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OIC endorses 12-point action plan (HL)

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PUTRAJAYA, Fri. - Leaders of the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference concluded their two-day meeting today by endorsing a 12-point plan of action to propel the 57-member grouping to greater heights.

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

The declaration was read 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 at international fora.

They also agreed to consider the proposal on the Goldbased Trade Payment Arrangements (GTPA) as an alternative of trade settlement among the 57 member countries with a 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 dialogues 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 (Qatar, Malaysia and Senegal) 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 co-operation 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.

In keeping with the theme of the Summit, the leaders also agreed to undertake the development of Science and Technology among members through regular conferences of Muslim scientists, engineers, innovators and technologists to exchange views and research experiences.

The summit was closed by Dr Mahathir at 9.52pm.

