

OIC Member States To Assist Palestine By Establishing Islamic Financial Safety Net
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- A resolution to establish the Islamic Financial Safety Net to assist Palestine was adopted at the 12th Islamic Summit Conference, organised by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The resolution stated that OIC Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu had to ensure that the Islamic Financial Safety Net was implemented successfully, according to an OIC statement.

"We have decided to establish the Islamic Financial Safety Net to assist Palestine because it is going through a rough time. Israel seized Palestine's financial returns after Palestine gained non-member observer status at the United Nations (UN) last November," Ihsanoglu said at the end of the two-day summit held in Cairo, Egypt on Thursday.

He said non-Arab Islamic states would be invited to hold a conference to increase the support for Palestine until the crisis ended. He added that several Islamic states were keen to contribute to the Islamic Financial Safety Net.

The theme of the summit was 'The Muslim World: New Challenges and Opportunities for Expansion'.

The summit focused on several issues, including the Muslim world, problems in Palestine, Israeli settlements, and tensions in some Muslim countries.

At the summit, it was decided that OIC member states, OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Development Bank will hold a donors' conference with donor states, international institutions and Palestine to ensure funds are available for the 'Strategic Sector Plan for the Development of the City of Al-Quds.'

Al-Quds (Jerusalem) is home to Al-Haram Al-Sharif (the Temple Mount) and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Israel occupied the Holy City during the 1967 war and annexed it later.

At the summit, member states were also called upon to take a unified stand at international fora which looked into problems faced by Palestinians and issues, with regard to the Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

At the summit, OIC member states also decided to support a report issued by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) regarding Israeli settlements. In the report published in March last year, the HRC had called for the setting up of an investigation committee on Israeli settlements.

The report described Israeli settlements as a violation of international law. Establishing settlements could be considered a war crime because these settlements had forced Palestinians to leave their land.

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