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137 and 138 of the preliminary list*

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS
WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

Letter dated 30 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, which hosted the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, "Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People", held at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 3 to 7 Sha'ban A.H. 1408, (corresponding to 21 to 25 March A.D. 1988), I have the honour to transmit herewith the Arabic, English and French texts of the final communiqué adopted by the Conference.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 18, 24, 30, 32, 36, 37, 40, 43, 47, 54, 69, 70, 76, 77, 84, 94, 130, 137 and 138 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

I shall provide you at a future date with the text of the resolutions adopted by the Conference, for circulation as a document of the General Assembly, as indicated above, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Final communiqué of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People, held at Amman from 3-7 Sha'ban 1408 H (A.D. 21-25 March 1988)

1. The Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People, was held at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 3 to 7 Sha'ban 1408 H, corresponding to A.D. 21 to 25 March 1988, pursuant to the warm and brotherly invitation extended by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference held in Kuwait in January 1987.

2. The following member States participated in the Conference:

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
2. The State of United Arab Emirates.
3. The Republic of Indonesia.
4. The Republic of Uganda.
5. The Islamic Republic of Iran.
6. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
7. The State of Bahrain.
8. The Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam.
9. Burkina Faso.
10. The People's Republic of Bangladesh.
11. The People's Republic of Benin.
12. The Republic of Turkey.
13. The Republic of Chad.
14. The Republic of Tunisia.
15. The Republic of Gabon.
16. The Republic of the Gambia.
17. The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
18. The Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros.
19. The Republic of Djibouti.
20. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
21. The Republic of Senegal.
22. The Republic of Sudan.
23. The Syrian Arab Republic.
24. The Republic of Sierra Leone.
25. The Democratic Republic of Somalia.
26. The Republic of Iraq.
27. The Sultanate of Oman.
28. The Republic of Guinea.
29. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau.
30. Palestine.
31. The State of Qatar.
32. The Republic of Cameroon.
33. The State of Kuwait.

34. The Republic of Lebanon.
35. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
36. The Republic of Maldives.
37. The Republic of Mali.
38. Malaysia.
39. The Arab Republic of Egypt.
40. The Kingdom of Morocco.
41. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
42. The Republic of Niger.
43. The Federal Republic of Nigeria.
44. The Yemen Arab Republic.
45. The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

3. The following subsidiary organs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference attended the Conference:

- Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul.
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara.
- The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research, Dhaka.
- The Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade, Casablanca.
- The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development, Jeddah.
- The Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah.
- The International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage, Istanbul.

4. The following attended the Conference as observers:

- A.
 1. Turkish Community of Cyprus.
 2. Moro National Liberation Front.
- B. International organizations
 1. The United Nations.
 2. The Non-Aligned Movement.
 3. League of Arab States.
 4. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
 5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
 6. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
 7. United Nations Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.
 8. Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

5. Affiliated agencies of OIC

1. Islamic Development Bank.
2. Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.
3. Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange.
4. International Islamic News Agency.
5. Islamic States Broadcasting Organization.
6. Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities.
7. The Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund.
8. Sport Federation of Islamic Solidarity Games.
9. Federation of International Arab Islamic Schools.

6. Islamic foundations and societies

1. World Muslim League.
2. The Islamic Call Society.
3. International Association of Islamic Banks.
4. Islamic Council of Europe.
5. Islamic Committee for the International Crescent.
6. World Muslim Congress.

7. Guests

1. Afghan mujahidin.

8. His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan inaugurated the Conference. In his inaugural address, His Majesty, after extending a warm welcome to the Foreign Ministers and participants of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, stated that they had gathered together to discuss the numerous and varied problems that beset the Ummah. He emphasized that an Ummah faced with such major problems must unite its forces, co-ordinate its efforts, settle its internal differences, train its manpower and utilize all its resources for the benefit of all.

In his address, the King pointed out that, in the world of today, solutions of local conflicts were often connected with considerations of regional balance, and the settlement of one regional problem was sometimes inseparable from the

settlement of another - all of which reflected the globalization of development and change. The phenomenon of globalization had characterized the present age more than any other. This in turn had increased the importance of regional and international organizations. His Majesty stated that OIC, under whose umbrella the meeting was taking place, must be a forum for serious dialogue among member States on the one hand and a vehicle for effective dialogue with other international groups and organizations on the other, so that it could be in a position to benefit Islam and Muslims everywhere.

His Majesty said that colonization policies pursued by Israel were no less perverse than the policy of apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa, which the Arabs and Muslims condemned and opposed with all available means. The uprising of the Palestinian people, His Majesty noted, was not an end in itself nor was it a transient coincidental event, but an expression of the will of a nation to fight for its freedom and right of self-determination on its own land. His Majesty added that the Palestinian people had a rightful claim on the Muslim Ummah to support their uprising both on the national and international levels so that the uprising might bear fruit. Jordan's role in support of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people was common knowledge. At the international level, Jordan was committed to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences calling for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. His Majesty was of the view that efforts should be directed towards the crystallization of a definite international position for the convening of an International Peace Conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned in the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and on an equal footing.

His Majesty described the Iraq-Iran war as a deep wound in the body of the Muslim Ummah and expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran would accept Security Council resolution 598 (1987) in the order of its paragraphs so as to put an end to the bloodshed and wastage of the Ummah's energies, to restore peace and stability to the Gulf area and to redirect the efforts of the Muslims where they were needed most. Concerning Afghanistan, King Hussein said that after the declaration by the Soviet Union of its willingness to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, it was hoped that the Afghans would not let the opportunity pass to restore stability to their country, to develop it and to resume their role in the world as an independent non-aligned State and as an active member of OIC.

At the conclusion of his address, His Majesty wished all success for the Conference.

9. The Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Niger and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, on behalf of the member States from Asia, Africa and the Arab world respectively, responded to His Majesty's address. In their remarks the three Foreign Ministers expressed gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal for his inspiring inaugural address, and for his forthright defence of Islamic causes. They praised the vision and wisdom of His Majesty and his frank appraisal of the multifarious challenges confronting the Islamic Ummah and expressed the conviction that his address would serve as a guiding light to the Conference. The three Foreign Ministers also expressed gratitude for the warm and brotherly hospitality provided to all the delegations and for the excellent arrangements made for the

Conference under the patronage of His Majesty. The Conference unanimously decided to consider the address of His Majesty as an official document of the Conference.

10. His Excellency Mr. Filali, the Foreign Minister of Morocco, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Sixteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, delivered an address in which he expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal, to his Government and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the efforts that they had undertaken to host the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and paid tribute to His Majesty for his inspiring inaugural address. The Foreign Minister of Morocco was of the view that the periods separating the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Islamic Conferences had witnessed a number of developments and events with positive as well as negative impact over the causes of the Islamic world. In the field of common Islamic action he noted that the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference and the Al-Quds Committee chaired by His Majesty King Hassan II had been held during this period. The Extraordinary Session of the Al-Quds Committee had been held to provide support to the uprising of the Palestinian people against the brutal occupation of the Israeli armed forces. He paid tribute to the heroism of young unarmed Palestinian people who were laying down their lives in the cause of freedom. He also noted that the Iran-Iraq conflict had continued despite the efforts exerted to bring it to an end. In this context he referred to the necessity to implement Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and expressed the hope that the war would stop so as to enable the Muslim peoples of Iran and Iraq to live in peace. The Foreign Minister of Morocco wished all success to the deliberations of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

11. His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirsada, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, then delivered a statement in which he thanked His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal for his patronage of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and for his inspiring inaugural address. The uprising of the unarmed Palestinian people to reject occupation and to assert their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza had been the major event of 1988. Israeli brutality, killings and mass detentions had failed to subdue the unarmed Palestinian youth and had revolted world conscience.

Israel continued arrogantly to reject all efforts to negotiate a comprehensive, just and lasting peace and for years had rejected the proposal of the international community to hold an International Peace Conference. However, the international community remained powerless to act because of the unquestioning and total support of the United States for the Zionist régime.

After eight years of occupation, the Soviet Union seemed to have realized the futility of its efforts to occupy Afghanistan and had given some indications that it was prepared to withdraw its forces from that country subject to certain conditions. At this critical juncture in the negotiations for Soviet withdrawal, it was necessary for the Islamic Conference to continue to support Pakistan and the Afghan resistance to ensure that a lasting peace could return to Afghanistan.

The Iran-Iraq conflict continued to cause grave concern to the Islamic Ummah and had escalated recently into the so-called "war of the cities", causing numerous

civilian casualties. Despite the best efforts of OIC, as well as the international community through the United Nations no end to this war appeared to be in sight. The Conference would have to examine fresh approaches to bring the unfortunate war to an end.

The illegal racist régime in Pretoria continued to pursue the worst form of racial segregation and discrimination as well as colonialism in South Africa and Namibia. The Organization fully supported the struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa for independence and self-rule.

The continent of Africa had been in the throes of an extremely critical economic situation for a number of years. The countries of the Sahel continued to suffer from the effects of drought.

A host of other problems confronted the Islamic world, including the situation of Muslim communities in non-Muslim countries and the question of terrorism. Similarly, on the economic front, the adverse impact of the steep decline in the value of the dollar on the economies of the Islamic countries, the deterioration in the prices of primary commodities and rising walls of protectionism erected by the industrialized world against the exports of the developing countries were a cause of serious concern to the developing Islamic nations. The only alternative available to the Islamic countries was to diversify their economies, make them complementary and increase co-operation in all sectors of economic activity.

The Muslim world continued to be a target of hostile campaigns in the Western information media and had not yet found any effective answer to this overt and covert campaign. In the field of culture, the Islamic Conference and its members had been making efforts to contain and reverse the tide of forces hostile to Islam. However, the resources available for this noble objective had been steadily diminishing.

The Secretary General emphasized that instead of depending on outside forces for assistance, the Islamic world must move forward unitedly with belief in Allah the Almighty and confidence in its own capabilities.

12. The Conference thereafter unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Tahar Al Masri, the Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as Chairman of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. On assumption of office, the Chairman delivered an opening address in which he thanked the Ministers for having elected him, by acclamation, as the Chairman of the Conference and welcomed them to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He stated that the preoccupation of the Islamic world had not changed since the First Islamic Summit Conference held at Rabat 19 years ago. Recalling that the cause of Palestine was a permanent item on the agenda of the Islamic Conferences, he expressed the conviction that the Organization would devote all its efforts and energies to supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people against the forces of Zionist occupation.

The Seventeenth Conference was being held close to the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, where the sole weapon of the youth

opposing the oppression was their faith in God and the belief that force could not be mightier than right. The shedding of their blood and the breaking of their weaponless arms had not deterred the youth of Palestine from opposing the soldiers of evil.

The Minister observed that external forces were interfering in the affairs of the Islamic world and were sowing the seeds of dissension and dispute in some of the member countries. In this context, he referred to the Iran-Iraq conflict, which had entered its eighth year, where Muslim blood was being shed and Muslim property was being destroyed. One could not perceive any underlying purpose in the war nor a desirable outcome for any of the two parties. In this connection, he recalled the overwhelming Muslim and international consensus for Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and the view that the Conference should examine all means of implementing the resolution according to the sequence of its provisions in order to achieve peace.

The issue of Afghanistan constituted a gaping wound in the body of the Islamic Ummah. While there are indications of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the possibility of achieving an acceptable settlement through current efforts, the Conference remains duty-bound to exert its utmost efforts to ensure the right of the Afghan people to choose their system of government as an independent nation, free from any foreign presence or interference, and to preserve its Islamic character.

The Chairman stated that the problems of the Islamic countries had not made them oblivious to the problems of the rest of the world and referred to the support of the Islamic Ummah for the independence of Namibia and its rejection and condemnation of the abhorrent policies of apartheid pursued by the racist Pretoria régime, which were similar to those of the Zionist régime in Palestine. Similarly the Islamic countries were keenly aware of the economic crisis of Africa, aggravated by famine and drought, and would continue to provide assistance and support to their African brothers.

The Chairman referred to the responsibilities of the Organization for preserving and promoting Islamic culture and protecting Islamic heritage, which was threatened with disintegration by alien cultural values. It was the duty of the Organization to protect Islamic culture, which was a beacon for mankind, which honoured man, and was a culture of justice and equality, tolerance and dialogue. The Chairman stressed that enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization required the adoption of whatever measures necessary, even if painful, to avoid duplication, improve co-ordination, possibly through restructuring, so that friends should not ignore its words nor foes belittle the seriousness of its will.

13. The Conference elected Senegal, Malaysia and Palestine as the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference. The Kingdom of Morocco was elected as the Rapporteur General of the Conference in accordance with past practice.

14. The Conference also heard a message read out on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations wherein the Secretary-General noted that the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was taking place at a time

when major political issues confronting the Organisation were also among the foremost concerns of the United Nations. The intensification of the "war of the cities" between Iran and Iraq had underscored the urgency of bringing the Iran-Iraq war to a swift end in accordance with resolution 598 (1987). The developments in the Israeli-occupied territories were a poignant and tragic reminder of the plight of the Palestinians under occupation and of the need for a solution to the Palestinian question. The uprising has injected a new sense of urgency into the efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and taking fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including self-determination, through the holding of an International Conference under United Nations auspices, with the participation of all parties concerned. The Secretary-General expressed regret over the adoption of legislation by the United States that, if enforced, would impede the functioning of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to the United Nations. The situation in Lebanon, particularly southern Lebanon, continued to be of concern to him. He also expressed the hope that the ongoing round of talks regarding the situation in Afghanistan being held at Geneva would be successful. On the policy of apartheid pursued by South Africa, the Secretary-General expressed the view that over and above the iniquity of apartheid, the situation had been aggravated by South Africa's latest measures to stifle all opposition and by its refusal to implement the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. The Secretary-General remained concerned by the state of affairs in Cyprus and stated that he would persevere in his effort to assist the parties to reach an agreement.

15. Thereafter the Conference met in closed session and received the report of the meeting of the senior officials presented by His Excellency Mr. Nabih Al Nimr, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Chairman of the meeting of the senior officials. The report and the agenda annexed to it were approved by the Conference.

16. The Conference approved the report of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the activities of the General Secretariat between the Fifth Islamic Summit and the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

17. The Conference decided unanimously to declare its seventeenth session "The Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People" and offered al-Fateha for the souls of Palestinian martyrs.

18. The Conference also adopted a declaration hailing the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories of Palestine and expressing its total support and solidarity with them in their courageous confrontation with the Zionist occupation forces. The heroic uprising had created a new situation and had exposed the true nature of Israel with its fascist practices and its aggressive and expansionist goals. The uprising had convinced the international community of the justice of the Palestinian cause and of the need to bring to an end the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories, including the holy city of Al-Quds al-Sharif. The Declaration strongly condemned the campaign of intimidation, repression and murder launched by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian people

and appealed to all international and regional organizations to assist in the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The Declaration also reaffirmed the determination of member States to provide material, political and moral support to the Palestinian people in occupied territories and to the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

19. The Conference also adopted a declaration of solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, denouncing Israeli military threats against the Kingdom and the holy places of Islam, which constituted a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference assured the Kingdom and its people of the total support of the Islamic world for the Kingdom's safety and security against any threats from the Zionist entity.

20. During the general debate, heads of delegations spoke on the problems confronting the Islamic Ummah and the urgent need to resolve them in order to improve the conditions of the Muslim people. They also underlined the imperative of the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah, which must transcend all differences and dissensions.

21. The Conference heard with fraternal sentiments the statement of His Excellency Kenan Atakol, who voiced the rightful cause of the Muslim people of Cyprus. The Conference reiterated its past resolutions on the question of Cyprus and expressed support for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to find a just and durable solution to the problem. The Conference commended the co-operation of the Muslim Turkish people of Cyprus with the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, culminating in his proposed framework agreement of March 1986, and reiterated its continued support for the efforts of the Muslim Turkish people of Cyprus to secure their just rights and regain equal status with the Greek Cypriots. The summit called for the strengthening of solidarity with the Turkish Muslims of Cyprus.

22. The Conference listened with sympathy and understanding to the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin in which he highlighted the just struggle of the Afghan people for the liberation of their homeland and requested the continued support of the Islamic Conference to the Afghan mujahidin.

23. The Conference also heard a statement by Mr. Nur Misuari, Chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front, in which he informed the Conference of the breakdown of the negotiations between the Front and the Government of the Philippines under the terms of the Tripoli agreement of December 1976. Mr. Misuari requested the continued support of the Conference for the cause of the Moro people.

24. The Conference was apprised of the Extraordinary Session of the Al-Quds Committee held at Ifrane, Kingdom of Morocco, on 5 January 1988, under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. The Conference took note of the report and recommendations of the Committee with appreciation and conveyed its gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco for his consistent support to Islamic causes and in particular to the cause of Al-Quds al-Sharif.

25. The Conference was apprised by the delegation of Jordan about the third meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Co-operation chaired by His Excellency President Kenan Evren of Turkey. The Conference took note with appreciation of the report of the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Co-operation.

26. The Conference decided to elect the following member States to the Finance Control Organ:

1. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
2. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
3. Tunisia.
4. The Kingdom of Morocco.
5. Republic of Turkey.
6. Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
7. Islamic Republic of Iran.
8. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

27. A special session for voluntary contributions was held during the Conference at which contributions were announced by the delegations of Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey and Brunei Darussalam. The Conference expressed particular gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its donations of 6 million United States dollars to the Islamic Solidarity Fund, 2 million dollars to the Al-Quds Fund and 2 million dollars to other activities of the Organization.

Political affairs

28. The Conference hailed with pride the heroic uprising of the Palestinian Arab people against the heinous Israeli occupation forces in defence of their homeland and their inalienable national rights. It reaffirmed the unflinching stand of the Islamic States to support the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle until the total withdrawal of Israeli enemy forces from all occupied Palestinian territories, including the Holy City of Al-Quds al-Sharif. The Conference reaffirmed its rejection of any partial and individual solutions that would disregard the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and would bypass the Palestine Liberation Organisation, their sole legitimate representative. The Conference condemned Israel's expansionist policy and continued occupation of Arab lands and denounced its coercive measures in violation of human rights as well as the imposition of an economic strangulation on the population to force them to end their courageous uprising. It deplored the policy of the United States of America of disregarding the Palestine Liberation Organisation and for providing support to Israel. The Conference mandated the Secretary General to maintain contacts with the United Nations Secretary-General and with other regional and international organizations with a view to implementing Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) and the application of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of

War. The Conference also decided to set up committees for the support of Palestine throughout the Islamic world to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and to provide them with material and moral assistance; to request information institutions in Islamic States to intensify their coverage of news on the uprising in occupied Palestine; to mandate the General Secretariat and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization to draw up a special information programme on the Palestinian uprising; to promote an awareness of the jihad of the Palestinian people; to exert all possible efforts with official and information quarters in non-member countries to denounce racist Israeli crimes; to organize an international campaign of opinion to condemn Israel and expose its practices and designs.

The Conference affirmed the necessity of exerting intensive efforts by its members to force Israel to respect United Nations resolutions aimed at the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al-Quds al-Sharif, and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab peoples, including their right to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on their national soil, with Al-Quds as their capital, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative.

The Conference reaffirmed its previous resolutions, including the most recent resolutions adopted by the Fifth Islamic Summit in Kuwait, that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which possesses the exclusive right to represent them and to participate, on their behalf, independently and on an equal footing, in all conferences and activities relating to the question of Palestine.

The Conference stressed the need for sustained efforts in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace through the convening of an effective International Conference on Peace in the Middle East vested with powers under the aegis of the United Nations to be conveyed by the United Nations Secretary-General and to be held with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other parties concerned, this being the appropriate approach for achieving a peaceful, comprehensive and just settlement that guarantees the recovery of the occupied Palestinian and the Arab territories and the solution of the Palestinian question in all its aspects and safeguards the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

The Conference adopted a resolution reaffirming that the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration is illegal, null and void and constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions and the principles of international law. It condemned Israeli efforts to change the legal status of the occupied Golan Heights, its demographic composition and structure. It called for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Israel to force Israel to rescind its decision.

The Conference saluted with admiration and pride the Arab people in Palestine, the Golan and South Lebanon for their heroic and valiant resistance inside the Arab occupied territories. It expressed appreciation to all peace-loving people, Governments, international bodies, organizations and personalities who have condemned the terroristic and oppressive Israeli measures and have exposed such measures before world public opinion. The Conference expressed appreciation for the support afforded by the Islamic States to the struggle and also called for encouraging popular initiatives designed to provide assistance to the struggle and extend its scope. It condemned any attempt at containing, aborting and halting the uprising in order to introduce partial and defeatist solutions and requested the Security Council to shoulder its full responsibility in respect of the violations by the Israeli occupationist authorities of the Geneva Convention of 1949 and their persistence in committing war crimes such as murder, torture, inhuman treatment, exile, deportation, detention, expulsion and displacement of Arab citizens. The Conference requested the General Secretariat to monitor and follow up the serious violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities, which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, and bring them to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order that reports on them are circulated as documents of the General Assembly.

The Conference condemned the Israeli enemy's continued occupation of Lebanese territory and the inhuman practices in the occupied territories, including terrorism and forced emigration in order eventually to annex these territories. It paid tribute to the national Lebanese resistance against the Israeli enemy in southern Lebanon and in the western Beq'aa and called upon the United Nations to compel Israel to implement Security Council resolutions regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory to internationally recognized borders and respect for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Conference condemned the agreement concluded between the United States and Israel on strategic alliance in November 1981, and the unlimited United States supplies of sophisticated weaponry and equipment to the Zionist entity. The Conference considered that this alliance has strengthened the aggressive nature of the Tel Aviv expansionist régime and hinders efforts aimed at bringing about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in addition to constituting a threat to the security of Islamic countries.

The Conference denounced the decision taken by the United States to close both the Palestine Liberation Organization Information Office in Washington and the office of its Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York, which was an effort to deprive the Palestinian people of their legitimate right to submit, through the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative, their just cause to the international community. The Conference also considered the decision to be a blatant violation of the Headquarters Agreement signed between the United States and the United Nations. The Conference expressed support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure compliance of the Headquarters Agreement by the United States in order to prevent the closing of the Palestine Liberation Organization Office in New York.

The Conference declared that Israel is not a peace-loving State and it has reneged on its commitments set forth in General Assembly resolution 273 (III) of 11 May 1949 by virtue of which it became a member of the United Nations. It emphasized the need to reject the credentials submitted by the Israeli delegation to attend the various sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Conference expressed deep concern at Israeli nuclear armament, which poses a threat to the security of the region and called upon the international community to condemn Israel for refusing to accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, to abandon its policy of possessing nuclear weapons and for consistently refusing to implement the United Nations Security Council resolution 484 (1981) and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) calling upon it to subject all of its nuclear installations to IAEA safeguards. The Conference condemned the collusion between Israel and South Africa in the sphere of nuclear armament and reaffirmed the determination of member States to continue their co-operation at all international forums to compel Israel to abide by international resolutions. It requested the Conference on Disarmament to speed up the conclusion of an international convention on banning military acts of aggression against existing nuclear installations.

The Conference regretted the resumption, by some States, of their diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy as being contrary to the resolutions of the Islamic Conference and those of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It requested States that had resumed their diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy to reconsider their decision. Similarly, it appealed to States that intend to resume or establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy to reconsider their position.

The Conference decided to maintain co-operation and co-ordination between the military commands of the Islamic States and the Palestine Liberation Organization with a view to supporting the holy jihad and the just struggle of the Palestinian people to free their occupied homeland and to liberate the holy Mosque of Al-Aqsa and the holy city of Al-Quds.

The Conference called upon the member States to enforce the provisions of Islamic boycott of the Israeli enemy and to endorse the principles of boycott.

The Conference endorsed the plans and programmes of the Islamic Expert Committee on ways of countering the dangers of Zionist colonialist settlement in Palestine and to enable the Palestinian people to remain steadfast on the soil of their occupied homeland and to recover their inalienable national rights.

The Conference decided to support and strengthen the efforts made by the Committee on Monitoring the Moves of the Zionist Enemy, in implementation of its approved plans and programmes to counteract the attempts of the Zionist enemy to break out of its isolation.

The Conference called upon all the Islamic States to assist in reaching the target of the capital of the Al-Quds Fund and its wagf, amounting to 100 million dollars respectively, and requested them to settle their statutory contributions to the Fund and the wagf.

The Conference decided that all Islamic States should continue to issue the Palestinian stamp on a permanent basis as long as the question of Palestine and the Holy City of Al-Quds remains unresolved and to remit the proceeds to the Palestinian Welfare Society.

The Conference decided that the unified course in the history and geography of Palestine should be taught as a mandatory subject at all levels of school education in all Islamic States.

The Conference affirmed its commitment to implement the Islamic Programme of Action to Confront the Zionist Enemy adopted by the Third Islamic Summit and to consider the question of Palestine and Al-Quds al-Sharif as the paramount cause of Islam and the Muslims. It condemned the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities and their continuous aggression against the holy places, particularly the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. It reaffirmed its determination to preserve the Islamic and Arab character of the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif and to restore it to Arab sovereignty. The Conference rejected the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif and to consider the decision as illegal, null and void. It praised the stand taken by the Holy See on the issue of Al-Quds al-Sharif and called upon member States to maintain contacts with the Holy See and other Christian religious institutions in order to adopt a unified Islamic-Christian stand on Al-Quds al-Sharif. It called upon the member States to promote public awareness of the question of Al-Quds al-Sharif and Palestine, specially in the United States and Western Europe. It also called on member States to declare twinning of their capitals with Al-Quds al-Sharif, the capital of Palestine, in order to enhance Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The Conference called upon all member States to commit themselves to the implementation of all decisions and recommendations of the Al-Quds Committee, including those adopted at its extraordinary session held at Ifrane, Kingdom of Morocco, on 5 January 1988.

The Conference condemned the acts of disruption and sabotage perpetrated by Iranian pilgrims in Holy Makkah during the hajj season of 1407 H and declared its complete solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its total support of the measures the Kingdom has taken to secure a proper environment in which the pilgrims to the Holy House of God can conduct the hajj rituals in safety and piety. The Conference confirmed the right of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stemming from its responsibility to keep and maintain order and to safeguard the holy places and the security of the pilgrims, to take whatever measures it deems necessary to prevent the recurrence of the incidents of disruption and discord.

The Conference, taking note of a memorandum submitted by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, indicating it was drawing new projects designed to expand the area of Holy Harams and to develop and improve the buildings to accommodate the pilgrims, supported the specification of quotas for pilgrims coming from Islamic countries and communities on the basis of populations. It requested that member States of OIC should co-operate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all matters pertaining to the adoption of appropriate measures designed to afford equitable chances to all the pilgrims and ensure for them proper performance of their rites.

The Conference expressed support for Security Council resolution 598 of 20 July 1987 on the Iran-Iraq conflict and emphasized the need for its implementation as an indivisible whole and the application of all its provisions in the order set forth in the text. It reaffirmed the need for immediate cessation of all military operations, withdrawal of forces to internationally recognised boundaries and the exchange of prisoners of war shortly after the cessation of military operations with a view to putting an end to their sufferings as early as possible. The Conference urged the Security Council to take necessary measures vis-à-vis Iran for not having announced its acceptance of resolution 598 (1987) and requested the member States to take concerted action in order to put an end to the war.

The Conference reiterated its deep concern at the continued foreign armed intervention in Afghanistan and the serious sufferings of the Afghan people, including the five million refugees in Pakistan and Iran. It demanded once again the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan. While welcoming the statement of General Secretary Gorbachev announcing the intention of the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, the Conference expressed the hope that a comprehensive political solution would be expeditiously reached. The Conference commended the heroic struggle of the people of Afghanistan for the liberation of their homeland and supported and recognized the role of the Afghan Mujahidin Alliance for the restoration of the Islamic, independent and non-aligned status of Afghanistan. The Conference recognized that the formation of a broad-based transitional Government was essential for the restoration of peace and the creation of appropriate conditions to enable the Afghan refugees to return and for the people of Afghanistan to exercise their right to choose their own economic, political and social system, free from outside intervention. The Conference requested the Islamic Development Bank to study the magnitude of the requirements of Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and draw up specific programmes for participation by the Bank and member States in the process of economic reconstruction in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of foreign troops.

The Conference reiterated that the security of each Muslim country was the concern of all Islamic States and resolved to strengthen the security of member States through co-operation and solidarity among themselves. It expressed the determination of member States to preserve Islamic values and the way of life. The Conference requested the Secretary General to appoint a group of five eminent personalities to study the question of confidence-building and security measures among Islamic countries and to submit its conclusions to the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The Conference adopted a resolution on the territorial dispute between Chad and Libya, requesting the two parties to refrain from any action likely to increase the dangers of the situation. It affirmed that OAU was the natural framework for the solution of this dispute and expressed its full support to OAU.

The Conference condemned the continuing United States aggression and plots against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and supported the right of the Jamahiriyah to reparations for the damage sustained as a result of the

aggression. It reaffirmed its solidarity with the Jamahiriyah in defending its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity against the economic boycott measures, which sought to undermine her plans for development. It condemned the United States economic boycott measures against the Jamahiriyah and called for their cancellation forthwith as they violate international laws and conventions.

The Conference solemnly reaffirmed the legitimacy and justice of the heroic struggle of Namibian people under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), their sole and authentic representative, and demanded the full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). It condemned the South African régime for plundering the national resources of Namibia, and rejected any linkage between the implementation of resolution 435 (1978) and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. It called upon member States to extend full support to the Namibian people for the early independence of Namibia, expressed its solidarity with front-line States and neighbouring countries, and demanded the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria régime under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Conference solemnly reaffirmed the legitimacy and justice of the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa and strongly condemned the policy of apartheid and the collusion of the Pretoria régime with the Zionist entity. It denounced the policy of bantustans and called for support to the Africa Fund established by the Eighth Summit Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The Conference strongly condemned the brutal acts of repression against the South African population, demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all the political prisoners and the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the racist minority régime of South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Conference also condemned the aggressive policy of destabilization of the Pretoria régime towards neighbouring independent and front-line States and expressed its strong indignation at the escalation of violence, terrorism and the massacres of civilians in the countries of the region. It invited member States to provide political, material and humanitarian assistance to the populations that are the victims of the terrorist policy of the Pretoria régime in South Africa.

The Conference welcomed the efforts of African countries towards their economic recovery and development as set forth in the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of OAU in July 1985. It called upon member States to increase their assistance to the African countries, and decided that the focus of assistance of member States and the international community should be on the sector of agriculture.

The Conference urged the member States to increase assistance to strengthen the economies of the drought-stricken African countries of the Sahel and mandated the General Secretariat of OIC, in collaboration with CILSS and other Islamic development institutions, to assist the countries of the Sahel in the control of pests and diseases, food security, rational management of water resources and pilot projects for the control of desertification.

The Conference called upon all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, to respond positively to the proposals for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia and condemned the collusion between the Zionist entity and the racist South African régime in the development of nuclear weapons, which obstruct the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. It reaffirmed the determination of member States to take measures to prevent nuclear proliferation, welcomed the decision of the States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to work towards the realisation of South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and requested all member States to co-operate at the United Nations and other relevant international forums to promote the establishment of such zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.

The Conference called upon the members of the Conference on Disarmament to work urgently towards agreement on an international convention to assure non-nuclear States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons and recommended that Islamic States should continue to co-operate with a view to promoting this objective.

The Conference reiterated its support for the idea of convening an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the struggle of peoples for national liberation. It expressed gratitude to the General Secretariat for the symposium it organized at Geneva on this subject and requested it to organize another symposium on the subject.

The Conference called upon all member States to observe fully international conventions on hijacking and condemned all forms of international terrorism, including the crime of hijacking of aircrafts and unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation. It called upon member States to take all necessary measures to curb such crimes and to inflict the most severe punishments upon offenders involved in them.

The Conference called upon Islamic States to extend assistance to oppressed Muslim people of the Horn of Africa and requested the Secretary General to report on the situation to the next Conference.

The Conference reaffirmed its previous resolutions on support and solidarity with the Somali Democratic Republic in its efforts to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for the prompt and unconditional withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the territory of the Somali Democratic Republic.

The Conference reaffirmed the unity and territorial integrity of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and its sovereignty over the Comorian island of Mayotte. It expressed its solidarity with the Comorian people and their Government in their legitimate efforts to recover the island and invited the French Government to respect the pledges it made on the eve of the 22 December 1974 referendum on the self-determination of the islands. The Conference requested the Secretary General to continue his contact with the French authorities in order to convey to them the abiding concern of OIC over this problem.

The Conference, deeply concerned at the plight of millions of refugees throughout the world, a large majority of whom belong to the Muslim Ummah, urged member States to co-ordinate their actions at the international level in order to identify and mitigate the essential causes for the vast flow of refugees into the Islamic and other countries. The Conference urged the international community to undertake concerted efforts to reverse the overall decline in assistance to refugees.

The Conference appealed to member States to pay attention to the problem of Muslim minorities living in non-Muslim States and to exert their utmost efforts through contacts with such States to ensure that the Muslim minorities are treated in accordance with the provisions of international law concerning human rights and basic freedoms. It expressed thanks to the Secretary General of OIC for the intensive efforts made by him to assist Muslim minorities and for his report on the subject. It requested the Secretary General actively to monitor the condition of the Muslim minorities.

The Conference expressed deep regret over the failure of the Government of the Philippines to honour its commitment to implement the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 and affirmed that the so-called steps taken by the Government of the Philippines, including the formation of the so-called Consultative Council, did not conform with the provisions of the Tripoli Agreement, which clearly provided for autonomy for the 13 provinces specified therein and constituted a binding international agreement. The Conference called upon the Government of the Philippines to honour the Tripoli Agreement. It urged member States to extend material, financial and humanitarian assistance to the Moro National Liberation Front to defend Muslim peoples and Islam and to pursue its just and legitimate rights. It requested the Quadripartite Ministerial Committee and the Secretary General of OIC to intensify efforts, including contacts with the Government of the Philippines, for the full and urgent implementation of the Tripoli Agreement.

On the question of the plight of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria, the Conference expressed solidarity with the Muslim minority in Bulgaria, deplored the continuing repression of the Muslim minority and the practices against its religious and cultural identity, and appealed to the Government of Bulgaria to observe its obligations regarding the restoration to the Muslim minority of all religious and cultural rights. It took note of the Turkish-Bulgarian Protocol signed in Belgrade on 23 February 1988. The Conference expressed appreciation to the OIC Contact Group for its work and called upon it to monitor closely the situation of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

The Conference noted with satisfaction the growing co-operation between the United Nations and OIC and requested the Secretary General to continue to work for the expansion of such co-operation to further the mutual interests of the two organisations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. It also requested the Secretary General to continue his efforts to include co-operation with the Arab League, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and OAU, as well as other regional and international organisations.

Legal issues

29. The Conference decided not to establish the International Islamic Law Commission and to refer the draft statute to the Islamic Fiqh Academy in order for it to examine the possibility of undertaking the tasks envisaged for the Islamic Law Commission.

The Conference urged all member States that have not yet acceded to the Agreement on Immunities and Privileges to take early action to do so.

The Conference decided to refer the draft document on human rights in Islam to the Ministers of Justice in member States to review the draft with a view to finalizing it and resubmitting it to the next session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The Conference also urged member States to ratify the Statute of the Islamic Court of Justice at an early date.

Information issues

30. The Conference expressed thanks and profound appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for having accepted to host the First Conference of the Islamic Information Ministers of member States in Safar 1409 H and requested the General Secretariat to submit to the Conference a progress report on the implementation of the Information Plan, with all technical and financial implications. It also called upon the Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the Information Plan in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Second Session of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs and expressed deep gratitude to His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs, for the positive role played by the Committee in strengthening co-operation among member States in the field of information and for his appeal to member States to make voluntary contributions to the special fund set up to improve the performance of the information organs of OIC.

The Conference adopted a resolution commending the efforts and progress made by the Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation in order to achieve its objectives in the field of strengthening co-operation among member States in the field of information and of teaching Arabic to non-Arabic speakers through the medium of television.

The Conference adopted a resolution expressing its appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the donation of SRls 2 063,196 it made to the International Islamic News Agency and urging the member States to give financial and material support to the Agency and provide it with resources. It requested the officials of the Agency to convene without delay its General Assembly and Executive Council in order to activate the transfer of its headquarters and to pay the arrears of salaries of its personnel.

Economic issues

31. The Conference considered a wide range of issues in the economic field, both in the context of international economic relations as well as economic co-operation among member States.

In reviewing the world economic situation, the Conference expressed concern at the continued and escalating international economic crisis of recent years, which adversely affected the developing countries in general and the least developed member States in particular. It also expressed concern at the lack of progress to redress the inequalities of the present international economic relations and the establishment of the new international economic order. It stressed the importance of increasing the official development assistance from developed countries to the developing countries in general and to the least developed member States in particular. The Conference noted with satisfaction that OIC had initiated bold steps in the direction of consolidating economic and commercial co-operation among member States. It urged member States to continue to exert efforts for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Co-operation among Member States adopted at the Third Islamic Summit.

The Conference called upon the international community and the OIC member States to continue to provide assistance to the land-locked and drought-stricken member States.

In the field of economic co-operation among Islamic countries, the Conference adopted a number of important resolutions relating to food, agriculture, industry, trade and transport, which are among the priority areas of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Co-operation among Member States. The Conference noted with appreciation the activities of the OIC Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Co-operation under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Kenan Evren, the President of the Republic of Turkey, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the first Ministerial Meeting on Communications at Istanbul on 5-8 September 1988 concurrently with the Fourth Session of the Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation of the Islamic Conference. The Conference also welcomed the offer of Pakistan to host the Third Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Agricultural Development at Islamabad on 1-3 November 1988.

With respect to co-operation in the field of trade, the Conference noted with satisfaction that the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme had become operational under the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). It also expressed satisfaction at the progress of the feasibility studies on the establishment of the Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union and the Regional Export Credit Guarantee Scheme undertaken by IDB. Similarly, it also noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade towards the finalization of the feasibility studies on the establishment of Trade Preferential System and the Trade Information Network among member States.

The Conference requested member States to participate actively at the forthcoming Third Islamic Trade Fair scheduled to be held at Cairo in October 1988

and the forthcoming trade fairs in Tunisia and the Sudan in 1990 and 1992 respectively.

In the field of technical co-operation, the Conference noted with satisfaction the ongoing training activities of the Ankara, Dhaka and the Casablanca centres and urged member States to continue to support and participate to the maximum extent possible in the technical co-operation activities of the OIC agencies.

The Conference also took note of the reports submitted by the OIC-related institutions on their activities and expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved by them in the implementation of their work programmes. The Conference urged member States to participate actively in the work of these centres.

The Conference expressed satisfaction that the Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among member States, which will help the free flow of capital among member States, thus encouraging joint venture projects, had become operational in February 1988 after its ratification by the required number of member States.

The Conference appealed to member States, the international community and intergovernmental organizations to continue to provide necessary humanitarian assistance to Chad.

The Conference expressed deep concern over the foreign debt of African countries, which has been growing constantly and alarmingly during the past few years, and expressed appreciation to OIC member States as well as Islamic institutions for the assistance provided to the African countries. The Conference invited the developed countries and national and multinational creditors to take appropriate measures to reduce the debt of African countries, in particular through staggered settlement deferred amortization, reduced or favourable interest rates, rescheduling and the conversion of parts of their loans into grants. The Conference requested member States and multilateral financial institutions to pursue transfers of low interest capital, including subsidies, to the African countries and called for the holding of an international conference on the foreign debt of African countries.

Cultural issues

32. The Conference adopted a number of resolutions in the field of cultural and social affairs.

In reviewing the progress of Islamic universities established under the umbrella of OIC, the Conference reiterated the importance of the Islamic universities in the Niger, Uganda, Malaysia and Bangladesh in the propagation of Islamic culture and teachings as well as general education. It called upon member States to provide financial assistance, as well as teachers, scholarships, books and curricula, etc., in order to enable these universities to achieve their objectives.

The Conference requested member States, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and other Islamic financial institutions to provide assistance to Islamic institutions and mosques, i.e. the King Faisal Mosque in Chad, the Regional Institute of Islamic Studies and Research at Tombouctou, the Regional Institute for Complementary Education in Pakistan, the Islamic Cultural Centre at Moroni and the Islamic Centre in Guinea-Bissau to enable them to meet the needs of the populations for educational and social services.

The Conference took note of the activities, plans of action and programmes of OIC cultural and social subsidiary and affiliated institutions, and called upon member States, Islamic institutions and philanthropists to assist these institutions financially to enable them to carry out their objectives in an effective manner in their respective fields.

The Conference urged all member States to utilize the almanacs prepared by the Committee on the Unified Hegira Calendar as the basis of their calendars and requested member States, the General Secretariat and the Islamic Fiqh Academy to study the possibility of setting up an advanced observatory in every Islamic State in order to secure accurate astrological data for the unification of the calendars.

The Conference urged member States to support all efforts and programmes related to drug production, trafficking and abuse being undertaken by the United Nations and its related agencies. It called upon member States to be vigilant against the dangers posed by drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to utilize the tenets of Islam to create an awareness of the dangers of drug abuse and an aversion to the use of narcotic drugs. The Conference urged the member States to develop bilateral and regional co-operation in preventive education and rehabilitation, including counselling on the basis of Islamic values. The Conference requested the General Secretariat to undertake a study on the situation of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the Muslim countries in order to formulate specific programmes to combat drug abuse and welcomed the offer of the Government of Turkey to host an expert committee meeting on narcotics during 1988.

The Conference decided that the cultural institutions of OIC should submit annual reports on the general Islamic situation relevant to their particular fields to the General Secretariat, to enable the Secretariat to prepare comprehensive reports on the subject for submission to the Standing Committee on Cultural and Information Affairs.

The Conference expressed profound appreciation to member States that make generous and regular contributions to the Islamic Solidarity Fund and its waqf and urged all members to do likewise. It requested the Permanent Council of the Fund to organize periodic visits to member countries in order to explain the lofty objectives of the Fund and its waqf, and to persuade member States, institutions and organizations as well as individuals to make voluntary contributions to the Fund and the waqf. The Conference called upon the Fund to continue to support the OIC subsidiary institutions and bodies within the limits of its capacity.

Administrative and financial issues

33. The Conference approved the ninth report of the Finance Control Organ and called upon the General Secretariat and the subsidiary organs to comply with and implement the observations and recommendations contained in the report.

The Conference approved the proposed budget of the General Secretariat to be financed through mandatory contributions.

The Conference also approved the budgets of the subsidiary organs of OIC, namely:

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara.
- Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research, Dhaka.
- Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul.
- Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade, Casablanca.
- The International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage, Istanbul.
- The Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah.
- The Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development, Jeddah.

On the question of the revised share of contributions of member States to the budgets of the General Secretariat and the subsidiary organs, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended committee of member States to review the study to be prepared by the General Secretariat and the Ankara Centre and to make appropriate recommendations on the subject, through the Permanent Finance Committee, to the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The Conference expressed concern over the difficult financial situation of OIC and called on member States that have arrears to honour their financial obligations.

On the issue of co-ordination, the Conference decided to renew the mandate of the nine-member open-ended Committee. It decided to extend the mandate of the Committee to include evaluation of work methods of the Organization, its structure and regulations. It requested the General Secretariat to circulate to member States the study prepared by the Saudi Institute for Public Administration, and the views and observations of the General Secretariat and to solicit their views. The Committee was requested to complete its final report which should be circulated to member States before the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The Conference also examined the report of the seven-member Intergovernmental Committee on Staff Rules and Regulations and requested the General Secretariat to convene another meeting of this Committee to enable it to complete its work for submission to the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Election of the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretaries General

34. The Conference unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Hamid Al-Abid, Prime Minister of Niger, as the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The term of the new Secretary General would commence from 1 January 1989. The Conference also decided to defer the election of Assistant Secretaries General to a date after the new Secretary General assumes his functions, in order to enable him to select his own team. The Conference expressed deep appreciation to the present Secretary General, His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, for his untiring efforts to promote the objectives of the Conference and to strengthen Islamic solidarity during his tenure of office.

Date and venue of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

35. The Conference welcomed and accepted the offer made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the Eighteenth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Saudi Arabia.

The Conference also accepted the offer made by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, to be held after the Sixth Islamic Summit.

The Conference decided to refer to the next summit conference a proposal that its future ordinary sessions would be held once between every two summits in addition to the ministerial preparatory conferences prior to each summit.

Concluding statements

The Secretary General of OIC and the Chairman of the Conference made concluding statements at the end of the Conference, thanking all delegations for the spirit of co-operation, solidarity and brotherhood that permeated the deliberations. They also thanked the technical and other staff for the excellent services provided to the Conference.

Vote of thanks

36. At the conclusion of the work of the Conference, Malaysia, Uganda and Kuwait, speaking on behalf of the Asian, the African and the Arab Groups respectively, expressed thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal, his Government and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the lavish and generous hospitality provided to the participating delegations and for the excellent arrangements made for the holding of the Conference, which had enabled the Conference to work in an atmosphere imbued with a spirit of brotherhood and cordiality and to adopt far-reaching and action-oriented decisions.