

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

Istanbul, 23 - 26 October 2000

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Ankara, October 2000

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PART ONE

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

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 Umraah, 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 11th, 12th and 13th 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 12th 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 7th Islamic Trade Fair and that of the UAE to host the 8th 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 SIXTEENTH 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 SIXTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

Document Code

1. Draft Agenda of the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC OIC/COMCEC/16-00/DA
2. Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(1)
3. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries-2000
by SESRTCIC OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(10)
4. International Financial Architecture and the OIC
Countries by SESRTCIC OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(11)
5. Annual Report by ICDT on Inter-Islamic Trade
(Summary) OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(7)
6. Report of the Follow-up Committee OIC/COMCEC-FC/16-00/REP
7. Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to
Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation
Among OIC Member States OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(3)
8. Report by IDB on Expansion of Intra-Trade Among
OIC/IDB Member Countries OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(4)
9. Monitoring Report by the OIC General Secretariat on
the World Trade Organization (WTO) OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(2)
10. Monitoring Report by SESRTCIC on the Activities of
the WTO: Position of the Developing Countries OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(12)
11. Matters Related to World Trade Organization Activities
Report by ICDT OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(8)
12. Progress Report on IDB's Technical Assistance to
Member Countries in Matters Related to WTO OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(5)
13. Report by ICCI on the Seventh Private Sector Meeting
for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture
Investment Among Islamic Countries and Doha
Economic Declaration OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(6)

Document Code

14. Report and Recommendations of the Conference on Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization by SESRTCIC OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(13)
15. Exporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(9)
16. Report of the Eighth Islamic Trade Fair by ICDT.....OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(17)
17. Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Trade Promotion Organs of the Member States of the OIC by ICDT.OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(18)
18. Report on the Activities of the ICCI.....OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(16)
19. Working Paper by ICCI on Monitoring Mechanism to Monitor the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Private Sector Meetings.....OIC/COMCEC/16-00/D(14)
20. Country Reports and/or written presentations on "Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization" by;
 - Azerbaijan
 - Bangladesh
 - Bahreyn
 - Burkina Faso
 - Cameroon
 - Egypt
 - Guinea
 - Iraq
 - Jordan
 - Malaysia
 - Mali
 - Mozambique
 - Morocco
 - Nigeria
 - Oman
 - Pakistan
 - Qatar
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Senegal
 - Sudan
 - Syria
 - Tunisie
 - Turkey

II

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

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

Original : English

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

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

1. The Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) was held on 23-26 October 2000. The Session was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials on 23-24 October, 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. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
2. Republic of Azerbaijan
3. State of Bahrain
4. People's Republic of Bangladesh
5. Negara Brunei Darussalam
6. Burkina Faso
7. Republic of Cameroon
8. Republic of Djibouti
9. Arab Republic of Egypt
10. Republic of Gambia
11. Republic of Guinea

12. Republic of Indonesia
13. Islamic Republic of Iran
14. Republic of Iraq
15. Republic of Lebanon
16. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahinya
17. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
18. Republic of Kazakhstan
19. State of Kuwait
20. Kyrghzs Republic
21. Malaysia
22. Republic of Mali
23. Kingdom of Morocco
24. Mozambique
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 Sierra Leone
33. Republic of Sudan
34. Republic of Suriname
35. Syrian Arab Republic
36. Republic of Togo
37. Republic of Tunisia
38. Republic of Turkey
39. Republic of Uganda
40. State of the United Arab Emirates
41. Republic of Uzbekhistan
42. Republic of Yemen

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Bosna-Herzegovina and Kingdom of Thailand, 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)
5. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
6. Organization of Shipowners Association (OISA)

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)
4. Federation of Islamic Countries Contractors (FICC)
5. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
6. International Labour Organization (ILO)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC is attached as Annex I.)

Opening Session

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC.

6. H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, 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. SEZER stated that the benefits of the globalization could not be shared equitably and the developing countries had faced with various problems like growing trade deficits, deteriorating income distribution, social upheavals and brain drain in the process of globalization. President SEZER, expressing the importance of the strengthening economic cooperation among member states, concluded his address by wishing success to the delegates.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER 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. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, 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, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Guinea made statements on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African OIC groups of Member States, respectively. The Head of the Delegation of State of Qatar also made a statement as the host country of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference to be held on 12-14 November in Doha, Qatar. In their statements, they expressed their thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER for his wise guidance as the Chairman of the COMCEC. The Heads of Delegation referring to the poverty and other economic problems faced by Islamic countries, stressed the importance strengthening economic cooperation among the Member States. 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. Ahmet Necdet SEZER received the Heads of Delegation.

Ministerial Working Session

11. The Ministerial Working Session of the Sixteenth 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 Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC and decided to take up Agenda Item 7 on the Exchange of Views on "Strengthening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization".

(The Agenda of the Sixteenth 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 "Strengthening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization".

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

14. Thereafter, the Heads of Delegation of the Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Tunisia, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Sudan, State of Kuwait, Republic of Nigeria, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Bahrain, Republic of Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Indonesia, Mozambique and Republic of Turkey presented their country reports on "Strengthening Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization".

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

15. Following the presentation of country papers, the Chairman said that the all presentations needed to be compiled so that the various ideas and proposals could be available for future reference and further development.

OIC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs submitted the following proposal upon the request of the Conference Chairman.

1. To request each country or institutions which has submitted a proposal in this respect to present a summary of the proposals therein to the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), Ankara, before the end of December 2000.
2. Ankara Center will collect these proposals and include them as annexes to the report of the 16th Session of the COMCEC.
3. To request the Ankara Center, Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, The Islamic Institute of Technology, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to take these proposals into consideration when preparing their activity programmes and to consider action in favour of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Member States, as a priority activity.
4. As 2001 has been declared as a year of Small and Medium Enterprises, it is necessary to organize meetings and symposia in this respect. Member States as well as OIC Institutions must be encouraged to organize such activities in 2001 and conduct a careful study on the recommendations submitted during the 16th Session of COMCEC in order to be used in promoting and strengthening Small and Medium Enterprises.

5. To carry out an evaluation concerning the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Exchange of Views Session on Small and Medium Enterprises, held during the 16th Session of the COMCEC. Ankara Center will carry out this evaluation. For this purpose, the OIC Member States and Institutions should communicate to the Ankara Centre information concerning activities which have been done in favour of Small and Medium Enterprises.

16. The Ministers then adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/16-00/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/16-00/RES(2).

(Resolution OIC/COMCEC/16-00/RES(1) and Resolution OIC/COMCEC/16-00/RES(2) are attached as Annexes 10 and 11.)

17. Upon the proposal of Palestinian Delegation, the Meeting unanimously agreed to name the present session of the COMCEC as "Al-Aqsa" Session.

18. The Ministerial Session was followed by a Commemoration Ceremony of the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of Islamic-Research Center for History, Culture and Art (IRCICA)

Closing Session

19. The Closing Session of the Sixteenth 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.

20. A resume of Resolutions adopted at the Ministerial Session was given by H.E. Ambassador Qazi HÜMAYUN, Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Rapporteur of the Meeting.

21. At a special ceremony, during the Closing Session, Agreement on the Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments was signed by the State of Qatar, Statute for the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries was signed by the Republic of Sudan and Statute of the Islamic Council of Civil Aviation was signed by Kingdom of Morocco.

22. In his statement H.E. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC, stressed the significance of the results achieved by the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC, and praised the keen interest and wise guidance of H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER 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 Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC.

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

23. In his statement made on behalf of all participating countries Head of Delegation of the State of Palestine expressed his deep appreciation for the significant results achieved at the Session and for the wise and able leadership and keen interest of President Ahmet Necdet SEZER in achieving the objectives of the OIC economic cooperation. He also 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 Head of Delegation of the State of Palestine also expressed his thanks and appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Qazi HÜMAYUN, Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Rapporteur of the Meeting, for the preparation of the Report and Resolutions. He 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.

24. 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. Highlighting important resolutions of the Meeting, H.E. BAHÇELİ stressed the significance of the decisions 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
SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMCEC

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

Original : English

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 23 - 26 October 2000)

A. MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC

PEOPLE' S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- H.E. MESSAOUD MEHILA
Counsellor, Head of Economic and Trade Section, Embassy in Istanbul

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- H.E. HÜSEYİN BAGIROV
Minister of Trade
- Mr. ŞAHİN ABDULLAYEV
Director of the OIC Section
- Mr. HACIAGA HASANOV
Ministry of Economy

STATE OF BAHRAIN

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

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF H.E.AHMET NECDET SEZER,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Original : Turkish

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF H.E. AHMET NECDET SEZER
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMCEC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE**

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

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

Welcome.

I would like to greet you warmly. I welcome you to Istanbul, one of the most important centers of Islamic civilizations. I am very pleased to be with you for the first time on the occasion of the COMCEC Session.

The COMCEC has reached the present status owing to the continued interest and cooperation spirit and determination of the brotherly states. As the Chairman of this organization I feel particularly enthusiastic and happy to host the Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC in Istanbul.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the brotherly Member States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its affiliated institutions as well as all the representatives for their unfailing interest and valuable contribution to the work of the COMCEC.

I would also like to express my gratitude to H.E. Dr. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic

Conference, whose term of office comes at an end this year, for his exemplary services to our Organization and to the COMCEC. I extend to His Excellency my best wishes for the future.

Distinguished Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,

The Organization of the Islamic Conference, has after the new adhesions, increased its membership to 56 countries.

Our community, which is composed of brotherly countries situated in regions extending from Asia to Europe, from Africa to South America, is the organization with the highest number of members, second only to the United Nations.

As part of this great organization, the COMCEC, which I am proud to chair, is responsible for the development of the economic and commercial cooperation among the sister countries. Thanks to the COMCEC activities in the last 16 years, we have created specific institutional structures and mechanisms in the field of economic and commercial cooperation and have acquired extensive experience in this respect. There is no doubt that this achievement is due to the support of the member countries and the devoted work of all the OIC institutions. I would like, in this context, to pay tribute to the wise and judicious guidance of the previous COMCEC chairmen.

We can say that the COMCEC has now attained a certain maturity.

It is however clear that, in a world in which changing conditions acquire new dimensions every day, we have to make progress in maximizing the cooperation potential existing among our countries. Economic and political events are developing rapidly and globalization is having a growing impact on all aspects of modern life. Globalization, the positive and negative consequences of which can be briefly described as

accelerated growth, rise of the standard of living and new opportunities, now appear clearly.

On the other hand, the distribution of the opportunities created by globalization is unfortunately far from being equal and just while developed countries benefit much more from the opportunities generated by globalization, thanks to their economic and technologic superiority, developing countries are faced with increased trade deficits and deteriorating income distribution leading to social unrest, increasing brain drain and similar serious problems.

The failure to bridge the growing gap between the level of prosperity of various countries, the rich growing richer while the poor poorer, will inevitably have a negative impact on world peace and stability.

In this context, while we have to devise ways and means to benefit to a greater extent from the opportunities offered by globalisation, we must also develop measures to prevent possible threats of this process.

We would be able to progress more securely in this international race if our brotherly countries would share the experiences they have accumulated on this subject within the framework of the COMCEC. I am moreover convinced that, our prestigious specialized institutions will, as usual, enlighten us through the competent work they will conduct. I therefore believe that, besides the items on its agenda, COMCEC will have to examine this issue in greater depth.

Distinguished delegates,
Distinguished guests,

We have now entered a new millenium. Great progress and achievements in the recent past have ensured a happier and more prosperous quality of life for humanity as a whole. However, besides the

problems which have still not been coped with by mankind, we are still faced by serious problems created by the specific conditions of the present era.

I would especially like to draw your attention to the issue of poverty. In spite of the important economic improvement observed in the world in the last fifty years, there are today still over a billion people who survive on a daily income of less than one dollar. Together with poverty the excessive widening of the income distribution gap both among countries and within countries constitutes a serious threat to the peace and stability of society.

It is impossible for communities caught in the vicious circle of poverty to solve other urgent problems. The lack of concern of the international community in of this situation means isolations of poor communities. As a result of this, we witness a phenomenon of marginalisation parallel to globalization. To break the vicious circle of poverty, the developing countries need a qualified work force, education, increasing investment in the young generations as well as to closely follow the technologic developments in the world and raise their production standards so as to increase their share of world trade. Instead of the raising obstacles, the support of developed countries in these efforts is an important factor in shortening the road to success.

There is no doubt that no time should be wasted in taking measures to fight poverty at the national level. It is however obvious that national resources will be insufficient to solve problems of such urgency and magnitude, and that international solidarity and cooperation will be required at this point. In this context, the Millenium Summit of the United Nations, held last September with a large number of participants, was a meeting of historical significance for the international community on the necessity for solidarity and cooperation in solving the problems facing the world.

The comprehensive report submitted to the Summit by the Secretary General of the United Nations, is an important document pointing out the ways and means for the establishment of a lasting peace and order in the world, as well as the necessity of a common effort to overcome our present problems to ensure a happier and more prosperous existence to mankind as a whole. The inclusion of some important issues mentioned in this report in the Summit Resolution was a source of satisfaction.

Another point I would like to emphasize as one of the main outcomes of the Summit, is that human rights are no longer the internal affair of a country and that concepts like the supremacy of law and democracy have evolved thanks to globalization. It is probable that there will be an increase in the developments in this field in the 21st century, and that a growing proportion of the world population will benefit from the opportunities provided by democracy for decent life standards and self-improvement.

Distinguished delegates,
Distinguished guests,

The integration process of world economies has gained impetus due to expanding and multiplying markets and rapidly developing technology. It is expected that regional cooperation trends like the European Union or the Black Sea Economic Cooperation will accompany the integration movements in the 21st century.

Turkey views these developments positively, and believes that regional and international peace and stability can be maintained through cooperation and solidarity. With this understanding, Turkey, a founding member of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, has entered into a Customs Union with the European Union in 1996 and been included in the list of candidates for full membership to the European Union.

On the other hand, beside the economic and commercial cooperation in the framework of the Islamic Conference, Turkey has pioneered economic integration movements like the Black Sea Economic Cooperation or the D8, and has played a leading role in the revitalization of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Turkey also participates effectively in EFTA and G-20.

Turkey also extends assistance to these multilateral cooperation and integration initiatives she is part of and which she has pioneered, as well as to the development efforts in its region. In this framework and with an agreement which became operational at the beginning of this year, the Ankara office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been turned into a Regional Cooperation Centre with the financial support of Turkey. This centre will be active in implementing technical assistance projects in UNIDO's fields of competence with a view to ensuring sustainable industrial development in the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to the Istanbul Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) on the twentieth anniversary of its foundation. I wish to congratulate the Director General as well as all the staff for their fruitful work. The Istanbul Centre has been extremely successful in the 20 years of its existence and, with the valuable support and sustained interest of the OIC General Secretariat and Member Countries, has achieved meaningful results on the cultural and artistic works which are a treasure of Islamic civilization. I am sure that this work will be pursued thanks to your support and interest.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,

As mankind enters the 21st century with new hopes for a better and peaceful future, conflicts, tensions and violence are unfortunately still

seen in various corners of the world. There is no doubt that, as Member Countries of the Islamic Conference, we are more concerned with the Middle East problem. The people of this region which own the richest natural resources in the world are negatively influenced in their rightful scientific, economic and social development due to the failure to reach a long-awaited peace and stability in the Middle East.

The establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region is only possible through the implementation of Resolutions No 242 and 338 of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The hopes for an agreement on Final Statutes between Palestine and Israel, following the Camp David Summit, have been replaced by concern and rage in recent weeks with the eruption of violence in Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza and other cities.

The violent actions aimed at our Palestinian brothers after September 28th Friday prayer, following certain irresponsible provocations at Kharem el-Shariff, a most sacred location for Islam, have inflicted a very profound sorrow on the Islamic world. It is not possible to tolerate violence or use of weapons in sacred sanctuaries, no matter what the claimed reasons might be. After this sad event the reactions had a ripple effect, while over-use of force at the Israeli side caused considerable casualties. For those who have lost their lives during these sad occurrences, I pray God's mercy be on to them. It is our hope that such events will never repeat themselves, that common sense will be resorted to, and that the legitimate rights of our Palestinian brothers, including their right to have their own state, is safeguarded in a fair and just Agreement as soon as possible.

With peace achieved on the Syria-Lebanon channels, the Middle-East Peace Process will come to a successful ending, bringing understanding, tolerance, serenity, peace and prosperity not only to the

people of the region, but to the whole of humanity, creating new hope, optimism and determination for the 21st century.

Distinguished Ministers,
Esteemed Delegates,

The conditions of the new era in front of the international relations require a closer economic cooperation between our brotherly countries proud to share the same historical, moral, and cultural heritage.

Important issues which may contribute to the economic and commercial cooperation between our countries in the face of rapidly changing world economic conditions will be discussed in this Session of the COMCEC. The examination of the economic situation of our member countries facing the developments in world economy included in our agenda, is giving significant results.

We are observing a revival in world economy following the financial crisis that erupted in Southeast Asya in 1997. These positive developments in world economy has however given rise to alarming variations in some groups of countries.

The basic economic indicators of developing countries, of which our member countries are part, are below the pre-crisis levels.

As in indicated in the OIC Annual Economic Report prepared by the Ankara Center, the economic growth of member countries which was 5.6% in 1996 fell to 1.3% in 1999. The exports of the Member States which reached 7.2% in 1996 were only 6.8% in 1999. The Islamic countries which constitute 21.2% of the world population achieve only 4.3% of the world GNP.

The final result is that the relative place of the Islamic countries in world economy is noticeably behind the desired level. The revival of our

economies in the post-crisis period has been relatively slow. It is important to pay attention to this situation.

I would like to point out that we consider it is apt to discuss "The situation of Small and Medium Enterprises in member countries in the face of Globalization and Liberalization" during the exchange of views meetings included in our agenda. We are all aware of the contribution of SME's to the economies and employment level of our countries. These enterprises, which constitute the life line of our economies, are faced with serious sourcing and technology problems which have a negative impact on their competitiveness in the globalization process.

I strongly believe that the exchange of information and views will contribute positively to the solution of the problems encountered by the SMEs and to the development of cooperation in this field through the implementation of economic policies to this effect.

Another issue I would like to bring up is the close tracking by our countries of the developments occurring in the World Trade Organization system, which will play a major role in the integration of the economies of our member countries, as well as in the pursuance of the cooperation started in this respect among our countries. In this respect, I would like to express my thanks for the technical assistance provided by the IDB to OIC countries wishing to become members of the WTO.

Likewise, the participation of the private sector to the cooperation activities and its inclusion as a regular item in the agenda is a source of satisfaction. I extend my thanks to the Islamic Chamber of Industry and Commerce for its contribution in this respect.

Distinguished Delegates,
Distinguished Guests,

The COMCEC represents a major forum in the development of the economic and commercial cooperation among our countries in a globalizing world. The new Economic Cooperation Strategy and Action Plan are a turning point and are the result of efforts to review with a new approach and understanding the cooperation and solidarity existing among us.

It is however a fact that the process started for the implementation of the Action Plan is lagging behind. I trust that you will start working on the solution of this problem during this Session.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you a pleasant stay in Istanbul and full success in your work dedicated to the further enhancement of the economic cooperation among our countries.

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

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Original : English

ADDRESS OF H.E. DR. AZEDDINE LARAKI ,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Your Excellency, Mr. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey
and the Chairman of the COMCEC,

Excellencies, the Ministers,

Excellencies, the Ambassadors,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatuilaahi Wa Barakatuh.

I would like, first of all, to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) for his gracious presence here at the inauguration of the 16th Session of the COMCEC. I am confident that the wisdom and sagacity that you have brought to bear to the high office of Your Excellency will also guide the work of this important OIC Standing Committee. I also pay tribute, in this connection, to the dynamic leadership of the successive Presidents of the Republic of Turkey, who held the chairmanship of the COMCEC in the past

Let me also express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting this important meeting and for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to all the delegates since their arrival in this historic and beautiful city. I would also like to thank the COMCEC Coordination Office and the various OIC institutions for their preparatory work, which, I am confident, will contribute meaningfully to the deliberations in the Session.

I would also like to take this opportunity of extending my warm fraternal greetings to you all. Your presence testifies to the importance that the Member States attach to the activities of COMCEC, which has assumed added significance in the context of current global economic situation.

States. Much has been said on the importance of expansion of intra-OIC trade, but there has been very little progress. Since the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference in Tehran. Member States have also been reiterating the importance of the establishment of an Islamic Common Market as their ultimate goal. In the context of globalisation and liberalization, which has unleashed forces of intense competition. One cannot deny the urgency of achieving this goal. I have reiterated this point earlier and I would like to do so here.

It must be said here that the Member States have adopted a number of steps for the promotion of economic and commercial cooperation. I am referring to those schemes and projects aimed at strengthening commercial cooperation. Mention may also be made of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among OIC Member States. I urge Member States, which have not yet done so to sign and ratify this Agreement so that rounds of trade negotiations could start as soon as possible. The essence of these steps envisaged intensification of intra-OIC trade and economic cooperation through measures aimed at trade liberalization, setting up the base as well as legal framework for collaboration in intra-OIC investments and joint ventures, and strengthening of the private sector cooperation. These matters need to be addressed with all earnestness.

Another related point that I would like to highlight is the role of the private sector in the promotion of intra-OIC trade and economic cooperation. This aspect has been emphasized in the recent resolutions of the Islamic Summits and Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers. It goes without saying that an enabling condition will have to be created for the private sector to play its expected role.

Towards this end, it is important to ensure speedy implementation of decisions and recommendations of Meetings at Private Sector of OIC Member States. The Committee established by the 15th Session of COMCEC for the follow up of implementation of OIC Private Sector Meetings' decisions and recommendations should play an important role in achieving these objectives.

The last point that I wish to make is the need to consider the implications of a possible Multilateral Agreement on Investment. The developing countries in recent years have been asking for such an agreement aimed at liberalizing investment regimes world-wide and free-flow of foreign direct investment. One cannot deny the importance of this matter, which has been dealt in the report of SESRTCIC. Considering its far reaching consequences for the developing countries, including the OIC Member States. I would only like to draw attention of the delegations to this important matter, which calls for collective application of mind to find a common position.

I am convinced that these issues and other related ones will undergo thorough deliberations at this Session, which will lead to important conclusions. It would thus provide valuable inputs for the forthcoming Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Doha in November this year.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

The sustainable development of OIC Member States as well as the promotion of exchanges among our countries undoubtedly require peace and political stability.

Yet today, the policy of aggression and despoliation pursued by the State of Israel jeopardizes peace and stability in the Middle East, not to say peace and stability in the world. That is why, while bowing respectfully to the memory of Palestinian martyrs fighting for their inalienable rights to live in peace on the lands of their ancestors, I must condemn the acts of aggression of the State of Israel and call upon the international community to bring pressure to bear on the Israeli government so that it renounces its policy of aggression and implements the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the OIC which demand the total liberation of the occupied Arab lands, the return of refugees and the establishment of a Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Mr. Chairman,

This Session of COMCEC is being held immediately prior to the first Islamic Summit Conference of the new millennium to be held in Doha in November this year. It is expected that the work of COMCEC at this Session should contribute to the deliberations in the Summit considering that this OIC body is responsible for the implementation of all the resolutions and decisions on economic and related matters. Going by the agenda before us, I would say that this Session provides us with an opportunity to provide fresh impetus to our on-going efforts at intensifying intra-OIC economic and commercial cooperation. I would like to highlight a number of points in this respect.

In the first place, I would like to mention the extremely slow progress in the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States. This has been a matter of continuing concern for the Member States. The last meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC deliberated on the possible ways and means of accelerating the implementation and came up with a number of valuable recommendations. I would like to draw particular attention of the Member States to these recommendations and I would hope that steps will be taken in this regard.

The other area where decisive action on the part of the Member States is required is the expansion of intra-OIC trade. The current global economic situation, does not represent an encouraging picture for the OIC Member States. Despite the current upswing in the world economy showing strong performance by most of the developed countries including the newly industrialized Asian countries, the OIC Member States, in general, could hardly benefit from this trend failing to enlarge their share in the global trade. As the reports of the IDB suggests, intra-OIC trade continues to remain stagnated around less than 7 per cent of the total global trade of the Member

Before concluding, I would like to express my happiness over the useful intellectual contributions made by the relevant OIC institutions in order to assist the deliberations by COMCEC. Let me assure the distinguished delegates of the continued fullest cooperation of the OIC General Secretariat and all OIC institutions in the discharge of COMCEC's high responsibility.

I wish the 16th Session of the COMCEC great success.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

SPSG-16COMCEC
HD/MMU/2000.

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

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Original: Arabic

**STATEMENT BY DR. MOHAMAD IMADI
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

H.E. the President of the Republic of Turkey

H.E. the Vice Prime-Minister

H.E. the OIC Secretary General

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my brothers, the head and members of Arab delegations participating in this session, and in my own name, it is a pleasure for me to start my address by expressing to H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and through him, to his Government and people, best wishes and profound thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome, generous hospitality, and meticulous organization we have enjoyed since setting foot in this good land. We fully admire the great progress achieved by your country in the various fields.

I wish to extend to Your Excellency, Mr. Presidents, the best wishes and amity of H.E. Bashar Al-ASSAD, the President of the Syrian Arab Republic. We, Syrians, feel to be the closest people to you, sharing borders and geography, family ties, a common culture and history and trade relations that are ever developing.

The participation of the Sister Turkish Republic, represented by its President, H.E. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, in the funeral of the late President Hafiz Al-Assad greatly moved own people and marked them. Profoundly appreciative, they beseech Almighty God to bless you and your good people.

On the occasion of the National Day of Turkey, may I be permitted, on behalf of the Arab Group, to express to you our best wishes and congratulations, and share with you're the commemoration of al-Israa wal Mi'raj, symbol of love, solidarity and cooperation.

I also wish to express the pride felt by our Arab States in belonging to the OIC and our determination ko join ranks with our brothers in order to achieve the noble objectives our leaders aimed at strengthening our solidarity, deepening our cooperation and consolidating our struggle to liberate our occupied lands, contribute to the establishment of basis of peace, security and justice, and ensure an honourable standard of living for our peoples.

The Islamic Countries supported the resolutions of the Arab Summit Conference, calling for the consolidation of the struggle of the Palestinian people in defense of our Holy Places in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and our occupied territories; of our struggle to liberate the occupied Syrian Golan, in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and they also called for an end to the sufferings of the Iraki people. This is the only way to arrive at a just, lasting and comprehensive peaces, and it requires your support and consolidation of the efforts we exert to achieve such ends.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The principles of the OIC emphasize the need for economic cooperation among us as a means whereby to protect our joint interests in a would undergoing changes in forces and criteria and living a globalization which has done away with untold barriers leaving us in need of greater solidarity to ensure greater strength and immunity.

World economic developments, technological progress in the various walks of life and the emergence of the information society dictate prompt

action from us to join such ranks and achieve the objectives for which this Organization was set up.

The Arab States have endorsed the COMCEC recommendation that promoted our cooperation in developing trade among us and providing investment opportunities, having created a climate favourable to investments, identified a developed financial market and a transparent ownership system as well as provided the specialized human skills that enable the private sector to contribute to the financing and implementation of investment and infrastructure projects. What has been achieved in this regard shall reflect in a positive manner on agricultural and industrial coordination and consequently on transport and communication projects and, in the final analysis, shall be instrumental in ensuring coordination, linkage and complementarity in the context of the draft joint economic plan of action.

The development of SMEs is one of the most important forms of investments. Moreover, an exchange of expertise and experiences, joint research and tests, an exchange of visits of students and professors, generalized training and vocational training programmes to turn information into an educational and training means, the establishment of open universities and emphasis on education and vocational training shall greatly promote such great objective.

We therefore emphasize the importance of consolidating SMEs as a means whereby to promote development and widen its base, increase employment opportunities, encourage precise specialization, assimilate modern technologies, enlarge the ownership base and refine skills that would be difficult to refine in big enterprises and, accordingly, take up the challenges of globalization.

We benefitted from the experiences of one another in this field, and the history of our countries abounds with shining tales of individual efforts in creativeness and innovation.

The trend towards setting up an Islamic Common Market by first agreeing on a project for an Islamic free trade area, where barriers, customs and non-customs restrictions shall be gradually eliminated is to be commended. This should be a basic axis at the next COMCEC Sessions as it will have a positive impact on the development of our economic cooperation. What has been carried out as regards the Arab Free Trade Area, as of 1/1/1998, could be used as reference.

The Governments of our Arab countries have signed the agreements prepared by COMCEC and those not signed will be signed presently.

Although laying stress on economic issues, this in no way implies that cooperation in the educational, cultural, scientific and information fields is less important. Each of these fields plays a role in the promotion of our cooperation and of progress our economic course.

Despite achievements, we realize the importance of the directive given by H.E. President Ahmet Necdet SEZER, namely that our achievements should be at the level of the big aspirations and ambitions of our leaders in the interest of this Ummah.

Over the preceding two days, the Senior Officials exerted great efforts in considering, and debating the Agenda Items coming up with recommendations that aim at enlarging and developing our cooperation. We extend to them our thanks and appreciation.

The efforts we exert aim at promoting a bountiful spirit and the principles we believe in and endeavour to implement.

In conclusion, I reiterate my thanks to the Turkish Government which raised the banner of Islamic economic cooperation, represented by H.E. President Ahmet Necdet SEZER, to the OIC Secretary General, to the IDB President and to the heads of organs and centers. Special thanks and

appreciation are extended to the Host countries of the General Secretariat and of all OIC institutions.

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

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STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HOSSEIN NAMAZI,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND
FINANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Original : English

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HOSSEIN NAMAZI
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAN
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(25 October 2000)

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Turkey
Your Excellency the OIC Secretary General
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I wish to express my gratitude to H.E. Necdet Sezer the President of the Republic of Turkey and to the Government and noble people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since we set foot in this beautiful and historic city.

It is a great pleasure for me to address this august meeting on behalf of the OIC Asian group. Before proceeding I would like to extend our congratulations to your Excellency the new chairman of the COMCEC, and hope that the deliberations of this Meeting will lead insha'allah to the prosperity and economic development of the Islamic Ummah.

Your excellency, I wish to take this opportunity to also congratulate our South East Asian Member Counties for the miraculous recovery of their economies which could, in fact be called the second Asian-Miracle before the economic crisis of 1998.

Your Excellency

We stand at the threshold of a new millennium, at the end of a decade in which globalization and liberalization dramatically accelerated. It is time to assess the performance of the global economy. The restructuring of the global economy and that of national economies, through structural adjustments were motivated by the promise of higher growth rates that would translate into improved standards of living for individuals and the world community as a whole. Despite a positive outlook at the global economy, and a growing number of success stories in the developing world, globalization, has, however, sharpened income disparities in the world economy, with most of the benefits have accrued to industrialized economies and to a relatively small number of newly industrialized economies, while weaker DCs and LDCs have grown poorer and further marginalized from the mainstream of the world economy. Several Countries continue to struggle with macroeconomic imbalances and structural impediments that keep their living standards well below their potentials. Despite the progress achieved over the recent few decades, we still live in a world where billions of people wake up every morning to hunger, disease, poverty and despair. A world where, despite the current unprecedented prosperous global economy greater wealth and a state of the art technology, we are still unable to close the poverty gap. We live in a world scarred by inequality. The richest 20 percent of the global population receive over 80 percent of the global income, when 1.2 billion people still live on less than a dollar a day, and 2.8 billion on less than \$ 2 a day. We are now faced by a huge number of unsolved problems, the most pressing being poverty which is becoming a major threat to political stability in the world.

Growing inequality poses the greatest threat to the future of the global economy. If the majority of the world's population remains increasingly marginalized and economically disenfranchised, globalization or any other economic program will fail. We have a responsibility to ensure that globalization translates into a better life for

all the peoples of the world. As long as developing countries remain debilitated by unsustainable debt burdens, and higher demographic growth rates, prosperity will not be secured., We must therefore establish a stronger international financial architecture, at the global level endeavour to fight poverty and disease, reverse the downward trend of environmental degradation, and use communication to give voice to the voiceless. Development must be comprehensive; it must embrace education and health, good governance, legal and judicial reform, infrastructure and environmental protection and sound economic policies.

Mr. Chairman

As OIC Member Countries we face a number of critical challenges, although we contribute considerable resources essential to world growth; yet we are unable to process them and our share of the world trade is insignificant.

Among OIC Member Countries, 23 of them are ranked as least developed countries, weighed down by a heavy debt burden. The great economic tragedy of our time is poverty. We have yet to overcome this tragedy. We need to understand the dimensions of poverty, but more importantly, we need strategies to combat it and believe that we can change things. We must take responsibility for our destiny and for the fate of our future.

In this context, COMCEC, as a committee of commercial and economic cooperation among member countries, should be the responsibility of identifying means whereby to promote at best trade and economic cooperation among its members, create job opportunities and ensure a better standard of living for our peoples.

Mr. Chairman

Regretfully, we are witness of the difficulties encountered by the Palestinian and Lebanese people as a result of the recurrent and continued Israeli aggressions which have devastated cities and villages, and massacred civilians and displaced thousands of peoples. This critical situation dictates that OIC Member States and all regional and international organizations take the argent measures needed to halt Israeli aggressions, and restore peace to the people of Palestine and Lebanon. In this regard I commend the efforts made by the OIC Secretary General, who relentlessly dedicated himself to restore peace to these peoples.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, I would like to give an overview of economic prospects in my country. The reform program announced by President Khatami in August 1998, has been launched in the form of "a Third Five-Year Development Plan" since the beginning of the current fiscal year. This plan provides a comprehensive program to attain greater social justice and economic recovery. Certain parts of the plan which have been implemented are as follows.

- Greater transparency in the macroeconomic system and regulatory frameworks;
- Budget reforms;
- Tax reforms;
- Downsizing of the government's role in economic activities and privatization of government enterprises;
- Promotion of the private sector;

- Dismantling monopolies and promoting competition and,
- Establishment of a comprehensive social safety net to protect the most vulnerable groups;

Once fully operational, the program will pave the way for the full integration of the Iranian economy into the global system.

I thank you.

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STATEMENT BY H.E. HADJA MARIAMA DEO BALDE,
MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND
SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED INDUSTRIES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Original: French

**STATEMENT BY H.E. HADJA MARIAMA DEO BALDE,
MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND
SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED INDUSTRIES OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY**

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Bismillahi Rahman Rahim.

H.E. the President of the Republic of Turkey and
Chairman of the COMCEC

H.E. the OIC Secretary General

Their Excellencies the Ministers

H.E. the President of IDB

Distinguished delegates and guests

May I, first and foremost, on behalf of the African group, who gave me the honour and friendship to represent it, express to you my sincere thanks for having accepted to open the 16th COMCEC Session despite your numerous heavy and pressing obligations.

We are confident that your address, filled with wisdom, will inspire our work and contribute to the success of the Conference.

I also wish to express my thanks to the people and Government of the Republic of Turkey for their constant support to COMCEC and the warm welcome and generous hospitality manifested to all the delegations since their arrival in this beautiful city of Istanbul, whose thousand-old history teems with brave and generous knights.

I also wish to thank the Coordination Bureau of the COMCEC who spared no effort to ensure the success of this Conference.

Mr. President of the Republic

The 16th COMCEC Session is being held amidst particular international circumstances at political as well as economic levels.

I would like, on behalf of the African Group, to avail myself of this opportunity to express our solidarity with our Palestinian brothers who have, over the past weeks, been victims of an unqualified and inadmissible repression by Israel.

We extend with great sadness our condolences to the people of Palestine and to the stricken families of the victims. We demand that the Israeli Government put an end to the repression of the Palestinian people and to the blockade of the Palestinian territory as well as initiate serious negotiations with the Government of the State of Palestine and the Government of Syria with a view to bringing about the total liberation of all the Arab occupied territories, the return of the displaced population and the establishment of a Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

I am convinced that this Conference shall not fail in taking the measures needed to translate into concrete form the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah with the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

As I mentioned above, our meeting is held within an international context characterized by the emergence of major economic groupings and by globalization.

Unless we are vigilant, these phenomena will relentlessly aggravate the poverty of our States and further marginalize our countries in favour of industrialized nations.

Hence, this COMCEC Session is most opportune as it will enable us to identify the ways and means whereby to secure the sustained development of our Member States, as a result of the joint exploitation, in the interest of each and everyone, of the considerable mining, agricultural, energy and human potentials with which the Almighty has endowed the Islamic Ummah.

All of us, present here, are fully aware of the dangers threatening our States in the economic, social, cultural and security fields. And, we are convinced that the best way to face such dangers is the sustained economic development of our countries and the improvement of the conditions of life of our peoples.

I wish to reaffirm that the OIC African Group is ready and willing to give its contribution to the consolidation of economic and commercial cooperation among our States.

I also wish to take the opportunity to appeal, once again, for urgent measures to be taken at international level to ensure the development of the LDCs, through the removal of the debt burden, the increase of the influx of aid to development and the adaptation of the financing granted to our States to the critical situation of our countries and the real needs of our peoples.

I am happy to note that such concerns are reflected in the agenda of this Conference.

I would like, on behalf of the African Group, to express my congratulations to H.E. Dr. Azeddine LARAKI, the OIC Secretary General and to his colleagues for their contribution to the success of this meeting.

I note with pleasure the presence among us of the distinguished, representatives of the OIC affiliated specialized institutions and

subsidiary organs, among whom I wish to pay a special tribute to Dr. Ahmed Mohammed ALL the President of IDB for his sustained commitment to the consolidation of economic and commercial cooperation among Member States.

I wish to emphasize, at this juncture, how greatly the African countries appreciate the activities of IDB.

I would also like to express the profound gratitude of the African Group to the Government of the Servant of the two Holy Mosques, to the Government of the State of Kuwait and to all the countries which contributed to the various programmes which were initiated in favour of the peoples of the Sahel, victims of drought.

My thanks are also extended the IDB for the various programmes it has financed in favour of the peoples of the Sahel and of other African peoples.

Mr. President,

I am confident that, under your wise guidance, the COMCEC shall continue to play a determining role in the consolidation of cooperation among our states, in bringing about the sustained development of our countries and in the advent of a world of peace and concord in which the Islamic Ummah will secure the standing due to it.

I wish success to our work

I thank you Mr. President.

Wa Salamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh.

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

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Original : Arabic

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

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

Your Excellency, Ahmed Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, Chairman of COMCEC

Your Excellency, Dr. Ezzedine Laraki, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations and Delegates,
Brothers and Sisters,

Assalamo Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh

I have the pleasure to express my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency on your election as President of the Republic of Turkey and on your first time chairmanship of COMCEC. I am convinced that your sound directives and infinite wisdom will have a great impact on the conclusions of the deliberations of this Committee and will be a new plus to its accomplishments in the service of the Ummah.

I also have the pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. President Suleiman Demirel for his efforts and sound directives during his chairmanship of COMCEC, which had a positive impact on its achievements.

I also express my sincere appreciation to the government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting and for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

My thanks also go to the Secretariat of COMCEC for inviting the Islamic Development Bank to participate in the proceedings of this vital conference and contribute to the achievement of the noble goals that all of us aspire to.

Mr. Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters,

While your esteemed Committee is meeting here, our hearts stay attached to the holly Al-Quds Al-Sharif first of the two Qibla, our eyes stay fixed through TV screens on our brothers in palestine who are combating with their believe and stones, the missiles and the fire of the thanks, helicopters and machine guns. We pray the almighty, to bestow his great blessing upon the honoured martyrs and to give urgent recovery to the wounded and other victims and to bring urgent and brilliant victory to the struggling Palestinian people.

Mr. Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters,

Your elaborate speech contains several sound ideas and brilliant views on the various agenda items of the meeting. I am convinced that the Hon. Ministers will set great store by your proposals and seek inspiration from your brilliant views when considering the issues at hand.

I would also like to express to Dr. Ezzedine Laraki, Secretary General of the OIC my deep gratitude and appreciation for his brilliant speech and sound ideas as well as the highlights he gave about joint Islamic action and cooperation among member countries.

Your institution, the Islamic Development Bank is elated to be part of this process and a succour under the trying circumstances in which our member countries are grappling with a growing number of difficulties.

Mr. Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters,

The agenda of our meeting comprises several major issues, chief among which are two trade items that are of utmost importance to the Islamic Development Bank. The first item concerns the impact on member countries with world trade developments within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Your august Committee, at its 12th session, assigned to the IDB the task of creating a platform for the exchange of views and consultation among member countries in order to coordinate their positions vis-à-vis the issues tabled before WTO ministerial meetings. In this regard, the IDB organized preparatory meetings in connection with the three ministerial meetings held so far in Singapore, Geneva and Seattle with a view to coordinating and consulting on the issues at hand and exchanging views among member countries in order to adopt up with a common approach to the major issues on the agenda of the said ministerial meetings as well as to coordinate positions vis-à-vis the positive effects of these mechanisms on the participating countries. The IDB will continue its efforts along this path.

The last coordination meeting organized by the Bank on the margins of the WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle, U.S.A. was an occasion that enabled member countries to exchange views and coordinate their positions with regard to the major issues at hand. On this occasion, many brilliant ideas were expressed such as a proposal to establish a customs union as a means of strengthening cooperation and trade among member countries. The idea of creating a permanent focal

point in Geneva was also put forward in order to coordinate the positions of the member countries and keep them posted regularly on every development concerning the WTO.

The Bank is always ready to carry out your directives concerning solid cooperation and coordination among member countries on matters regarding the WTO.

The IDB has pursued its Technical Assistance Programme in favour of member countries on WTO-related issues. The said programme comprises several activities such as, consultancy services, workshops, seminars and courses on the Uruguay Round Agreements. In this regard the Bank has helped finance roughly 29 seminars and courses since 1995 to date and conducted sectoral studies of common interest.

In this connection, the Bank has conducted three studies on agriculture, service trade and investment. It is currently conducting two other studies on electronic trade and intellectual property rights.

Given the importance of the electronic trade in ensuring rapid and useful channels of communication between various markets, institutions and individuals and given the increasing role being played by the electronic trade in international trade coupled with the challenges faced by developing countries including member countries, the IDB considers it necessary to give this issue the importance it deserves. Consequently, the Bank intends to launch an initiative aimed at helping member countries to benefit from this new method of trade and face its challenges through seminars, meetings and training courses for specialists in member countries.

Mr. Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters,

With regard to the second issue concerning the resolution of the 8th OIC Summit i.e. "Preparing the Ummah for the 21st Century" which provides that intra trade among member countries be increased, the IDB decided to provide 1 billion US\$ annually from its own funds in order to

finance intra trade. The IDB Board of Executive Directors has also approved the Two Step Murabaha Programme and the Syndicated Murabaha Programme in order to mobilize additional resources of another 1 billion US\$ from the market i.e. a total of 2 billion US\$. The Bank has also streamlined its financing procedures and eased financing requirements in order to make them more efficient and effective as well as to find alternatives to financing guarantees and increase existing resources.

However, it could not achieve its objective in the area of intra-trade financing last year. The overall trade financing operations carried out by the Bank through its various windows in 1420H did not exceed 1088 million US\$ including 587 million US\$ for intra-trade only. Consequently, I look forward to your continued support so that better results could be obtained in 1421H and in subsequent years by the Grace of Allah. This requires maximum effort from all quarters especially commercial institutions, banks and government departments concerned with trade to achieve this objective. The support of governments for this Programme is vital for the achievement of the set objectives.

On behalf of your institution, the Islamic Development Bank I call on Your Excellencies in your capacity as the officers in charge of trade in your countries to create incentives that would facilitate and encourage trade among your countries. The IDB will continue, by the Grace of Allah, its efforts in coming years to provide more financial facilities from its own resources by resorting to the market through syndicated financing and two step murabaha in the belief that intra-trade can play a vital role in economic development and social progress and strengthen cooperation among member countries of the OIC.

As part of its efforts to boost intra-trade and encourage investment among member countries, the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the headquarter country of the IDB has agreed that the IDB organize the first Islamic trade fair in Jeddah from 23-28 Dhul Hijjah

1421H (18-23 March 2001) in collaboration with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the IDB so that industrial companies and enterprises in member countries could be afforded the opportunity to introduce and popularize their products and potentials.

The trade fair will be not only an occasion for the exhibition of goods and products but will also be accompanied with events aimed at popularizing investment opportunities in member countries and exchanging viewpoints on all facets of cooperation in all commercial and economic fields.

From this august platform I kindly request all member countries to make good use of this occasion and participate actively in the trade fair and all the other attendant events. I have the pleasure to express my deep gratitude to the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for authorizing the staging of the said trade fair in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for ensuring the successful outcome of this Islamic economic and commercial event and for increasing the chances of benefiting from it.

In a bid to strengthen the bonds of cooperation among member countries in the area of intra-trade, the IDB organized a second meeting of trade focal points at its headquarters in Jeddah from 21-22 Jumad Thani 1421H (19-20 September 2000). It was attended by 25 delegates from member countries as well as the Islamic Center for Trade Development.

Mr. Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters,

Your Committee's agenda comprises a very important item regarding the ways of boosting small and medium enterprises so that they could grapple with the effects of economic globalization and liberalization.

I would like to express in this regard my deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to the United Arab Emirates and the Ankara Centre for organizing a conference on "Promotion of Small and Medium Scale Projects to Face Globalization and Economic Liberalization" held in Abu Dhabi from 17-18 Safar 1421H (21-22 May 2000). I also laud the major conclusions of the said conference which comprised practical steps to help small and medium enterprises in member countries to penetrate world markets and face domestic competition of imported goods. These measures are as follows:

- a) improving the quality of domestic products so as to render them more competitive internally and externally.
- b) controlling production cost so that sale prices could be competitive to world prices.
- c) focussing on industries that are based on domestic raw materials thus increasing the added value and controlling production cost.
- d) encouraging foreign capital flow and launching joint ventures with foreign institutions of international caliber in the area of sophisticated production and marketing so that international quality production could be guaranteed and management and domestic manpower could be trained.

The IDB has given support to small and medium enterprises in member countries so that they could take measures that could help them overcome many difficulties and challenges brought about by globalization.

The IDB has been harnessing its financing programmes towards this objective, such as:

- a) the financing lines that it extends to national development financing institutions (NDFIs) which could in turn help small and medium enterprises secure the requisite financing to enhance and improve their production capacities.
 - b) providing technical assistance in order to conduct economic and financial feasibility studies on new small and medium enterprises and expand existing projects.
 - c) helping transfer knowledge and exchange expertise among small and medium enterprises in member countries by organizing field visits.
 - d) helping market the products of small and medium enterprises of member countries by affording them the opportunity to participate in international and regional trade fairs.
- Five) providing institutional support and training the staff of small and medium enterprises with a view to improving their technical and managerial skills through seminars and training courses. The International Standards Organization (ISO) falls in this category of assistance that the Bank has provided in this regard by organizing many workshops and training courses that covered many aspects of this vital field. The IDB will continue its efforts in this regard in order to enable the largest number possible of small and medium enterprises in member countries to acquire international quality certificates.

IDB welcomes the proposal to declare the year 2001 as the year for redynamizing the SME and will take this into consideration in its programmes for the coming year.

Mr. Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters,

As I mentioned to you at your previous meeting, the IDB Board of Governors approved at its 24th Annual Meeting held in Jeddah the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). Praise be to Allah, 39 member countries have so far signed the Articles of Agreement and 19 have ratified it as well as 3 public financial institutions. Two financial institutions have expressed their wish to participate in its capital. The Corporation started business after the inaugural meeting of its General Assembly on 6th Rabi Thani 1421H (8/7/2000) and the maiden meeting of its Board of Directors on 5 Jumad Awwal 1421H (5/8/2000).

Mr. Chairman,
Brothers and Sisters,

With regard to the preparation of Your Excellency's report for the 9th Islamic Summit scheduled to take place by the Grace of Allah next month in Doha, I would like to inform you that the institutions your esteemed committee instructed the IDB to create such as the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) as well as the Export Financing Scheme (EFS) are doing well. A detailed report of their performance could be submitted on this occasion. It would be heartening if Your Excellency's report to the Summit urges the latter to take the necessary measures to make use of the electronic trade and face its major challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Development Bank has the pleasure to pursue its cooperation with your august Committee and would continue its studious efforts to help achieve the noble objectives that COMCEC is striving to attain.

I have the pleasure to express to Your Excellency and the Honourable Ministers my deep gratitude for their continued support for their institution, the Islamic Development Bank.

I would also like to express once again my sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to the President, government and the people of the Republic of Turkey for sponsoring and organizing the meetings of COMCEC thereby ensuring their successful outcome.

I pray that Allah the Almighty renders our efforts successful in whatever we do for the peoples of our member countries.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatahu

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AGENDA
OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

Original: English

**AGENDA
OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION
OF THE COMCEC**

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

1. Opening Session.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Reports by the OIC General Secretariat.
 - Background Report
 - World Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member States.
 - 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 the 21th Century.
5. Matters related to World Trade Organization Activities.
6. Report by ICCI on the Seventh Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member States.
7. Exchange of Views on the "Strengthening of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalization and Liberalization" (Report by SESRTCIC).
8. Matters Related to Economic Assistance to Some Islamic Countries.
9. Date of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC.
10. Any Other Business.
11. Adoption of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth 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 "STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED
ENTERPRICES FACING GLOBALIZATION
AND LIBERALIZATION"

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

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 "STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED
ENTERPRICES FACING GLOBALIZATION AND LIBERALIZATION"

(Istanbul, 25 October 2000)

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 "Strengthening of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and Liberalisation".

While deliberating on the subject, the Senior officials have considered in detail, the observations and recommendations contained in the Report of the Conference on the subject, held from 21 to 22 May 2000 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This conference was jointly organised by the Government of the United Arab Emirates in collaboration with the Ankara Center, the Islamic Development Bank and other related OIC institutions.

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

During their discussions on the subject, the senior officials have touched upon a number of issues regarding the complexities of globalisation and liberalisation, and the challenges they pose to the development of the SMEs. Stressing the need for the intra-OIC cooperation to promote SMEs, they have emphasised, inter alia, the challenges and implications for the development of SMEs in OIC countries in the face of globalisation and liberalisation.

In this regard, we have observe that:

In the increasingly competitive international business environment brought about by the process of globalization, specialised international institutions can provide valuable assistance to design supportive national strategies, policies and programmes to enable the SMEs to realise their productive potential.

The non-availability of credit is normally the greatest single impediment to the growth and diversification of industrial activity in the SME sub-sector. One key area of support would thus be the provision of concessional credits. SMEs of the Member States have some problems in financing their expansion, marketing their products, penetrating international markets, acquiring advanced technology, improving their management and promoting quality and production.

SMEs should have greater access to information technology, such as electronic commerce.

Sectoral Trade Fairs should be organised at the national and regional level to promote marketing skills of SMEs.

Since there is a vast potential of learning from the experiences of other OIC Member countries, there is a need for more systematic usage of the intra-OIC experience and resources through regular consultations, possibly backed up by international assistance that would eventually significantly enhance national efforts to promote SMEs.

There is a need at the OIC level to support and enhance the role of the SMEs and to utilise their large development potential through measures at the national and regional levels. In many OIC Member countries there is already in place an extensive institutional framework and significant expertise and experience with industrial development in the small and medium scale sub-sectors.

Priority should be given in OIC programs to the training of trainers and the development and distribution of training materials.

Globalization and rapidly changing production systems, create both major new opportunities and also problems for employment. In these changing production systems, small firms are playing a very important role as a link in the chain of supplies.

There is a necessity to design and implement an industrial development program aimed at the SME sub-sector, which requires extensive branch networks connected to a number of specialised function, resource or service centres.

Formation and strengthening of industrial clusters of SMEs working in the same sector in one geographical location would enable the SMEs to gain collective efficiency. These SMEs should also be networked with each other, with large enterprises and support institutions.

The economies of the Islamic Countries are based mostly on small and medium enterprises. It is therefore necessary that efforts be directed to address the financial problems of the SMEs in getting access to credit facilities programs for SMEs where available. The role of the IDB, and both public and private financial institutions in the Member Countries on this subject is important.

The development of production know-how is another key area for support. Whereas general education and training systems can generate basic skills and the accumulation of practical experience, the application of production technologies can broaden these skills.

It is becoming increasingly important to have extensive training in the areas of financial control and accounting, management and 'shop floor' supervisory tasks, marketing tasks, and the technical aspects of production in order to equip industrial development 'agents' to deal effectively with production in small and medium scale enterprises.

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 SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC
(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

Original: English

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

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

The Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul from 23 to 26 October 2000;

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 Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), approved by the Tenth Session of the COMCEC and endorsed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

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

Reaffirming the commitment to remove all obstacles to closer economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States;

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 "Conference on Strengthening of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and Liberalisation", hosted by the Government of the State of United Arab Emirates and organized in collaboration with the Ankara Centre, the Islamic Development Bank and other related OIC institutions from 21 to 22 May 2000 in Abu Dhabi, the results of which constituted a major input for the exchange of views conducted during the Session;

Noting the progress reports submitted by the OIC General Secretariat and SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB, ICCI, IIT 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/16-2000/D1) 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 Session of 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 the 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; with a view to providing the necessary framework for such cooperation;
6. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for having hosted in Isfahan from 2 to 4 October 2000, the Meeting of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member States.
7. **Welcomes** the recommendation of the First Ministerial Meeting of Tourism requesting the Islamic Chamber to set up an Islamic Council of Tourism in the Islamic Chamber, and to organise a meeting of private sector on tourism;
8. **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), the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICO), the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB) and Organization of Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA), 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. *International Economic Developments with Special Reference to OIC Member States;*

9. Expresses thanks and appreciation to SESRTCIC and ICDT for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 12th Session of the COMCEC, annual economic reports on the OIC countries (OIC/COMCEC/16-2000/D10), OIC/COMCEC/16-200/D7) containing up-dated information on economic and related developments concerning the Member States in the context of international economic developments;

10. Expresses thanks and appreciation to SESRTCIC for preparing, in accordance with the resolution of the 27th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the evaluation Report on the Reform of International Financial Architecture with reference to the OIC Member States (OIC/COMCEC/16-2000/D11);

11. Regarding global economic developments, notes that:

- i. The global slowdown caused by the severe financial crisis in the period 1997-98 appears to be over. Global economic and financial conditions have improved in 1999. World output and trade strengthened considerably in the same year, thereby improving the prospects for higher growth in the current year.
- ii. The recovery in the developing countries was slow and uneven despite the remarkable rebound in output of Asian countries in 1999.
- iii. Although the OIC Member States constitute a substantial part of the developing world, their growth rate is still below the average attained by the developing countries.

- . The overall picture indicates that the OIC Members, unlike many other developing countries, were in general unable to benefit from the current strengthening of world economic output and consequently, unable to benefit from the enlargement of world trade.
- . The proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), when approved, shall be a comprehensive and legally binding instrument in the area of foreign direct investment, having far-reaching implications for the developing countries including the OIC Member States. However, the willingness of OIC countries to join the negotiations needs therefore to be preceded by a thorough and detailed effort with regard to the issues involved and their negotiating objectives.

Concerning international financial architecture, **notes** that:

- i. Measures aimed at strengthening the international financial institutions and contingency financing are essential to react swiftly and strongly to any financial crisis and changes in the global financial system.
- ii. A monitoring and consultation mechanism relating to the flows of all kinds of foreign capital transactions need to be considered by the central banks of OIC Member States.
- iii. The OIC Member States must be prepared to participate effectively in discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial architecture. The central banks and the monetary authorities of the OIC Member States may meet regularly to formulate their positions in this regard.
- iv. The OIC Member States should also work with other developing countries to contribute to the shaping of the new financial architecture with the objective of minimizing the risks, and reaping the benefits.

13. Requests SESRTCIC to continue to follow-up and study developments on the issue and their implications for the Member States, and submit evaluation reports to the annual sessions of the COMCEC, and other concerned OIC fora;

14. Regarding matters relating to the WTO, **notes** that:

- i. The OIC members should coordinate their efforts with other developing countries to underline the urgent need for bringing about desirable reforms, so as to make these reforms equally beneficial for the developed and developing countries.
- ii. Future agenda or work program of the WTO should focus on a process of "Review, Repair and Reform" aimed at transforming the WTO into a development-oriented organisation.
- iii. The WTO should take necessary measures to ensure transparency, full participation of developing countries at all stages of negotiations and equitable representation of the developing countries at the WTO Secretariat.
- iv. Special and differential treatment in favour of the developing countries as envisaged in the various WTO agreements should be clarified and be implemented.
- v. The imbalances in several WTO Agreements which have major implications for development policies and / or export interests of developing countries, should be corrected.
- vi. The OIC Member States should make efforts to establish effective consultative mechanisms amongst their governments and private sector representatives to determine common policies to be pursued during the trade talks.

15. **Calls** upon the OIC General Secretariat IDB, ICDT, IIT and SESRTCIC to assist the Member States in matters related to international negotiations;

16. **Requests** SESRTCIC and ICDT to continue to monitor world economic and trade developments and their implications for the Member States and report to the concerned OIC fora;

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

17. **Expresses** concern over the slow progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, and **urges** the Member States to take appropriate action with a view to expediting its implementation;

18. **Resolves** that an open-ended experts group meeting be convened before the 17th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee to explore all possible ways and means of accelerating the implementation of the Plan of Action, and **welcomes** the offer made by the Republic of Turkey to host the said experts group meeting;

19. **Requests** the Member States that had already offered to host sectoral expert group meetings to expedite the convening of the said meetings;

20. **Renews also** its appeal to the Member States who were the proponents of the projects 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 sectoral experts group meetings;

21. **Thanks** the State of Qatar for hosting from 13 to 14 October 2000 in Doha, the Expert Group Meeting to Study the implications of setting up of an Islamic Common Market, as well as the OIC General Secretariat, IDB, ICO, SESRTCIC and ICDT for presenting their papers on the subject matter;

22. Thanks also Burkina Faso for having hosted a regional workshop on Industry, for east, west and central African OIC Member States, in cooperation with IDB and other related OIC institutions.

23. 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 offer of Gabon to organise 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".
- v. The offer of Indonesia to host in Jakarta an International Workshop on Employment and Manpower Exchange.
- vi. The offer made by Malaysia to hold in Kuala Lumpur, the Second Meeting of Ministers of Tourism of the OIC member countries.

24. Invites Member States to host, where appropriate, sectoral or inter-sectoral 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.

25. **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 IPB on the Expansion of Intra-OIC Trade
in Preparation for the 21st Century.**

26. **Appreciates** the report submitted by IDB on the expansion of intra-OIC trade (OIC/COMCEC/16-200/D4);

27. **Appreciates** the decision by IDB to allocate 1 billion US dollars from its own resources, to be used as a catalyst to raise an additional 1 billion US dollars, through Syndication and Two-Steps Murabaha Financing, during the year of 2001 and for the following two years, and **urges** financial institutions in the Member States to support IDB's effort to mobilise additional resources;

28. **Urges** Member States to develop policies, strategies and administrative/regulatory measures to support IDB efforts in increasing intra-trade;

29. **Appreciates** the holding of the Second Meeting of the Focal Points on intra-trade, held at IDB Headquarters in Jeddah on 19-20 September 2000, and **urges** the concerned parties to implement its recommendations;

30. **Requests** Member States, which have not yet done so, to designate their respective national focal points;

31. **Requests** IDB to consider provision of technical assistance for capacity building of the focal points in Member States;

32. **Appreciates** the ratification by the Republic of Tunisia of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Amongst OIC Member States, and **urges** the Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify this agreement, to 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 and trade financing;

33. **Appreciates** IDB efforts to organise in cooperation with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Jeddah Islamic Trade Fair to be held in Jeddah on 18-23 March 2001, and **urges** the Member Countries to participate in this event;

34. **Welcomes** the offer made by the Government of Egypt to host a ministerial meeting of the OIC Member States to promote intra-OIC trade.

Matters Relating to WTO Activities

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

36. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to the OIC General Secretariat, IDB, SESRTCIC, ICDT and ICCI for preparing, in accordance with the decision of the 14th Session of the COMCEC, monitoring reports on the World Trade Organisation matters (OIC/COMCEC/16-200/D2), (OIC7COMCEC716-2000/D12), (OIC/COMCEC/16-2000/D8). and (OIC7COMCEC/16-2000/D5);

37. **Appreciates** IDB efforts in organizing consultative meetings in order to prepare the Member Countries to exchange their views and coordinate positions on major issues in the context of WTO ministerial conferences as well as future negotiations, in addition to IDB's other technical assistance activities aimed primarily at capacity building;

38. Calls upon IDB to pursue its program of technical assistance to the OIC Member States seeking accession to WTO, and to continue extending assistance to the OIC Member States which are already Members of WTO, in order to enable them to participate more effectively in the world trading system;

39. Calls on IDB, ICDT and other related institutions to continue its assistance to the Member States in the context of future multilateral trade negotiations.

40. Calls on 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;

41. Decides to invite WTO and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) representatives to the 17th sessions of the COMCEC;

Report by ICO on the Seventh Private Sector Meeting Among OIC Member States

Seventh Private Sector Meeting

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

43. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting, and to ICCI for organising the Seventh Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, from 15 to 17 October 2000, in Doha, State of Qatar;

44. Takes note with appreciation of the report submitted by ICCI on the Seventh Private Sector Meeting (OIC/COMCEC716-200/D6) which shows a growing interest on the part of the private sector representatives in these meetings as reflected in the number of participating countries, business transactions made and joint venture projects negotiated through bilateral and multilateral contacts;

45. Notes with appreciation the recommendations contained in the Report of the Seventh Private Sector Meeting which focused on steps to be taken to strengthen the role of the private sector in economic cooperation among the Member States, **appeals upon** the Member States to give consideration to these recommendations, and **calls upon** ICO, in this context, to review the proposals of the Monitoring Mechanism, with ICCI as the focal point, to monitor the progress in this regard along with the participation of the OIC, IDB, ICDT, the immediate representative of the past, current and forthcoming Chairmen of the Islamic Summit, and the country having hosted the Private Sector Meeting;

46. 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;

47. Appreciates the offer of Guinea to host the Eighth Private Sector Meeting in the year 2001, and the offer of the State of the United Arab Emirates to host the 9th Private Sector Meeting in 2002 and **calls on** Member States to encourage their private sectors to actively participate in these Meetings;

Islamic Trade Fairs

48. **Expresses satisfaction** at the holding by ICDT of the Eighth Islamic Trade Fair in Doha, from 15 to 20 October 2000, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Commerce of the State of Qatar;

49. **Expresses thanks and appreciation** to the State of Qatar for hosting successfully the 8th Islamic Trade Fair.

50. **Takes note** of the request made by the State of the United Arab Emirates to replace Senegal as host of the Ninth Islamic Trade Fair, together with the Ninth Private Sector Meeting of the Islamic Countries in the year of 2002.

51. **Invites** the two parties to complete their consultations within two months at the latest, and notify the COMCEC Coordination and ICDT the results of such consultations.

52. **Appreciates** IDB's efforts in establishing the Islamic Corporation for Private Sector Development (ICD), and **urges** the Member States to expedite the procedures to join the Corporation;

Exchange of Views on "Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises facing Globalisation and Liberalisation"

53. **Takes note with appreciation** of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the "Conference on Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and Liberalisation" (OIC/COMCEC/16-2000/D13) hosted by the State of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and organised in collaboration with the Ankara Centre, the Islamic Development Bank and other related OIC institutions, with the contributions of high government officials, prominent scholars and experts from universities and research centres, as well as from OIC and other international institutions;

54. **Expresses appreciation** to SESRTCIC for the preparation and submission of the report and recommendations of the Conference, and **expresses appreciation** for papers submitted by Member States, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB, ICCI IIT, and other international organisations namely UNIDO and ILO on various aspects of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the OIC Member States facing globalisation and liberalisation;

55. Taking into consideration the results of the Conference, comments made by various OIC and international organizations, and country reports presented by Member States on the subject, **observes** that;

- i. In the increasingly competitive international business environment brought about by the process of globalization, specialised international institutions can provide valuable assistance to design supportive national strategies, policies and programmes to enable the SMEs to realise their productive potential.
- ii. The non-availability of credit is normally the greatest single impediment to the growth and diversification of industrial activity in the SME sub-sector. One key area of support would thus be the provision of concessional credits. SMEs of the Member States have some problems in financing their expansion, marketing their products; penetrating international markets, acquiring advanced technology, improving their management and promoting quality and production. Most of them are among those SMEs which use superseded technologies and are not provided with necessary-human resources, capital or required competitiveness. They are disadvantaged in comparison with those of developed countries.
- iii. SMEs should have greater access to information technology, such as electronic commerce.

- iv. Sectoral Trade Fairs should be organised at the national and regional level to promote marketing skills of SMEs.
- v. The setting up a specialized governmental mechanism with an autonomous management entrusted with the consolidation of the SMEs sector, will be instrumental in developing the sector when provided with the financial and technical facilities.
- vi. Since there is a vast potential of learning from the experiences of other OIC Member countries, there is a need for more systematic usage of the intra-OIC experience and resources through regular consultations, possibly backed up by international assistance that would eventually significantly enhance national efforts to promote SMEs.
- vii. There is a need at the OIC level to support and enhance the role of the SMEs and to utilise their large development potential through measures at the national and regional levels. In many OIC Member countries there is already in place an extensive institutional framework and significant expertise and experience with industrial development in the small and medium scale sub-sectors.
- viii. Priority should be given in OIC programs to the training of trainers and the development and distribution of training materials. In some management areas there are also opportunities for the use of distance teaching methods, self-instruction manuals, self-help guides, etc.
- ix. Joint OIC programs should be built-up gradually, and possibly involve in the initial stages, only sub-regional activities, with some well-defined priority areas.
- x. The year 2001 has been titled as the year of Activation and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises.

- xi. Globalization and rapidly changing production systems, create both major new opportunities and also problems for employment. In these changing production systems, small firms are playing a very important role as a link in the chain of supplies.
- xii. There is a necessity to design and implement an industrial development program aimed at the SME sub-sector, which requires extensive branch networks connected to a number of specialised function, resource or service centres.
- xiii. Formation and strengthening of industrial clusters of SMEs working in the same sector in one geographical location would enable the SMEs to gain collective efficiency. These SMEs should also be networked with each other, with large enterprises and support institutions.
- xiv. The economies of the Islamic Countries are based mostly on small and medium enterprises. It is therefore necessary that efforts be directed to address the financial problems of the SMEs in getting access to credit facilities programs for SMEs where available. The role of the IDB, and both public and private financial institutions in the Member Countries on this subject is important.
- xv. The development of production know-how is another key area for support. Whereas general education and training systems can generate basic skills and the accumulation of practical experience, the application of production technologies can broaden these skills.
- xvi. It is becoming increasingly important to have extensive training in the areas of financial control and accounting, management and 'shop floor' supervisory tasks, marketing tasks (including sales and tendering), and the technical aspects of production in order to equip industrial development 'agents' to deal effectively with production in small and medium scale enterprises.

Organizational Matters

56. Decides that the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC be held from 18 to 21 October 2001, and the Seventeenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be convened from 8 to 10 May 2001, respectively in Istanbul;

57. Decides that "Effects of Non-tariff Barriers on the Foreign Trade of Member States" be the theme for the exchange of views at the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC, and requests ICDT to organise a work shop on this topic in collaboration with related OIC institutions, namely, SESRTCIC, ICCI and IDB and other international organisations, prior to the Seventeenth COMCEC and submit its report to the Session;

58. Invites Member States to send to the OIC General Secretariat, sufficiently in advance of the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC, country reports reflecting their experiences on the subject matter for the exchange of views;

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

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

61. Also requests the OIC General Secretariat to prepare in cooperation with the COMCEC Coordination Office a report to be submitted to the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference, to be held in Doha, State of Qatar, from 12-14 November 2000, a detailed progress report on the activities of the COMCEC.

RESOLUTION (2)

ON MATTERS RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME COUNTRIES

(Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000)

Original: English

RESOLUTION (2)
ON MATTERS RELATED TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO SOME COUNTRIES
(Istanbul, 23-26 October 200)

The Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC); held in Istanbul, 23-26 October 2000;

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 27th 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 efforts 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. The Economic Consequences of the Recent Developments in the Palestinian Territories Occupied by Israel

Deplores all acts of aggression and violation of Islamic and Christian holy places committed by Israeli forces against the Palestinian People and its Authority in the occupied Palestinian territories, thus causing serious damage to Palestinian infrastructure, economic and human resources and believes that their immediate cessation would contribute to the urgent rehabilitation of the Palestinian Economy.

Decides to invite all Member States and OIC institutions to take all prompt measures to extend immediate assistance to establish a sound and independent Palestinian national economy.

C. Assistance to Lebanon

Noting with grave concern and deep distress the repeated Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and its civilian population, the wounding of innocent citizens, and the shelling of the infrastructure causing sufferings and great damage, the latest being the bombing, of the infrastructure on 7-8 Shubat (February) 2000 and the total destruction of three electrical power plants resulting in material damage estimated at tens of millions of dollars.

Reaffirming that Lebanon is entitled to compensation for the human casualties, the material damage and considerable economic loss it sustained as a result of repeated Israeli aggressions and constant threats ensuing in the mass displacement of the innocent civilian population, living at present under precarious conditions and creating stifling social pressure,

Realizing the extent of Lebanon's urgent need for financing the reconstruction process, repairing the infrastructure and restoring the economic and social sectors.

1. **Strongly Condemns** Israel for its continuous occupation of parts of South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley and denounces the ongoing Israeli aggressions against its territory and people;
2. **Condemns** the recent Israeli aggressions that targeted civilians, the infrastructure and the economic establishments in Lebanon, followed by grave and outrageous Israeli threats;
3. **Expresses its deep appreciation** for the assistance provided by some Member States and concerned organs of the OIC;
4. **Reaffirms** the previous resolutions requesting financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon;

5. **Reiterates** the appeal made by the 22nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of the OIC, held in Casablanca (Morocco) on 8-9/Canoun 1/94, calling upon the International Community to generously contribute to the International Fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon;
6. **Appeals again** to OIC Member States and all regional and international organizations to provide all forms of urgent assistance to Lebanon, financial and in kind, so that it may reconstruct what Israeli aggressions have destroyed and strengthen the steadfastness of the Lebanese citizens in the regions still occupied by Israel,
7. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

D. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Albania

Recalling relevant resolutions of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th 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.

E. Economic Measures in Support of Uganda

Recalling relevant resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 15th 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.

F. Economic Measures in Support of Afghanistan

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th Session of the COMCEC.

Taking into account that Afghanistan is currently faced by serious constraints due to 18 years of war;

Noting that about 70 to 80 % of its economic and social infrastructures were destroyed;

Aware that over 15 million Afghans were killed, about 1.5 million disabled and more than 5 million displaced;

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.

G. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Somalia

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th Session of the COMCEC.

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.
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.

H. Economic Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic

Recalling relevant Resolution 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th 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;

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.

I. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Recalling the relevant Resolutions adopted by the previous Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th 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;

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

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

J. 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 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Eighth Islamic Summit Conference and 15th 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** 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.

L. Assistance to the Republic of Guinea

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th Session of the COMCEC.

Considering the role played by the Republic of Guinea, within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to establish peace and ensure stability in some Member States, victims of armed conflicts.

Considering that the presence of a huge number of refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone constitutes an unbearable burden for the economy of the Republic of Guinea,

Gravely concerned by the repeated aggressions against the Republic of Guinea on its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone, ensuing in loss of human lives, serious material damage and extensive displacement of the population within Guinea,

Considering the Declaration issued on 13 September 2000 by the UN Security Council, condemning these aggressions,

Considering the Final Communiqué of 13 September 2000 of the Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference condemning these aggressions and expressing its solidarity with the Republic of Guinea,

Considering the need for the Republic of Guinea to reconstruct its country, ensure the survival of the displaced population and the return of the refugees to their respective countries,

1. **Expresses** its support to and solidarity with the people and Government of Guinea;
2. **Invites** the International Community and the OIC Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with a substantial financial and material assistance so that it may cope with the difficulties caused by the aggressions waged against it and the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees on its territories, the majority of whom are Muslims;

3. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its assistance, either as subventions or loans at favourable conditions, to the Republic of Guinea so that it may create the social infrastructures needed for the displaced population and the refugees, and overcome the deterioration of the environment brought about by this massive human presence,

4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the following COMCEC Session.

L. Assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone

Recalling the pertinent Resolutions adopted by the Eighth Islamic Summit the 27th ICFM and the 15th COMCEC.

1. **Appeals** to the member states and islamic institutions of the organisation of Islamic Conference of which Sierra Leone has always been an active member to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the war ravaged country whose people have experienced the most brutal acts of violence in recent times, so as to enable its people to undertake the much needed rehabilitation reconstruction and resettlement of returnees and displaced in habitants of about 1,5 million.

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

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

M. 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.

N. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Yemen

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th ICFM and 15th COMCEC.

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen, which arose from the burden 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 burden 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.

O. Economic Assistance to Tajikistan

Recalling Relevant Resolutions Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th 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.

P. Economic Assistance to Guinea Bissau

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th Session of the COMCEC.

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.

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

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th Session of the COMCEC.

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-IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit on Islamic Solidarity with the Peoples of the Sahel;

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

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th Session of the COMCEC.

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

2. **Appeals** to all Member States and Islamic Institutes for an urgent special assistance to cope with a poor cereal crop in the CILSS Countries as a result of weak raintalls.

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 S 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.

T. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Mozambique

Recalling earlier resolutions of the 8th Islamic Summit Conference, 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and 15th Session of the COMCEC.

- 1. Expresses** deep appreciation to assistance extended by OIC Member States to the victims of floods in Mozambique;
- 2. Appeals** to Islamic Development Bank, all Islamic Institutions and the international community in general to render their material and financial support in order to ensure the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures and rehabilitation of the affected people in Mozambique;
- 3. Emphasizes** the need to promote and encourage the role of the private sector particularly within the context of development of Small and Medium Enterprises;
- 4. Urges** the developed countries to write off the external debt of Mozambique in the light of its current critical socio-economic situation;
- 5. Urges** the international community to increase its assistance to Mine-clearance Programmes, taking into account the far reaching effects of the floods;
- 6. Urges** the international community to render assistance for setting up national, sub-regional, regional and international disaster prevention, preparedness and management mechanisms, including early warning systems;

7. **Commends** the efforts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to address the devastating effects of the floods and thanks international community for the support, solidarity and humanitarian assistance rendered to Mozambique;
8. **Calls Upon** all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique;
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and submit a report thereon 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, 26 October 2000)

Original : English

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

(Istanbul, 26 October 2000)

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

His. Excellency, Dr. Devlet BAHÇELİ, Minister of State and Deputy
Prime Minister of the Republic Turkey,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

As we come to the close of the Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), let us express our thanks and gratitude to Allah Subhanahu wa tâala for the successful conclusion of our work. The deliberations of the distinguished delegates over the last four days, two days at senior official's level and two days at Ministerial level, have covered all vital areas of our common concern. We have deliberated on the ways and means to re-invigorate the economic and commercial cooperation among Member States. I am convinced that the decisions of the Committee on various issues will make positive contributions to the overall work of the COMCEC.

The present session had the opportunity to review the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member States, which is its prime concern. The deliberation that have taken place will, I hope, provide

necessary impetus to the follow-up activities, which lie ahead. In this connection, I am pleased that the Member States have decided to entrust the matter of finding ways and means of accelerating, the implementation of the plan of Action to a group of expert. I hope important proposition practical steps will emerge out of the work of the expert group meeting. I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for having kindly accepted to host this important expert group meeting.

COMCEC has once again issued an appeal to the Member States that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the various OIC agreements and statutes in the sphere of economic cooperation at goes without saying that these agreements and status seek to provide the much needed framework., for such cooperation. Sooner we have general acceptance of these agreements and statutes the better it is for the Islamic Ummah in its effort to progress towards the goal of some form of economic integration.

It is equally important that this session of the COMCEC has addressed the issue of role of the private sector in the economic cooperation among to Member States. This matter deserves the continuing attention of the Member States.

The exchange of views session held on strengthening small and medium enterprises facing globalisation and liberalisation has been worthwhile, which helped to bring out pertinent issues under focus. The outcome of the deliberations will enable us to undertake further necessary steps for strengthening small and medium size enterprises which should play an important role in the development of our countries and improving living conditions of our peoples.

To conclude, Hon'ble Chairman, I would like, as in the past, to reiterate my conviction that the successful conclusion of this session 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 aimed at implementing the provisions of the Plan of Action for the Strengthening of Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States.

Before concluding, I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Necdet SEZER, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC for his wisdom that had so much contributed to the success of this meeting.

To end, Mr. President, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to their Excellencies the Ministers who have honoured this meeting with their presence. Last but not the least, I would like to thank the COMCEC Coordination Office, the interpreters, translators and all those who have actively contributed to making the 16th Session of the COMCEC a success.

Let me assure you, once again, of the continued support and cooperation of the OIC General Secretariat in the implementation of **the** decisions of COMCEC.

Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.

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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, 26 October 2000)

Original : Turkish

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

(Istanbul, 26 October 2000)

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

I would like to start my address by expressing my satisfaction for the successful conclusion of another session of the COMCEC.

We have discussed, once again, during this session of the COMCEC certain important topics addressing the fostering of economic and commercial cooperation among our brotherly countries.

The reports concerning the latest developments in the world economy, presented to this session by the Ankara and Casablanca Centers, have been highly useful. It is very pleasing that our Member States were able to overcome the effects of the global financial crisis to a great extent. However, it is a matter of concern that the Islamic Countries have not yet regained the pre -crisis level of their performance.

"Reform of the International Financial System" in the context of the global economic developments is an important agenda item. Our resolution to effectively participate in this process is very opposite.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegation,

We are aware that we have not yet attained the desired stage in the implementation of the New Action Plan for Economic and Commercial Cooperation adopted in 1994 with a view toward giving fresh momentum to the cooperation activities among the Member States. In this context, we have made a judicious decision to have an expert group meeting to examine the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Action Plan and to develop suggestion for solutions, I hope that this meeting, in addition to accelerating the successful implementation of the Action Plan, will suggest to us valuable ideas to give a fresh impetus to all COMCEC activities.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to note that a successful start has been made to use the additional fund of one billion dollars allocated by the Islamic Development Bank in the context of the efforts to expand commerce among our countries. I believe that the synergy effect of this Fund will make a substantial contribution to the commerce among our countries.

I would also like to underline that the composition of our foreign trade is as important as its quantitative increase. Looking into the macro trends of the world trade, we can see that industrial products are increasingly gaining weight, while the share of agricultural products declines relatively. I think that our countries where raw materials and agricultural products have a significant share of foreign trade must make a careful evaluation of this situation.

The latest developments in the framework of the World Trade Organization have also been reviewed at this session. It is pleasing that the consultations among the member states before and during the World

Trade Organization Meetings made with the support of the Islamic development Bank still go on. The Bank Continues to provide technical assistance to the OIC Member States which are, or wish to become, members in the World Trade Organization. I would like to take this occasion to thank once again the IDB authorities.

As it is known , the World Trade Organization is composed of countries at various levels of development. I believe that a balanced approach taking into consideration the interest of all these groups must be adopted for the decisions and implementations of the WTO. On the other hand, the special needs and development requirements of the developing and less developed countries must also be given consideration in the WTO decisions. In this respect, I think that our solidarity within the framework of the World Trade Organization will contribute to the protection of our interests.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The private sector counties to contribute to the COMCEC activities and to the cooperation among our countries. In this context, the eighth Islamic Trade Fair and the Seventh Private Sector Meeting were held in Qatar last week. Such organizations which attract the interest of many firms constitute an appropriate platform of cooperation for our businessmen. Considering the increasing weight of the private sector in economic and commercial activities, the success of these meetings gains further significance.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

The exchange of views on the small and medium enterprises have also been very useful. The SMEs with their flexible structure, dynamic decision making mechanisms and high capacity for adaptability provide a

big opportunity to the developing countries. These enterprises make substantial contributions to economic and social stability and bring dynamism to the economy by creating new employment opportunities, translating creative ideas into life and materializing interregionally balanced growth.

I am of the opinion that the policies to be evolved in line with the resolutions we have adopted will help our SMEs to surmount the difficulties they face because of the lack of adequate capital and the economies of scale.

In this context it has been a very appropriate decision to chose a very current and important topic as "The Implications of Non-Tariff Barriers for the Foreign Trade of the Member Countries" for the exchange of views meeting to be held during the next COMCEC SESSION.

As it is known, non-tariff barriers form an obstacle for the developing countries, preventing them from taking the necessary initiatives to develop their foreign trade.

Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,

COMCEC, which has completed its sixteenth year, with its concrete projects and regular sessions, has become institutionalised as a successful forum for economic cooperation within the Organization of the Islamic Conference. All Member States and you, the esteemed participants, have doubtless made big efforts towards this success.

In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the delegations, the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the affiliated Organization of the Islamic Conference for their valuable contributions.

I would also like to thank the Staff and the interpreters for their devoted work for the successful outcome of the Session.

Wishing to see you again at the Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC next year, I wish you all a safe journey,

