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**Title : EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON TERRORISM**

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have come to the end of our deliberations at this Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism. The Extraordinary Session had deliberated at length on the issue of terrorism with the objective of achieving a collective response of the OIC countries to combat terrorism and to correct the misperception of associating Islam with terrorism. The Extraordinary Session had also discussed on the rapidly deteriorating situation in Palestine.

2. On the issue of international terrorism, we have again clearly condemned all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including state terrorism, irrespective of motives, perpetrators and victims as terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

3. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration that we have just adopted demonstrates our collective resolve to combat terrorism and to respond to the developments affecting Muslim and Islamic countries in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

4. We have reiterated that terrorism has no particular face or image and cannot be linked to any group of people, religion or culture. We have stated clearly that all acts of terrorism are against the divine teachings of Islam.

5. We have stressed that terrorism is a global problem and there is a need for a collective effort in combating terrorism at the international level within the UN framework. We all recognize that there must be an internationally agreed definition of terrorism to ensure consistency and constancy in the fight against terrorism.

6. We have also discussed at length about the causes of terrorism, which had been raised by a number of delegates. In this regard, we have reaffirmed the need to identify and address the root causes of terrorism, without which, the international community cannot hope to eliminate this scourge. I think what is important is that we should recognize and realize that for every action there will be a reaction. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister had said in his Opening Address, "The world must deal with these misguided people not just by hunting them down but also by removing the causes of their anger and frustration. I don't think people would want to blast

themselves to death simply because they enjoy doing so". Therefore, in order to stop further acts of terror from being committed, it is necessary that the original perpetrators of the crime be punished for their action.

7. Under the Plan of Action in the Declaration, we have agreed to launch practical measures to address the issue of terrorism in a comprehensive and effective manner and to take recommendations to all members of the OIC. An important component of this Plan of Action is the establishment of an OIC Ministerial Committee on Terrorism. This Committee will, inter alia, recommend measures in response to developments affecting Muslim and Islamic countries arising from action to combat terrorism, as well, enhancing cooperation among OIC member countries in combating this scourge.

8. I hope that an early initiative would be taken to convene this Committee as soon as possible so as to enable it to carry out its mandated tasks.

9. The fact that we have adopted a Declaration, which includes a Plan of Action, is a clear demonstration of the political will of the Islamic countries to contribute towards international efforts to combat terrorisms.

10. In the light of the grave and rapidly deteriorating situation in Palestine, the Extraordinary Session had also adopted a separate Statement on the Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This Statement strongly condemned the recent Israeli military action against the Palestinians, including the storming of cities and villages, which we considered as violations of the norms of international law. The Israeli military action clearly demonstrates the practice of state terrorism. We have urged the international community to assume its responsibility in putting an end to the Israeli military aggression and have called for the immediate and total withdrawal of all Israeli military forces from the occupied territories.

11. The Statement had also reaffirmed our firm commitment in supporting the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians, including the right of refugees to return to their homes, the right to self-determination and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. As we prepare to return to our respective homes, allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the delegations that have participated actively in ensuring the success of this Extraordinary Session. I would also like to express my heartfelt and sincere thanks to all those who have worked arduously throughout the duration of this meeting, especially the members of the OIC and Malaysian Secretariat, the interpreters as well as all the technical

staff and security personnel who have ensured that we were able to conduct our proceedings smoothly.

13. I wish all of you a pleasant and safe journey home.

Thank You.