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OIC-Declaration (Press Conference)

PUTRAJAYA DECLARATION TO FOCUS ON ACTION-ORIENTED STRATEGIES

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- The Putrajaya Declaration to be issued at the end of the 10th Summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) here will focus on action-oriented strategies, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said the document would be different from declarations issued at past OIC summits.

"There is a strong commitment and desire to see that we do not make plans based on niceties or beautiful phrases. But we want to see action," he told a press conference at the end of the two-day Ministerial Preparatory Meeting at the Putrajaya Convention Centre, here.

Syed Hamid chaired the ministerial meeting as Malaysia takes over the chairmanship of the 57 member organisation for the next three years.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will chair the two-day summit beginning on Thursday in the largest gathering of Muslim leaders since 2001.

Syed Hamid said the Putrajaya Declaration would outline concrete Plans of Action to be taken to enhance trade, economic ties and investment as well as expand information technology and cooperation in science, technology as well as education for the betterment of the Ummah.

For example, he said, in the revitalisation of OIC, there would be a statement on the need for the OIC to be credible and cohesive so that it could function as a body that represented all its members.

"At the same time, we will have a plan of action on how we should execute that and how we should achieve that," he said.

Apart from the declaration, Syed Hamid said the summit would issue statements on Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

He said there would also be a joint communique which would contain all matters that had been discussed, debated and decided at the summit.

Answering another question, Syed Hamid said it was up to the individual OIC member country to decide whether or not to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq.

"It is not for the OIC to decide as the OIC (as an organisation) has never sent any peacekeeping force to any country," he said when asked on the OIC's stand on the matter.

It has been reported that Turkey intends to send 10,000 peacekeepers to Iraq while some Muslim countries feel that they should not do so as long as Iraq was still under the United States-led occupying forces.

-- BERNAMA

JM MKO AAM