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OIC-Syed Hamid (Press Conference)

NEW OIC CHAIRMAN MALAYSIA TO FOCUS ON "IMPLEMENTABLE ACTIVITIES"

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia as the new OIC Chairman will for the next three years focus on "practical and implementable activities" for the benefit of member countries, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said tonight.

"We must make decisions that are practical, implementable and let us not be over ambitious. Do what we can do. Let us gain our respect and credibility," he said at a press conference at the end of the first day of the two-day Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Ministerial Preparatory Meeting at the Putrajaya Convention Centre (PCC), here.

He said Malaysia would focus on selected subjects to implement instead of trying to cover all subjects.

The two-day ministerial meeting, chaired by Syed Hamid, would finalise the agenda for the summit on Thursday and Friday.

The 10th OIC summit will be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Syed Hamid said for the OIC to be effective, whatever decisions made by the organisation should not only be implementable but can also be abided by its 57 members.

However, he noted that some countries would face difficulties in implementing and abiding by OIC decisions due to their need to protect their national, regional and international interests.

"We can understand that. We are not trying to justify anything and we know the difficulties," he said.

He said the success of the OIC would depend on the support of all its members because Malaysia as chairman alone could not change the organisation.

The OIC, he said, must make small steps to move forward and progress so that their views would have some credibility among the international community in the absence of a single Muslim country that can be considered a military and economic giant.

As it stands now, the OIC was in no position to make more than just statements or declarations on the oppression of Muslim countries such as in Palestine, Iraq and most recently the unlawfull pre-emptive attack by Israel on Syria.

"I think we have to keep on having our voices heard," he said.

Answering question whether the OIC would allow its member countries to join the peacekeeping forces led by the occupying force in Iraq, Syed Hamid said the OIC was not set up as a military bloc and neither its charter allowed it to form military alliances.

However, OIC members could take part in managing the crisis and reconstruciton of Iraq after the United Nations had taken on a central role in rebuilding Iraq and bringing the country back to democracy.

-- BERNAMA

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