to evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan will be effective in giving a new momentum to implementation.

It is gratifying to note the operational plans of the Islamic Development Bank to increase the volume of trade among our countries from the present 10 % to 13 % within three years and that the Bank has earmarked a fund of one billion dollars for this purpose.

It is also encouraging to note that the framework of the World Trade Organization, which has made the world trade in recent years, has been reconsidered and that IDB still provides its assistance in negotiations among Member States, before and during the Ministerial meetings of the World Trade Organization, I hope that the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization, to be held in the USA at the end of this month will, yield beneficial results for our countries.

The exchange of views on human resources that we had during this session has also been very useful. It has been proved today that approaches based on men are more successful. However, poverty malnutrition, lack of education and similar problems besetting developing countries, including ours, continue to impede economic growth and prosperity. The exchange of views carried out at this Session has enriched our experiences.

It was most appropriate to choose such a timely and most important theme, "Strengthening Small and Medium Size Enterprises in the Light of Globalization and Liberalization" for the exchange of views at the next COMCEC Session.

Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a satisfactory development that the Statutes of the Standards and Metrology Institute of the Islamic Countries on which our experts worked for several years and which was submitted for signature and ratification by member States at the previous COMCEC Session, has been signed by some member States at this present Session. I hope that this project, which lays a strong foundation for the development of trade among our countries will be signed as early as possible by other member States, so that it can become operational.

This year concludes fifteen years of activities by the COMCEC. The COMCEC has been acknowledged as a prestigious forum, within the Organization of the Islamic Conference, because of to its concrete cooperation projects and regular sessions.

Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all delegations, to the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and to the OIC affiliated institutions for their contributions to the successful conclusion of this Session.

I would also like to thank the supporting staff and the interpreters for their dedicated work. Hoping to see your again at the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC next year, I wish you all a safe trip home.