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OIC Countries Welcome Declaration on
Implementation of the Two-State Solution

Qatar Summit Affirms Unity of the Muslim World





51st Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers
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“The OIC in a Transforming World”

Istanbul, the largest city in Türkiye, is regarded as the country’s economic, cultural, and historical center. It spans the Bosphorus Strait, and is located in both Europe and Asia. It is a major metropolis, encompassing 39 districts that constitute the Istanbul Province.



OUR MESSAGE

Significant Steps on the Path to Supporting the State of Palestine

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its Member States have succeeded in taking several decisive and historic positions in pursuit of regional security and stability. Foremost among these was the consensus achieved at the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, recently held in Doha, Qatar, during which Member States expressed their firm stance with regard to the Israeli aggression against Qatar and other countries of the region, and affirmed their full support for all measures taken by the State of Qatar to preserve its sovereignty, security, and stability.

The OIC and its Member States also adopted an advanced position regarding the Israeli aggression on Gaza, during the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on June 21–22, 2025, under the theme: “The OIC in a Transforming World.” This session, which took place amid the Israeli attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, saw the OIC and its Member States taking a unified Islamic stance in response to Israel’s continued aggressions against countries in the region.

One of the most significant developments in the Palestinian Cause during this period was the revival of the Two-State Solution and the recognition of the independent State of Palestine, thanks to the tremendous efforts exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, jointly with France, to support the Palestinian right in international fora.

As Secretary-General of the OIC, I welcomed the Joint Statement issued by Saudi Arabia and France, as Co-Chairs of the High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, convened at the UN Headquarters in New York on July 28–30, 2025. This meeting paved the way for the High-Level Conference on the Two-State Solution, held at the UN Headquarters in New York on September 22, 2025.

This historic Conference came to embody a collective and global commitment to achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the Two-State Solution, and saw the recognition, by many major countries, of the Palestinian people’s right to an independent State.

I take this opportunity to welcome the historic commitments and decisions adopted during the Conference, which included the recognition of the State of Palestine by many countries, a historic milestone that demonstrated the world’s support for the rights of the Palestinian people. I call for translating this historic recognition and these decisions into immediate and concrete measures in order to halt the genocide in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing Israeli crimes in the West Bank and occupied Al-Quds, bring an end to occupation and colonial settlement, and ensure accountability for all the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people.

The growing international recognition of the State of Palestine is the fruit of visits and tremendous diplomatic efforts undertaken by the Ministerial Committee mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 11, 2023, chaired by HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs. The members of this Committee carried out visits to several Western and global capitals, including permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as to other concerned States and international organizations, with the aim of achieving a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

The systematic crimes committed by Israel, the occupying power, including aggression, genocide, destruction, displacement, starvation, and blockade in the Gaza Strip, its illegal policies of settlement expansion, annexation, and ethnic cleansing, its plans to impose its alleged “sovereignty” over the West Bank, including the occupied city of Al-Quds, as well as its targeting of Islamic and Christian holy sites, all constitute flagrant violations of international law and UN resolutions. These violations require the OIC and the entire international community to intensify efforts in order to expose and bring them to light, and to thwart them. It is imperative to put an end to all these grave violations, to provide sufficient and sustainable humanitarian aid, to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Gaza Strip, and to release the Palestinian tax revenues illegally withheld by the Israeli occupation authorities, in order to enable the Palestinian government to fulfill its obligations throughout the entire Palestinian territory. It is also essential to implement the Arab-Islamic Plan for the Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, adopted by the Extraordinary Meeting of Foreign Ministers held on March 7, 2025, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

I also reaffirm the OIC’s steadfast commitment to supporting the UNRWA, and call upon the international community to provide political support, sustainable funding, and legal protection for this UN Agency. I emphasize the necessity of maintaining its vital and irreplaceable role, as it embodies a political, legal, and humanitarian commitment toward the Palestinian refugees, safeguarding their rights and providing for their basic needs.

The responsibility of the OIC and its Member States in the coming period should focus on safeguarding the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, reached on October 9, 2025.



Hissein Brahim Taha

*Secretary-General of the
Organization of Islamic
Cooperation*

The growing international recognition of the State of Palestine is the fruit of visits and tremendous diplomatic efforts undertaken by the Ministerial Committee mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit

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The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, Casablanca (<https://icdt-cidc.org/>)

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah (<https://iifa-aifi.org/en>)

Islamic Solidarity Fund, Jeddah (<https://isf-fsi.org>)

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The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Rabat (<https://icesco.org/en/>)

The Union OIC News Agencies, Jeddah (<https://una-oic.org/en/>)

OIC States Broadcasting Union, Jeddah (<https://osbu-oic.org/>)

The Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, Benghazi (<https://icic-oic.org/en/index.htm>)

Islamic Organization for Food Security, Astana (<https://www.iofs.org.kz/>)

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Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific, Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH Secretariat) Islamabad (<https://comstech.org/>)

Women Development Organization, Cairo (<https://www.wdo-odf.org/en/>)

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation Center for Cooperation and Coordination between Police Agencies, Istanbul

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Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture, Karachi (<https://www.iccia.com/>)

Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities, Makkah (<https://www.oicc.org/en/>)

Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation, Riyadh (<https://issf.sa/en/>)

Organization of the Islamic Ship-owners Association, Jeddah

World Federation of Arabo-Islamic International Schools, Cairo (<https://facebook.com/wfaiis.oic.schools>)

Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, Istanbul (<https://www.icyforum.org/>)

International Union of Muslim Scouts, Jeddah (<https://msihs.org>)

Islamic World Academy of Sciences, Amman (<https://www.iasworld.org/>)

The Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries, Istanbul (<https://www.thefcic.org/home>)

General Council For Islamic Banks And Financial Institutions, Manama (<https://www.cibafi.org/Home>)

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Arab-Islamic Summit to Address Israeli Attack on Qatar

The Joint Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit kicked off on 15 September 2025, in Doha, Qatar, under the chairmanship of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and in the presence of Their Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, the Leaders of Arab and Islamic States. The Summit was convened to discuss the repercussions of the brutal Israeli attack on the State of Qatar, and to reaffirm full solidarity with it.

At the opening session of the Summit, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, delivered an address in which he expressed gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, for hosting the Summit, and conveyed the OIC's full solidarity with the State of Qatar following the brutal Israeli aggression. He stressed that this attack requires a unified and resolute stance from Arab and Islamic States.

The Secretary-General expressed the OIC's full support for all measures taken by the State of Qatar to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and stability. He renewed his call on the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to assume its responsibilities to hold Israel accountable for all its crimes, and compel it to end its grave and continuing aggressions in

the region and abide by international law. The Secretary-General emphasized that the Israeli attack on the State of Qatar is only an extension of Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people, their land, and their holy sites. He called for stronger international efforts to bring about a ceasefire and ensure adequate and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the Gaza Strip, in addition to the necessity of the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces.

The Secretary-General seized this opportunity to reaffirm the OIC's support for the outcomes of the International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, which would enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination, and to establish sovereignty over their State along the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Al-Quds as its capital. The outcomes of this Summit, he added, will reinforce Arab and Islamic solidarity with the State of Qatar and unify their positions and efforts in the face of current challenges.

The Ministerial Meeting Preparatory for the Joint Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit was convened on 14 September 2025, in Doha, under the chairmanship of H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al

Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

The meeting was attended by Their Excellencies the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Arab and Islamic States, along with the Secretaries-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States (LAS).

Addressing the meeting, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, stressed that the blatant Israeli aggression against the sovereignty of the State of Qatar, an active Member of the OIC and the League of Arab States, represents a deliberate escalation by the Israeli occupying power to expand the scope of the war, undermine regional security and stability, and persist in violating international charters, laws, and resolutions. He reiterated the necessity of redoubling efforts to hold Israel accountable for its violation of the sovereignty of the State of Qatar, and for committing crimes of genocide, settlement, and organized terrorism against the Palestinian people. He further called for supporting efforts aimed at implementing the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly on ending the Israeli aggression, occupation, and settlement, and on implementing the two-State solution.



Israeli Attack on Qatar is an Aggression on all Muslim States

The Final Communiqué adopted by the Joint Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit stressed that Israel's brutal aggression against the State of Qatar, and its continued aggressive practices, including the crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, starvation, and siege, as well as the settlement activities and expansionist policies, all undermine any chances for peace in the region.

The Communiqué condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the cowardly attack carried out by Israel on 9 September 2025 against a residential neighborhood in the Qatari capital, Doha, which included housing facilities designated by the State for hosting negotiating delegations as part of Qatar's multiple mediation efforts, in addition to a number of schools, nurseries, and diplomatic missions. The attack, which resulted in martyrs, including a Qatari citizen, and injuries among civilians, constitutes a flagrant act of aggression against an Arab and Muslim State, a member of the United Nations. It is a grave escalation that lays bare the aggressiveness of the extremist Israeli Government, and adds to its criminal record that threatens regional and global peace and security.

The Communiqué affirmed absolute solidarity with the State of Qatar in the face

of this attack, which constitutes an aggression against all Arab and Muslim States. It expressed support with Qatar in all actions and measures it may take in response to this treacherous Israeli aggression in order to safeguard its security, sovereignty, stability, and the safety of its citizens and residents, in accordance with the UN Charter.

The Communiqué stressed that this aggression on Qatar, a State serving as a principal mediator in efforts to secure a ceasefire, end Israel's war on Gaza, and release hostages and prisoners, is a grave escalation and an assault on diplomatic efforts to restore peace. It pointed out that such an attack on a neutral venue for mediation not only violates Qatar's sovereignty, but also undermines international mediation and peace-making processes, and held Israel fully responsible for the consequences of this attack.

The Communiqué commended the civilized, wise, and responsible stance adopted by the State of Qatar in addressing this treacherous assault, its firm adherence to international law, and its insistence on upholding its sovereignty and security and defending its rights by all legitimate means. At the same time, it categorically rejected the repeated Israeli threats of possible renewed targeting of

the State of Qatar, or of any Arab or Muslim State, and considered such threats as provocative and a grave escalation that threatens international peace and security. It urged the international community to condemn these threats in the strongest possible terms, and take deterrent measures to halt them.

The Communiqué expressed support for the efforts of the States engaged in mediation, in particular the State of Qatar, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the United States of America, with the aim of ending the aggression on the Gaza Strip. It underlined, in this context, the constructive role played by the State of Qatar and its valuable mediation efforts, which have yielded positive impacts in support of endeavors to bring about security, stability, and peace. It also commended Qatar's multiple initiatives at the regional and international levels, especially in terms of humanitarian aid and support for education in developing and poor countries, which enhances its standing as a key actor supportive of peace and development in the region and around the world. The UN Charter, directly targeting ongoing mediation efforts to halt the aggression on the Gaza Strip.



Doha Summit Welcomes “Shared Vision for Security and Cooperation in the Region”

The Final Communiqué adopted by the Joint Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit welcomed the adoption, by the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level, of the resolution entitled “Shared Vision for Security and Cooperation in the Region”. It reaffirmed the concept of collective security and the shared destiny of Arab and Islamic States, and the necessity to stand united in the face of common challenges and threats.

The Communiqué underlined the need to start putting in place the implementation mechanisms, and stressed that any future regional arrangements must take into consideration the principles of international law and the UN Charter, good-neighborly relations, respect for State sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, equality of rights and duties without preference of one State over another, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and renunciation of the use of force. It also underscored the necessity of ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories, embodying the State of Palestine along the lines of 4 June 1967, and ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

The Communiqué reaffirmed the necessity of countering and standing against Israel’s schemes to impose a new fait accompli in the region, which poses a direct threat to regional and international stability and security. It condemned any Israeli attempts to forcibly displace the Palestinian people, under whatever pretext, from their territories occupied in 1967, and considered such acts as crimes against humanity, flagrant violations of international law and international humanitarian law, and a policy of ethnic cleansing that is wholly rejected.

The Communiqué stressed the necessity of implementing the Arab-Islamic Reconstruction Plan, with its political and technical aspects, and to launch the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip as quickly as possible. In this regard, it urged international donors to provide the necessary support and to actively participate in the forthcoming Gaza Reconstruction Conference, to be hosted in Cairo once a ceasefire is secured.

The Communiqué condemned the Israeli policies that have caused an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, with starvation, siege, and deprivation of food and medicine

being used as weapons of war against the Palestinian people, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions. It stressed that such practices constitute a full-fledged war crime that requires urgent international action to put an end to them and ensure the immediate, safe, and unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid into all parts of the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Communiqué warned of the catastrophic consequences of any decision by Israel, the occupying power, to annex any part of the occupied Palestinian territory. It stressed the need to confront such a move as a blatant assault on the historical and legal rights of the Palestinian people, a violation of the UN Charter, international law, and relevant UN resolutions.

The Communiqué warned of the grave consequences of the international community’s continued failure to rein in the Israeli aggressiveness, most recently the attack on the State of Qatar, its ongoing and escalating brutal assault on the occupied Gaza Strip, its illegal settlement practices in the West Bank, including occupied Al-Quds.

Doha Summit Calls on all States to Take Legal Measures to Prevent Israel from Continuing its Crimes



The Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit called on all States to take all possible legal and effective measures to prevent Israel from continuing its actions against the Palestinian people, including by supporting efforts to end its impunity, hold it accountable for its violations and crimes, impose sanctions on it, suspend the supply, transfer, or transit of weapons, ammunition, and military materials, including dual-use items, review diplomatic and economic relations with it, and initiating legal proceedings against it.

The Summit also called on OIC Member States to examine the extent to which Israel's membership in the United Nations is consistent with the UN Charter, in view of its clear violations of membership conditions and its persistent disregard for UN resolutions, and to coordinate efforts with a view to suspending Israel's membership in the United Nations.

The Final Communiqué adopted by the Summit reaffirmed the importance of commitment to international legitimacy and relevant UN resolutions, being the fundamental reference for achieving global peace and security. It rejected the Israeli rhetoric that exploits and promotes Islamophobia in order to justify the continuation of its violations and

pursue policies that run counter to international law, including the ongoing genocide and settlement projects in the West Bank, as well as its attempts to distort the image of Arab and Islamic States.

The Communiqué welcomed the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the "New York Declaration" on the implementation of the two-State solution and the establishment of the independent Palestinian State, as a clear expression of the international will supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to establish their independent State along the lines of 4 June 1967, with East Al-Quds as its capital. It commended, in this regard, the efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the French Republic, which contributed to the adoption of this Declaration. It also welcomed the convening of the Two-State Solution Conference, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France, and called for concerted international efforts to ensure broad recognition of the independent State of Palestine with East Al-Quds as its capital. The Communiqué commended the pivotal role played by the representatives of Arab and Muslim States that are members of the Security Council, particularly Algeria,

Somalia, and Pakistan, in defending the Palestinian Cause, putting an end to the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, bringing about a ceasefire, and supporting Palestine's obtaining of full membership in the United Nations. It also commended the significant role they played in calling for and ensuring the convening of the emergency session of the Security Council, dedicated to addressing the Israeli aggression against the State of Qatar.

The Communiqué reaffirmed support for the historic Hashemite custodianship undertaken by His Majesty King Abdullah II over the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Al-Quds, as reaffirmed in the agreement signed between His Majesty King Abdullah II and His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, on 31 March 2013. It further reaffirmed that Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, with its entire area of 144,000 square meters, is a place of worship exclusively for Muslims, and that the Directorate of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem Affairs, affiliated with the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, is the sole legitimate authority vested with exclusive competence to administer Al-Aqsa Mosque, maintain it, and regulate entry to it.

S.G. Welcomes Saudi Arabia's Efforts For Recognition of Palestine



The OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, welcomed the Joint Statement issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the French Republic, as co-Chairs of the High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held at the UN headquarters in New York on September 22, 2025. He also welcomed the historic pledges and decisions taken by States during the Conference, which included the recognition of the State of Palestine by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Andorra, Monaco, and San Marino, along with France. The Secretary-General took this opportunity to renew the OIC's call on the States that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so. He commended this recognition, which constitutes a historic commitment to achieving justice and peace based on international law and the Two-State Solution, and supports the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights to self-determination, freedom, independence, and the establishment of their independent State. He called for translating these decisions into im-

mediate and concrete measures to halt the genocide, end the occupation and colonial settlement, and hold the Israeli occupation accountable for all its crimes against the Palestinian people.

The Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation to Saudi Arabia and France for co-chairing the High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on July 28-30, 2025. This was part of his speech, delivered on his behalf by Amb. Samir Bakr, Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs. He emphasized that this historic meeting reflects a shared commitment to achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on the Two-State Solution. He reiterated, in this regard, the OIC's steadfast support for the Palestinian Cause as a central issue with political, historical, and humanitarian dimensions.

The Secretary-General also affirmed that the OIC shares the international community's decades-long commitment to supporting the Two-State Solution as the only

way to resolve the conflict. He emphasized the need to implement and comply with relevant UN resolutions, being a firm political and legal commitment and an indispensable foundation for achieving peace and stability in the region. He indicated that all the systematic crimes of Israel, the occupying power, including aggression, genocide, destruction, displacement, starvation, and the siege of the Gaza Strip, along with its illegal policies of settlement expansion, annexation, and ethnic cleansing, as well as its plans to impose its alleged sovereignty over the West Bank, including occupied Al-Quds, and to target Islamic and Christian holy sites, all constitute flagrant violations of international law and relevant UN resolutions. The Secretary-General reiterated his call for putting an end to all these violations, imposing an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and providing adequate and sustained humanitarian aid, in addition to the Israeli occupation forces' withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and the release of Palestinian tax revenues illegally withheld by the Israeli occupation authorities, in order to enable the Palestinian government to fulfill its obligations throughout the Palestinian territory.



OIC Participates in Ministerial Meeting on the Two-State Solution

The OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Youssef Al-Dobeay, took part in the Ministerial Meeting of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held on 24 September 2025 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, under the theme: “Transforming Commitments into Irreversible Actions: Ending the War and Achieving a Sovereign Palestinian State for Regional Peace and Security”. The meeting was chaired by HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Foreign Minister of Norway, and Ms. Kaja Kallas, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, and was attended by a large number of representatives from States and international and regional organizations.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Al-Dobeay welcomed the resumption of the High-Level Conference on the Two-State Solution. He commended the decision of the States that have recognized the State of Palestine, and urged the other countries to follow suit and support Palestine’s full membership in the United Nations. He reiterated the OIC’s call for putting an end to all Israeli violations, im-

posing an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and allowing entry of humanitarian aid, in addition to the occupation forces’ complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Al-Dobeay underlined the OIC’s firm commitment to working with all international partners to take practical steps toward implementing the Two-State Solution and follow up on the content of the New York Declaration, which would lead to ending the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the establishment of their independent state on the 1967 borders with East Al-Quds as its capital. This, he added, stems from the OIC’s full support for a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian Cause, based on international law, relevant UN resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative.

In their remarks, participants emphasized the need for practical steps to implement the Two-State Solution as the only way to achieve peace in the region.

In the same context, the Ministerial Committee mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Developments in the Gaza Strip expressed strong condemna-

tion and categorical rejection of Israel’s announcement of its intention to impose full military control over the Gaza Strip. It considered this announcement a serious and unacceptable escalation, a violation of international law, and an attempt to entrench the illegal occupation and impose a fait accompli by force, in contravention of relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

The Committee affirmed that this declared course of action by Israel comes as an extension of its grave violations, including killing and starvation, attempts at forced displacement and annexation of Palestinian land, along with settler terrorism, which are all crimes that may amount to crimes against humanity. Such actions ruin any chance for peace, undermine regional and international efforts towards de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the conflict, and exacerbate the severe violations committed against the Palestinian people who have been facing, during the past 22 months, a comprehensive aggression and blockade that have affected all aspects of life in the Gaza Strip, alongside serious violations in the West Bank and East Al-Quds. low the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.



OIC Welcomes “New York Declaration” on Implementation of the Two-State Solution

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) welcomed the United Nations General Assembly's historic resolution adopted on September 12, 2025, with an overwhelming majority, which included the New York Declaration and its annexes issued by the “High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.” This resolution reflects a global consensus and commitment to work toward the establishment of the State of Palestine, the ending of the Israeli occupation, and the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The OIC commended the leading role played by Saudi Arabia and France as co-Chairs of the Conference, and for their joint and tireless efforts in mobilizing support for the adoption of the final document, which was drafted in consultation with the heads of the working groups. It also expressed deep appreciation to all the countries that co-sponsored the resolution and voted in favor of its adoption by the General Assembly, thereby demonstrating their support for peace, justice, and international legitimacy.

The OIC called on all States to fulfill their responsibilities and move immediately toward the effective implementation of the measures outlined in the New York Declaration, including full recognition of the State of Palestine, support for its full membership in the United Nations, and pressure on Israel, the occupying power, to halt its crimes of occupation, aggression, settlement expansion, displacement, destruction, and starvation against the Palestinian people.

The OIC reaffirmed its commitment to working jointly with all international parties to ensure the implementation of this Declaration, leading to the Palestinian people's attainment of their inalienable rights, particularly the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent State along the lines of June 4, 1967, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

On May 25, 2025, the Members of the “Ministerial Committee Mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Developments in Gaza” held an expanded meeting in Madrid, Spain, with the Madrid Group and a number of European countries. The meeting was chaired by HH Prince

Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and was attended by H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar; H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine; H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; H.E. Dr. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt; H.E. Mr. Ahmed About Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab League; H.E. Mr. Houssein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and Dr. Nuh Yılmaz, Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye.

The meeting addressed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as the international efforts to put an end to the war and to the humanitarian suffering in Gaza.



Ministerial Committee Condemns Knesset's West Bank Annexation Plan

The “Ministerial Committee Mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Developments in the Gaza Strip” undertook numerous actions over the past months. The Foreign Ministers members of the Committee expressed their categorical rejection of all Israeli statements regarding the displacement of the Palestinian people from their territory occupied since 1967, under any pretext whatsoever. They also condemned Israel’s policies and practices aimed at uprooting the Palestinian people from their land, through expanding military operations in Gaza, using siege and starvation as weapons of war, continuously targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, and seeking to prolong and widen the scope of the conflict, which threatens regional and international peace and security. They reiterated their condemnation of Israel’s illegal measures in the West Bank, including settlement expansion, settler violence, demolitions of homes, and land confiscation.

The Ministers condemned, in the strongest terms, the Israeli Knesset’s approval of a bill calling for the imposition of so-called “Is-

raeli sovereignty” over the occupied West Bank, considering it a blatant and unacceptable violation of international law and a flagrant breach of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, most notably Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), and 2334 (2016). All of these resolutions affirm the illegality of all measures and decisions aimed at legitimizing the occupation, including settlement activities in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

The Committee reaffirmed that Israel has no sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territory, and that this unilateral Israeli move is of no legal validity and can in no way alter the legal status of the occupied Palestinian territory, at the forefront of which East Al-Quds, which remains an inseparable part of that territory. It also stressed that such Israeli measures can only inflame the escalating tension in the region, already exacerbated by the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe.

The Committee also welcomed the Joint Statement issued by the leaders of the United Kingdom, France, and Canada regarding

the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, which called for an end to the war in Gaza and the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to the Strip.

The Committee shared the position of rejection expressed by the three leaders regarding the military operations and the ongoing, full-fledged assault against the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza. It expressed its grave concern over the continuation of the Israeli blockade and the denial of entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, and called for the immediate, sustained, and large-scale flow of life-saving humanitarian aid for all Palestinians in need throughout Gaza. The deliberate denial of essential life-saving supplies and the weaponization of humanitarian aid have pushed the population to the brink of famine.

The Committee emphasized that Israel’s blockade constitutes a violation of the UN Charter and resolutions, relevant treaties, and international humanitarian law. It exacerbates the man-made humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip, and poses a serious threat to the security and stability of the region.



Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee Meets with EU Representative to Address the Situation in Gaza

The “Ministerial Committee Mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Developments in the Gaza Strip” held a meeting with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Ms. Kaja Kallas, in the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah; Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani; Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mustafa; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Dr. Abdulatif Al-Zayani; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Dr. Badr Abdelatty; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Mr. Hakan Fidan; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Mr. Sugiono; Minister of

State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates H.E. Mr. Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar; Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Nigeria in Cairo H.E. Mr. Adesuyi Samotu; Secretary-General of the League of Arab States H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit; and Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha.

The Parties discussed recent developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and expressed their grave concern over the breakdown of the ceasefire in Gaza and the resulting large number of civilian casualties from the latest airstrikes. They condemned the resumption of hostilities and the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and called for an immediate return to the full implementation of the ceasefire-hostage and detainees release agreement that went into effect on January 19th, as brokered by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States. They stressed the need for moving towards the second phase of the agreement with a view to its full implementation, including the release of all hostages, a permanent end to hostilities, and the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces

from Gaza, in line with UNSC Resolution 2735.

The Parties called for full compliance with international humanitarian law and international law. This includes ensuring swift, sustained, and unimpeded humanitarian access and the provision of humanitarian aid at scale into and throughout the entire Gaza Strip. To that end, they demanded the lifting of all restrictions that hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid, as well as the immediate restoration of all basic services in the Strip, including the supply of electricity for water desalination plants.

The Parties welcomed the Arab Recovery and Reconstruction Plan, presented at the Arab Summit in Cairo on March 4th, 2025, subsequently adopted by the OIC and welcomed by the European Council. They stressed that the aforementioned Plan ensures that the Palestinian people will remain on their land, and emphasized, in this regard, their categorical rejection of any displacement or expulsion of the Palestinian people from their territory, from Gaza and the West Bank.



Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee Continues its Moves to Stop Israeli Aggression

The “Ministerial Committee Mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Developments in the Gaza Strip”, chaired by HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, held an official meeting, on May 29, 2025 in Madrid, with H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar; H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine; H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; H.E. Mr. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye; and H.E. Mr. Hisein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The meeting discussed the ongoing efforts to halt the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the city of Rafah, and its surrounding areas. It emphasized the urgent need for an

immediate ceasefire and for the delivery of adequate and sustained humanitarian aid to all parts of the Strip.

The Members of the Committee commended Spain’s recognition of the State of Palestine as a step in support of the Palestinian people’s inalienable right to live in dignity and freedom in their sovereign and independent State, based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Al-Quds as its capital.

The meeting also reviewed the Committee’s efforts in support of the recognition of the Palestinian State, and the needed steps to implement the Two-State Solution, in line with the Arab Peace Initiative and other relevant international initiatives.

The Committee underlined the importance of the international community taking urgent steps to recognize the State of Palestine; thereby reviving the peace process, achieving just and comprehensive peace, safeguarding the rights of the Palestinian people, and promoting security in the region. It also emphasized the need to halt all illegal and unilateral Israeli measures in the West Bank, and the importance of applying international law and international humani-

tarian law, as well as holding the Israeli occupation accountable for its crimes against defenseless civilians.

Earlier on in the work of the committee, on May 29, 2024, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez, received the members of the Ministerial Committee.

The Committee members expressed appreciation for Spain’s recognition of the State of Palestine, and their commitment to continue to provide all support to activate the recognition of the Palestinian State; thereby ensuring that the entitlements of the Palestinian people are met, and serving security and peace in the region and across the world in the face of extremism, violence, and continued violations of international law.

The meeting reviewed the Ministerial Committee’s efforts in support of the recognition of the Palestinian State, and highlighted the pressing need to take the needed steps to implement the Two-State solution, by establishing the Palestinian State on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Al-Quds as its capital, in line with the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant international initiatives.



Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee Continues World Tour to Stop Israeli Aggression on Gaza

HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, current Chair of the Arab and Islamic summits, led an Arab-Islamic delegation—comprising several Member States of the OIC and the League of Arab States—on a tour that involved meetings with permanent members of the UN Security Council and other States and relevant international organizations, aimed at achieving a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. The formation of the delegation came in implementation of the Resolution adopted by the Extraordinary Joint Arab-Islamic Summit held on November 11, 2023.

This Arab-Islamic diplomatic effort involved H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar; H.E. Mr. Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt; H.E. Riyadh al-Maliki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine; H.E. Mr. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye; H.E. Ms. Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; H.E. Mr. Ahmed About Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; and H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

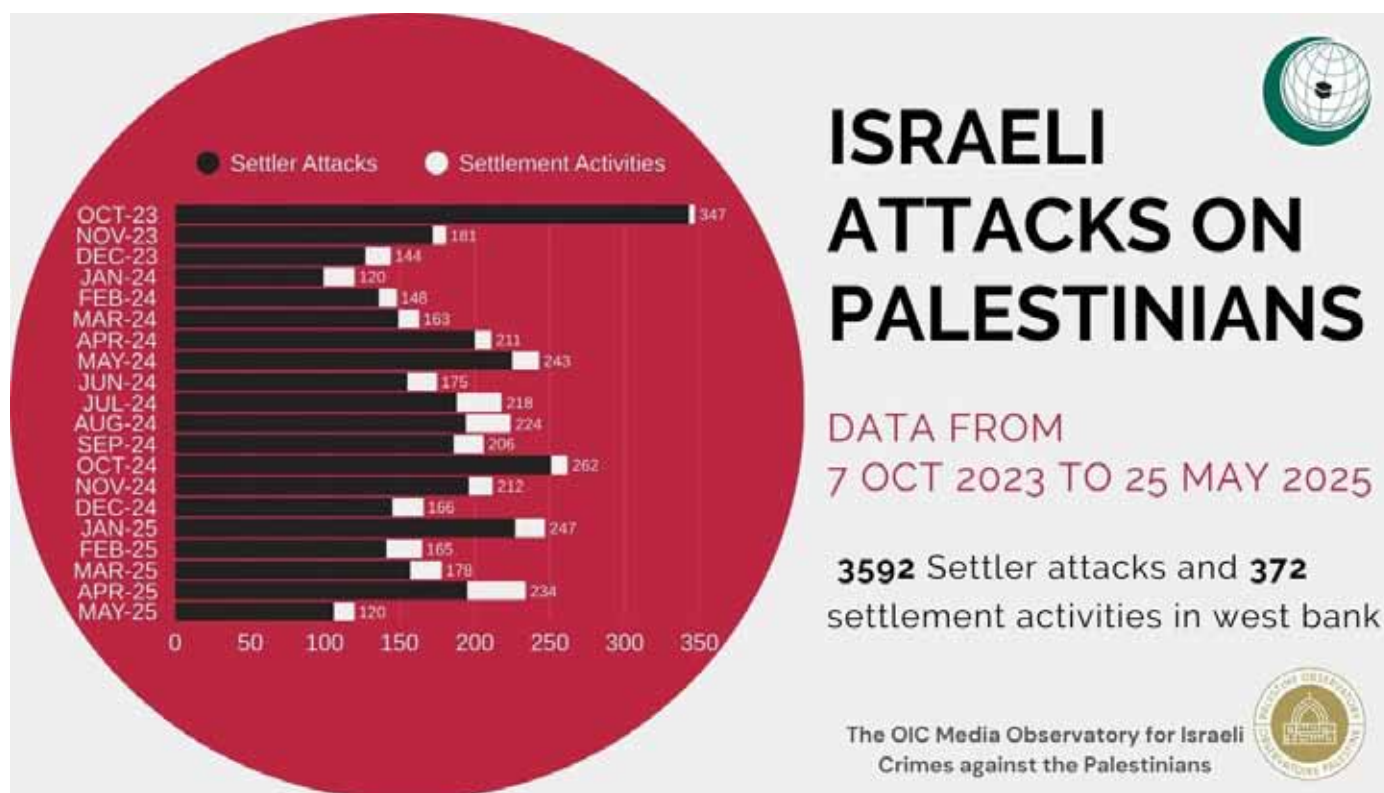
This diplomatic move was undertaken on behalf of all Member States of the OIC and the League of Arab States, with the aim of achieving an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and exerting pressure to launch a serious and genuine political process conducive to a lasting and comprehensive peace, in accordance with established international references. It also sought to take decisive measures to stop the colonial occupation authorities' crimes against humanity, and to secure urgent humanitarian corridors in order to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the besieged Gaza Strip.

At the outset of its tour, the Ministerial Committee held a meeting in Beijing, China, with Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng, who commended the significant efforts of the Joint Arab-Islamic Summit and the resolutions it had adopted with the aim of achieving de-escalation, protecting civilians, and reviving peace efforts. He affirmed his

country's support for the Committee's work, noting that since the outbreak of the crisis, China has been strongly pushing for a ceasefire as well as for protecting civilians, facilitating humanitarian relief, and reaching a just solution to the Palestinian issue. He also emphasized China's keenness to coordinate and work closely with Arab and Islamic countries to achieve a ceasefire.

For their part, the Committee members commended China's positions with regard to the crisis in the Gaza Strip, which are aligned with the Arab and Islamic stances, and highlighted China's positive role, within the UN Security Council, in supporting efforts to achieve a ceasefire in the Strip.

The Committee members underlined the importance of an immediate halt to the military escalation and to the forced displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, as well as the need to provide safe corridors for the delivery of urgent humanitarian, food, and medical aid, and to revive the peace process in accordance with international resolutions; thereby ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their independent State, with East Al-Quds as its capital.



OIC Observatory: 80% of Gaza Destroyed; Crimes Continue in the West Bank

From October 7, 2023 till October 7, 2025, the Israeli occupation forces completely destroyed 80% of Gaza's infrastructure, according to the United Nations. During this period, they killed nearly 70,000 Palestinians and injured over 180,000 others, including thousands who sustained permanent, life-altering disabilities.

Over the past few weeks, the OIC Media Observatory on Israeli Crimes against Palestinians has monitored the Israeli occupation forces' launch of their aggression under the name "Gideon's Chariots Operation – 2", aimed at re-occupying the city of Gaza after completely destroying it.

Since the occupation forces had already bombed the city hundreds of times before invading it, the target of this aggressive operation was the displaced people living in tents and shelters. This last phase of the Israeli aggression in Gaza became the main cause for the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, who fled on foot, taking with them their children, women, and elderly family members, and some of their belongings.

On September 5, 2025, the occupation

forces began the military operation through systematic shelling of high buildings and dropping incendiary bombs on rooftops and Palestinian vehicles, creating a fire blockade to force Gaza City residents to move south. During the monitored period, the Israeli forces also targeted the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital and killed around 250 journalists while performing their duties, which amounted to a crime against humanity and a suppression of truth.

This took place after a suffocating siege and a starvation campaign that lasted for two years, during which the entry of medicine and all hospital supplies, including fuel, was prevented. Meanwhile, 80% of the health sector was destroyed, many of its personnel were killed, arrested, or subjected to severe restrictions, and civil defense teams were harassed and continuously targeted, and their movement was blocked.

Over two years, the number of Israeli crimes across Palestinian territories reached approximately 340,000, including killings by airstrikes and artillery shelling, injuries, arrests, demolitions, property and land confiscation, burning, settlement expansion, and

incursions into cities, towns, and villages in the West Bank. There were also serious violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque, which suffered 620 raids over two full years, in addition to violations against the Ibrahim Mosque, from which 244 square meters were confiscated for Israeli settlers. Palestinian mosques and churches also faced assaults and raids.

During the same period, the total number of arrests in the West Bank reached 25,587 cases, concentrated in the Governorates of Nablus, Al-Khalil, and Ramallah. The West Bank also suffered 5,195 attacks by settlers, whose assaults and crimes against Palestinians increased at an unprecedented pace.

As in previous years, the occupation forces and settlers launched a systematic campaign against the olive harvest season in the towns and villages of the West Bank. These attacks range from blocking roads leading to olive fields to shooting at and assaulting farmers during the harvest, uprooting and burning olive trees, stealing olive crops, and grazing settler livestock on agricultural lands.



CFM Calls for International Action to Stop the Israeli Aggression

In his speech at the opening of the Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held on August 25, 2025 at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, to discuss the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, called for redoubling efforts on various fronts to confront the Israeli occupation's ongoing crimes in the Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

The Secretary-General warned of the gravity of the announcement made by Israel, the occupying power, about its intention to impose full military control over the Gaza Strip, and the racist statements of its Prime Minister regarding what he calls the "Greater Israel" Vision. He called on the international community to take concrete steps to break the blockade and allow the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The Secretary-General reiterated the OIC's rejection and condemnation of the colonial settlement policy in the Palestinian territory, most recently the approval of the settlement expansion plan in the E1 area of occupied Al-Quds, as well as the Israeli occupation's systematic targeting of journalists in the Gaza Strip, stressing that these crimes require legal prosecution in accordance with international criminal law.

The Secretary-General emphasized the OIC's

support for UNRWA, which plays a vital role in serving Palestinian refugees. He also called for pursuing efforts to achieve a ceasefire and ensure the return of displaced persons and the withdrawal of occupation forces, and for moving forward in preparing for the Gaza Reconstruction Conference in Cairo.

The Secretary-General welcomed the outcomes of the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held in New York and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France, and called on all States to adopt the final document. He also welcomed the announcement, by several States, of their recognition of the State of Palestine, and urged other States to follow suit and support Palestine's full membership in the United Nations. The opening session featured speeches by H.E. Mr. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye; H.E. Mr. Serigne Modou Ndiaye, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad of the Republic of The Gambia; HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Head of the Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee; and H.E. Mr. Riyad Mansour, Permanent Representative of Palestine to the United Nations.

The meeting expressed strong rejection and

condemnation of Israel's announcement of its plan to impose full occupation and military control over the Gaza Strip, and any schemes, under any label whatsoever, aimed at displacing the Palestinian people. He considered this plan a serious and unacceptable escalation, and an attempt to entrench illegal occupation and impose a fait accompli through force. Such illegal actions, he added, threaten regional and international peace and security, and represent a blatant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as the advisory opinion and provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice.

The meeting asserted that all the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying power, including aggression, genocide, ethnic cleansing, illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, use of starvation as a weapon of war, along with colonial settlement policies, settler acts of terrorism and extremism, land confiscation, home demolitions, repeated attacks on Islamic and Christian holy sites, and attempts to annex Palestinian land in the West Bank, including East Al-Quds, all amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity that call for accountability under international criminal law.



OIC Media Observatory on
Israeli Crimes Against
Palestinians



3239

CRIMES IN A WEEK

September 9-15, 2025

Murdered toll 388

Injured toll 1859

Detained 159

OIC Countries Condemn “Greater Israel” Vision

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, convened in an Extraordinary Session on August 25, 2025, to address the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people, highlighted the significance of the case filed at the International Court of Justice, as Israel, the occupying power, has violated the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It also underscored the necessary follow-up actions to the ICJ advisory opinion, with the goal of ensuring that Israel is held accountable for the crimes of genocide it has committed, and continues to commit, in the State of Palestine.

The Resolution adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers condemned and rejected, in the strongest terms, the irresponsible and arrogant statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister regarding the so-called “Greater Israel” Vision.” These statements are only an extension of extremist rhetoric,

incitement, and aggression against the sovereignty of States. They constitute a violation of international law and the UN Charter, and pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. They are part of Israel’s efforts, as the occupying power, to evade its international obligations and to continue its denial and violation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the annexation of the Palestinian land. It warned of the potential repercussions of these actions on security and stability in the region and around the world.

The Resolution strongly condemned the deliberate and systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure, including the destruction of food supply chains, water facilities, and medical services in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli occupying forces, which has directly contributed to the outbreak of famine and a man-made humanitarian catastrophe. It held Israel, the occupying power, fully re-

sponsible for the crimes of genocide, the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, and the famine affecting the Gaza Strip. It demanded that Israel open all crossings and urgently allow the unhindered and unconditional entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, including adequate food, medicine, and fuel, and ensure that relief agencies and international humanitarian organizations, particularly UNRWA, can operate freely. It called for adherence to international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and relevant UN resolutions.

The Resolution stressed that Israel’s persistence in this escalation undermines the chances of reaching an urgent settlement, and exposes the region’s security and stability to further risks. It called on the international community to assume its legal, political, and humanitarian obligations to put an end to such policies. this crime and its repercussions.



Extraordinary CFM Meeting Condemns Targeting of Journalists in Gaza

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, convened in an Extraordinary Session on August 25, 2025, to address the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people, strongly condemned the recent assassinations of journalists and media professionals in the Gaza Strip. These actions constitute a war crime and an assault on press freedom, and are part of a series of systematic violations by Israel, the occupying power, against the media and its personnel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Al-Quds, which have claimed the lives of 240 journalists. The Council also condemned the continued occupation's prevention of international media agencies and their correspondents from entering the Gaza Strip, as part of its attempts to obscure the truth, cover up its daily crimes, and prevent them from being exposed to the global public opinion.

The Resolution adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers warned of the danger of the escalating terrorist acts committed by extremist settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank, including occupied Al-Quds, and stressed the need to take the necessary steps to hold the settlers accountable for their crimes, including imposing sanctions, placing them on terrorist lists, and prosecuting them.

The Resolution stressed the importance of the Government of the State of Palestine taking full responsibility for governance and security in the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to that end, called for comprehensive support from both OIC Member States and the international community. It highlighted the necessity of providing all forms of support to the government of the State of Palestine, including through the activation of the Islamic Financial Safety Net, in accordance with agreed-upon transparent mechanisms. At the same time, it urged the international community to pressure the Israeli occupation to immediately and wholly release all Palestinian tax revenues that have been illegally withheld.

The Resolution rejected any calls, plans, or policies aimed at displacing, in one way or another, the Palestinian people, inside or outside Palestine, including in the Gaza Strip, or changing the demographic composition thereof. It warned all States against cooperating, directly or indirectly, with Israeli displacement plans, as such cooperation would constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian law. It called for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation and for immediate accountability for all the crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying power,

which are in blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

The Resolution strongly condemned the systematic Israeli attacks on holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Al-Quds and the Ibrahimi Mosque in the City of Al-Khalil. It also denounced the occupation's attempts to interfere in the administration of these sites and alter their characteristics, and to impose restrictions on Islamic and Christian institutions, particularly those that are religious in nature, all in plain violation of international conventions and resolutions that protect places of worship and the freedom to access them. It emphasized the need to maintain the legal and historical status quo at these sacred sites.

The Resolution commended the efforts made by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the role of His Majesty King Abdullah II as Custodian of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in defending, protecting and preserving the city of Al-Quds and its Islamic and Christian holy sites, as well as in supporting the steadfastness of its Palestinian inhabitants on their land, in the face of the illegal Israeli violations and actions aimed at altering the Arab, Islamic and Christian identity of the city.



Call for International Action on the Deteriorating Situation in Al-Quds

A Senior Officials' Meeting Preparatory for the 21st Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers took place on August 24, 2025, at the headquarters of the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to consider the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Nuh Yilmaz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, welcomed the representatives of the participating Member States, and indicated that this extraordinary meeting was convened to address the unprecedented humanitarian tragedy, the continuing state terrorism and settler violence in the West Bank, and the deteriorating situation in Al-Quds. He stressed that the current developments require prompt action and intervention.

Dr. Yilmaz stated that Israel is re-inventing genocide in the 21st century, and that the horrific images of innocent civilians, children, and infants dying from gunfire or starvation in Gaza are shocking the entire world. He insisted that the way forward must involve an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid through the United Nations and credible local and

international non-governmental organizations, the expansion of the coalition for the implementation of the Two-State Solution, and coordinated steps to impose more measures on Israel.

In his speech at the opening session of the meeting, delivered on his behalf by Amb. Samir Bakr, Assistant-Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, stated that this meeting is being held following the announcement by Israel, the occupying power, of its intention to impose total military control over the Gaza Strip, as well as the Israeli Prime Minister's provocative statements regarding the so-called "Greater Israel" vision. This, he added, is only an extension of the rhetoric and policies of incitement, extremism, and aggression. It constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of States as well as of international law and the UN Charter, and undermines efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the Two-State Solution.

The Secretary-General stressed that Israel's ongoing bloody crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people require more

effective and impactful action on the international scene to end this brutal Israeli aggression, in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Joint Arab-Islamic Summit held on 11 November 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He underlined the need to pursue regional and international efforts aimed at reaching a ceasefire, putting a complete end to the Israeli aggression, ensuring the return of displaced persons, securing the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from the Gaza Strip, and moving forward with holding the reconstruction conference in Cairo to implement the Arab-Islamic Plan for the Relief and Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. At the same time, he stressed the importance of following up on the outcomes of the High-level Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine, held in New York on July 27-30, 2025, under the co-chairmanship of Saudi Arabia and France.

The Senior Officials' preparatory meeting examined the Draft Resolution on the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, to be submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held on August 25, 2025, for adoption.



OIC Permanent Representatives Reject Displacement of Palestinians

An Extraordinary Open-Ended Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Permanent Representatives was held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on July 22, 2025, to address the Israeli attacks on holy sites in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly the Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil. The Meeting reaffirmed the necessity of compelling Israel, the occupying power, to observe a full and lasting ceasefire, facilitate the return of displaced persons to their homes, withdraw its occupation forces, and enable the State of Palestine to fully assume its responsibilities, with Arab, Islamic, and international support. This is in addition to opening all crossings with the Gaza Strip, and withdrawing the occupation forces from the entire Gaza Strip, including the area surrounding the Rafah crossing on the Palestinian side, thereby allowing it to resume operations while the crossing on the Egyptian side continues to operate without interruption, and ensuring delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to all parts of the Gaza Strip. It also emphasized the responsibility of all States to stand against and put an end to the serious Israeli crimes, and fully comply with international law, with the Provisional Measures ordered by the International Court of Justice, and with the UNSC Resolutions 2735 and 2728 (2024).

The Meeting warned of the dangers posed by the ongoing military aggression and escalating crimes committed by the Israeli occupation in the West Bank, especially in refugee camps, including arrests, home demolitions, infrastructure destruction, forced displacement, deportation of the Palestinian people, attempts to change the demographic composition, colonial settlement, and attempts to impose an alleged Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank, all in blatant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The Meeting condemned in the strongest terms the policy of starvation and systematic destruction, the illegal Israeli blockade, the imposition of illegal mechanisms for aid distribution, the obstruction of the United Nations' work in delivering assistance, and the targeting of civilians with humiliation and killing while receiving aid under the newly imposed illegal Israeli mechanism. These practices have gravely and unprecedentedly exacerbated the humanitarian suffering in the Gaza Strip, rendering it uninhabitable.

The Meeting rejected any calls, plans, or policies aimed at imposing any form of displacement of the Palestinian people, whether inside or outside Palestine, including the Gaza Strip, or altering its demographic composition. It warned all States against co-

operating - directly or indirectly - with the Israeli displacement schemes, emphasizing that any such cooperation would constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

The meeting condemned, in the strongest terms, the illegal and dangerous plans of the Israeli occupation to transfer the management and oversight of the Ibrahimi Mosque from the Palestinian Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs and Al-Khalil Municipality to an illegal settlement council called "Jewish Religious Council in the Kiryat Arba Settlement," in an attempt to alter the Mosque's unique historical, cultural, and religious characteristics and status. It stressed that such actions represent a blatant violation of UN and UNESCO resolutions, as well as of international agreements that call for the protection of cultural, religious, and civil rights and property, particularly during armed conflict.

The Meeting condemned, in the strongest terms, the recent Israeli bombing of the Holy Family Church of the Latin Patriarchate in Gaza City, causing the death and injury of several innocent Palestinian civilians, along with significant damage to the church building and its historic facilities.



In Defense of UNRWA, OIC Presents Pleadings Before ICJ

The OIC General Secretariat presented its pleadings, on May 2, 2025, before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, during a session held to issue an Advisory Opinion on the “Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. The Advisory Opinion was requested by the UN General Assembly.

Through its pleadings, the OIC requested the ICJ to compel Israel, the occupying power, to lift the restrictions imposed on UNRWA. The OIC General Secretariat was represented by the Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs, Amb. Samir Bakr Diab, who expressed hope that the Advisory Opinion would provide an opportunity to affirm Israel’s responsibility for the aggression against the Gaza Strip and bring an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territory. Amb. Diab reviewed the recent actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, against

the operations of UN organizations in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the racist laws and illegitimate measures targeting UNRWA and the attempts to restrict or eliminate its role. He emphasized the OIC’s rejection of these measures, and reiterated the OIC’s call on all States to provide additional political, legal, and financial support for the Agency.

Amb. Diab drew attention to the grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, stressing the need to compel Israel to cease its aggression in a lasting and comprehensive manner, facilitate the return of displaced persons to their homes, withdraw its occupying forces, open all crossings, and ensure the adequate delivery of humanitarian aid throughout the Gaza Strip, in implementation of the obligations of Israel, the occupying power, under international law, international humanitarian law, and relevant UN resolutions.

On behalf of the OIC, Amb. Diab condemned the starvation and scorched-earth

policies aimed at forcing the Palestinian people to leave their homeland, and rejected any Israeli attempts to alter the demographic composition of the Palestinian territory.

Following Amb. Diab’s speech, Ms. Shmeileh Gendroe, the OIC’s Legal Advisor, presented the legal aspects of the OIC’s argument. She pointed out that the laws passed by the Israeli Knesset on October 28, 2024 to terminate UNRWA’s operations in the occupied Palestinian territory, along with the decision for those laws to enter into force on 28 January 2025, and the unilateral withdrawal, on November 3, 2024, from the exchange of letters signed in Al-Quds on June 14, 1967 by Israel, the occupying power, and UNRWA, are all illegal and contrary to Articles 2, paragraph 5, and 105 of the United Nations Charter. These articles obligate Israel, the occupying power, to assist UNRWA in all its operations and grant its agents the privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their duties.



Anniversaries of the Nakba and the Arson Attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque

The OIC General Secretariat held a commemorative event to mark the 77th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, under the theme "Palestine: Land, People, and Identity." The event, organized in cooperation with the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA), took place on May 15, 2025, at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The commemoration was attended by representatives of OIC Member States, consul general, members of the diplomatic corps, a number of Palestinians residing in Jeddah, and representatives of the OIC General Secretariat.

In his speech on this occasion, delivered on his behalf by Amb. Samir Bakr Diab, Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, stated that the Palestinian Nakba represents a dark mark on the human conscience, and stands as evidence of the absence of international justice and the failure to redress the grievances of the oppressed Palestinian people who continue to suffer under the yoke of the brutal occupation, enduring severe humanitarian hardships, displacement, and the denial of their existence and legitimate rights. He expressed appreciation for UNRWA, which

continues to face systematic targeting by the Israeli occupation, as it represents a ray of hope amid the ongoing darkness of the Nakba.

The Secretary-General stressed that the tragedy of the Nakba continues to unfold, as reflected in the ongoing crimes of destruction, forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, and genocide committed by the Israeli occupation, without any political, legal, or humanitarian deterrent. Since October 7, 2023, he added, these crimes have resulted in the killing and injury of over 200,000 Palestinians, most of whom are women and children.

Amb. Hadi Shibli, Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the OIC, expressed appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat and its various organs for their unwavering support for the Palestinian Cause. He emphasized that holding such an event at the OIC headquarters is a reaffirmation that the Palestinian Cause remains the central cause of the OIC.

Amb. Mahmoud Al-Assadi, Consul-General of the State of Palestine in Jeddah, stated that the occupation's ongoing war and aggression are targeted not only at the land but also at the very existence of the Palestinian people, with the aim of replacing them

with foreign settlers. He stressed that this is part of a longstanding policy of the occupation.

The OIC General Secretariat also marked the 56th anniversary of the criminal arson attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque. In a statement issued on this occasion, the OIC noted that this anniversary comes amid escalating and repeated violations, crimes, and aggressions committed by extremist Israeli settlers against Al-Aqsa Mosque, under the protection of Israeli occupation forces. It condemned the increasing calls for dividing the Mosque and constructing the alleged "Temple," as well as the intensified Israeli policies of Judaization and ethnic cleansing targeting the occupied city of Al-Quds, its residents, and its sacred sites, all in blatant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The OIC reaffirmed the special status of Al-Quds Al-Sharif in the hearts of Muslims worldwide, stressing that the safety and sanctity of its holy places are closely linked to peace and security throughout the region. It further underscored that the Israeli occupation bears full responsibility for the safety of all holy sites under its illegal occupation.

OIC, Arab League & A. U. Launch Joint Humanitarian Appeal on Gaza



The OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs, Amb. Samir Bakr, led a delegation from the OIC General Secretariat in a consultative meeting that brought together the three Organizations—OIC, Arab League and African Union—with UNRWA. This meeting, held on July 2, 2025 at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, addressed the dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

The meeting issued a joint and urgent humanitarian appeal to halt the crimes of genocide, starvation, siege, displacement, and destruction, and to address the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

The Statement said that proceeding from their political, legal, humanitarian, and moral responsibilities, the General Secretariats of the League of Arab States, the African Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation convened a consultative meeting with UNRWA to address the dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

The three Organizations expressed their deep concern over the worsening, grave

and unprecedented humanitarian suffering in the Gaza Strip. This suffering is the result of the ongoing crimes of genocide, starvation, comprehensive blockade, forced displacement, and systematic destruction, all perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people since October 2023, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, relevant UN resolutions, and ICJ orders.

The three Organizations strongly rejected and condemned the Israeli occupation's use of starvation and blockade by tools of war against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. They demanded the immediate and permanent opening of all land and sea crossings to ensure adequate, sustained, and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid, including food, clean water, fuel, medicines, medical supplies, and shelters. They also warned of the serious repercussions of these actions, including the spread of famine and malnutrition and making the Gaza Strip an uninhabitable place.

The three Organizations emphasized that providing relief to the Palestinian people in

the Gaza Strip is a fundamental and non-negotiable human right. They strongly rejected the current humanitarian aid distribution mechanism, which has turned into zones of field execution where starving civilians and humanitarian workers are directly targeted and killed while waiting for assistance. They affirmed that this mechanism poses a systematic threat to life, and employs food and humanitarian aid as weapons of war to impose military control and enforce demographic change.

The three Organizations condemned the widespread and comprehensive destruction of civilian infrastructure and vital facilities in the Gaza Strip. This includes hospitals, schools, universities, aid distribution teams, UNRWA warehouses, safe shelters, as well as water and sanitation networks and power plants. They also denounced the intentional targeting of sick and wounded individuals, medical and humanitarian personnel, and journalists, which deprives the population of basic means of survival and makes the work of relief organizations impossible.

Bilaterals



H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received, on 1 July 2025, H.E. Ambassador Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OIC.



H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received, on 29 April 2025, H.E. Amb. Ulukbek Maripov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Riyadh and Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the OIC.



H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received, on 8 July 2025, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Samir Al-Naqshbandi, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the OIC, as his mandate came to an end.



H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received, on 2 July 2025 at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, H.E. Mr. M. J. H. Javed, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the OIC.



H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received, on 28 August 2025, H.E. Ambassador Shady El-Sharkawy, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the OIC, as his mandate came to an end.



H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received, on 13 July 2025, H.E. Ambassador Hadi Shibli, Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the OIC, who briefed him on developments in Palestine.

OIC-Russia Cooperation



RUSSIA – ISLAMIC WORLD KAZANFORUM 2025

International Economic Forum of Russia and OIC countries
MAY 13–18, 2025

The President of the Republic of Chechnya, H.E. President Ramzan Kadyrov, received, on 10 May 2025 in the capital Grozny, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, who led a delegation of the OIC General Secretariat on an official visit to the Republic of Chechnya at the invitation of H.E. President Ramzan Kadyrov.

Both sides highlighted the significant level of relations between the OIC and the Republic of Chechnya, and stressed the importance of enhancing and expanding the areas of bilateral cooperation, especially through the OIC organs and institutions. They also commended the excellent relations between the OIC and the Russian Federation, which has an observer status at the OIC.

Both sides also reviewed several issues of interest to the Muslim world, notably the Cause of Palestine and the fight against Islamophobia, extremism, and terrorism. They stressed the importance of fostering Islamic solidarity to address current challenges while encouraging dialogue to promote mutual understanding and harmony in the world.

The OIC Secretary-General commended the role played by the Russia-Islamic World Strategic Vision Group as a leading platform for the promotion of friendship, dialogue, and mutual understanding between Russia and the Islamic World. This was part of his ad-

dress, delivered on his behalf by the Director-General of Political Affairs, to the annual meeting of the Russia-Islamic World Strategic Vision Group, held in Kazan, Tatarstan.

The Secretary-General reaffirmed the OIC's keenness to further contribute to the achievement of the Group's goal in terms of advancing mutual interests and promoting a world order based on the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, and respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity. He stressed that the OIC calls for a more balanced world order, one that guarantees global peace and security, justice, and equal development opportunities for all countries, with the preservation of their cultural, civilizational, and religious values.

The Secretary-General pointed out that the OIC attaches increasing importance to youth issues, and that the OIC General Secretariat supports the efforts and initiatives of the Republic of Tatarstan to advance cooperation in the areas of youth empowerment and sports development.

On another note, and at the invitation of the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mrs. Olga Lyubimova, the OIC General Secretariat participated in the Congress of Ministers of Culture of the Islamic World, held within the framework of the 16th International Economic Forum "Kazan

Forum: Russia – Islamic World", convened on May 15-16, 2025, in Kazan, Tatarstan.

The OIC General Secretariat's statement was delivered by Dr. Lhoucine Rhazoui, Director of Cultural Affairs, during the plenary session of the Congress, held under the theme: "Cultural Dialogue: The Basis for Preserving Identity and Diversity in a Multipolar World." In his address, the Secretary General emphasized the symbolic significance of holding the Congress in Tatarstan, a region renowned for its rich Islamic heritage and long-standing tradition of cultural openness. He also underscored the continuous and increasing cooperation between the OIC and the Republic of Tatarstan, and the shared commitment to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue as major tools to preserve cultural identity and foster mutual understanding, while promoting the core values of Islam such as compassion, tolerance, and solidarity.

A working session was held with H.E. Mr. Rustum Manikhanov, President of Tatarstan, during which he expressed his appreciation of the choice of Kazan as Capital of Culture in the Islamic World for the year 2026, and his determination to push forward the momentum in the bilateral relations with OIC Member States and promote win-win partnerships at all levels.

Al-Dobeay Affirms OIC's Satisfaction with U.N. Partnership



The United Nations Security Council held, on July 24, 2025, a special session on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, under the heading: "Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations." The session was held at the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Chair of the Security Council for the month of July. This session reflects the importance that the Security Council attaches to reinforcing cooperation between the United Nations and the OIC.

In an address to the Council on behalf of H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, Amb. Yousef Al-Dobeay, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, expressed the OIC's satisfaction with the significant level of cooperation achieved between the two Organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, and scientific areas. He commended the two Organizations' joint attachment to carving out innovative and sustainable solutions to the issues currently facing the world, especially in relation to global peace and security, promotion of peace culture and dialogue among civilizations, fundamental human

rights, economic and social development, and world counter-terrorism.

The Secretary-General stressed, in this regard, that the various efforts made by the Security Council regarding the safeguarding of world security and peace are fully aligned with the OIC's diligent endeavors in terms of peaceful conflict resolution, mediation, and combating terrorism and violent extremism. He reviewed the key issues on the agenda of the OIC and the Security Council, at the forefront of which is the Palestinian Cause. In this context, he reiterated the OIC's call on the Security Council to pressure Israel, the occupying power, to comply with the UN resolutions, through an immediate and complete cessation of the acts of genocide, massacres, starvation, and displacement of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the occupied city of Al Quds.

The Secretary-General pointed out that the OIC-UN partnership is strategically geared toward reinforcing the Two-State Solution, ending the long-term illegal Israeli occupation and colonial settlement, achieving a fair, comprehensive and permanent solution, and enabling the Palestinian people

to regain their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian State within the 1967 borders, with East Al Quds as its capital.

The Secretary-General reviewed the OIC's positions and efforts regarding Afghanistan, Jammu and Kashmir, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, the Sahel countries, Lake Chad, and the issue of the Rohingya Muslim community in Myanmar. He emphasized the importance of promoting international support to combating terrorism and extremism, enhancing development efforts, building state institutions, ensuring security and stability, addressing the root causes of crises, and supporting national governments in their efforts to achieve peace, security, and sustainable development.

The Secretary-General commended the appointment, by the UN Secretary-General, of a UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia, indicating that the OIC stands ready to fully cooperate with him in the fulfillment of his duties. He called for stepping up the partnership between the two Organizations in the areas of conflict prevention.

Secretary-General Receives Foreign Minister of The Gambia

On the sidelines of the Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held on 25 August 2025 at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received H.E. Mr. Sering Modou Njie, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Gambians Abroad of the Republic of The Gambia. The Foreign Minister conveyed his Government's deep appreciation for the successful convening of the 15th OIC Summit in Banjul, and commended the General Secretariat's efforts in fostering Islamic solidarity and strengthening cooperation among Member States. He reaffirmed The Gambia's firm commitment, in its capacity as Chair of the Islamic Summit, to working in close coordination with the OIC Member States and General Secretariat in order to expedite the implementation of the Banjul Summit outcomes.



Contact Group on Somalia Meets in Doha

The Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Somalia was held in Doha, Qatar, on July 28, 2025. The meeting was designed to mobilize further international support to strengthen security, development, and stability for the Somali people. It was chaired by H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad bin Sultan Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, in his capacity as Chair of the OIC Contact Group on Somalia. In his opening remarks, Mr. Al-Muraikhi emphasized the importance of the meeting, noting that it reflects the significant attention that the State of Qatar, Chair of the Contact Group, attaches to the Federal Republic of Somalia. He added that the meeting is part of Qatar's ongoing efforts to provide various forms of support to Somalia and its commitment to assisting the country in its journey toward peace. For his part, Mr. Yousef Al-Dobeay, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, delivered a statement on behalf of H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, in which he commended Qatar's efforts and



its initiative in convening the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Somalia. He reaffirmed the OIC's support for the Somali government in its efforts to overcome various challenges, and called on Member States to extend greater assistance to strengthen Somalia's security capacities. He reiterated the OIC's commitment to supporting Somalia, and reviewed the OIC's activities and initiatives in Somalia, a founding member of

the OIC that has played a prominent role in its work over the years. He also commended the OIC's continued efforts in Somalia. Mr. Al-Dobeay reaffirmed the OIC's respect for the sovereignty, unity, stability, and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and its rejection of any act that would violate its sovereignty, in accordance with the OIC Charter and international law.

OIC Participates in Working Group Meetings on Afghanistan in Doha



Amb. Tarig Ali Bakheet, OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian, Cultural, and Social Affairs, and Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary-General for Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation, participated in the meetings of the Working Groups on Afghanistan, held on June 30 - July 1, 2025, in Doha, Qatar. These Meetings are part of the UN-led Doha process on Afghanistan, and were jointly hosted and organized by the State of Qatar and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

During the meetings, an extensive exchange of views took place on issues related to counternarcotics, alternative livelihood, drug-use treatment and prevention, law enforcement, the current situation of the private sector in Afghanistan, support for a conducive business environment, and exploring common grounds for moving forward.

On the sidelines of the meetings, Amb. Bakheet met with H.E. Ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah Al-Hanzab, Special Envoy of the Qatari Foreign Minister. The meeting discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Amb. Bakheet commended the significant and commendable efforts exerted by the State of Qatar to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan. He provided a comprehensive briefing on the OIC's efforts to support the Afghan people through its Office in Kabul, in line with the relevant CFM resolutions.

On the other hand, Amb. Bakheet held consultations with senior officials at the German Federal Foreign Office, as part of his visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. On 21 May 2025, he held important meetings at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters in Berlin with Amb. Erik Kurzweil, Director for Indo Pacific, South Asia and Afghanistan, and Amb. Dr. Christian Buck, Director-General for Political Affairs for Africa, Latin America, Near and Middle East.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance cooperation between OIC and Germany, mainly in the humanitarian field, particularly in Member States affected by humanitarian crises. It also addressed capacity-building and training in the humanitarian field, and women empowerment through the provision of training opportunities.

Discussions also focused on the political and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, as well as the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and Sudan, in addition to cooperation in the field of women's empowerment and advancement.

At the invitation of the European Union, Amb. Bakheet took part in the EU Senior Officials Meetings on Afghanistan, held on 16-17 June 2025 at the EU headquarters in Brussels.

During the meeting, Amb. Bakheet reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to construc-

tive dialogue with the de facto authorities in Afghanistan, in line with relevant OIC resolutions, and the provision of humanitarian support. He highlighted the OIC's continuous efforts in the humanitarian and development fields, through the Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund, managed by the Islamic Development Bank, as well as the efforts of the Islamic Organization for Food Security and the humanitarian activities of the OIC Office in Kabul.

Amb. Bakheet held meetings with several EU officials, including Mr. Niklas Kvarnstrom, Director-General for Asia and the Pacific at the European External Action Service, along with a number of participants from UN agencies.

On July 13, 2025, Amb. Bakheet received H.E. Dato Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman, Special Adviser to the Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs on Humanitarian Affairs and Reconstruction, and the Malaysian Government's Envoy to Afghanistan.

The meeting discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and the OIC's efforts to support the Afghan people in line with relevant ministerial resolutions, as well as the outcomes of the recent meetings of the working groups on Afghanistan, held in Doha, Qatar, as part of the UN-led Doha Process.



Samarkand

Cultural Capital in the Islamic World for 2025

The OIC General Secretariat took part, on May 26-28, 2025, in the activities celebrating Samarkand as “Cultural Capital in the Islamic World for 2025”. The celebration was held under the theme “Spiritual Heritage and Cultural Expressions of the Islamic World: Calligraphy, Music, Poetry, and Solidarity”. The official opening ceremony was attended by Culture Ministers from several OIC Member States, as well as ambassadors and heads of renowned cultural centers and research institutions.

In his welcoming remarks, the Culture Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Ozodbek Nazarbekov, stressed the importance of designating Samarkand as “Capital of Culture”, given its long history as a meeting point of world cultures, and its glorious past that dates back to the 7th century B.C. He thanked ICESCO for its endeavors to provide opportunities for OIC Member States to celebrate cultural diversity in the Muslim world and highlight the valuable contributions of different nations in enriching our shared civilizational heritage and our cultural differences, guided by the noble values of Islam.

In an address delivered on his behalf by Dr.

Lhoucine Rhazoui, Director of Cultural Affairs, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, expressed his appreciation of the endeavors and initiatives undertaken by the Republic of Uzbekistan to reinforce its multifaceted relations with OIC Member States. He noted that the choice of Samarkand as Culture Capital in the Muslim World for the year 2025 is a recognition of the illustrious contributions of Uzbekistan to Islamic culture and civilization since time immemorial, and the significant legacy of Uzbek scholars, including Al-Bukhari, Al-Biruni and Al-Khawarizmi, to mention but a few, in mathematics, human sciences, astronomy, philosophy, medicine and chemistry.

The Secretary-General paid tribute to ICESCO for launching such a significant program, Culture Capitals in the Islamic world, as a means of bringing OIC Countries closer to each other and highlighting their cultural richness and their valuable contributions to Islamic civilization.

As part of an initiative to strengthen the historical connection between poetry and place, ICESCO announced the launch of the second edition of its annual poetry competition: “Cities of Poems.” This year’s edition is dedi-

cated to the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in celebration of its designation as Culture Capital in the Islamic World for 2025.

This annual contest, which coincides with ICESCO’s announcement of Culture Capitals in the Islamic World, is designed to revive the poetic and aesthetic documentation of the history and geography of cities, and to highlight the symbols and civilizations embraced by these ancient capitals, an inspiration for many masterpieces of Arabic and world poetry.

ICESCO announced that the submissions of poetic works, in both Arabic and Uzbek, will be accepted starting from August 1st, 2025, and will remain open until December 31st, 2025. A specialized jury, consisting of experts from ICESCO and prominent poets, will evaluate the submitted poems and select three winners.

The first-place winner will receive a USD 3,000 prize; the second-place winner USD 2,000; and the third-place winner USD 1,000. All winners will be awarded certificates of appreciation. ICESCO will also publish an anthology featuring the winning and outstanding poems that participated in the competition.



Written by His Excellency Mr. Hakan Fidan
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye

The OIC in a Transforming World: Türkiye's Vision for a More Active and Unified Islamic Cooperation

The world is passing through a period of profound transformation, marked by widening geopolitical rifts, deepening inequalities, and a growing disconnect between global governance institutions and political realities. Multilateralism -the bedrock of international cooperation- is under immense strain, often challenged by systemic crises that transcend borders such as armed conflicts, climate change, irregular migration, economic competition, and the emerging and disruptive technologies. At the same time, rising intolerance, identity-based polarization, and the erosion of international law have compounded the sense of global instability, thus diminished the trust on the legitimacy of existing frame-

works.

This fragmentation is felt across the Muslim World as well. Protracted crises in Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Afghanistan continue to devastate communities and expose the limits of international diplomacy in delivering justice and sustainable peace. Equally troubling is the rising wave of Islamophobia, hate speech, and discrimination targeting Muslim minorities in various regions, particularly in non-OIC countries. Against this backdrop, Türkiye believes that revitalizing multilateral cooperation is imperative. In the face of uncertainty, the Muslim world must strengthen its own mechanisms of solidarity and coordination to confront shared challenges and, protect and advance the collective interests of the Ummah.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as the principal collective voice of the

Muslim world, holds a distinctive position within the international system. As the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations, the OIC plays a vital role in addressing the political, social, and humanitarian concerns of its 57 Member States. One of its core missions has been to safeguard the rights and freedoms of Muslim communities across the globe, ensuring that their dignity and fundamental rights are protected in accordance with international norms.

In this period when even the UN and other international organisations cannot respond to the current challenges, the benefits that OIC can provide are larger and more significant.

The OIC functions as a crucial mechanism for policy coordination, dialogue, and consensus-building within the Islamic world. In an era marked by uncertainty and fragmentation, the organization's potential to serve as a stabilizing force -anchored in a shared religious and cultural identity- remains significant. Representing a quarter of the world's population and endowed with

vast natural resources, including 65 percent of global crude oil and around 60 percent of natural gas reserves, the OIC possesses both the moral authority and strategic capacity to influence global outcomes. Furthermore, OIC Member States account for 14.5 percent of global production, 10.5 percent of global exports, and 9.7 percent of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow. The increase of the intra-OIC trade share in the total foreign trade of OIC members from 19.16 percent in 2023 to 20.36 percent in 2024 is a positive trend for a more economically integrated Organization. Yet, all these data indicate that now more than ever, an effective and unified OIC is essential -one that is capable of defending and promoting the collective interests of the Islamic world on the international stage. Since its inception, the OIC endorsed the right cause of Palestinians as its *raison d'être*, and became instrumental to raise their voice at international fora. The latest initiative in this regard is the OIC-AL Gaza Contact Group established in November 2023. Having Türkiye as an active member, the group plays a significant role in contacting key actors to recognize Palestine as a sovereign independent state in order to strengthen the vision of two-state solution to the deep-rooted problem. We are glad to see these efforts bore fruit and hence nine additional states recognized Palestine up to June 2025.

During our Chairmanship we will continue to exert intensive efforts to end Israel's genocide in Gaza. We will continue to work towards the establishment of a ceasefire, ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid.

On the other hand, Türkiye condemns in the strongest terms the recent Israeli attacks on Iran. Israel's aggression constitutes a blatant violation of international law. This is another ruthless provocation that spreads the conflict and destabilizes our region. Israel must immediately cease its aggressive actions.

Key pillars of Türkiye's Chairmanship of the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers

As a founding member of the OIC, Türkiye is firmly committed to contribute to the OIC's efforts to adapt itself to the needs of the changing world.

It is in this context that the theme of the upcoming 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of OIC -"The OIC in a Transforming World"- to be held on 21-22 June in Istanbul, gains particular relevance.

Türkiye identified three key pillars that will guide its efforts to reactivate the OIC during its one-year Chairmanship of the 51st CFM:

Enhancing cooperation between Member States and engagement with other international actors

In line with the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism established between the OIC, the Arab League and the African Union, on the sidelines of the 2nd Extraordinary Joint OIC-AL Summit in November 2024, in Riyadh, to coordinate efforts on the Palestinian cause, Türkiye intends to host a tripartite meeting with participation from the three organizations. Furthermore, as part of its efforts to enhance the global outreach of the OIC, Türkiye will aim to reinvigorate OIC-EU dialogue with the active participation of the Member States.

Safeguarding the rights of Muslim minorities and communities worldwide

Türkiye will continue to work towards advancing the rights and safeguarding the well-being of Muslim minorities and communities in non-OIC states. The appointment of Ambassador Paçacı as the OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy on combatting Islamophobia, at the 15th Islamic Summit last year in Gambia, was an initiative against the surge of hatred against Islam worldwide. In this context, Türkiye will host the 9th Meeting of the Istanbul Process, for the implementation of the UN

persons based on religion and belief".

Bearing in mind the fact that more than one-fifth of the world's Muslim population today lives in Europe, North America and Australia, Türkiye plans to organize a conference under the auspices of Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, with the participation of the OIC Member States' Diaspora Authorities and some prominent diaspora representatives.

Building capacity and fostering exchange of knowledge

Türkiye will concentrate on capacity building and exchange of expertise on domains such as transport, mediation as well as disaster and emergency management. In this regard, it will host the OIC 2nd Transport Ministers Conference. Promoting connectivity among OIC countries through targeted programs and initiatives will be high on Türkiye's agenda.

Again, cognizant of the growing importance of mediation efforts amid countless conflicts, the Diplomacy Academy at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs will organize the 6th round of Mediation for Peace Certificate Programs for the OIC General Secretariat staff and diplomats from OIC Member States this September. Another significant event under this pillar will be organized by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of Türkiye to share the experience gained during the February 6 earthquake with OIC member countries and increase the collaboration between OIC member countries in delivering humanitarian aid to conflict zones. This will certainly contribute to enhancing intra-OIC solidarity and rapid action capabilities.

As it is crystal-clear with the envisioned activities during its Chairmanship of CFM, Türkiye is determined to play a more active role to advance the OIC's objectives enshrined in its Charter. Türkiye aims to strengthen OIC solidarity towards genuine partnership and action. A more active OIC can strongly contribute to peace and security in its region and beyond. With its proactive vision, Türkiye is ready to work with all Member States in the spirit of unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility.

Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on "combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence against,

51st CFM Session in Istanbul Addresses the Palestinian Cause



H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, honored the 51st session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 21-22 June 2025, under the theme: “The OIC in a Transforming World.”

The CFM session took place amid major challenges faced by the Islamic World, at the forefront of which were the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to other issues addressed by the OIC Foreign Ministers.

Addressing the opening session, President Erdoğan stressed the importance of this CFM session, in view of the events unfolding in the Islamic World, notably the Israeli aggressions on the Gaza Strip and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and reaffirmed his support for the OIC.

For his part, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, stressed, in his opening speech, that the Cause of Palestine and Al-Quds ranks high among the unprecedented challenges facing the OIC, especially in view of the ongoing crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying power, as evidenced by the military aggression on the Gaza strip, genocide, forced displacement, starvation, destruction, settlement policies, Judaization of Al-Quds city, and the targeting of UNRWA.

The Secretary-General also pointed to the

blatant attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and reiterated the OIC General Secretariat’s strong condemnation of these aggressions, and its solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Secretary-General addressed several political issues, including in particular the OIC’s continuous efforts to affirm its steadfast support for the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. He also stressed the Member States’ commitment to providing humanitarian and developmental support to Afghanistan. Additionally, he affirmed support for the Republic of Azerbaijan, its territorial integrity, and the sanctity of its international borders.

The Secretary General touched, in his speech, on various other issues. He extended utmost gratitude to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye. He also expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Republic of Cameroon during its chairmanship of the 50th CFM session. At the same time, he commended the generous support provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the OIC host country, to the Organization, in addition to its commitment to promoting solidarity among OIC Member States.

H.E. Mr. Hakan Fidan, Turkish Foreign Minister and Chairperson of the 51st CFM session, stressed, in his speech, that his country

will build on the achievements made by the Republic of Cameroon, Chair of the previous session, especially with regard to the events unfolding in the Gaza Strip and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He pointed out that the large-scale participation by Member States in the current session, despite the prevailing circumstances, bears witness to the great interest they attach to the Organization.

H.E. Mr. Lejeune Mbella, Cameroonian Foreign Minister and Chairperson of the previous CFM session, expressed his appreciation for holding the “Donor Conference to Support the Displaced and Refugees in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin” at the OIC Secretariat General in December 2024. He also reviewed the OIC’s achievements during his country’s chairmanship of the CFM.

The Declaration adopted by the 51st CFM session expressed the aspiration of the OIC—the second largest international organization after the United Nations—to undertake an increasingly significant role amid an international climate marked by fragmentation, weak global institutions, and a changing world. It also emphasized the need to speed up the pace of reform in order to enhance the OIC’s position as a major international actor in promoting regional and global stability, geostrategic balance, multilateralism, and an international system based on the rule of law.



The Declaration adopted by the 51st session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Istanbul, Turkiye, on June 21-22, 2025, reaffirmed the centrality of the Palestinian Cause for the OIC, and the Member States' unwavering support for the establishment of a sovereign, independent, and contiguous Palestinian State on the 1967 borders, with East Al-Quds as its capital. It stressed that the Two-State Solution is the only viable solution to reach peace and stability in the region for all.

The Declaration emphasized the importance of convening, as soon as possible, the United Nations High-Level Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, under the co-chairmanship of Saudi Arabia and France, resuming the work of the working groups established by the Conference, and stepping up efforts to ensure its success. It called on all UN Member States to actively participate in the Conference once its new date is announced.

The Declaration condemned the ongoing Israeli genocidal war against the Gaza Strip, which has continued for over 19 months, as well as the systematic campaigns of destruction and killing in the West Bank, including

East Al-Quds, which are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian Cause, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It reaffirmed the importance of implementing UNSC Resolution 2735 with a view to ending the aggression, advancing the Arab-Islamic recovery and reconstruction plan for the Gaza Strip, and ensuring political and financial support to the Palestinian Government so that it can assume its responsibilities in the Gaza Strip, as it does in the West Bank, including East Al-Quds.

The Declaration expressed support for the intensive diplomatic efforts of the Ministerial Committee mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Summit on Developments in the Gaza Strip, aimed at urging the delivery of humanitarian aid to the entire Gaza Strip, and initiating practical steps toward the implementation of the Two-State Solution.

The Declaration condemned Israel's use of starvation as a tool of genocide, by obstructing the entry of humanitarian assistance and preventing UN humanitarian agencies from carrying out their operations, with the aim of forcibly displacing the Palestinian population. In this regard, it called for the rejection of all forms of forced displacement of the Palestinian people, the urgent opening of

crossings and borders, the unimpeded and adequate delivery of humanitarian aid, and the provision of protection for the Palestinian civilian population.

The Member States expressed, in the Declaration, their support for UNRWA, which undertakes an irreplaceable role in providing services to Palestinian refugees, and called on the international community to continue providing political and financial support to UNRWA in the face of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Al-Quds.

The Member States expressed their unequivocal rejection of any schemes aimed at forcibly displacing Palestinians from their land, as such action constitutes a liquidation of the Palestinian Cause and a grave violation of international law. They also rejected Israel's systematic targeting of vital life necessities in Gaza with the deliberate intention of creating impossible living conditions and thus forcing Palestinians to leave their land.

The Member States expressed deep concern over the Israeli attempts to alter the civilizational features of the City of Al-Quds and its Arab and Islamic character, and undermine its legal status—particularly efforts aimed at changing the status quo at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

51st CFM Welcomes Azerbaijan's Hosting of the 16th Islamic Summit



The Declaration adopted by the 51st session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on June 21-22, 2025, expressed solidarity with the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and expressed deep concern over the recent military escalation in the South Asia region, including the unjustified strikes carried out on multiple locations in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. It stressed the need to exercise maximum restraint and avoid actions that would destabilize the region.

The Declaration stressed that the ceasefire announced on 10 May 2025 must be fully respected, in the interest of regional peace and stability, and commended the efforts exerted by various Member States for the de-escalation of tensions.

The Declaration expressed deep concern over growing Islamophobia, considered as a form of racism and discrimination, and condemned all acts of violence based on religion or belief, hate speech, and extremism motivated by faith-based discrimination, as well as attempts to fuel intercultural divisions and tensions. It called on the international community to take effective measures to combat extremism, hate speech, defamation of religions, negative stereotyping, and the stigmatization of people on the basis of

religion, belief, or ethnicity at the national and global levels. It reaffirmed that terrorism and extremism cannot be associated with any particular religion, race, ethnicity, or nationality, and should be unequivocally condemned regardless of their forms and manifestations that continue to threaten global peace and security.

The Member States welcomed, in the Declaration, the progress in the normalization process between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia. They also welcomed the upcoming Islamic Summit Conference to be convened in Azerbaijan in 2026, expressing hope that the Summit would contribute to further strengthening unity, solidarity, and cooperation among OIC Countries.

The Member States welcomed the efforts of the Syrian Interim Government for the integration of Syria into the regional and international system, and emphasized the need to ensure sustainable political and financial support to Syria in order to ensure stability and security. They expressed support for the initiative of cooperation between the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group aimed at contributing to early recovery and reconstruction efforts in Syria, and called for stepping up joint efforts to address priority needs in sec-

tors such as energy and infrastructure.

The Member States reiterated the expression of their solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and full support for their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UNSC and OIC resolutions and with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. They condemned the grave human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

The Member States expressed concern over the grave human rights violations against the Rohingya Muslim community as well as other Muslim groups in Myanmar, and called for urgent actions to defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of this community. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to working toward winning the case filed by The Gambia against Myanmar before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and to accelerating the process of returning the forcibly displaced Rohingya to their homeland, Myanmar.

The Declaration commended the vital role undertaken by the COMCEC in addressing the common development challenges facing OIC Member States, through its flagship programs and projects, sectoral working groups, and project support programs.

OIC Holds Contact Group Meetings on Rohingya and Jammu & Kashmir



The OIC General Secretariat took part in a high-level roundtable held by the Republic of Turkmenistan on June 21, 2025, in Istanbul, Turkiye, on the sidelines of the 51st CFM Session, under the theme: "Peace and Trust: Pillars of Unity and Resilience in the Islamic World".

Addressing the Roundtable, Mr. Yousef Dobeay, OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, commended the initiative of Turkmenistan to hold such an important event. He highlighted the OIC's efforts to defuse conflicts and strengthen the foundations of peace, security, and stability across the OIC region. He also hailed Member States' efforts to promote these values through their initiatives and endeavors in this regard.

On the sidelines of the 51st CFM session in Istanbul, the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was held on June 22, 2025, with the participation of members of the Contact Group, in addition to the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission.

The meeting, chaired on behalf of the Secretary-General by the OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Yousef Al-Dobeay, reaffirmed the OIC's unwavering support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It called on the international community to reach

a lasting and peaceful settlement of the dispute in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions.

Still on the sidelines of the CFM session in Istanbul, the Ministerial Meeting of the



Dr. Dawas takes Oath as ASG for Palestine

Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs

Dr. Dawas Dawas took the oath of office before the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 51st session in Istanbul, following his appointment as "Assistant Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs" at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He will assume his duties at the beginning of April 2026.

OIC Contact Group on Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar was held on June 22, 2025. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Yousef Al-Dobeay, and was attended by the members of the Contact Group.

The meeting reaffirmed full support for the Rohingya Muslims, and emphasized the need to restore their fundamental rights. It urged the international community to take immediate action to enable the Rohingya people to return voluntarily, safely, sustainably, and with dignity to their homeland in Myanmar.

In the same context, the OIC Ministerial Committee on Accountability for Human Rights Violations against Rohingya met on 22 June 2025, on the sidelines of the CFM session in Istanbul, under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Gambian Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Gambians Abroad.

The Meeting expressed support for the case filed against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve justice and accountability for the Rohingya people, and discussed recent developments related to this issue.

On the sidelines of the CFM session in Istanbul, a number of OIC Member States signed the Statutes of OIC institutions and funds.

OIC Delegation Visits Burkina Faso and Meets its Prime Minister



Amb. Tarig Ali Bakheet, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian, Social, and Cultural Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat, led a joint delegation from the OIC and its humanitarian and development institutions on a visit to the Republic of Burkina Faso from August 13 to 17, 2025.

The Delegation included Dr. Mohammed bin Sulaiman Aba Al-Khail, Executive Director of the Islamic Solidarity Fund; Dr. Mohammed El-Asbali, Executive Director of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent; and Mr. Salam Kafando, ISDB's Representative in Burkina Faso, along with a number of senior officials from the OIC General Secretariat and relevant institutions.

H.E. Mr. Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, received, on 14 August 2025, in his office, the OIC Delegation. He reviewed the humanitarian and security situation in Burkina Faso, and highlighted the efforts of his government to mitigate the negative humanitarian impacts of insecurity in the country. He called for strengthening cooperation with the OIC, particularly in the humanitarian field and in combating terrorism in the country.

For his part, Amb. Bakheet conveyed the solidarity of the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, with Burkina

Faso, and his commitment to supporting the country in addressing all humanitarian, development, and security challenges. He reviewed the humanitarian assistance provided by the OIC and its institutions to Burkina Faso through the implementation of many projects, and indicated that the OIC and its institutions stand ready to implement more humanitarian and development projects.

Amb. Bakheet announced the signing of important agreements during the visit, aimed at increasing the OIC's support to people affected by the humanitarian crisis in some parts of the country.

At the beginning of the visit, H.E. Mr. Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation, and Burkinabe Abroad, received the OIC delegation. During the meeting, Amb. Bakheet delivered a written message from the OIC Secretary-General to the Foreign Minister.

Discussions focused on the humanitarian and security situation in Burkina Faso, the efforts exerted by the Burkinabe authorities to address the crisis, and the best ways and means through which the OIC and its humanitarian and development institutions can support those efforts.

The OIC delegation also met with H.E. Commandant Passowendé Pélagie Kaboré, Min-

ister of Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity.

The Delegation commended the efforts deployed by the government of Burkina Faso to support its population, especially displaced persons, amid the current humanitarian crisis in some parts of the country. It expressed the solidarity and support of the OIC and its institutions to Burkina Faso, and reiterated the OIC's commitment to mobilizing every possible assistance to help Burkina Faso meet the needs of its population affected by the humanitarian crisis.

The meeting reviewed the projects implemented with support from the OIC and its institutions in the Kaya camp for displaced people, and explored the possibility of implementing additional programs in the future.

The OIC Delegation met with H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Sana, Minister of Security, who briefed them on the improved security situation in Burkina Faso, thanks to the efforts made by the government, and called on the OIC to continue its support so that the country can face the internal displacement crisis caused by terrorist attacks, and redouble its efforts in combating terrorism.

OIC and Burkina Faso Implement Joint Humanitarian Project



The OIC General Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Government of Burkina Faso, held the official ceremony for the distribution of installation kits and working capital to 200 women-beneficiaries, as part of an empowerment project for displaced women and families in the Centre-North region of Burkina Faso.

The event, held in Kaya, saw a massive and high-level participation, and was honored with the presence of H.E. Commandant Passowendé Pélagie Kaboré, Minister of Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity, who stated that “this initiative is a testament to our shared determination to transform the lives of displaced women and restore their dignity through sustainable livelihood opportunities.”

The ceremony celebrated the successful completion of the first phase of the empowerment project, which began with extensive assessments of on-ground needs and community engagement efforts.

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Khalid Mahamat Malloum, OIC Representative and Focal Point from the OIC Regional Mission in Niger, highlighted the two-year journey leading to this achievement, emphasizing

the project’s roots in the OIC’s commitment made during the 8th Ministerial Conference on Women, held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2021. “We are not just distributing equipment,” he added, “we are laying the foundation for a future of self-reliance and restored hope for the women of Kaya”. He indicated that this first phase would not have been possible without the invaluable support of the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), whose contribution helped ensure the delivery of equipment and financial support tailored to the needs of displaced women. On behalf of the OIC Secretary-General, he expressed the OIC’s deep gratitude to the Government of Burkina Faso for its strong support and cooperation, which were key to the project’s success.

The event also commended the significant work undertaken by Mr. Sanou Lassina, the project’s coordinator in Burkina Faso, whose efforts facilitated collaboration between the OIC and national partners.

The OIC Representative indicated that the OIC General Secretariat is looking forward to launching the second phase of the project, with support from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). He reaffirmed the OIC’s strong commitment to

empowering refugee and displaced women, children, and families in camps throughout Burkina Faso.

The OIC General Secretariat congratulated all the project’s beneficiaries, hoping their income-generating businesses will thrive and contribute to the resilience and development of their communities.

On September 5, 2025, the OIC joined the international community in observing the International Day of Charity, a day dedicated to promoting the values of compassion, generosity, and solidarity worldwide. This occasion underscores the pivotal role of charitable action in alleviating poverty, addressing humanitarian crises, and strengthening cohesion within societies.

The Statement issued on this occasion stressed that the OIC’s observance of this Day reflects its strong commitment to the principles and values of the noble Islamic religion, particularly compassion, mutual support, and social justice, as well as to the OIC Charter and its Ten-Year Programme of Action. The OIC stressed that charitable action, in all its forms, is a cornerstone for building resilience, promoting equality, and advancing sustainable development within OIC Member States and beyond.



OIC Participates in 38th Session of the ICIC

The OIC General Secretariat participated in the 38th session of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, held in Tunisia on 26–27 May 2025.

The General Secretariat was represented by Dr. Aisha Al-Ayafi, Director of Humanitarian Affairs, who addressed the opening session and took part in the working sessions that focused on humanitarian priorities within the OIC system. She emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination and integration among humanitarian institutions in OIC Member States.

During this session, the Committee addressed several key topics, including the evaluation of humanitarian responses in Member States, the follow-up on relief programs launched over the past year, and the development of a future action plan aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian action and addressing the challenges posed by crises and disasters.

The Committee also underscored the importance of building partnerships with international and regional humanitarian organizations, and activating cooperation mechanisms between the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent and relevant OIC bodies.

At the conclusion of the session, Dr. Al-Ayafi commended the constructive discus-

sions and practical proposals presented by participants. She expressed the General Secretariat's appreciation for the Committee's efforts in serving humanitarian causes, and reaffirmed the OIC's continuous support for joint Islamic humanitarian action.

The General Secretariat reiterated its commitment to pursuing coordination and institutional support for the initiatives of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, and to improving humanitarian response mechanisms, in line with the noble objectives of the OIC, and in the service of Member States and their peoples.

The OIC General Secretariat, represented by the Director of Humanitarian Affairs, also took part in the meeting of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization, held in Riyadh, with the participation of representatives of Arab national associations and humanitarian partners.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Al-Ayafi underscored the importance of increasing field coordination, enhancing emergency response efficiency, and building the capacities of national associations. She highlighted the OIC's commitment to enhancing partnerships with the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization, supporting effective partnerships, and enabling national mechanisms to address pressing needs in OIC

Member States affected by humanitarian crises.

Dr. Al-Ayafi added that her participation was in the implementation of the directives of H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, who attaches special importance to humanitarian action and continuously supports the efforts of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in building strategic partnerships that serve Member States and foster the values of Islamic solidarity.

Dr. Al-Ayafi pointed out that humanitarian efforts stem from the values of compassion and mutual support. She commended the role of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization as an umbrella platform for enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and stressed that unifying efforts and developing joint practical plans are the key to reaching the most vulnerable groups quickly and effectively.

The meeting addressed a range of themes, including raising the level of preparedness of Arab humanitarian action, enhancing coordination mechanisms, and addressing common challenges. It also discussed the launching of new initiatives on food security, healthcare, and disaster response.



OIC Marks International Day of International Humanitarian Law

The OIC General Secretariat celebrated, on May 9, 2025, the International Day of International Humanitarian Law. It took this opportunity to reiterate its call for raising global awareness of the need to respect the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, which aim to provide protection for innocent civilians and victims of wars and conflicts, in alignment with the noble principles of Islam, the OIC Charter, and relevant international laws.

By designating May 9th of each year as “International Day of International Humanitarian Law”, under Resolution No. 1/42 issued during the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Kuwait in 2015, the OIC reaffirmed its strong commitment to promoting and respecting humanitarian rules that aim to protect human beings during armed conflicts, and to guarantee their dignity and fundamental rights under all circumstances.

In this regard, the OIC commended the efforts of humanitarian workers and international and regional organizations that continue to defend humanitarian principles

under the most difficult conditions. It affirmed that respect for international humanitarian law is not a choice, but rather a humanitarian and moral imperative that ensures mitigation of the impact of wars and paves the way for achieving just and sustainable peace.

The OIC urged Member States to take this opportunity to carry out continuous activities that contribute to strengthening the rules of international humanitarian law and ensuring their concrete implementation, in order to protect civilians—especially children, women, the elderly, refugees, and displaced persons. It also called on all communities to foster the values of peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and acceptance of others, and to take concrete measures to enhance and implement international humanitarian law, many of whose principles are aligned with the noble values of Islam.

The International Day of International Humanitarian Law is being observed at a time when the Israeli occupation forces continue their unprecedented and blatant aggression against the Palestinian people in the occu-

pled Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip. This aggression has resulted in hundreds of civilian casualties and the injury and displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, following the destruction of their homes and the threats of committing further atrocities and acts of genocide against them, in clear violation of international humanitarian law, which prohibits the targeting of civilians to ensure their protection during armed conflicts.

The OIC held Israel, the occupying power, fully responsible for the fate of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory and for the humanitarian catastrophe they are enduring under bombardment and blockade. It firmly rejected any calls to forcibly displace the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, and warned against the escalation of Israeli military assaults and settler terrorism, carried out with weapons and protection from the occupation forces, particularly in Al-Quds and the West Bank. It stressed the need to provide international protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with the standards of international humanitarian law.

OIC Marks World Humanitarian Day with International Participation



On 19 August 2025, the OIC marked the World Humanitarian Day at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah, with the participation of regional and international partners, in particular King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).

The event was designed to shed light on the joint relief efforts geared toward those in need, and to step up active partnerships between regional and international organizations in the face of crises and disasters around the globe.

In his opening address, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, underscored the OIC's commitment to the values of compassion and solidarity cherished by Islam. He pointed out that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs at the OIC was created to promote Islamic solidarity, coordinate efforts in the face of crises, and preserve human dignity in the affected areas. He added

that humanitarian action is a collective responsibility, and that international cooperation can save lives and build a fairer future for the peoples of the Muslim Ummah and of the whole world.

Dr. Aisha Al-Ayafi, Director of Humanitarian Affairs at the OIC, stated that humanitarian action can only succeed through joint cooperation and coordination among Member States, international organizations, humanitarian foundations, the private sector, and civil society.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, Advisor at the Saudi Royal Court and General Supervisor of King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, emphasized, in a recorded message, that humanitarian challenges in the world are increasing in all forms to the extent that humanitarian action is no longer a choice, but a necessity.

Ms. Joyce Msuya, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, expressed her appreciation for the cooperation between OCHA and the OIC in advancing humanitarian action across the world.

Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner at UNHCR, expressed appreciation of the longstanding partnership between

UNHCR and the OIC, especially amid the unprecedented challenges facing humanitarian action, including increasing attacks on field workers, severe funding shortages, and restrictions hindering access to those in need.

Mr. Mohammed bin Sulaiman Aba Al-Khail, Executive Director of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, stated that the decision to establish the Fund in 1974, as the first subsidiary organ of the OIC, was a significant practical step in consolidating the concept of Islamic solidarity.

Mr. Othman Belbeisi, Regional Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Middle East and North Africa, pointed out that "humanitarian workers around the world are facing an unprecedented level of risks." He added that over 190 relief workers were killed this year, including workers serving in the Middle East (Gaza, Yemen, and Sudan).

Mr. Ali Hamza Pehlivan, President of the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), said that one in every 27 people in the world, or a total of 305 million persons, are currently in need of humanitarian assistance.

S.G. Congratulates Saudi Arabia on Successful Organization of Hajj Season



On the occasion of Eid al-Adha 1446 AH, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Islamic Ummah and to Their Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies the Kings, Princes, and Presidents of OIC Member States.

The Secretary-General joined the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its celebrations of Eid al-Adha. He offered his congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and to Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HRH Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He commended, on this occasion, the significant and valuable efforts of Saudi Arabia in managing the Hajj season each year, highlighting the facilities and excellent services provided to ensure the safe performance of Hajj rituals. He also praised the great care provided to the Guests of Allah (Hajj Pilgrims) to ensure their safety and security throughout their stay.

The Secretary-General expressed hope that Eid al-Adha 1446 will serve as an opportunity for greater unity and brotherhood among the members of the Islamic Ummah, ultimately fostering Islamic solidarity across all Member States.

The Secretary-General pointed out that this year's Eid comes at a time when the world is facing grave challenges, the most serious of which is the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and occupied Al-Quds, as well as the incursions and desecration of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque by settlers. He noted that the fall of tens of thousands of martyrs and wounded—most of them women and children—casts a shadow over the joy of Eid, in addition to the ongoing barbaric bombardment that has devastated large areas of the Gaza Strip, reducing them to ruins. He reaffirmed the OIC's unwavering support for the cause of Palestine and the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Secretary-General also affirmed the OIC's support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their quest to regain their rights, as well as its support for the rights of the forcibly displaced Rohingya Muslims. He emphasized the OIC's supportive stance toward refugees, displaced persons, and those affected in camps across different regions of the Islamic world, including the African Sahel and Lake Chad countries. The OIC, he added, remains vigilant in monitoring issues related to poverty, epidemics, diseases, wars,

and the resulting loss of life and property. He prayed to Allah Almighty to make the Eid this year a turning point toward relief from these hardships, and to grant lasting unity, security, and stability to the Islamic Ummah. In a related context, the OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, held a training workshop entitled: "The Role of Awareness Services in Enriching the Journey of the Guests of Allah". The workshop aimed to coordinate joint efforts with Member States' representatives in order to develop and improve Hajj awareness, including an explanation of all awareness products and the main services during the Hajj season.

The workshop was attended by representatives of awareness and media departments in the ministries and Hajj missions of Member States and Observer States of the OIC. It was held as part of the cooperation program between the OIC General Secretariat and the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for the Hajj season of 1446 AH/2025 AD, with a view to serving Hajj and Umrah performers from across the Islamic world.

OIC and UNA Hold Symposium on Youth Empowerment



As part of the celebration of the OIC Youth Day, the OIC headquarters in Jeddah hosted, on September 4, 2025, a symposium entitled: "Empowering Youth in OIC Member States through Videogames and Social Media: Opportunities and Challenges". The event, held in hybrid format, was organized by the OIC General Secretariat in collaboration with the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA)

The Symposium was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Salman Al-Ghamlas, Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Sports of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the 5th session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers. In his opening remarks, Mr. Al-Ghamlas pointed out that the participation of the Saudi Ministry of Sports in this Symposium reflects its commitment to supporting youth empowerment and reinforcing youth capacities, through constructive partnership with the OIC General Secretariat and relevant institutions. He noted that video games and social media serve today as interactive spaces that offer promising opportunities for innovation and impact. This re-

quires investment in knowledge promotion and experience-sharing, especially that the Islamic world's youth are now among the most prominent and active content creators in this field.

Speaking on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat, Amb. Tarig Ali Bakheet, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs, expressed deep appreciation for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the OIC host country, for its continuous and generous support for the OIC and its efforts to enhance joint Islamic action. He stressed that video games and social media have now become an integral part of the lives of youth and children, given the opportunities they offer in terms of learning, communication, entertainment, and skill development. Videogames and social media, he added, can actively contribute to youth empowerment if consciously and thoughtfully leveraged to foster strategic and logical thinking. On the other hand, Amb. Bakheet highlighted the challenges posed by these new technologies on OIC Member States, especially as regards ensuring their responsible and beneficial use by youth and children.

He stressed that this Symposium represents a significant platform for sharing expertise and best practices among OIC Member States and institutions, alongside international partners concerned with youth empowerment in this field.

The Symposium featured panel discussions covering various themes, including the positive impact of video games and social media on youth empowerment, the challenges and opportunities related to video games, and Member States' experiences in the area of video games and social media.

The Symposium yielded several recommendations aimed at strengthening the role of OIC Member States as an active force in the area of videogames and social media, highlighting Member States' role in influencing the values and cultures associated with this field, promoting the production of videogames, and encouraging the exchange of knowledge, expertise, policies and initiatives among OIC Member States in a way that contributes to advancing youth empowerment in the Islamic world.

General Secretariat Participates in International Youth Volunteers Camp



The OIC General Secretariat participated, from 29 April to 3 May 2025, in the International Youth Volunteers Camp, organized by the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) in Antalya, Türkiye.

The opening ceremony was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Türkiye, including the local representative of the Youth and Sports Ministry in Antalya, along with representatives from ICYF and its partners.

Speaking on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat, Dr. Boubakari Maiga, Head of the Youth and Sports Department, pointed out that volunteer work has recently emerged as a societal message aimed at enhancing engagement in building human capacities and individual skills, achieving social solidarity, and expressing the vitality of society as well as its members' willingness to commit themselves to dedication and sacrifice. He added that the OIC, through its Programme of Action - 2025, as well as the relevant resolutions adopted by the CFM and the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers, attaches great importance to volunteer ac-

tion as well as to youth empowerment and capacity-building.

Dr. Maiga conveyed the OIC General Secretariat's deep appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for its efforts to support the relevant activities and programs of the OIC General Secretariat and ICYF.

The Camp was designed to provide participants with psychosocial support skills and training in post-disaster response, enhance community service awareness, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and strengthen social ties in order to allow young people to support each other and become stronger together.

On the occasion of International Youth Day, celebrated on August 12th each year, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Houssein Brahim Taha, extended his warmest congratulations to youth all over the world, especially youth in OIC Countries, and expressed serious concerns over the situation of youth in conflict zones.

The Secretary-General pointed out that this occasion serves as a reminder of the importance of youth — endowed with great

potential — who, if trained and equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills within a healthy environment, can play a vital role in the development of their communities and countries at all levels.

This occasion, he added, provides an opportunity to evaluate and monitor the OIC's efforts towards achieving the goals set out in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action and the OIC Youth Strategy, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Secretary-General called on all Member States to invest more in local youth, thereby enabling them to face the challenges of the future and contribute to achieving the OIC goals and the SDGs. He called on the OIC relevant institutions to support the efforts of Member States in this regard.

The theme chosen for the International Youth Day 2025 is: "Local Youth Action for the SDGs and Beyond", which reflects the significant and pivotal role of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

OIC General Secretariat Addresses the OIC Youth Forum Camp



The OIC Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation held, on September 9-13, 2025, the 8th edition of the International Media Training Camp under the theme "Journalism for Juniors" in Antalya, Türkiye. The Camp was organized in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT).

In his opening remarks, Mr. Yunus Sönmez, Director General of the Forum, stressed that the training camps organized by the Forum are developing year after year. He noted that over 200 young men and women are participating this year in a media training program aimed at equipping youth with media tools that will open up wide prospects for them in this field.

Speaking on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat, Mr. Aiman Abboushi, Media Specialist at the OIC Information Department, expressed thanks to the Republic of Türkiye for its continuous support to the OIC, repre-

sented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which provides valuable support to the OIC Youth Forum and to the Organization itself. Mr. Abboushi pointed out that the OIC General Secretariat attaches great importance to youth and media issues through its Department of Youth & Sports and Department of Information. He referred to the Symposium titled "Empowering Youth in OIC Member States through Videogames and Social Media: Opportunities and Challenges," which discussed the negative impacts of videogames and the misuse of Social Media on children and youth. He also indicated that the OIC Information Department has managed to keep pace with the rapid media developments, especially Social media platforms. He referred, in particular, to the OIC Media Observatory on Israeli Crimes Against Palestinians, whose media output has reached over 160 million followers in a short period.

On the occasion of the OIC Youth Day, cel-

ebrated annually on September 3, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, extended his sincere congratulations to youth in OIC Member States, and expressed deep concern over the situation of young people in conflict areas.

The Secretary-General pointed out that the Internet, video games, and Social Media platforms have now become essential elements of the daily life of young people and children. When used responsibly, these technologies can have a positive impact in terms of learning, communication, entertainment, and skill development, while fostering strategic and logical thinking. He also stressed that these technologies constitute significant areas of economic production and innovation, with video game companies emerging as major employers worldwide. At the same time, they pose challenges that require Member States to ensure their responsible and constructive use.

OIC Commemorates the 2025 International Day of Families



The OIC General Secretariat commemorated, on 15 May 2025 at its headquarters in Jeddah, the 2025 International Day of Families, in coordination with the Representation of the Republic of Türkiye. It held special open-ended events that brought together delegates of OIC Member States and representatives of relevant OIC organs.

Amb. Tarig Ali Bakheet, OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian, Social and Cultural Affairs, addressed the event on behalf of the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha. He stated that the International Day of Families is reminiscent of the profound and universal fact that the family is the cornerstone of every society. He added that the family in Islam is not a mere social unit, but rather a sacred trust.

The Secretary-General expressed deep thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the first edition of the event on February 8-9, 2017, in Jeddah, and for its continued support for the values of the family and marriage institution in internal forums. He also commended the positive steps pursued by the Republic of Türkiye, notably its initiative of creating a Commission on the Family.

The Secretary-General stressed that a sound family is the seed for justice, compassion, and peace, and that investing in the family through education, healthcare, spiritual guidance, and social support will pave the way for a fairer and more harmonious world. On the other hand, the Secretary-General pointed to the horrific genocide in the Gaza Strip, causing tens of thousands of martyrs and wounded. Families have been torn



apart by the rising death toll and displacement, while women are being killed—or seeing their children killed before their eyes, leaving them broken and desperate.

H.E. Amb. Cenk Uraz, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the OIC, highlighted his country's efforts to support and promote the family. He also expressed his appreciation for the OIC General Secretariat's endeavors in this regard.

In a related context, and on the occasion of the International Day of Families, observed on May 15th each year, the OIC Secretary-General asserted that the OIC is fully aware of the vital role of the family in building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies, promoting social welfare, and addressing economic and social challenges.

The International Day of Families was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 under resolution A/RES/47/237, an initiative that reflects the importance that the international community attaches to the family.

The OIC Secretary-General called on all Member States to take the necessary measures to provide care and protection for

women, children, the elderly, and people with special needs. He emphasized the paramount importance of the family—as a basic unit in society—in safeguarding and passing on Islamic values to future generations. He indicated, in this regard, that the OIC General Secretariat, in coordination with the OIC subsidiary organs and specialized institutions, has finalized the preparation of the Document on Islamic values related to women and children, in accordance with the OIC CFM resolutions.

The Secretary-General indicated that the OIC, in coordination with the Mission of the Republic of Türkiye, would host a special event on May 15, 2025, at the General Secretariat's headquarters, bringing together prominent representatives from OIC Member States and partner organizations, to celebrate the family institution and reaffirm its importance. "Celebrating the International Day of Families," he said, "is a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to strengthening family ties and supporting national and regional policies that promote family welfare across all OIC Member States".



S.G. Participates in International Forum on

Promoting Integrity in the Tourism Sector

The OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, led the General Secretariat delegation participating in the Saudi-Maldives Joint International Forum on “Combating Corruption and Promoting Integrity in the Tourism Sector”. The Forum, which commenced on May 6, 2025, in the Maldives, was attended by H.E. Mr. Hussain Mohamed Latheef, Vice-President of the Republic of Maldives.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Latheef underscored the significance of the Forum as a strategic platform for tackling pressing challenges, sharing actionable solutions, and collaboratively advancing the global agenda against corruption. He highlighted the relevance of this year’s theme as particularly timely.

In his address on this occasion, the Secretary-General commended the collaborative efforts between Saudi Arabia and the Maldives, aimed at strengthening anti-corruption measures in the tourism industry. The Forum, he added, reflects the OIC Member States’ strong commitment to combating corruption, as evidenced by the recent adoption of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation.

The Secretary-General recalled that the OIC Charter clearly stresses the importance of combating corruption as a core goal of the OIC.

The Secretary-General took part in the closing session of the Forum, which saw a broad participation from OIC Member States and

international anti-corruption organizations. The Forum was honored with the participation of the Maldivian Vice-President, in addition to over 190 officials and experts from 50 countries representing governmental institutions and international and regional organizations concerned with anti-corruption and tourism.

The Secretary-General expressed thanks to the Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) and to the Maldives Anti-Corruption Commission for supporting the OIC’s efforts to promote integrity in the tourism industry.

Dr. Nasser Bin Ahmed Abalkhail, Assistant to the President of Nazaha for International Cooperation, read out, during the closing session, the recommendations emanating from the Forum, which particularly reaffirmed the importance of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation, and called on Member States to expedite its signing and ratification for the purpose of its operationalization and entry into force.

The Forum was an opportunity to broaden partnerships, reinforce integration among Member States, build trust- and transparency-based tourism systems, and reaffirm the collective commitment to the execution of resolutions No. 2/50 LO issued by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers and No. 2/2CLE issued by the Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Authorities.

The Forum welcomed the Kingdom of Morocco’s hosting of the Second International Forum for Promoting Integrity in the Tourism Sector, as part of the continued joint efforts to advance transparency in the tourism industry in OIC Member States.

The President of the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Moiz, received the OIC Secretary-General and commended the OIC’s effective role and continued support for his country. For his part, the Secretary-General hailed the role of the Republic of Maldives within the OIC and its contributions to joint Islamic action.

The Secretary-General also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdullah Khalil. Both sides commended the significant level of relations between the OIC and the Republic of Maldives, and discussed several issues on the OIC agenda, most notably the Palestinian Cause. They reaffirmed their full support for this Cause and for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Secretary-General Urges Accelerated OIC Trade and Investment Initiatives



The 41st Follow-up Committee Meeting of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) was held in Ankara, Türkiye, on May 13-14, 2025.

In his message to the meeting, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, provided an overview of recent developments in the economic and commercial fields across the OIC Member States. He urged all Member States to actively participate in the forthcoming 10th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, to be held in the Republic of Chad; the 6th Islamic Conference of Labor Ministers, to be held in the State of Qatar; the Second Ministerial Conference on Transportation in OIC Member States, to be held in the Republic of Türkiye, the Second OIC Ministerial Conference on Energy, to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and the OIC Investment Forum in Africa, to be held in the Republic of Mali. These events will adopt various programs and projects aimed at strengthening intra-OIC cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food security, labor and employment, transportation, as well as trade and investment. The Meeting reviewed the state of imple-

mentation of various projects within COMCEC, with focus on trade and investment, agriculture, tourism and financial development, transportation, the private sector, and poverty alleviation. Additionally, the meeting approved the draft agenda of the 41st General Assembly of COMCEC, scheduled to be held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on November 1-4, 2025.

The COMCEC Follow-up Committee convenes annually to take stock of the implementation of the decisions adopted at COMCEC Ministerial Sessions in the areas of economic and trade development. The Committee also prepares the necessary working documents for the forthcoming COMCEC Ministerial Sessions.

In a related context, and as part of Qatar's Chairmanship of the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, the Qatari Ministry of Municipality hosted, on September 1-3, in Doha, the OIC Expert Meeting to assess progress on OIC programs aimed at enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agriculture in OIC Member States. The meeting brought together experts from the relevant ministries of Member States and OIC Institutions to identify progress

and challenges in the implementation of the OIC decisions with regard to establishing the OIC Food Security Reserve System, developing strategic agricultural commodities, and elaborating an OIC food security framework.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, emphasized the significance of continued evaluation of the various OIC programs related to food security and agricultural development, in order to assess their effectiveness, ensure efficient use of resources, and make the necessary adjustments. He also stressed the need for practical measures to address the various obstacles that impede the effective implementation of the OIC initiatives in agriculture and food security.

Referring to the Draft Strategic Plan for Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member States, Dr. Sengendo pointed out that the proposed OIC food security framework is designed to ensure food security in Member States through strategies that promote sustainable agriculture, responsible investment, and climate-resilient systems, while also fostering intra-OIC trade in agricultural and food products.



Occupational Safety and Health for Sustainable Economic Growth

During a Panel Discussion on “The Future of Investment in Occupational Safety and Health”, held as part of the 7th Global Occupational Safety and Health Conference (GOSH7), Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, offered a presentation in which he detailed the OIC’s initiatives aimed at developing occupational safety and health (OSH) standards, performance and capabilities in OIC Member States. He highlighted the close relationship between productivity and OSH, and stressed that investing in OSH would yield significant benefits for businesses, including improved productivity, higher staff morale, and better quality of life; thereby positively contributing to national socio-economic development.

The GOSH7, organized by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, kicked off on May 4, 2025, in Riyadh, under the theme “The Future of Occupational Safety and Health”.

The three-day Conference aimed to provide a unique platform for government officials and OSH professionals from Saudi Arabia and other countries of the world to discuss and share knowledge on the latest devel-

opments in OSH, as well as the challenges and opportunities available in global labor markets. It addressed a range of themes, including: Workplace Sustainability; Digitization and Technology in OSH; Economics of Safety; Research and Innovation; Emerging Challenges; Investing in OSH, Human Behavior and Safety Culture, among others. On May 19, 2025, on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, convened in Algiers, Algeria, an OIC Delegation led by Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, took part in the 4th Meeting of the General Assembly of the Federation of Contractors in Islamic Countries (FOCIC).

In his remarks at the Opening Session of the FOCIC General Assembly Meeting, Dr. Sengendo pointed out that the demand for the services of contracting companies remains high in OIC Member States, and that filling these roles with skilled professionals is vital to their economies. He underlined the need to strengthen the commitment of contractors from Member States to the principle of solidarity, ensuring that FOCIC members that are less resourced can cooperate and have more opportunities to take on projects.

The FOCIC General Assembly Meeting addressed the performance of the Federation during the past year, the program of activities for 2025-2026, as well as amendments to the Federation’s Statutes.

On the other hand, Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, took part in a Panel Discussion on “North–South Solutions in an East–West Oriented Global Trade System”, held as part of the Global Transport Connectivity Forum 2025. He addressed the state of transport infrastructure in OIC Member States, and highlighted the OIC’s efforts to develop transport infrastructure and enhance connectivity among Member States. He stressed the close correlation between trade and transport, noting that improved transport infrastructure and connectivity will further increase intra-OIC trade and tourism exchanges.

The Global Transport Connectivity Forum 2025, held on June 27, 2025, in Istanbul under the theme: “Seamless Connectivity, Limitless Possibilities”, organized by the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, with support from the World Bank, was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye.

Islamic Solidarity: From Theory To Tangible Reality

Since the establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), relations among Member States have been grounded in the principle of Islamic solidarity. This principle was enshrined in the Organization's original Charter as a central objective, and was later reaffirmed in the amended 2008 Charter. In an effort to further entrench this commitment, some Member States—most notably Pakistan—proposed re-naming the organization as the “Organization of Islamic Solidarity” during a Council of Foreign Ministers meeting held in Kuala Lumpur in 1974.

Islamic solidarity manifests itself in various forms, depending on the circumstances that call for it, and the forms in which it is expressed. It can take a political form, such as the OIC's support for the Republic of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, or its backing of Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It can also be humanitarian, as in providing assistance to countries facing natural disasters or humanitarian crises.

More recently, Islamic solidarity, in its fullest meaning, has manifested itself most visibly during the current Gaza catastrophe. Since the outbreak of this crisis in October 2023, i.e., in just two years, the OIC has convened three Extraordinary Islamic Summits, four meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and three open-ended meetings of the Executive Committee, all to express the OIC Member States' solidarity with Palestine. These meetings culminated in unprecedentedly firm positions of solidarity, including calls for political, economic, and military boycotts of Israel, questioning the compatibility of Israel's UN membership with the UN Charter, and coordinating efforts to suspend its UN membership. This is in addition to establishing a Media Observatory to expose Israeli crimes, and a legal observatory to support international judicial efforts to prosecute and ensure the punishment of perpetrators of crimes against humanity and acts of genocide in Gaza.

The aforementioned Islamic Summits established high-level awareness and follow-up committees that visited major world capitals, and achieved significant successes that expanded international recognition of the State of Palestine and increased international condemnation of Israel's criminal conduct in Gaza.

Moreover, the Conference on the Two-State Solution, co-chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and France and held at the UN headquarters on the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly in September 2025, helped raise global awareness of the justness of the Palestinian Cause, and debunked the Israeli narrative that portrayed Israel as a victim surrounded by dangers and enemies, while being directly responsible for obstructing the peace process.

The withdrawal of dozens of delegations during the Israeli Prime Minister's address to the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2025 further reflected an international outrage over the Israeli crimes in Gaza and a lack of confidence, on the part of the world's nations and peoples, in Israel's narrative and vision.

All these achievements have been made possible thanks to the exceptional skill, experience, and wisdom demonstrated by the leadership of international diplomacy that sought to mobilize global solidarity with the Palestinian Cause. Examples in this regard are too numerous to count. The Kingdom hosts the headquarters of many OIC institutions, including the General Secretariat, and provides the best conditions for the successful convening of meetings, by facilitating the participation of all delegations, without exception, in a suitable venue and a comfortable environment.

The importance of this privilege becomes especially clear when we recall how the United States has previously obstructed the participation of many delegations in UN meetings through visa restrictions, as occurred with the Russian delegation in 2022 and the Palestinian delegation in 2025, in violation of the 1947 UN Headquarters Agreement of 1947. Saudi Arabia, in fact, has never denied visas to prevent any country from participating in OIC meetings. It even offers the OIC's guests additional privileges that go beyond its obligations under the Headquarters Agreement, such as providing security, facilitating travel for those wishing to perform religious rituals, and much more.

Thanks to the strength of Islamic solidarity, and amid the international momentum surrounding the Middle East, the term “Islamic Group” has recently emerged, positioned as an active partner in shaping international decisions and influencing global balances where regional blocs and shared interests carry significant weight. This echoes one of the OIC's key goals: ensuring the active participation of Member States in global decision-making to safeguard their collective interests.

Saudi Arabia and the other Member States are certainly aware that strengthening solidarity among the 57 OIC Countries, which represent more than a quarter of the world's nations and population, will position them at the very center of international relations, and will give them an influential role in global decision-making. In pursuit of these goals, the Saudi authorities are keen to place the OIC in optimum conditions, enabling it to fulfil its mandate most effectively, through a Permanent Delegation that seeks to provide all the necessary means and resources to elevate the OIC to the rank of leading international organizations.



Dr. Yacoub Alouei-mine

*Professional Officer at the
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Thanks to the strength of Islamic solidarity, and amid the international momentum surrounding the Middle East, the term “Islamic Group” has recently emerged, positioned as an active partner in shaping international decisions

The Role of the Human Rights Commission of the Organization

In General

Founded in 1969 by Islamic countries following the arson of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) initiated a reform process in order to overcome the challenges faced in the twenty-first century, and adopted the Ten-Year Programme of Action at the Extraordinary Islamic Summit in December 2005. In the reform process, human rights was identified as one of the main areas of activity for the Organization. In order to institutionalize human rights, the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC or the Commission) was established with the new OIC Charter adopted at the 11th Islamic Summit with an advisory role and as the principal organ of the OIC to promote human rights. The Statute of the IPHRC was adopted at the 38th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), and the Commission officially commenced its activities in 2011. The Rules of Procedure of the Commission were approved and entered into force at the 39th session of the CFM.

The Commission consists of 18 members who are experts in the field of human rights, nominated by the member states and elected by the CFM, and is headquartered in Jeddah. The members of the Commission act in their personal capacity, based on the principles of independence and impartiality, and are assisted by a permanent secretariat. The Commission's secretariat has been operating in its own building since March 2017.

Functioning of the Commission

In order to promote human rights in member states and monitor the human rights situation of Muslim communities and minorities in non-member states, IPHRC carries out its activities mainly through general sessions held twice annually. It also organizes annual regular international seminars, undertakes awareness-raising and standard-setting tasks for the promotion of human rights by conducting thematic studies. In addition, it conducts field visits and prepares reports on the human rights situation, either as mandated by the Islamic Summit or the Council of Foreign Ministers or at the invitation of a member state. The Commission also maintains a close dialogue with international hu-



Dr. Hacı Ali AÇIKGÜL
Chairman of the OIC-IPHRC

man rights mechanisms and closely follows the UN Human Rights Council and the relevant work of the General Assembly. In order to strengthen cooperation with the member and observer states the Commission signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) of technical cooperation with National Human Rights Institution of Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Morocco and OIC institutions of SESRIC, the Federation of OIC News Agencies (UNA) and Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), and international institutions of League of Arab States.

The Commission updated the Cairo Declaration of the OIC on Human Rights in line with international human rights norms, and drafted the OIC Convention on the Rights of the Child and submitted it to the CFM. It has also issued declarations, and continued its awareness-raising and standard-setting activities to improve human rights standards in a wide range of thematic areas. These include the negative impact of economic and financial sanctions on the full enjoyment of human rights by people of the affected countries, human rights education, the right to development, the role of media in combating hate speech, and Islamophobia: a human rights violation and a contemporary manifestation of rac-

ism, importance of promoting and protecting the rights of youth for building peaceful and democratic societies and sustainable development, combating corruption, a prerequisite for the full realization of all human rights and sustainable development, Islamic perspectives on protection of refugees: rights and access to education, and the guiding principles of artificial intelligence governance and human rights protection..

In addition, some thematic issues are brought to the attention of member states, and awareness is raised with the participation of relevant international experts by organizing a high-level general debate during the general sessions. In this context, thematic areas such as freedom of expression and hate speech, impact of women empowerment on sustainable development, protecting and promoting rights of children during situations of armed conflict, foreign occupation, emergencies and disasters, protecting human rights while countering terrorism, importance of cultural diversity in the promotion and protection of human rights, revisiting the OIC covenant on the rights of child in Islam to reinforce the rights of children, promoting and protecting the rights of refugees and migrants; an Islamic and international human rights obligation, the role of human rights in promoting good governance, climate change and environmental protection; a human rights perspective, promotion and protection of rights of persons with disabilities, a human rights-based approach to achieving the sustainable development goals, the role of NHRI in the promotion & protection of human rights, right to family life: Islamic and human rights perspectives to counter challenges to the institution of marriage, business and human rights: normative framework and implementation guidelines, elimination of racial discrimination: Islamic and human rights perspectives, right to health: an Islamic and human rights perspective and the right to water were discussed and detailed outcome documents were published.

The Commission has also conducted and published thematic studies in a number of thematic areas such as gender equality, gender equity and gender justice, rights of migrants, the role of judiciary in the protection

of Islamic Cooperation in the Promotion of Human Rights

and promotion of human rights, promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, promotion and protection of youth rights, countering islamophobia: an unfinished business, the divine justice on women and men's inheritance in Islamic Sharia, rights of minorities in Islam, human trafficking in OIC countries, sexual orientation and gender identity, and islamophobia and the counter-terrorism strategies.

The Commission regularly discusses its work on the promotion of civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights in Islamic countries, especially in its general sessions, and submits its reports to the CFM. The Commission carries out its work in this context through its four working groups, which are the Working Group on Palestine, the Working Group on Rights of Women and Children, the Working Group on Islamophobia and Muslim Minorities, the Working Group on Right to Development, and the Standing Mechanism to Monitor Human Rights Situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). The Commission closely monitors the human rights violations faced by Muslim communities and minorities in various geographies such as Palestine, occupied Kashmir, Myanmar, the Central African Republic, Turkish Cypriot People, Uyghur Autonomous Region, Western Thrace, and Sri Lanka, and so on. In this scope the Commission visited some places and published reports on Human Rights Situation of Rohingya Muslim Minority in Myanmar, Human Rights Situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (two reports), Human Rights Situation in the Territories Previously Occupied by Armenia in Azerbaijan (two reports), the Human Rights Situation in the Central African Republic, and the Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestine.

In conclusion, the Commission has assumed very important roles and responsibilities for the promotion of human rights and has carried out important activities in this direction. The Commission has not only contributed to the development of human rights awareness and inclusion in the agenda of member states by developing high-level dialogue with them, but also contributes to the development of a universal understanding of human rights by developing a close

relationship with international human rights institutions, especially UN human rights institutions.

Looking to the Future

The establishment of the Commission as a principal organ within the OIC and its many activities to date is an important achievement. However, since it has an advisory role and not a treaty body or has not any monitoring role, it observed that its contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights remains limited. As the role and mandate of the IPHRC are strengthened, it has the potential to advance human rights stan-

The establishment of the Commission as a principal organ within the OIC and its many activities to date is an important achievement.

dards across OIC Member States and have a greater impact on the international human rights framework. This is because the Commission has the potential to be an important agent of change in the human rights practices of OIC countries at the local and international level. Therefore, we believe that the achievement of the Commission should be further effectuated.

In order to make the Commission's work more effective, the founding documents could be amended to give the Commission a

mandate for the protection of human rights, enabling it to assess the human rights legislation and practice of member states. This assessment, based on criteria to be prepared by the Commission and approved by the CFM, could be carried out through a hybrid procedure similar to that followed by the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the UN special procedures. Furthermore, in addition to monitoring the human rights situation of Muslim communities and minorities, a mandate to monitor the human rights situation of all, including members of other religions and ethnic groups around the world, would further enhance the Commission's credibility and reputation internationally.

Allowing other member states to nominate candidates in the event of premature termination of the membership of the Commission, not requiring the consent of the host country for those invited to meetings, allowing states to nominate non-citizens, selecting the executive director of the Commission by the Secretary-General from at least three candidates proposed by the Bureau of the Commission from among those nominated in a competitive procedure, strengthening the secretariat, establishing a human rights trust fund that can be used only by the Commission and solving the budget problem will strengthen the independence of the IPHRC and enhance the effectiveness of its work.

Increasing the duration of its work, holding more frequent general sessions, seminars and other activities, hosting general sessions and seminars by member states from different geographical regions by regular rotation, organizing national human rights institutions as an umbrella body under the coordination of the Commission, preparing a framework for cooperation with non-governmental organizations and increasing cooperation, and more actively using the mandate granted under Article 17 of the Statute which allows Commission to submit recommendations on promotion of human rights to member states will further enhance the functioning of the Commission.

(These are the author's personal opinions and do not reflect the view of the OIC-IPHRC.)

Gaza: The Future Will Not Be Bombed

In the heart of suffering, where the sounds of war planes intersect with the cries of children, the people of Gaza stand tall, rooted in their land, like olive trees that never die, no matter how harsh the siege. For long years, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have lived under relentless bombardment and a suffocating blockade that deprives them of the most basic necessities of life. And yet, they continue to offer the world ever-renewed lessons in patience, determination, and human dignity.

The Gaza Strip is not merely a small, densely populated geographic area on the map of the Middle East. More than that, it is a Palestinian symbol of steadfastness and survival. Amid the ruins of demolished homes, Gazans plant the seeds of hope. Each time the Israeli occupation army destroys a house, Palestinians raise their flag, and children write a new story of resilience, joy, and hope.

Mothers, and women in general, continue to create life in the face of a torrent of death. Children pursue their education in schools turned into shelters, where they write their dreams on torn scraps of paper, as if to say that the future cannot be bombed—that it can be preserved in the collective memory, to reappear years later in the eyes of children who lived through death, stood firm beside their elders, evaded shells, and slept on the ground beneath the rubble of their homes.

Gaza has endured every form of pain, but has never tasted defeat. Despite all the suffering, Gaza has survived. The will to live is etched upon the faces of its people, stronger than the devastation that surrounds them. With astonishing composure, mothers of martyrs speak about their loss, as if teaching the world a lesson, that they will never abandon their homeland, the land for which they live, upon which they die, and to which they are deeply attached.

Through this collective spirit, passed down through generations, the Gaza Strip acquires a unique status in human history; one that defies military logic, strategic planning, historical precedent, and conventional notions of reason; one that re-defines the very meaning of strength.

While some may believe that the thunder of bombardment is louder and more powerful, capable of silencing voices, cries, and groans, Gaza, time and again, surprises the world with its cultural, media, and humanitarian creativity emerging from the ruins, with almost nothing but a thread of electricity and a flicker of internet connection.

We look again, to see Palestinian artists painting on walls of rubble, telling the story of this epic struggle; to see journalists documenting facts and scenes from Gaza's ordeal not merely with words but with their own blood; to see young people conveying their messages to the world through technology, despite unstable electricity and constant internet outages.

Gaza's steadfastness is not merely an act of resistance; it is indeed an act of existence. It is a perpetual declaration that freedom is not a luxury but a right born with every human being, and that the Israeli occupation, no matter how long it lasts, will end one day. Gaza has taught us that true strength is not only the brute force that strikes, but the unshakable faith in the justness of the Palestinian Cause and the unrelenting determination to cling to the dream until the very last breath.

What distinguishes Gaza is not only its steadfastness, but its ability to rebuild itself despite all the losses suffered. The Gazan society, in fact, demonstrates a profound sense of social solidarity, with families sharing food and water, doctors working in overcrowded and under-resourced hospitals for days without sleep, and volunteers transporting the wounded under fire, defying fear and death. It is this collective spirit that enables Gaza, time and again, to survive, even as the world repeatedly fails it.

Despite all the harsh circumstances, Gaza remains a symbol of dignity and pride. It does not express its pain and exhaustion; instead, it raises its head high before the world to say in one voice: "We are here, and we will remain." Every martyr who passes away leaves behind a new generation that is more aware, more determined to pursue the path toward freedom.

One question still lingers, open to the entire world: How many bombs must the Israeli occupation drop on Gaza before it realizes that the will to live is stronger than the fire of death?

With its ever-renewed steadfastness, Gaza answers: "We will live...because we are the rightful owners of this land."



Mohamed A. Kalaba

*Professional Officer at the
Information Department*

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Islamic Organization for Food Security:

Advancing Food Sovereignty Across OIC Member States

The year 2025 has marked a turning point for IOFS as it has accelerated efforts to respond to crises while scaling innovative, sustainable solutions. The Afghanistan Food Security Programme (AFSP), one of IOFS's flagship initiatives mandated by the 17th Extraordinary OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad (2021), has remained central to these efforts, combining humanitarian aid with agricultural rehabilitation.

Earlier this year, IOFS, in cooperation with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Government of Kazakhstan, delivered high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural machinery to farmers in Herat and Logar provinces. These material inputs were complemented by on-the-ground technical training in soil management and irrigation techniques, designed to empower Afghan farmers to restore local

production and reduce dependency on external aid. IOFS has also worked closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) throughout the programme's phases, ensuring a coordinated and holistic approach.

In June, the third phase of the Herat Project took shape in Zindejan District, where an intensive field school, delivered jointly with Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and TIKA, trained 150 smallholder wheat farmers in modern harvesting and seed-saving techniques. Yields have already risen by nearly a third, demonstrating how practical solidarity can convert emergency assistance into sustainable recovery. Future phases will extend support to small-scale irrigation systems, introduce climate-resilient varieties, and promote al-

ternative value chains that offer viable, legal livelihoods to Afghan farmers.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the OIC region, humanitarian crises have continued to demand urgent response. In the wake of the deepening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, IOFS launched the Flour for Humanity initiative, a testament to the solidarity and collective will of OIC Member States. In January 2025, the first shipment of 200 tonnes of fortified wheat flour reached Gaza, part of a larger target of 1,000 tonnes to be delivered over the year. This initiative, made possible through the contributions of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Bangladesh, in partnership with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, is providing life-saving assistance to thousands of families affected by the ongoing aggression in Gaza. It exemplifies how IOFS mobilizes



OIC resources and expertise to respond to emergencies, while also ensuring that such interventions contribute meaningfully to long-term resilience and food sovereignty.

Empowering Africa Through AFSI

If Afghanistan showcases the power of targeted intervention, Africa illustrates IOFS's ability to weave many strands of technical cooperation into one coherent tapestry. Since 2022, IOFS has moved steadily across the continent, strengthening institutions, empowering women, and modernizing value chains.

It began with governance capacity-building in Cairo and Abuja, where more than 140 officials from twenty-seven African countries worked side by side to craft participatory food-security policies that place smallholders and civil-society actors at the center of decision-making. That same spirit of inclusiveness carried into the food-banking workshop in Cairo in 2023. There, IOFS and sixty-one practitioners from ten countries redesigned the traditional food bank as

a hub linking storage, milling, and farmer cooperatives; The Gambia has since invited IOFS to translate that blueprint into a national system.

Recognizing that food security in Africa is deeply intertwined with resilient value chains, the IOFS partnered with UNDP to map the cassava economy across Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, Burkina Faso, and Benin. Insights gathered from rural processing sites to dynamic urban markets are now guiding a range of cassava initiatives that integrate agronomic innovation, entrepreneurship, and enhanced intra-OIC trade. At the heart of this transformation are women. As part of its Women in Agriculture Development Initiative (WADI), IOFS, in partnership with UN Women, launched a multi-country pilot initiative to empower women through climate-resilient cassava value chains. The effort involves needs assessments, skills development, and community-based interventions in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, with the broader goal of enhancing women's access to agricultural inputs, knowledge, and

climate-smart solutions across OIC Member States.

Livestock, too, is receiving new attention. Joint baseline studies with the Global Green Growth Institute in Togo's savannah and Guinea's forest zone are mapping feed gaps, veterinary bottlenecks, and climate threats so investors can channel resources where they matter most. Underpinning all of this is the conservation of genetic wealth. IOFS is supporting national genebanks, helping scientists from Tunis to Tripoli gain the skills to rescue drought-tolerant landraces and share them, both digitally and physically, across borders.

Training remains the engine that drives each thematic track forward. In Niamey, Sahelian agronomists debated climate-resilient cropping; in Abuja, more than a hundred breeders compared the next generation of cassava hybrids; in Zaria, Nigerian researchers converted crop waste into organo-mineral fertilizer; and in The Gambia and Uganda, 215 farmers and processors learned how to turn surplus roots into premium flour. Af-

rican specialists have also travelled beyond the continent, studying digital agriculture in Türkiye, halal standards in Uzbekistan, and rice post-harvest systems in Egypt, before returning home to adapt those lessons to their own soils and markets.

July 2025 brought Africa's food-security narrative onto the global stage when IOFS Director-General Amb. Berik Aryn attended the UN Food Systems Summit +4 in Addis Ababa. During his stay, the Director General visited the headquarters of the African Union Commission and was received by the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf. Their discussions focused on aligning IOFS's ongoing and planned initiatives with the African Union's Agenda 2063, particularly in areas such as climate-smart agriculture, food sovereignty, and the development of intra-African agri-food value chains. The Director-General reaffirmed IOFS's commitment to strengthening its partnerships with African regional institutions and called for closer coordination in addressing systemic challenges, from climate shocks to market access. The meeting marked a significant step toward anchoring IOFS more firmly within continental frameworks and expanding its operational presence across Africa.

Innovation for Climate-Smart Agriculture

Recognizing that climate change is a major driver of food insecurity, IOFS has made innovation and climate-smart agriculture central to its strategy. A cornerstone of this innovation agenda is the IOFS International Gene Bank, a visionary project aimed at establishing a global hub for the preservation of plant and animal genetic resources from across the OIC region. This initiative will safeguard agricultural biodiversity while providing the genetic foundation for developing high-yield, climate-resilient crops and livestock.

The project is being advanced with the strong support of the State of Qatar, which has demonstrated exemplary leadership, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, which will host the facility and has committed extensive institutional backing. A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed with the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan and the National Agrarian Science and Educational Centre (NASEC) to drive its development. Expected to become operational by 2029, the Gene Bank will house state-of-

the-art laboratories, cold storage facilities, and digital documentation systems. It will also serve as a backup repository, strengthen national gene banks, and provide technical training and research opportunities for all Member States.

Complementing this, IOFS is advancing the development of heat- and drought-tolerant wheat varieties through speed-breeding technology in Kazakhstan. This project not only accelerates crop improvement but also equips farmers with solutions to maintain stable yields amid climate extremes, ensuring food security even under challenging conditions. In addition, IOFS is fostering climate-smart agriculture through projects on biochar-based soil improvement and IoT-enabled technologies for precision farming, in partnership with ICESCO and the Kazakh-

Recognizing that climate change is a major driver of food insecurity, IOFS has made innovation and climate-smart agriculture central to its strategy.

stan National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU). These innovations aim to improve soil health, optimize water use, and boost productivity, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions.

IOFS invites all Member States to actively engage with these initiatives, recognizing that collaboration in research, technology transfer, and innovation is key to building a sustainable agricultural future. By working together, Member States can ensure that the tools and knowledge required to adapt

to climate change are widely accessible and effectively implemented.

Evolving for Greater Impact

In 2025, IOFS continued its evolution from a policy convenor to a delivery-oriented institution with a sharper operational edge. As demand from Member States intensifies, the organization is now focusing on strengthening its field engagement, consolidating partnerships, and aligning internal systems for more agile implementation.

IOFS has expanded its global footprint by securing membership in leading international platforms such as the Zero Hunger Coalition, the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security, and the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, a testament to its growing recognition as a credible partner in addressing systemic hunger and agricultural resilience. These memberships not only enhance IOFS's visibility but also position it to mobilize greater support for OIC-wide priorities.

Strategically, IOFS is preparing for a major milestone: the 7th General Assembly, expected to be convened in parallel with the 10th Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, to be held in Kazakhstan. This dual event is anticipated to shape the next chapter of IOFS's mandate, reaffirming its centrality within the OIC food security architecture.

A Call to OIC Institutions and Partners

The progress made by IOFS in recent years demonstrates what is possible when Member States and partners work together. Yet, achieving true food sovereignty requires even stronger collaboration. The upcoming 7th General Assembly offers a timely opportunity to renew that commitment and chart a more integrated, collaborative future.

IOFS calls on all OIC institutions, research centers, and development partners to join in expanding the scale and scope of its programs. Key areas for joint efforts include the establishment of regional food reserves, the integration of digital agriculture platforms, and the promotion of gender-responsive agricultural models. By working together, the OIC community can accelerate innovation, mobilize resources, and ensure that food systems are not only productive but also inclusive and sustainable.



Secretary-General Praises the Role of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in Enlightening the Muslim Ummah

The OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, took part, on May 4, 2025, in Doha, Qatar, in the opening session of the 26th Conference of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy.

Addressing the Conference, the Secretary-General welcomed all participants in the Conference, which, he noted, came at a time of significant challenges and crises. He emphasized the role of scholars in collective Ijtihad and in issuing fatwas and clarifying Islam's position on various contemporary and emerging issues. He commended the efforts made by the International Islamic Fiqh Academy to enlighten the Muslim Ummah and disseminate the noble values of Islam in a world witnessing continuous transformations. He concluded by expressing sincere thanks to the leadership of the State of Qatar, headed by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, for hosting the Conference and supporting the efforts of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy.

The OIC Secretary-General also participated, on May 4, 2025, in the preparatory meeting for the 26th session of the Bureau of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) in Doha, Qatar. The meeting was attended by Dr. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy, and Dr. Koutoub

Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the Academy, in addition to the members of the Bureau.

Addressing the meeting, the OIC Secretary-General welcomed the members of the Bureau and thanked the Academy for its efforts in issuing fatwas and conducting research and studies aimed at finding jurisprudential solutions to contemporary issues in the economic, social, health, scientific, and technological fields. He stressed the central importance of this role in serving the Islamic Ummah in accordance with the principles and teachings of the noble Islamic religion.

The Secretary-General stressed that the OIC General Secretariat attaches strategic importance to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, which plays a significant role in spreading the values of moderation and tolerance, and in preserving the intellectual and spiritual heritage of the Islamic Ummah. He concluded by thanking the President of the Academy, Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, its Secretary-General, Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, and all members of the Bureau, for their valuable efforts, wishing the Academy full success in the performance of its noble mission.

The meeting agenda included a review of the Academy's activities and administrative and financial matters, as well as preparations for

the next session of the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, which will be hosted by the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

The Conference, which ran over five days, featured scholarly discussions on various contemporary issues related to the social, economic, psychological, and financial realities of Muslim societies.

The Conference came out with a set of decisions involving Islamic jurisprudential rulings on several topics, including, inter alia, emerging issues in child care, the principle of istishab and its applications to contemporary developments, the rulings and regulations concerning artificial intelligence and electronic games, Sharia-based governance of Islamic financial institutions, genetically modified foods, and the stunning of animals before slaughter.

The Council of the Academy decided to reaffirm the provisions of the resolution of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy No. 113 (7/12) concerning the rights of children and the elderly, as well as resolution No. 132 (9/22) concerning the rights of persons with disabilities in Islamic jurisprudence.



Secretary-General: Water is a Shared Heritage of Humankind

The OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, addressed the opening of the 25th Ordinary Session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), held at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah on July 13, 2025. The session, themed “The Right to Water: A Human Rights Perspective”, featured the participation of representatives from OIC Member States, along with IPHRC members and Commissioners.

The Secretary-General emphasized the necessity for increased cooperation, capacity-building, and investment in water infrastructure. He called on all stakeholders to preserve water as a shared human resource, and to refrain from using water as a means of coercion or a source of conflict. He also stressed the importance of strengthening international cooperation in water governance, infrastructure development, and the equitable distribution of transboundary water resources.

The Secretary-General extended his congratulations to Dr. Hacı Ali Açıkgül on his election as Chairperson of the IPHRC, acknowledging his contributions towards furthering the OIC’s human rights agenda. He also commended the significant work of the IPHRC in promoting and safeguarding human rights, and re-

affirmed the OIC General Secretariat’s commitment to supporting the Commission and its members in fulfilling their mandates most effectively.

On August 24, 2025, the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, received Dr. Hadi Bin Ali Al Yami, the newly-appointed Executive Director of the IPHRC. During the meeting, the Secretary-General extended his congratulations to the new Executive Director, wishing him success and expressing his support for the IPHRC’s role and efforts.

For his part, the Executive Director expressed his gratitude to the Secretary-General for his continued support for the IPHRC, and expressed his readiness to pursue cooperation with the General Secretariat, as part of collaborative work among OIC institutions.

On another note, the IPHRC celebrated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed in 2025 under the theme “Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families.” The Commission affirmed that the family institution remains the fundamental unit of society, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Commission stressed that poverty in-

volves deprivation of dignity, food, shelter, healthcare, and access to justice, and that strong and cohesive families play a crucial role in eradicating poverty. Families, in fact, provide the social, economic, and moral foundations essential for human dignity, access to basic services, and protection from social exclusion, all of which are vital for building peaceful, stable, and prosperous societies driven by their human potential.

The Commission emphasized that protecting the family institution directly contributes to achieving SDG 1, “ending poverty in all its forms everywhere”. It called on OIC Member States to adopt family-supportive development policies, strengthen social protection programs, and provide healthcare, education, and housing at affordable prices.

The Commission also recommended enacting legislation that supports family livelihoods, providing financial assistance and capacity-building for families, and facilitating access to financing, vocational training, and entrepreneurship programs. Such measures, it noted, would help alleviate poverty and contribute to sustainable development.

Statute of OIC Fund for Youth Support and Employment in the Sahel Enters Provisionally into Force



The Statute of the OIC Fund for Youth Support and Employment in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin entered into provisional force on June

22, 2025, following its signature by eleven Member States, in accordance with Article 19 of the Statute.

This number of signatures enables this specialized OIC institution to launch its operations, which will significantly reinforce the OIC's role in supporting and promoting youth employment in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin region. Such efforts are critical in mitigating the risk of youth falling into the clutches of extremism and terrorism, through the implementation of various programs focused on youth care, training, education, and capacity-building in OIC Member States, particularly those in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin region.

It is noteworthy that the Statute of the OIC Fund for Youth Support and Employment in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin was formally approved as an OIC specialized institution based in Nouakchott, Mauritania, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the 50th CFM session held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in 2024.

Secretary-General Emphasizes the Significant Role of the IsDB in Supporting OIC Member States



In his speech at the opening session of the 50th Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, held in Algiers, Algeria, on May 20, 2025, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary-General, emphasized the significant role of the IsDB and its institutions in helping OIC Member States to diversify their economies.

The Secretary-General drew attention to the continued barbaric attacks perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory in general. He also underscored the importance of strengthening intra-OIC economic cooperation in building economic resilience in OIC Member States. In this context, he highlighted the role undertaken by the IsDB Group in supporting the efforts of OIC Member States to address their developmental challenges.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by H.E. Mr. Nadir Larbaoui, Prime Minister of Algeria; H.E. Mr. Abdelkrim Bouzred, Minister of Finance of Algeria and Chairman of the 50th Annual Meeting of the IsDB Board of Governors; and H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, President of IsDB Group.

Under the theme "Diversifying Economies, Enriching Lives", the 50th Annual Meeting of the IsDB Group was convened on May 19-22, 2025, in Algiers, Algeria. The meeting addressed the administrative, financial, and operational aspects of the IsDB work, in addition to the development challenges facing the Islamic Development Bank Member Countries, the means to address these challenges, and the opportunities for joint collaboration.

ICESCO Director-General Receives Medal of Honor from Kazakhstan President

VIII CONGRESS OF THE LEADERS OF WORLD AND TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS
SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2025



The 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana, Kazakhstan, under the patronage of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, witnessed a significant moment that affirmed international recognition of the efforts of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO). President Tokayev presented the ICESCO Director-General, Dr. Salim M. AlMalik, with the Medal of Honor of the Congress, in recognition of his leading role in promoting global peace, encouraging interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and fostering understanding and coexistence among peoples. President Tokayev also honored several religious and intellectual leaders participating in the Congress, in recognition of their contributions to promoting the values of coexistence and harmony.

This distinction reflects ICESCO's standing as a leading international platform for cultural, educational, and scientific action, and as a hub of expertise that works to empower generations, protect heritage, promote innovation, and disseminate the values of peace worldwide.

For his part, Dr. AlMalik expressed his profound pride in this distinction, stressing that it is an honor for ICESCO and all its staff, serving as a call for pursuing diligent and sincere work in the service of humanity, through initiatives

that promote the culture of dialogue and build a future of peace, dignity, and mutual respect. The Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was established in 2003 by the Republic of Kazakhstan. Since then, it has served as a global platform bringing together religious, intellectual, and political leaders from around the world. Held every three years in Astana, the Congress attracts broad participation from representatives of major faiths and international bodies. Its mission is to promote dialogue, foster mutual understanding, and address global challenges with a spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility. Over the years, it has built bridges of cooperation among followers of different faiths and civilizations, offering a shared vision for achieving spiritual security and societal peace worldwide. Dr. Salim M. AlMalik, Director-General, led the ICESCO delegation at the opening session of the 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, hosted by the Center for Interfaith Dialogue in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 17-18 September 2025, under the chairmanship of H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The opening session began with a speech by President Tokayev, who emphasized the importance of interfaith dialogue and peaceful

coexistence, and highlighted Kazakhstan's role as a hub for promoting global harmony and mutual respect among different cultures and religions.

In his address, Dr. AlMalik reviewed global developments in their humanitarian context, noting that estrangement, bloodshed, destruction, greed, and instability have become dominant features of today's world, compounded by the absence of the values of brotherhood, dialogue, and coexistence. The roots of the humanitarian crises in the world today can be traced back to spiritual emptiness.

Dr. AlMalik underlined the pivotal role of religious leaders in overcoming humanitarian challenges, stating that "religious diplomacy," which ICESCO has integrated into its broader vision of "civilizational diplomacy," is the optimum path toward building a world founded on peace, security, values, and noble ethics.

Dr. Al-Malik presented a set of recommendations that included a call to establish a reference observatory that would provide information, conduct analyses, and propose directions and policies that religious leaders can implement, while also mobilizing the efforts of experts who are aware of the role of civilizational diplomacy.

The Aftermath of October 7

Much ink has been spilled, and numerous predictions have been made, about the situation in the Middle East following the events of October 7, more particularly about the shifting balance of power in the region and the collapse of deterrence systems that have governed it over the past two decades.

Now, with the end of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and with the failure of Israel, the occupying power, to achieve any of the declared objectives of its war through military force as it had intended, political analyses have abounded, assessing Israel's losses. These losses span several levels: Israel's international standing and the erosion of its image even among its closest allies; the growing conviction among its neighbors that it represents the greatest threat in the Middle East; and the deepening political and social fragmentation within Israel itself since the right wing took control of its political landscape.

Israel's greatest loss, in my view, lies in the failure of the occupation government to realize the central goal of the Zionist project since its inception: the depopulation of Palestine and the establishment of an exclusively Jewish state upon it. In fact, the historic steadfastness of the Palestinians in Gaza on their land, in the face of the most atrocious crimes of killing, displacement, and starvation committed over at least the past eight decades, has shattered these Israeli ambitions.

Gazans stood their ground, returned to their devastated homes, to streets that had been erased, and erected tents on the ruins of their houses, as a clear act of defiance and rejection of the core policy of the Zionist project: displacement, depopulation, and then replacement.

In doing so, the Gaza Strip has compelled Israel, the occupying power, to confront an unavoidable truth, one it will be forced to accept sooner or later: if it has proven impossible to uproot the besieged and starved population of Gaza after two years of an all-out war and complete blockade, then how could Israel possibly expel the Palestinians of the West Bank, who are greater in number and resources than Gaza Palestinians? Consequently, the idea, or the dream, of annexing the West Bank and displacing its Palestinian inhabitants to neighboring countries will end up fading away, leaving the steadfast Palestinians a persistent thorn in the side of the entire Zionist project.

This steadfastness has coincided with a remarkable international campaign to recognize the State of Palestine and enforce the Two-State Solution, with major countries that traditionally support Israel joining the ranks of those recognizing the State of Palestine. This has pushed Israel's allies—and will compel Israel itself in the coming period—to “come down from the tree”, and acknowledge the unavoidable truth: it is neither possible nor conceivable to eradicate the Palestinian people and dispossess them of their land, whether in the West Bank or Gaza. Accordingly, the Palestinians will remain an indispensable element in any endeavors to achieve stability and peace in the region, making it necessary to institutionalize their presence within one and only solution: the independent Palestinian State, regardless of the hurdles that Israel would place in the way of its establishment.

The international campaign led by Saudi Arabia alongside France, with full and absolute support from the OIC and its Member States, for the recognition of the independent Palestinian State, was one of the most significant arenas of political and diplomatic support for the legendary resilience demonstrated by the people of Gaza.

This campaign, in fact, has placed the world before its political and historical responsibilities, advancing the Two-State Solution as an urgent global response to the protracted tragedy unfolding in Palestine since the beginning of the occupation. It has thus managed to push Israel—and its principal supporter—into a tight corner, in the face of an international public opinion that increasingly insists on a Palestinian State, sympathizes with it wholeheartedly, and even stands ready, as one Latin American president put it, to fight for its establishment.

This campaign would not have succeeded without the marathon deliberations conducted by the Ministerial Committee mandated by the Joint Arab-Islamic Emergency Summit, convened in Riyadh on November 11, 2023, and other key global actors, to pressure Israel into halting its brutal war on Gaza. Nor would it have succeeded without the intensive diplomatic work that launched the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, announced by Saudi Arabia and France on September 26, 2024, in New York.

The Alliance held a series of intensive and successive meetings to discuss the political and economic foundations of the Two-State Solution: Riyadh (October 30–31, 2024), Brussels (November 28–29, 2024), Oslo (January 15–16, 2025), Cairo (February 17–18, 2025), Rabat (May 20, 2025), and more recently New York (September 24, 2025). The latter meeting saw numerous countries declaring their recognition of the independent State of Palestine, with many others expressing readiness to follow suit.

These efforts, carried out within international organizations and foreign ministries, crowned the sacrifices of the steadfast Palestinian mothers in Gaza and the children standing in long lines for aid. They presented to the world the only true path to ending their suffering and building their dreams: an independent Palestinian homeland that guarantees citizenship rights and sovereignty to its people at home, and the right of return for its people in the diaspora.



Dr. Tarek Ladjal
Professional Officer at Sawt
Al-Hekma Centre

The international campaign led by Saudi Arabia alongside France, with full and absolute support from the OIC and its Member States, for the recognition of the independent Palestinian State, was one of the most significant arenas of political and diplomatic support for the legendary resilience demonstrated by the people of Gaza



Marrakech

OIC Youth Capital 2025

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid, Minister of Youth, Culture, and Communication of the Kingdom of Morocco, the OIC General Secretariat participated with a high-level delegation, led by H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Assistant Secretary-General for Science and Technology, in the inaugural ceremony of the international program: "Marrakech, OIC Youth Capital 2025".

This program was organized by the Moroccan Ministry of Youth, Culture, and Communication in collaboration with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) and in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat. The event took place from June 30 to July 3, 2025, in Marrakech, under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

The event was attended by prominent national figures, including the Moroccan Minister of Youth, Culture, and Communication, as well as Youth and Sports Ministers from OIC Member States, representatives of OIC organs and institutions, and partner international organizations. The attendance also included ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions, along with nearly 200 youth participants from over 48 countries worldwide.

In a speech delivered on behalf of the OIC Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, the Assistant Secretary-General for Science and Technology, Amb. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, expressed the gratitude of the OIC General Secretariat to Morocco for its unwavering support for the activities of the OIC and its various organs in implementing the OIC's resolutions, particularly in promoting youth empowerment and enhancing their engagement in the development of their communities and countries.

Amb. Khokher pointed out that Morocco's hosting of this program this year is further evidence of the country's significant role in this area. He reviewed the initiatives undertaken by the OIC and its Member States in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which involved supporting digital initiatives, developing skills, and empowering youth entrepreneurship as a means of promoting community recovery and strengthening resilience.

For his part, the Moroccan Minister of Youth, Culture, and Communication underscored, in his address, the significance of this occasion in elevating the status of youth and reinforcing international cooperation, particularly in the fields of culture, innovation, and sustainable develop-

ment. He noted that the recognition of a Moroccan city with this title is not unprecedented, recalling that Fez was designated as Youth Capital in 2017.

To mark this event, Morocco hosted, on July 1-3, 2025, an international forum titled "Youth of the Islamic World: Challenges after the COVID-19 Pandemic". The agenda featured interactive sessions and activities that addressed the repercussions of the pandemic on the economic integration of youth, the challenges posed by the digital revolution and artificial intelligence, along with other issues confronting youth in the Islamic world in the post-pandemic context.

The "Marrakech: OIC Youth Capital 2025" event was launched in Marrakesh, and will continue until December 5th with the participation of 200 young men and women from over 48 OIC Countries.

The celebration of this event involved a series of intellectual, cultural, artistic, and sports activities, as well as thematic meetings focusing on democracy, peace and security, cultural identity, and the role of youth in achieving sustainable development.



OIC 25

CULTURAL
FEST

BAKU CREATIVE WEEK

Baku to Host "OIC Cultural Festival

Baku Creative Week 2025

The "OIC Cultural Festival: Baku Creative Week 2025," jointly organized by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is scheduled to take place in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, from 5 to 11 December 2025. Since 2019, the OIC General Secretariat has organized several editions of this Festival in different Member States. The event seeks to deepen cooperation in the fields of culture and creative industries, while promoting mutual understanding and friendly relations among OIC Countries. Hosting the OIC Cultural Festival for the first time, Azerbaijan will highlight its increasingly

prominent role on the international cultural scene, as well as its contribution to strengthening the traditions of multiculturalism, dialogue, and cooperation within the Islamic world and beyond.

Fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting the Islamic values of tolerance, peace, and respect for diversity will be among the Festival's central themes.

The event is expected to attract over 300 participants from more than 50 OIC Member States, including government officials, representatives of international organizations, prominent scholars and cultural figures, along with experts in cre-

ative industries.

The Festival's program will feature a High-Level Meeting of Culture Ministers from OIC Member States, in addition to the Cultural and Creative Industries Forum (MYFORUM), the "Creative Village" Exhibition (MYEXPO) showcasing cultural and creative industries, the international cinema program "Baku Cinema Breeze – 2025," the "Eastern Fashion Show," presenting works by emerging and renowned designers from OIC Countries, and the International Summit on Gaming Technologies (G-HUB). Furthermore, a variety of cultural projects in the fields of theater, music, dance, and animation will be presented.

PROFILE

Iraq

Capital: Baghdad

Area: 438,317 km²

Official Languages: Arabic and Kurdish

Currency: Iraqi Dinar

الله أكبر



Iraq (officially The Republic of Iraq) is an Arab and Islamic country with a republican, parliamentary, and federal system, according to the Iraqi Constitution. It consists of 19 governorates (provinces), with Baghdad as its capital. Iraq is located in Western Asia, forming the northeastern part of the Arab world, and it overlooks the Arabian Gulf.

Iraq is bordered to the south by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to the north by Türkiye, to the west by Syria and Jordan, and to the east by Iran.

Iraq is a founding member of the League of Arab States (LAS), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It possesses the fifth-largest proven oil reserves in the world.

The region of present-day Iraq was home to one of the earliest civilizations in the world, the Sumerian civilization, located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The ancient land of Mesopotamia (the "land between the rivers") extended into modern-day Syria, Iran, and southeastern Anatolia. Mesopotamia maintained close connections with other ancient civilizations, such as those of Egypt and India.

Throughout history, Iraq has witnessed the rise and fall of numerous empires and states, including the Sumerian, Neo-Babylonian, Assyrian, Median, Seleucid, Parthian, Roman, Sasanian, Lakhmid, Rashidun Caliphate, Umayyad, and Abbasid States, as well as the Mongols, Safavids, Afsharids, and Ottomans, followed by the British Mandate, then the Kingdom of Iraq, and finally the modern Federal Parliamentary Republic of Iraq.

As of 2024, Iraq's population is estimated at 46,118,000, with 50.25% male and 49.75% female. The overwhelming majority, about 95%, of Iraq's population are Muslims.

Iraq's geography is remarkably diverse: from the mountains, valleys, and forests of the north, to the Hamrin Hills, and from the fertile Tigris-Euphrates alluvial plains to arid deserts, such as the Arabian Desert and Syrian Desert. The country also contains the Western Desert Plateau and two major rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, along whose banks the world's earliest civilizations arose.

In southern Iraq, there are vast natural marshlands, which are home to unique wildlife found

nowhere else on Earth, the most famous being the Hawizeh Marsh and the Hammar Marsh. The country also has several artificial lakes, such as Lake Tharthar and Lake Razzaza, as well as natural ones like Lake Sawa, located in the desert of Al-Muthanna Governorate.

The average temperature in Iraq reaches about 38°C (100.4°F) during July and August, and drops below zero in January and February. Most rainfall occurs between December and April, ranging from 340 to 512 millimeters annually. Rainfall is significantly higher in the northern mountainous regions than in the central and southern areas, sometimes exceeding 1,000 mm, with the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in Iraq reaching 2,954 mm on Mount Cheekha Dar in April.

Around 90% of the country's annual rainfall occurs between November and April, especially from December to March. During the hotter months, June, July, and August, rainfall is rare. In mountainous areas, precipitation is much greater, sometimes reaching 2,600 mm per year, though the rugged terrain limits large-scale agriculture.



Youth: Partners in Development and Drivers of Change

Youth are a nation's greatest asset and most precious resource. They are the driving force behind progress, the key to transformation, and the builders of a better future. For a society to thrive, it must nurture the capabilities of young people, empower them to carry the torch of positive change, and instill in them a sense of self-worth and confidence in their ability to fulfill their roles most effectively.

Accordingly, it is essential to create an environment that supports youth creativity, and provides opportunities for them to contribute to building a strong present and a bright future. A great nation, in fact, can only be built by the hands of its young people who bear its burdens and strive, with dedication and determination, to change its realities for the better.

Islam places utmost importance on youth, as emphasized in numerous Quranic verses and prophetic Hadiths, which call for their proper upbringing and positive development. The Prophet himself (PBUH) recognized the pivotal role of young people in supporting him and in defending what is true and just, placing immense trust in them by appointing young leaders, such as Usama ibn Zaid and Khalid ibn Al-Walid, to command armies that included great Sahabah (Companions of Prophet Muhammad).

Similarly, the United Nations and other international institutions have emphasized the protection of youth rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights lays the foundation for these rights, including the right to education (Article 26), freedom of expression (Article 19), and participation in public life (Article 21).

The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights emphasizes access to education, decent work, healthcare, and cultural opportunities as key to unlocking youth potential and fostering community development. Sustainable Development Goals also target youth empowerment, particularly through goals related to quality education (Goal 4), decent work (Goal 8), and reducing inequality (Goal 10).

Most economists, policymakers, and leaders agree that sustainable economic growth and development cannot be successfully achieved without prioritizing youth, who represent half of the present and all of the future. Young people, in fact, bring energy, creativity, and a strong desire for change—qualities that can be positively harnessed through fostering innovation, technological skills, and creative thinking.

Yet, young people in many countries are faced with major challenges, including high unemployment rates and limited job opportunities, often exacerbated by economic stagnation or political instability. Addressing these obstacles is key to enabling youth to contribute effectively to society, preserve developmental gains, and ensure long-term sustainability, making them central to any successful socio-economic development plans.

Other significant challenges facing youth include the mismatch between education and job market needs, which limits their practical skills. Young people often lack guidance, mentorship, and positive role models necessary for developing leadership, creativity, and professional competencies. To enable meaningful youth contributions to development, curricula, particularly at the undergraduate level, should be updated to reflect modern trends, market requirements, and emerging fields such as technology and innovation.

Training should complement theoretical knowledge, while psychosocial support addresses mental health challenges arising from social pressures. Additionally, involving youth in volunteer work with civil society organizations fosters social responsibility and strengthens their public engagement and their sense of belonging to their communities. By combining educational reform, skills development, psychosocial support, and civic engagement, societies can harness youth energy, creativity, and potential; thereby empowering them to play a key role in promoting sustainable national development and in shaping a prosperous future.

Societies seeking progress and development should take youth rights seriously, while avoiding approaches that involve skepticism or blame, which can undermine youth morale, frustrate them, and push them toward passivity and disengagement.

When young people feel that their rights are protected and that they are empowered to participate in addressing their community's issues and to express their opinions on decisions affecting their lives, they gain valuable opportunities for growth, learning, and contribution to their societies. These fundamental rights are not a luxury—they are indispensable for building a fair, inclusive, and equitable society.

Key youth rights include access to services and to adequate opportunities for development and employment, the right to protection from physical, mental, or emotional abuse, as well as the right to participate in public activities and to have a voice on all issues of concern to them.

In light of all the above, it is imperative to give greater attention to young people, and offer them access to modern education in order to enhance their skills, expand their knowledge, and refine their abilities through proper training, in a way that empowers them to compete in the job market and effectively serve their society.



Dr. Hadi bin Ali Al-Yami,

Executive Director of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)

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About OIC

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.

The Organization was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 12th Rajab 1389 Hijra (25 September 1969) following the criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. In 1970 the first ever meeting of Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister (ICFM) was held in Jeddah which decided to establish a permanent secretariat in Jeddah headed by the organization's secretary general. H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha is the 12th Secretary General of the Organization. He assumed the position in November 2021.

The first OIC Charter was adopted by the 3rd ICFM Session held in 1972. The Charter laid down the objectives and principles of the organization and fundamental purposes to strengthen the solidarity and cooperation among the Member States. Over the last 40 years, the membership has grown from its founding members of 30 to 57 states. The Charter was amended to keep pace with the developments that have unraveled across the world. The present Charter of the OIC was adopted by the Eleventh Islamic Summit held in Dakar on 13-14 March 2008 to become the pillar of the OIC future Islamic action in line with the requirements of the 21st century.

The Organization has the singular honor to galvanize the Ummah into a unified body and have actively represented the Muslims by espousing all causes close to the hearts of over 1.5 billion Muslims of the world. The Organization has consultative and cooperative relations with the UN and other inter-governmental organizations to protect the vital interests of the Muslims and to work for the settlement of conflicts and disputes involving Member States. In safeguarding the true values of Islam and the Muslims, the organization has taken various steps to remove misperceptions and have strongly advocated elimination of discrimination against the Muslims in all forms and manifestations.

The Member States of the OIC face many challenges in the 21st century and to address those challenges, the third extraordinary session of the Islamic Summit held in Makkah in December 2005, laid down the blue print called the Ten-Year Program of Action. It has successfully concluded with the close of 2015. A successor programme for the next decade (2016-2025) has been adopted.

The new programme OIC-2025 is anchored in the provisions of the OIC Charter and focuses on 18 priority areas with 107 goals. The priority areas include issues of Peace and Security, Palestine and Al-Quds, Poverty Alleviation, Counter-terrorism, Investment and Finance, Food Security, Science and Technology, Climate Change and Sustainability, Moderation, Culture and Interfaith Harmony, Empowerment of Women, Joint Islamic Humanitarian Action, Human Rights and Good Governance, among others.

Among the OIC's key bodies: the Islamic Summit, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the General Secretariat, in addition to the Al-Quds Committee and three permanent committees concerned with science and technology, economy and trade, and information and culture. There are also specialized organs under the banner of the OIC including the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as subsidiary and affiliate organs that play a vital role in boosting cooperation in various fields among the OIC member states.

For more details, visit the OIC website at
www.oic-oci.org



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Augmenting Islamic cultures • Combating poverty
 Protecting the rights of Muslim minorities • Promoting Science and Technology
 Preserving Islamic heritage • Joint Islamic solidarity
 Strengthening International relations • Promoting development
 Combating terrorism • Achieving economic and trade cooperations
 Encouraging dialogue among cultures and religions
 Boosting Economic and Trade cooperation
 Defending the Palestine Cause • Defending the rights of Muslims



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