

Original: English

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

**(İstanbul, 23-27 November 2004)**

The Twentieth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) held in İstanbul, 23-27 November 2004;

**A. Economic Measures in Support of Palestine**

**Recalling** the resolutions adopted by OIC Summits in support of the Palestinian people;

**Recalling also** the previous resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee at Ministerial Meetings and at meetings of other committees;

**Recalling further** the resolutions adopted by the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in support of the State of Palestine;

**Condemning** the repeated Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and occupation of Palestinian territories in violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and agreements signed and recognized internationally and demanding the cessation of all forms of aggression and the violation of the Muslim and Christian holy places and also demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from all the Palestinian territories as well as the cessation of aggressions against the Palestinian people, and the insistence on imposing the separation-wall on the Palestine territories, in spite of overwhelming international opposition;

**Noting** the role played by the Palestine National Authority in all its cities, hamlets and camps, including East Jerusalem in order to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people and build up national economy;

1. **Appeals** to the Quartet to send a peace-keeping force to secure the implementation of the Road-Map scheme.
2. **Notes** with deep appreciation the assistance provided by some Member States and the OIC relevant institutions.
3. **Commends** the efforts made by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions and its camps in order to reconstruct what was destroyed by Israeli occupation as well as the Palestinian steadfastness in the face of Israeli aggression and **urges** Member States and other relevant parties to exert further efforts and provide greater assistance to build up a national economy, develop and consolidate it.
4. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance provided by some Member States to the Palestinian people to build up their national economy and **urges** Member States and relevant OIC bodies to provide, as early as possible, the required and approved assistance to enable the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people to build up a national economy and consolidate their national institutions as the infrastructure of these institutions was totally destroyed by the Israeli occupying forces.
5. **Reaffirms** the previous resolutions on providing all forms of support and assistance: economic, technical, material and moral to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority, recommending preference in import to Palestinian products, exempting them from taxes and customs duties.
6. **Urges** businessmen and investors of Member States to contribute to the implementation of economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions, with a view to building up the national economy and enabling the Palestine National Authority and its national institutions to implement their development programmes, during the coming period, in the various economic, social and health fields.
7. **Appeals** to Member States, to provide employment opportunities to the Palestinian labour force, given the harsh condition imposed by the Israeli occupation forces, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic condition of the Palestinian people and putting an end to unemployment.

8. **Urges** Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social fields, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic condition of the Palestinian people.
9. **Urges** all OIC Member States and affiliated institutions to provide urgent assistance to build up a strong and independent Palestinian national economy.
10. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at implementing the previous resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and submit a progress report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

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

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC),

**Recalling** resolution 10/13-EC(IS) adopted by the 10th Session of the OIC Summit;

**Recalling** resolution 31/13-EC adopted by the 31st session of the OIC Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

Also **recalling** the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and ensuing damages and loss of lives as well as properties and their repercussions on political and economic conditions in Lebanon;

**Lauding** the efforts exerted by the Lebanese Government to ensure security and stability, exercise its authority, reconstruct and provide the needs of Lebanese citizens living in areas under the yoke of Israeli occupation;

**Bearing in mind** the difficulties confronted by Lebanese citizens living in the region under Israeli occupation and neighbouring areas;

Having reviewed the report of the Secretary General in this regard:

1. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Islamic and Arab countries for the assistance extended within the framework of the Donors' Conference (Paris 2), in particular the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that pledged a tangible contribution in the said Conference.
2. **Expresses** its appreciation for the assistance granted by OIC relevant bodies.
3. **Condemns** the aggressions perpetrated by Israel against public facilities and infrastructure in Lebanon in a bid to obstruct the construction efforts undertaken by the Lebanese Government. Moreover, it **denounces** Israel's abstention to withdraw from parts of the Lebanese territory, including Shaba'a farms, and beyond internationally recognized Lebanese borders.
4. **Condemns** Israel for refusing to give detailed maps of areas where landmines were planted by it in the South and West of the Bekaa valley, a matter that exposes civilian life to extreme danger. Also **condemns** Israel for detaining Lebanese citizens in its prisons.
5. **Emphasizes** its support to Lebanon in its sovereign right to exercise its political options within its constitutional procedures and institutions bearing in mind historical and special relations between Syria and Lebanon.
6. **Reaffirms** its previous recommendations related to the necessity to extend urgent assistance, financial, humanitarian and in kind to Lebanon in light of its requirements in the economic, technical and training fields. Reiterates its **request** to OIC Member States and other international and regional organizations to take urgent and active measures to contribute to the reconstruction of what was destroyed by the Israeli occupation and respond to the proposal of holding a Conference of donor countries for this purpose.
7. **Calls upon** Member States to extend exceptional facilities to allow the entrance of Lebanese products to their markets without any obstacles in order to consolidate its economy which is the fundamental pillar for Lebanese resistance and steadfastness against Israeli aggression.
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

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

**Recalling** relevant resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Expresses** its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy.
3. **Urges** OIC Member States, Islamic institutions and international organizations to grant generous economic assistance to Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Recalling** relevant resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the COMCEC;

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

## **E. Economic Measures in Support of The Islamic State of Afghanistan**

**Recalling** earlier resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the COMCEC;

**Recalling further** the final communiqué of the 9<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Doha on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2001;

**Noting** the extraordinarily grave situation prevailing in the Islamic State of Afghanistan;

1. **Recognizes** that the Islamic State of Afghanistan was on the verge of a great human tragedy and the impending humanitarian catastrophe calls for immediate emergency relief measures.
2. **Urges** the Member States and Islamic institutions to extend urgent and substantial assistance to the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.
3. **Commends** those Member States that have already provided assistance to the people of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.
4. **Expresses its deep appreciation** for the creation of a fund for the Afghan people by the 9<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. This fund should be established as soon as possible.
5. **Expresses its gratitude and appreciation** to the OIC Member States for their generous contribution to the newly formed OIC Fund for the welfare of Afghan refugees to return from neighbouring and other countries to their own country.
6. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

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

**Recalling** resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the COMCEC;

1. **Expresses appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Urges** OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia.
3. **Commends** those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Recalling** relevant Resolution of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

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

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

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by some Member States and OIC relevant bodies.
2. **Appeals** to all Member States and Islamic financial institutions to contribute generously to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by the Kyrgyz Republic, either on a bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organizations, in order to enable the Kyrgyz Republic to fulfil its economic programme.

3. **Appeals also** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Recalling** the resolutions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference and the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers expressing support and assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan;

**Referring** to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;

1. **Strongly condemns** continuous aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan resulting in the occupation of one fifth of its territory and in one million of refugees and displaced Azeri people.
2. **Reaffirms** its support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the full solidarity of OIC Member States with the government and people of Azerbaijan in this grave and very critical time of the country's history.
3. **Recognizes** the need to reinforce the concrete solidarity of OIC Member States with the government and people of Azerbaijan.
4. **Welcomes and appreciates** the assistance extended by OIC Member States and relevant bodies, the United Nations institutions and international organizations.
5. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic and humanitarian assistance with a view to alleviating the sufferings of the Azeri people.
6. **Calls upon** the international organizations to continue to grant humanitarian and economic assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

7. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Guided** by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference emphasizing the common goals and destiny of the peoples of the Islamic Ummah and their commitment to the consolidation of international peace and security;

**Recalling** the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

**Taking** also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers, 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference and 19<sup>th</sup> session of the COMCEC;

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

1. **Expresses deep appreciation** for the assistance extended by Member States and OIC relevant bodies. It also stresses the importance of the continuation of the activities undertaken by the OIC Assistance Mobilization Group and noted with appreciation the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry's special programme to assist the private sector of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

2. **Welcomes** the contributions of OIC Member States at the Donor Conference for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Brussels in April 1996 which encourages OIC Member States to pursue their efforts as

regards financial contributions for the final return of refugees adopted at the OIC Conference held in Doha in May 2001 and expresses its satisfaction for the efforts exerted by the OIC Committee for the Reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

3. **Appeals** to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations as well as provide financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB programme aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina for the reconstruction of the country.
4. **Expresses its appreciation** for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
5. **Urges** the International Community to take efficient measures to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
6. **Categorically demands** that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected within its internationally recognized frontiers and supports the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in its intent to proceed on this sound basis for a just and lasting solution to restore the confidence of its people so that they may continue to live as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious society.
7. **Requests** the OIC Member States, at the same time members of the Peace Implementation Council in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its Coordination Committee, to seek directing the biggest part of international assistance for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina and, in particular, the areas inhabited by Muslim Bosnians.
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Recalling** earlier resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Noting** with satisfaction that a joint mission OIC/IDB visited the zones affected by rebel attacks with a view to assessing the damage and destruction resulting from the attacks and prepare a reconstruction program;

1. **Expresses** its support to and solidarity with the people and the Government of Guinea.

2. **Invites** the international community and the OIC Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with substantial financial and material assistance, so that it may cope with the difficulties caused by the aggressions waged against the Republic of Guinea and the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees, who are Muslims in majority, on its territories.
3. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its assistance, either as subventions or loans at favourable conditions, to the Republic of Guinea, so that it may create the social infrastructures needed for the displaced population and refugees, and overcome the deterioration of the environment brought about by this massive human presence.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the following COMCEC Session.

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

**Recalling** the pertinent Resolutions adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

1. **Appeals** to Member States and Islamic institutions of the Organization of Islamic Conference of which Sierra Leone has always been an active member, whose people have experienced the most brutal acts of violence, to urgently extend substantial financial and material assistance to the war ravaged country to enable its people to rebuild the infrastructure and to undertake the much needed rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of returnees and displaced inhabitants of about 1,5 million.
2. **Requests** the Secretary General to use his good offices to accelerate the approval process of projects already identified for Sierra Leone.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Noting** that the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian occupied Kashmir have continued to suffer from grave atrocities and serious repression which have continued against them with increased intensity resulting in greater economic hardship for the people;

1. **Recognizes** the need for immediate economic assistance to alleviate the suffering of the innocent and displaced Kashmiris.
2. **Appeals** to all Member States and Islamic institutions, particularly the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Islamic Development Bank to grant immediate assistance to suffering Kashmiri people.
3. **Also appeals** to all OIC Member States and Islamic institutions to grant scholarships to Kashmiri students in different universities and educational institutions in the OIC countries.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report to the next COMCEC session.

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

**Recalling** the relevant resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

**Taking into consideration** the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen, which arose from the burden of reunification and the big losses caused by the aborted secession attempt in June 1994 as well as the devastating flood which swept the Republic of Yemen in 1996;

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

**Taking into consideration** the heavy burden borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighbouring African countries;

**Recalling** that Yemen is one of the least developed countries:

1. **Expresses** its appreciation for the efforts of the Yemeni Government to overcome its economic difficulties and to implement the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and the success achieved in that regard.
2. **Also expresses** its appreciation for the assistance extended by some of the Member States and by the relevant organs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
3. **Renews its call** to Member States and all regional and international organizations to extend all kinds of economic assistance to the Yemeni Government to support its efforts aimed at implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Administrative and Financial Reform and at alleviating the ravages suffered by Yemen as a result of the floods as well as the heavy burden of sheltering large number of refugees from neighbouring African countries.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

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

**Recalling** relevant resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

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

**Deeply concerned** with the critical situation which Tajikistan has faced after six years of bloody civil war, which resulted in death, injury and

displacement of thousands of people as well as destruction of its economic and social infrastructures;

**Noting** the return of about 200,000 Tajik refugees to their homeland which necessitates a great financial and technical support;

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

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

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

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

**Recalling** earlier resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

**Noting** the political and social disorders that have recently erupted in Guinea Bissau and their consequences on the economic activities of the country, namely the loss of the agricultural and export products marketing

campaign, the mass displacement of the population and the physical destruction of the basic socio-economic infrastructure, such as schools, dispensaries, hospitals, markets, residential areas, etc;

1. **Urges** Member States and the International Community to provide Guinea Bissau with urgent aid to facilitate the reinsertion of its peoples in active life.
2. **Appeals** to Member States and to OIC institutions to participate in the rehabilitation and economic revival programme of Guinea Bissau.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **P. Economic Assistance to Countries Affected by Drought and Natural Disasters**

**Recalling** earlier resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

**Noting with concern** the grave situation caused by drought and natural disasters, and their damaging effects on economic and social conditions specially in the agricultural, economic and social infrastructures, as well as public services and utilities;

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

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

1. **Expresses its gratitude** to Member States, which provided and are still providing assistance and food aid to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.
2. **Expresses also its gratitude** to IDB for its continuing assistance to Member States afflicted by drought and natural disasters and encourages the Bank to continue its assistance in this domain.
3. **Appeals** to the international community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.
4. **Calls upon** the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend urgent assistance to OIC countries of Inter-governmental Authority for Development and the Campaign Against Drought (IGAAD) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which has been threatening them for a long time.
5. **Notes with appreciation** the meeting of donor countries and national and regional financial institutions convened by Kuwait at IDB Headquarters in June, 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programmes.
6. **Welcomes** the contribution of 30 million US\$ made by the State of Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US\$ contributed by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
  1. **Also notes with appreciation** that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has embarked upon the implementation of its new programme for the control of drought and desertification in the Sahelian African States.
  2. **Also expresses** its appreciation to the Great Peoples Socialist Libyan Jamahiriyah for the support and assistance it provides to the Islamic States to improve their infrastructure, alleviate the ills of extreme poverty, drought and natural disasters and ameliorate the health, social and cultural conditions through donations, soft loans and assistance in kind.

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

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

**Having taken cognizance** of resolution (27/7-IS) of the 7<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit on Islamic Solidarity with the Peoples of the Sahel;

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

**Recalling** resolutions of the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

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

2. **Appeals** to all Member States and Islamic institutions to extend urgently special assistance to enable Sahelian African States to cope with the lack of cereal crops and poor grazing land and a result of weak rain falls and locusts invasion.

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

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

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

6. **Notes** with appreciation the meeting of donor countries and national and regional financial institutions convened by Kuwait in June 1998 to consider the appropriate mechanisms for financing the new programme.
7. **Welcomes** the 30 million US \$ contribution made by Kuwait in the form of soft development loans as well as the 20 million US \$ provided by the Islamic Development Bank for the new programme.
8. **Also notes** with appreciation the initiation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the third phase of its program in favour of the Sahelian African States to combat drought and desertification.
9. **Urges** Member States to announce their contributions to the new programme in favour of the Sahelian African States.
10. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to follow up this matter and report to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **R. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Mozambique**

**Recalling** earlier resolutions of the 10<sup>h</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, the 31<sup>st</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC;

1. **Expresses** deep appreciation for the assistance extended by OIC Member States to the victims of floods in Mozambique.
2. **Appeals** to the Islamic Development Bank, to all Islamic Institutions and the international community in general, to render their material and financial support in order to ensure the reconstruction of socio-economic infrastructures and rehabilitation of the affected people in Mozambique.
3. **Emphasizes** the need to promote and encourage the role of the private sector particularly within the context of development of Small and Medium Enterprises.
4. **Urges** the developed countries to write off the external debt of Mozambique in the light of its critical socio-economic situation.

5. **Urges** the international community to increase its assistance to Mine-clearance Programmes, taking into account the far reaching effects of the natural disasters.
6. **Urges** the international community to render assistance for setting up national, sub-regional, regional and international disaster prevention, preparedness and management mechanisms, including early warning systems.
7. **Commends** the efforts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to address the devastating effects of the floods, natural disasters and thanks the international community for the support, solidarity and humanitarian assistance rendered to Mozambique.
8. **Calls upon** all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique.
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

#### **S. Economic Assistance to the Republic of Sudan**

**Recalling** the previous resolutions of the Islamic Summit Conference, the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Standing Committee at their previous sessions on assistance to Sudan,

1. **Expresses** deep concern over the sufferings of Sudan ensuing from the devastating war imposed upon it, as well as the influx of refugees resulting from the war, natural disasters, drought, desertification and floods.
2. **Commends** the positive developments resulting from the Sudanese peace negotiations in Kenya.
3. **Urges** the Islamic Development Bank, the relevant OIC institutions and Member States to provide urgent assistance to eliminate the effects of war on the social and economic infrastructure.

4. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow-up this matter and submit a report thereon to the next Session of COMCEC.

#### **T. Economic Measures in Support of the Republic of Iraq**

**Recalling** the resolution of the Tenth Islamic Summit and that of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers preceding it on support to the Iraqi people.

1. **Expresses** its conviction that the Iraqi people should enjoy the required standard of living and economic flexibility to enable them to overcome the consequences of war and economic embargo they underwent for reasons beyond their control.
2. **Appeals** to the OIC Member States to exert their utmost efforts to support and extend urgent assistance to Iraq and non-interference in its internal affairs so that it may effectively contribute to the security and stability of the region. This will promote the achievement of development in Iraq, resolve economic problems and structural distortions in the Iraqi economy.
3. **Highlights** the need and importance of enhanced security environment and measures because of terrorist activities for those civilian drivers and other personnel working for the reconstruction of Iraq as well as for the supply of humanitarian assistance to Iraqi people.
4. **Also urges** Member States to contribute, in the coming period, to the reconstruction of Iraq.
5. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up this matter and report thereon to the next COMCEC Session.

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