

30 JUNE 2000

OIC-Conclusion

UNITY, SOLIDARITY MOST SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, June 30 (Bernama) -- The most significant outcome of the 27th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was the spirit of unity and solidarity shown by delegates, Chairman of the session Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

"Although there are some disagreements I think the greater part.. the core and fundamental issues saw agreement."

"We discussed seriously how we should move forward rather than just look at the OIC as an organisation that cannot attain success," he told a press conference at the end of the four-day meeting.

About 1,000 delegates from 56 member countries attended the meeting held at the Palace of Golden Horses Hotel, near here.

Syed Hamid said member countries had shown a sense of urgency and seriousness in wanting the OIC to be a respected and credible organisation.

When asked whether unity in the grouping needed to be boosted since the grouping had failed to unanimously agree on the lifting of economic sanction on Iraq, Syed Hamid said some disagreement is normal for international conferences.

"Even in the United Nations there are thousands of resolutions. Not all resolutions are agreed to by all states," he said.

When a particular resolution was not agreed to by all OIC members it did not mean that the grouping had not achieved positive results, he added.

Syed Hamid pointed out that from the conference there is an urgency for unity, solidarity and greater co-operation in various fields including the economic, science and technology areas.

Reiterating Malaysia's call for the removal of the 10-year U.N. Security Council embargo on Iraq, he said : "The sanctions are long enough and should be lifted."

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On Malaysia's contribution to the ICFM, he said Malaysia had introduced five resolutions -- reform of the international financial architecture, strengthening the global multilateral trading system and the impact of advances in communication and information technology upon sovereignty of states.

Malaysia also forwarded resolutions on the reorganisation of the OIC's general secretariat and on finding a peaceful solution to the plight of the Chechens, said Syed Hamid.

He said, "The ICFM also adopted many of the ideas and suggestions of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad."

The four-day ICFM 27th session which ended today was participated by about 1,000 delegates from 56 member countries and four observer states -- Bosnia Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire and Thailand.

The 28th session of the ICFM will be in Mali, Africa, next year.
-- BERNAMA
TM AAM