OIC/PAL-02/EXE.COM/2007/FC-Rev.

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE EXPANDED EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT THE LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE ISRAELI AGGRESSIONS AGAINST AL AQSA MOSQUE

JEDDAH – KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA 4 SAFAR 1428 H (22 FEBRUARY 2007)

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The Expanded Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee held in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 22 February 2007, corresponding to 4 Safar 1428H,

Having considered the Secretary-General's report,

Proceeding from the principles and goals of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Referring to the Islamic resolutions which affirm that the cause of Al Quds Al Sharif constitutes the essence of the cause of Palestine, Muslims' first cause;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, particularly resolutions 465, 476 and 478;

Affirming the United Nations Security Council resolution 681 which provided for the applicability of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the occupied Palestinian territories, including the occupied city of Al Quds:

Acknowledging the urgent appeal made to the meeting by the Mufti of Al-Quds who affirmed the seriousness of the situation which threatens the Al-Aqsa Mosque. He also appealed to the Ummah to exert its utmost efforts to protect Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Mufti expressed his confidence that the meeting would examine various ways and means to face this serious challenge which is not only a flagrant violation but also a threat to Islamic civilization:

- 1. <u>Expresses</u> its grave concern over the escalating Israeli aggression against the holy sites in Al Quds Al Sharif, and particularly in the immediate vicinity of the Holy Aqsa Mosque.
- 2. <u>Affirms</u> its condemnation of the works and excavations carried out by Israel, "the occupying power", that threaten the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque and its surrounding area, which is considered an affront to Muslims' sentiments and of one of their most important sanctities; and demands that all these works and excavations be ceased immediately.
- 3. <u>Affirms</u> that Al Quds Al Sharif is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and, as such, is subject to the same provisions as all occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy.
- 4. Affirms that the grave violations committed by the occupying power in Al Quds, including the construction of a synagogue in the vicinity of Al Aqsa Mosque and a Jewish museum, the project of a railroad line linking occupied Arab Jerusalem with the settlements, the persisting settlement activity inside Al Quds, isolation of the City with an Apartheid wall to judaize it, are aggressive and illegal practices that constitute a flagrant violation of the international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention; and demands the UN Security Council to intervene to take the necessary measures to

- protect Al Aqsa Mosque and compel Israel to implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy on Al Quds, including in particular resolutions 253, 267, 271, 465, 476, 478, 6725, 1073, and General Assembly resolution 223/51.
- 5. Welcomes and supports the Makkah Al Mukarramah Agreement of Palestinian national reconciliation, commends the sponsorship and praiseworthy efforts put in by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and requests the international community to support the agreement. It welcomes the efforts aimed at forming the Palestinian national unity government and undertakes to support it for its significance for steadfastness of the Palestinian people and supporting its resistance ability until just and comprehensive peace is achieved.
- 6. <u>Confirms</u> the need to abide by the resolution to break the unjust embargo imposed on the Palestinian people adopted by the Executive Committee in its Expanded Extraordinary Meeting held on 18 November 2006, and calls for urgent action with the international community to lift the embargo in the light of positive developments on the Palestinian scene.
- 7. <u>Calls upon</u> the Ummah to unify its efforts in order to defend its sanctities and resist all attempts aimed at weakening its causes and spreading sectarian and religious differences amongst and within the Islamic countries.
- 8. <u>Calls on</u> the Member States to provide financial and moral support to the population of Al Quds and its Palestinian institutions in support for their steadfastness and the preservation of the Islamic and Arab identity as well as the religious, historical and demographic character of Al Quds.
- 9. <u>Calls also on</u> the international community, the Quartet in particular, to put pressure on Israel to immediately end its aggression against Al Aqsa Mosque and cease all its measures that would lead to more tension and violence, constituting a threat to international peace and security at a time when serious efforts are needed to achieve comprehensive peace and stability in the Middle East.
- 10. Requests the General Secretariat to follow the implementation of the international decisions and resolutions adopted in this regard, especially the decision adopted by the 30th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in July 2006, in Lithuania which was approved by all UNESCO Member States, including Israel, that Israel should provide to the World Heritage Centre all relevant information concerning its plans for new buildings and reconstruction of the access leading to Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- 11. <u>Calls upon</u> the Member States to provide advisory and technical support to the Endowment Department in Al-Quds, as required by Palestine.
- 12. <u>Calls on</u> the General Secretariat and the Member States to organize activities which include all segments of the society to highlight the cause of Al Quds Al Sharif and Palestine and expose the dangerous violations and illegal measures carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities, particularly the excavation works it is carrying out underneath and in the immediate vicinity of the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque.
- 13. <u>Mandates</u> the OIC Group in New York to follow up on its request to the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures to end the serious violations against the Holy Al Agsa Mosque.

- 14. Requests the OIC Group in UNESCO to continue to urge this Organization to fulfill its responsibilities and take the necessary measures to preserve the human and civilizational heritage of Al Quds, including the formation of a committee to investigate the Israeli aggressions against the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque, and to prevent it from tampering with the historical and civilizational character as well as the Islamic and Arab identity of the Holy City.
- 15. <u>Commends</u> the continuous efforts, including regional and international contacts, made by His Majesty King Mohamed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, to urge the international community to compel Israel to abide by all relevant UN resolutions.
- 16. <u>Calls on</u> the Member States and the civil society institutions to support Bayt Mal Al-Quds and Al-Quds Fund Waqf in order to allow them to energize their humanitarian action and preserve the sanctities in Al-Quds.
- 17. <u>Appreciates</u> the efforts exerted by the Chairman of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference, the Chairman of the 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and Member States to safeguard and protect the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- 18. <u>Appreciates also</u> the efforts of the Secretary General, especially his contacts and visit to Palestine aiming to urge the Palestinian parties to preserve national unity through dialogue. <u>Also supports</u> his efforts to end aggression against the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- 19. Welcomes and supports the resolutions adopted by the Parliamentary Union of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Al Quds, which held its latest session in Kuala Lumpur on 15-16 February 2007.
- 20. <u>Affirms</u> the necessity of launching an international campaign to elucidate the dangers threatening Al Aqsa Mosque and the sanctuaries in Al Quds, and the serious implications on security and stability in the region and beyond, and demands that pressure be put on Israel to end its violations and aggression.
- 21. <u>Endorses</u> the recommendation of the Chairman of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference that the Secretary General coordinates a concrete plan of action to take up the Al-Aqsa and the Al-Quds issues to the Security Council, UNESCO, International Court of Justice and the Human Rights Council.
- 22. <u>Requests</u> the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Chairs of the Islamic Summit Conference and the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, and Palestine to take the necessary measures to implement the provisions of this Communiqué.