



منظمة التعاون الإسلامي

**WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT
Istanbul – Republic of Turkey
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**Statement by H.E Iyad Ameen Madani
Secretary General of the OIC on
Preventing and Ending Conflicts**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, based on its Summit declarations and Council of Foreign Ministers resolutions is committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The OIC is also steadily advancing the capacity of its team working on prevention, conflict analysis and resolution. Moreover, it will strengthen the existing and establish new and effective partnerships with international, regional, and local actors to advance its abilities in this area.

It was only a few days ago that we convened the Wise Persons Council that consists of a number of former OIC Member States Presidents to assist our efforts in prevention and conflict resolution. We have agreed to set preventive diplomacy at the heart of our peace architecture and agreed on a number of priority areas. We also agreed to pay particular attention to the most vulnerable segments of our societies. The efforts of the Wise Persons Council will be shared among the OIC Member States and brought to the attention of the UN system and our partners.

The OIC Secretariat will endeavor to contribute constructively in the implementation of peace agreements and other outcomes of mediation processes. It will work with its specialized agencies and in particular the Islamic Development Bank and urge its Member States to increase the assistance provided to fragile situations, protracted conflicts and forgotten crises to help achieve and consolidate peace among different political forces and help to achieve a smooth transition from humanitarian action to sustainable development.

It is our collective responsibility to give utmost priority to ensure that we protect civilians and gain rapid and unimpeded access to those in need of humanitarian assistance and to take effective measures to ensure the protection of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and health care. The OIC stands ready to shoulder its responsibility in this crucial area in cooperation with the ICRC, the IFRC and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

We will also strive to capture, consolidate and share good practices and lessons learned in crisis prevention, in the peaceful settlement of disputes and in peace building with our partners.

I am pleased to announce that the OIC has already launched a process of Islamic rapprochement at the joint initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev and the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan. This initiative was endorsed by the 13th OIC Summit held last month in these same premises.

The process of Islamic rapprochement aims at achieving a new paradigm of relations in the OIC Member States through the demonstration of goodwill and constructive approach for peaceful resolution of disputes, for respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Conflicts generate forced displacements, destruction and devastation along with large-scale humanitarian repercussions that have far-reaching consequences affecting millions of people and one generation after the next. That is the reason why conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes should be highly placed on our agenda.

Peace, however, will not be achieved without addressing the root causes of conflicts and disputes which requires a full understanding of economic conditions, social context, cultural references, human rights respect and the ever increasing role of the State in some countries; and the history of colonization traditional and neo. Perhaps, most important in this context is the relationship of the political with the humanitarian.

Within the OIC, we pose the questions as to why the majority of internally displaced persons and refugees are within and from the OIC Member States; why are there are proportionally larger number of conflict points within the OIC's geography; Why do we currently see more radical groups within the boundaries of the OIC Membership?

Are we to agree with some, especially those Islamophobic voices, that crises are innate, are genetic and that they are a cancer from within those societies and their system of religious belief?

Or are we to believe that all of this is an inheritance of decades of colonialization, traditions of neo, of artificial borders, of uprooting of identities and purposeful destruction of cultural and social values, of oppression and lack of parity?

Or is it the appearance of a self perpetuating "state"; as the big brother that took over from the liberation movements; the failure to build political institutions; and lay down culturally sensitive human rights?

We at the OIC take all these assumptions as detailed in their theories and how they have been adopted in the foreign policies of some countries should be considered. The thrust of the OIC's effort to counter conflict is to look within; to search for institutional and inclusive answers. While always being careful not to fall in the trap of blaming the victim; or the mirage of searching for a past blueprint that can be the all-encompassing care.

The OIC believes that to confront conflict, to avoid conflict, to manage post conflict is for all of us to bear responsibility for.

Why is Syria being destroyed? Why do we have an estimated 6.6 million internally displaced persons and 4.4 million Syrian refugees? If we are willing to take responsibility for an answer, then there is hope.

Thank you.