

**TEXT OF THE STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEHALF OF  
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC  
CONFERENCE (OIC)**

Mr. Moderator,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and privilege for me to address, on behalf of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the delegates of the OSCE member states, OSCE institutions and the NGO participants of the 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

We highly appreciate this opportunity which is pertinent example of the increased cooperation between the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with the General Secretariat of the OSCE and ODIHR.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are concerned that the context of the relations between the West and the Muslim world is gaining a negative connotation with sporadic inflammations. We are witnessing monologues more than dialogues. Certain elements on the both sides of the perceived divide are inciting hatred. Stereotyping and misperceptions are on the rise.

As the official representative in the international fora of the Muslim world, with a membership of 57 states and of 1.3 billion of Muslims, the OIC is advocating moderation, modernization and development in the Muslim World as opposed to underdevelopment which provide fertile ground for extremism and political conflicts. In this sense, the last extraordinary OIC Summit was a historical turning point. Since then, we have embarked upon developing projects for combating terrorism and extremism, alleviating poverty, fighting illiteracy and diseases, as well as building up capacity for implementing projects in conflict prevention, peace building, human rights, good governance, science and technology and economic development in line with the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

In this lofty mission, we recognize the importance of international cooperation and highly value our already existing partnerships with the UN agencies, OSCE, EU, Council of Europe, League of Arab States and others as well as with the individual countries of the international community.

Mr. Moderator,

From the very beginning my organization has been deeply involved in the dialogue and tolerance attempts and the idea of Dialogue Among Civilizations came to the agenda of the international community as an OIC initiative.

We believe that at the point that we have reached as a result of recent turbulences, without a framework umbrella of political engagement, dialogue attempts will not be brought to a successful end only through attempts of scholars and religious personalities. We would like to emphasize the need for political engagement and support of the governments in the attempts of dialogue, mutual recognition, respect and cooperation among representatives of cultures, civilizations and religions.

This issue has acquired importance and urgency due to its implications and repercussions on the international peace and security matters.

In this aspect , the EU-OIC Forum of 2002 should be cited as a promising initial example. Presently, we are cooperating with the EU institutions to revitalize this useful initiative. The OIC-EU Ministerial level Troikas Meeting held last month in New York upon the initiative of Finland, recent Danish initiative at the UN General Assembly`s 61<sup>st</sup> session with regard to increased cooperation between OIC and the EU, as well as increased contacts and consultations between the OIC Secretary General and the EU High Representative Mr. Javier Solana, with a view to coming up with implementable practical mechanisms are quite promising.

Recommendations:

- We are attaching very special importance to and supporting the Alliance of Civilizations project and looking forward to receive concrete initiatives of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2007 for joint projects in the framework of the implementation of the recommendations of the High Panel.

The OSCE and OIC can play an important role in the implementation of this project. We would welcome and are ready to cooperate at least in one joint project in 2007.

- In addition to this, we propose the establishment of informal or formal contacts between the Chairmanships of our two organizations.
- We also propose that due consideration should be given to the idea of creation of an alliance or informal consultation mechanism among regional organizations such as OSCE, EU, Council of Europe and OIC in the framework of dialogue and tolerance issues.
- We are also highlighting the importance of the Working Group on the Alliance of Civilizations within the UN-Regional Organizations High Level Meetings mechanism. This working group will be reactivated in the UN following the presentation of the Action Plan of the Alliance of Civilizations High Panel to the UN Secretary General. The OSCE and OIC can jointly contribute to this important process.
- Lastly, OIC General Secretariat would like to develop technical cooperation with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center as well as with the Democratization and Tolerance Units of ODIHR.

Thank you for your attention.