

Delegates: Push Israel to accept UN resolutions

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KUALA LUMPUR: Delegates from 42 Muslim countries ended a three-day meeting here yesterday with a call to all nations and international organisations to push Israel towards accepting the United Nations resolutions for peace in West Asia.

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration, adopted at the end of the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Endowment and Islamic, Affairs, stated that Israel's expansion programme was a threat to Muslims and all countries should, therefore, unite to overcome it.

Read out by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, the declaration said Islamic countries should steadfastly continue their support for the Palestinians until Israeli forces retreat from their territories.

The declaration stated that the Palestine issue had

touched the hearts of every Muslim and that it should be explained through school curricula and the mass media.

The declaration also:

- **DENOUNCED** any acts linking Islam and Muslims to terrorism and the attitude of not acknowledging the fact that Islam promotes good values like compassion, peace, tolerance and moderation;

- **CONDEMNED** the actions of the Western media for their equating terrorism with Islam. Muslims and Islamic nations generally;

- **EXPRESSED** concern over decrees that were issued by individuals and bodies; and

- **EXPRESSED** objections to the sufferings of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries.

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowments Al-Shaikh Salleh Abd Aziz closed the conference, which was attended by 250 delegates.

The conference also passed 12 resolutions including:

- **RECOGNISING** Prime

Minister's Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's keynote address as an official document;

- **ESTABLISHING** an International Islamic Heritage Foundation;

- **INTRODUCING** Islam through various languages;

- **DISSEMINATING** information through Ministries of Endowments and Islamic Affairs websites;

- **ACCEPTING** the working paper on the methods and translation procedures on the interpretation of the Quran;

- **IMPLEMENTING** projects relating to the management of endowment and investment in Islamic countries; and

- **EMULATING** Malaysia's comprehensive approach in handling issues relating to religious extremism.

Speaking to reporters later, Abdul Hamid said Malaysia had already implemented most of the resolutions and the process of improving on them was ongoing.