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'OIC has not adjusted to changing times'

THE OIC has been playing an important role in the uplifting of Muslims since its inception but has not adjusted itself to the changing times, said Talat Munir, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Malaysia.

Pakistan, said Munir, would table a proposal at the OIC to rejuvenate the grouping.

The OIC as an organisation, said Munir, had not lived up to the mark in transforming itself to keep abreast of the changes taking place. The Muslim ummah today is not as united as it could have been.

"Unfortunately, the organisation today does not reflect the aspirations of the common Muslim."

Munir said the organisation was divided on issues concerning Iraq and Kashmir as well as other political and economic issues.

The OIC had not done as well as Asean or the European Union.

Munir said Pakistan was looking forward to this summit to provide an impetus to restructure the organisation.

"I think there's a paramount need to reform the OIC. Hopefully, the Muslim ummah, especially under the dynamic chairmanship of Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will be able to inject new vigour and zeal into the organisation."

Pakistan itself, he said, would propose at the summit the setting up of a special committee to work out how OIC as an organisation can be strengthened.

Munir said Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who will arrive for the Summit on Wednesday, felt that the OIC, in particular, and the ummah, in general, had to realise twin aims of peace and freedom.

President Musharraf had put forth the motion of Enlightened Moderation, basically one that calls for the ummah to be more politically united and put more effort on education, economic and human resource development to attain its rightful place in the world community, he added.

The motion also strives to seek help from developed Western countries to deliver the strategies put in place by Muslim countries and help to resolve issues troubling the ummah.