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OIC-Declaration

OIC LEADERS ISSUE PUTRAJAYA DECLARATION TO ENHANCE ORGANISATION

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Leaders of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) ended their summit here today with a 12-point plan of action to enhance the organisation in meeting global challenges.

The plan of action is contained in the Putrajaya Declaration issued at the close of 10th OIC Summit chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putrajaya Convention Centre here.

The declaration was read out by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

The leaders agreed to undertake a review and analysis of the OIC positions on international issues and draw up appropriate strategies to strengthen their solidarity particularly at international fora.

They also agreed to consider the proposal on the Gold-based Trade Payment Arrangements (GTPA) as an alternative of trade settlement among the 57 member countries with the view to expanding trade and economic development.

Practical steps to promote trade and investment would also be taken through the sharing of database and establishing linkages in financial services, shipping and aviation among member countries.

This is to encourage market accessibility for the products of the poorer countries of the OIC.

The leaders also agreed to hold dialogue with other cultures and civilisations, including the West, and other international and regional organisations.

This is to bring about enlightened moderation, mutual understanding and increased appreciation of Islam as a religion that promotes peace and harmony among mankind.

The Troika of the OIC Summit and the Friends of the Chair will represent the OIC in this dialogue.

The leaders said dialogue among Muslims, particularly among scholars, intellectuals, jurists and policy makers and making use of existing Islamic institutions such as the Islamic Fiqh Academy would also be enhanced.

They said the Fiqh Academy and its General Secretariat should be restructured and mandated to examine all relevant issues under its terms of reference that would contribute towards creating better understanding and minimising differences among the member nations.

On the revitalisation of the OIC, the leaders said the ongoing comprehensive review of the OIC General Secretariat would be completed by the current consultants.

This would be done with a view to revamping its structure, methodology, improving its financial and human resource requirements, and ensuring a more focused, concise documentation, in order to make it a more effective, efficient and responsive mechanism for cooperation among member states.

The review, which will be considered by the Ministers at the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, should also look into issues pertaining to the OIC Charter, including the question of strategic global partnerships, they said.

Another significant action to be taken was to establish a Study Group to suggest ways in which Islamic education could contribute to enhancing peace, understanding, tolerance, economic development and modernization, including the advancement of the role of women in economic development.

They also agreed on the need to undertake the development of Science

and Technology among member countries through regular conferences of Muslim scientists, engineers, innovators and technologists for the purpose of exchanging views and research experiences.

A Special OIC Fund and an appropriate system of awards for outstanding achievements in the field of science and technology would be established to encourage their activities.

The leaders said regular interactions and exchange of views and ideas among Muslim scholars, businessmen, entrepreneurs, industrialists and policy makers on important issues of concern to the Ummah would also be undertaken.

This involved the fields of economics, business, research and development, particularly in the context of the rapid process of globalisation and liberalisation.

The leaders also agreed to establish programmes to boost cooperation among member countries in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for development based on the "smart partnership" principle in which Governments, communities and the private sector would be fully engaged.

Member countries would be encouraged to contribute voluntarily to the proposed OIC Digital Solidarity Fund.

The leaders said existing mechanisms to assist OIC Member States emerging out of conflict would also be improved.

They also agreed to take effective measures to address issues pertaining to the ecology which was crucial to the survival of mankind.

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