

**By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR**  
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**Title : AT THE OPENING OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF  
THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum WarahmatuHahi Wabarakatuh

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen

H.E. Dr. Abubakr Abdullah Al Qirbi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Yemen

H.E. Abdullah Gul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the 31st ICFM

Excellencies, Foreign Ministers

H.E. Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the O.I.C

Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **A UNITED OIC FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE UMMAH**

Alhamdulillah.. all praise is to Allah Almighty, by whose grace and blessings we are gathered here today in this historic city of Sana'a. A city that has, over the centuries, developed remarkable civilizations and evolved as an important meeting place for the people in this part of the world and from afar.

2. In Malaysia's capacity as Chairman of the Summit and on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, allow me to congratulate the Republic of Yemen for assuming the Chair of the 32nd OIC Foreign Ministers Conference for the 2005-2006 Session. I would also like to convey my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the friendly people of Yemen for the generous hospitality and warm reception extended to me and members of my delegation.

3. I am confident that under the leadership of Yemen, the OIC will scale new heights, achieve bigger and greater things for the Ummah and gain its rightful place in the community of Nations so as to fulfill its mandated role of representing and safeguarding the interests of more than 1.4 billion Muslims, spread all over the globe. Malaysia pledges to work closely with you and other members of the OIC to achieve this goal so that together we will better serve the Ummah.

Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

4. The OIC -its peoples and the member states -are part and parcel of the increasing global demand for good governance, democracy, human rights and development. They seek a world free of poverty and anchored on peace, prosperity and justice. In order to meet these challenges, there is an urgent need for a paradigm shift, beginning with a change of the mindset. This change must take place at both the national and international levels, devoid of double standards and selectivity, often the bane of genuine progress among the developed and developing worlds.

5. We, the OIC members, should be neither overawed nor overwhelmed by the winds of change sweeping for reform. We can draw strength from the Holy Quran and our shared history. The first Ayat revealed to us of the Holy Quran refers to reading. It helps us to recall the grandeur and glory of the Age of Learning, associated with Islam. It is within us, given the blessings of Allah, to fully meet these challenges.

6. The unity of the Ummah is a sine qua non. Our collective efforts will not only help to manifest that we are united but will also allow us to be an influential entity capable of influencing the global environment. We must not shy away from upholding justice and freedom while we continue to reject discrimination and oppression. We must uphold international law and the longstanding principles of interstate relations. Good governance, democracy and human rights are not incompatible with Islam. On the contrary, these values are integral to Islam.

7. In this context, our joint Islamic actions must bring about the desired changes that will benefit the Ummah. Given the history of the OIC, which was established in the wake of the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, it is timely to update and refocus the OIC, including the review of its name and scope.

8. The international community is presently engaged in discussions to develop collective responses to global threats. As OIC members, we must remain actively engaged in those efforts. We must fully exploit the opportunity to effect change for a more just and humane world order. We must stand united to jointly contribute towards achieving consensus to rid the world of its ills. These range from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the priority of which is to ensure the implementation of the Road Map, assisting Iraq to strengthen its political process to attain peace and stability, questions regarding the rights and well being of Muslim minorities and communities in non OIC countries that require our urgent attention, restoring to women their rightful and high place in society, as first elevated by Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h), protecting children from harm and exploitation as well as empowering Muslims.

Mr. Chairman,

9. In order to exert influence on the global agenda. Economic strength has become a prerequisite. We must unite to attain economic success, which is a necessity in empowering and raising the dignity of the Ummah. The OIC must ensure that its collective wealth and strength work in favour of its members and people. In this regard, Malaysia has initiated the Capacity-Building Programme for OIC Countries, launched by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia on 29 May 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. The Programme enhances human resource development, institutional, organizational and management skills, including the development of infrastructure to assist lower income OIC countries to break free from the cycle of poverty and to develop their economies. I hope more member countries of the OIC and the private sector will take part in the implementation of the Programme to meet its stated objectives.

10. While emphasising the need for economic development, we should not neglect our culture and beliefs as these principles inculcate indispensable ethical traits within our society. These beliefs, if instilled with care and responsibility, will help create a caring and progressive society with high moral values, which is essential to attain the balanced development of Islamic civilization especially in a world being shaped by various influences. In this context, "Islam Hadhari" or Civilizational Islam, based on the teachings of Islam, can contribute towards a balanced, contemporary and inclusive Islamic civilization which meets present and future challenges. The ten elements of Manhaj Hadhari seek to bring about a law-abiding and God-fearing society based on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.).

11. In line with this approach is the promotion of universal good practices, including accountability and transparency in the public and private sectors and combating corruption. The OIC can play an important role in this regard, particularly in building the capacity of every member country to fight corruption and in enhancing integrity. Building upon the recommendation by the OIC-CEP, Malaysia will convene a Forum on anti-corruption and Enhancing Integrity Initiatives for OIC countries next year. I am convinced that this initiative will gain the support of the OIC member countries as corruption is a growing global concern which brings about injustice and inequality; it also breeds discontent, often leading to Political instability. Further, it undermines the rule of law, moral and ethical values as well as the quality of life.

Mr. Chairman,

12. While we as member countries need to rededicate ourselves in our collective efforts to deepen and strengthen unity of the Ummah, we cannot ignore the need for an efficient institutional system and process. Member countries remain the principal authority of the OIC, and therefore, it is incumbent on us to provide clear and practical decisions for implementation by the General Secretariat, under the leadership of the Secretary-General. Malaysia contributed USD 1 million to assist in effecting changes

to strengthen and enhance the efficiency of the Secretariat. We look forward to the Secretary-General working in close consultation with member countries to ensure that the Secretariat remains dynamic and vibrant in implementing the decisions and resolutions adopted by us. The Reform of the Secretariat is not just increasing the funding or expanding the bureaucracy. It must result in the increase of efficiency, effectiveness and productivity.

13. We have the wherewithal to weather the storm. All that remains to be done is for us to re-assert our commitment to implement the decisions taken by us, especially in defending the Muslim cause, regain the vigour and honour of the Ummah. We have to unite and work together to meet the noble goals of uplifting the well-being of the peoples in the Muslim countries, while contributing towards global peace, security and development.

Thank you.