



OIC/IPHRC-6/2014/REP.FINAL

**REPORT
OF THE SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE OIC INDEPENDENT PERMANENT HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
(IPHRC)**

**Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1 – 6 November, 2014**

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**REPORT
OF THE SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE OIC INDEPENDENT PERMANENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
(IPHRC) held from 1 – 6 November 2014, Jeddah - KSA**

- 1- The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held its sixth regular session on 1 – 6 November 2014 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the OIC General Secretariat. Representatives of OIC Member and Observer States, Secretary General and other senior officials of the OIC, Islamic Fiqh Academy as well as Media attended the Session.

- 2- All eighteen experts/members of IPHRC attended the meeting. Their names are given below:
 - Dr. Raihanah Binti ABDULLAH
 - Dr. Oumar ABOU ABBA
 - Amb. Ilham Ibrahim Mohamed AHMED
 - Amb. Mostafa ALAEI
 - Dr. Saleh Bin Mohamed AL-KHATLAN
 - Mr. Adel Issa AL-MAHRY
 - Amb. Wael Mohamed ATTIYA
 - Amb. Ousmane Diao BALDÉ
 - Dr. Siti Ruhaini DZUHAYATIN
 - Dr. Ergin Ergul
 - Amb. Mohammed Kawu IBRAHIM
 - Mr. Mahamad Al-Bachir IBRAHIM
 - Mr. Med S.K. KAGGWA
 - Mr. Mohammed RAISSOUNI
 - Mr. Mohammed Lamin TIMBO
 - Amb. Abdul WAHAB
 - Mrs. Asila WARDAK
 - Dr. Mohammad Mamduh Madhat AL-ACKER

- 3- The Session started with the recital of verses from Holy Quran.
- 4- The first three days of the Session were kept as closed meetings, during which the Commission deliberated on a number of important issues such as its Working Methods and Relationship with NHRIs. Meetings of the four working groups were also held during this time, where each working group held focused discussion on their specific mandates. Working groups delved in detail to measure progress on the decisions taken in the past as well as future course of action to be taken both within the working group format as well as by the Commission as a whole. Details of these meetings are covered under relevant headings and agenda items in this report.

INAUGURAL SESSION

- 5- The formal inaugural meeting of the Session was held on 4 November 2014, which was attended by representatives of OIC Member and Observer States, Host country, Secretary General of OIC, Fiqh Academy and Media representatives.
- 6- Amb. Mohammed Kawu Ibrahim, Chairperson of IPHRC, opened the inaugural meeting by welcoming all participants; provided a summary of the discussion held during the past three days; and reflected on a number of issues critical to the achievement of IPHRC aims and objectives. He also conveyed that, henceforth, the Commission will endeavour to address one specific theme in each of its regular Sessions and explained that on-going challenges relating to negative portrayal as well as misuse of religion by extremist groups through distorted definitions led the Commission to decide and deliberate on the theme of “Combatting Extremism and Intolerance, in Islam” for this session. He further dwelt on the need to addressing the malaise of Islamophobia in the Western world while equally condemning and combating the wrongs / crimes perpetrated by radical and extremist minority groups within Muslim world in the name of religion, which had no place Islam.
- 7- On behalf of the Commission, IPHRC Chair also expressed sympathy with the people of Gaza for the most inhuman aggression meted to them during the last July-August siege by Israel; and with the people of West African countries being ravaged by the Ebola epidemic, especially the two OIC Member-States of Sierra Leone and Guinea. He also drew attention to the evolving political crisis in Burkina Faso and urged for the immediate deployment of the necessary conflict prevention

mechanisms to forestall the possibilities of being plunged into a catastrophic humanitarian disaster.

- 8- In his inaugural speech, Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, appreciated the activities of IPHRC and reiterated the need to continuing progress on its aims and objectives in accordance with the priorities set forth by the Commission as well as on the mandates entrusted by the CFM. Mr. Madani reminded the Commission to expedite work on one of its core mandates i.e. crafting a yardstick on various issues of human rights concern from an Islamic / OIC perspective that each individual Member State could look at to measure the distance between the Islamic human rights model and its own laws and practices. Welcoming the thematic focus of the Session, the Secretary General stressed that there was no role or place for extremism and intolerance in Islam, which was a religion of peace, reason and enlightenment. While emphasizing the need for squarely condemning acts of intolerance and extremism in the name of religion to deny the perpetrators of their unjust claims, Mr. Madani emphasized the need for addressing the underlying causes of such behaviour through a combination of economic, social, developmental and political solutions.
- 9- Amb Taib, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the OIC, in his address welcomed the decision taken by the 41st CFM to make Jeddah as the Headquarters of IPHRC, which in his views reflected the importance Saudi Arabia attaches to the promotion of human rights ideals that are in line with the noble values and teachings of Islam. He appreciated the continuing good work by the Commission and reiterated KSA's assurances to providing full support to the Commission in the performance of its mandated tasks in its capacity as the Host country. He also reflected on the internal and external challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah in the fields of human rights and in that context dwelled on the importance of combating extremism and extremist ideologies within Muslim societies.
- 10- Dr. Abdulqahir, representative of Fiqh Academy, dwelled in detail on various aspects of the theme of the Session and highlighted the importance of combating extremism in all forms as part of religious obligations. He defined extremism as acts that exceed the legitimate bounds in different fields including those of religious teachings and called these as intransigence and butting, which are cautioned against

and discredited both in the Scripture and Sunnah. Citing various references both from Quran and Hadith, he explained that extremism, in particular religious extremism, was exactly the opposite of balance and moderation, which were most prominent features and core teachings of Islam. He stressed that Islam shuns extremism in all directions and promotes moderation, tolerance and coexistence as guiding principles to be followed in each aspect of one's life.

11- Following the principle statements, a number of Commissioners took the floor and reflected on various dimensions of this important challenge i.e. how to combat extremism, at the national, regional and international levels. It was stressed that this phenomenon was not restricted to a particular society, country or region but was faced by the international community as a whole. Commission Members delved in detail on its causes and consequences (such as underdevelopment and poverty, intolerance coming from lack of education, unresolved political disputes and absence of dialogue) and stressed the importance of combating it through all available means at different levels.

12- Based on references both from the Scripture and Sunnah, Commissioners highlighted that extremist ideologies based on hatred, violence and extortion, had no place in Islam, which was a religion of peace and moderation. A number of examples were cited to emphasize that justice, rule of law, respect for the rights of minorities, tolerance and moderation were important principles to be strictly observed by all Muslim societies. Commission Members also emphasized the important role of Media in combating such phenomenon by promoting responsible use of freedom of expression and exercising caution and restrictions while promoting racist, defamatory and manifest intolerant views. It was also advised that terrorism must be distinguished from religious extremism as both had different motives and backgrounds thus needing different treatment.

13- A number of Member and Observer States also took the floor and expressed their views on the subject. Reiterating that the menace of extremism and terrorism was a common threat to all nations, religions and peoples, Member States emphasized the importance of cooperation and common action to combat this menace at all levels. Member States also agreed with Commissioners' views on the motives and root causes of such tendencies and strongly condemned misguided ideologies such as that of ISIS as having no link with the peaceful and pristine religion of Islam.

14- It was also highlighted that extremism or terrorism were not linked to any religion or culture as history was filled with examples from all regions and cultures of the world, though in most cases underlying reasons remained similar. Accordingly, it was suggested that OIC together with international community must work for stronger joint action at all levels to address the root causes such as discrimination, poverty, underdevelopment and lack of education. To combat this phenomenon, Member States also stressed the need for crafting responsible and apt media strategies as well as early resolution of the long-standing political disputes. Suggestions were also made to strengthen interfaith and intercultural dialogue at all levels that must involve religious and political leaders to enhance better understanding and promote mutual respect and tolerance. A detailed press release conveying the thrust of discussion and IPHRC views on the subject was issued at the end of the Session (Annex 2).

❖ **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK**

15- In its first meeting on 1st November, the Commission adopted the Agenda and Program of Work (Annex-1) of its Session, which is based on priority areas identified in previous IPHRC sessions, as well as mandates given to the Commission by the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM).

16- The Commission also decided that as per the decision taken during its 3rd Session on rotation of the Chairperson's post, the next Chairperson for the year 2015 would come from the Arab Group. Accordingly, it was decided that Amb. Ilham Ibrahim Ahmed (Vice Chair from Arab Group) would assume the responsibilities from the 7th IPHRC Session. Commission Members paid tribute to the outgoing Chairperson Amb Mohammad Kawu Ibrahim for his leadership qualities and ably steering the Commission's work during 2014.

17- Based on African Group's nomination, the Commission decided that Commissioner Med. S. Kagawa would represent African Group in the Bureau as the new Vice Chairperson from the 7th IPHRC Session. It was also decided that Commissioner Mohammad Lamin Timbo would replace Commissioner Asila Wardak as the coordinator of the Working Group on Palestine. The Commission also decided to adopt "Protection of Family Values" as the theme for the 7th IPHRC Session.

❖ **WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMISSION**

18- Following the adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work the Commission held a full day discussion on various aspects of its Working Methods. The discussion was based on the draft presented by the Adhoc Committee comprising of commissioners Amb Abdulwahab, Prof. Saleh, Amb Ilham and Amb Alaei. Commission members appreciated the efforts made by the Adhoc Committee for elaborating in detail various aspects of working methods of the Commission and its subsidiary mechanisms, which in their view would help streamline the work and efficiency of IPHRC. After detailed discussion on various aspects of the draft, it was decided that based on the comments made Adhoc Committee would present a revised text (electronic version) to the Commission members well in time before the 7th IPHRC Session for their consideration. The revised text with additional comments, if any, would be discussed and adopted during the 7th IPHRC Session.

❖ **WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND INTERACTION WITH NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS**

19- On 2nd November the Commission held another full day discussion on the subject of its relationship with NHRIs. The discussion was based on the draft presented by Amb Abdulwahab that included the comments made by Commissioners during the inter-sessional discussions. The draft was generally well received by the Commission Members, who made some additional comments to further streamline the text. Following a quick review of the revised text, it was adopted by the Commission as the guiding document for establishing IPHRC relationship with NHRIs (copy attached as Annex-6). The text will be circulated to all Member States in three official languages as well as be placed on IPHRC website. The decision will help IPHRC to benefit from NHRIs experiences and expertise in areas of mutual interest. It was also decided to invite NHRIs from Member States in future IPHRC activities in accordance with the modalities set out in the decision.

20- Discussions were also held on the framework to interact with NGOs and broader civil society. A draft on the subject is under consideration, which would be revised to include the additional comments made, for further discussion and finalization in due course.

❖ **IPHRC WEBSITE**

21- The Commission benefited from a briefing/presentation made by Mr. Wajdi (Head of the OIC IT department) on the developed structure of IPHRC's website. The

presentation focussed on creating a new interactive space within the IPHRC website for the Commission Members, which would be utilized for the internal communications and discussions on various issues under consideration of the Commission. The effort was greatly appreciated by the Commission Members while some suggestions were made for its improvement and to make it more user-friendly. IT department took note of the comments and reiterated its continued support to the Commission including through on-line assistance to help Commissioners conveniently access the website and its interactive space. IPHRC website can be accessed at <http://www.oic-iphrc.org/home/>

❖ PENDING MANDATES OF IPHRC

22- The Commission also discussed actions on its pending mandates from the CFM and decided/recommended the following:

- i. On the mandate to write a comprehensive report on “Combating Islamophobia and Eliminating Hatred and Prejudice against Islam”, the Commission dedicated the task to a three members committee comprising Prof Saleh, Amb. Abdulwahab and Amb. Ilham that will come up with the report, on a priority basis. It was also decided to seek views /inputs of OIC Groups in New York and Geneva on the subject besides reiterating its request to the OIC General Secretariat to complete the long awaited study recommended in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on national laws that deal with prohibition /restriction on freedom of expression in Western countries.
- ii. Concerning the mandate to establishing a standing mechanism on monitoring human rights situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the Commission revisited its decision in 5th Session (paragraph 7 of the 5th Session report) regarding establishment of an Ad hoc Sub-Working Group within its Working Group on Islamophobia and Muslim Minorities to monitor the human rights situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir. Based on the recommendation of the Working Group on Islamophobia that this issue does not fall under its mandate, the Commission decided to establish a standing mechanism, in accordance with CFM Resolutions No. 1/40-POL (OP 14) and 8/41-POL (OP 13) under agenda item 4 entitled “Human Rights Situations and Issues on the OIC Agenda / Mandates from CFM. The standing mechanism shall, inter alia, coordinate with

the OIC Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir Dispute for its work on this issue.

❖ **WORKING GROUPS (WGs)**

23- On 3 November, the Commission held closed meetings of its four Working Groups. These working groups delved in detail on their mandated activities; measured progress on the decisions taken in the past; and discussed future course of action to be taken both within the working group format as well as by the Commission as a whole. Outcome of the discussion and decisions taken during these meetings were conveyed to Member States by respective WG Coordinators on 5 November, 2014. Details of these WG meetings are given below:

❖ **HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES**

24- The Commission benefited from the briefings by Amb. Samir Bakr, Assistant Secretary General of the Palestine/Al-Quds Department, Amb Hisham Yousaf, Assistant Secretary General of the Humanitarian Department of the OIC General Secretariat, Commissioner Ambassador Wael, who is based in Ramallah, and representative of Palestine in Jeddah on the subject. These briefings provided comprehensive overview of the situation in Palestine in the aftermath of the July-August 2014 Israeli attacks on Gaza, as well as the continuing human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories that interalia include Israeli blockade of construction materials to rebuild destroyed buildings and houses in Gaza, constant administrative, legal and security harassments of Palestinian population and illegal settlements etc.

25- Amb Hisham Yusouf also briefed the Commission on the OIC humanitarian mission to Gaza, which took place from 1-4 September and conducted a detailed survey of the situation on ground besides meeting relevant government officials, UN agencies, NGOs and affected population. He explained the gravity of the situation in Gaza in the aftermath of Israeli attacks and incursions, which had resulted in massive destruction of already fragile administrative and logistics structure with worst consequences on the lives of women, children and elderly.

- 26- Both the Assistant Secretary Generals conveyed that unless the long due Gaza-Siege ends, the ongoing construction projects would not make much progress as other attacks may be launched by Israel. The OIC humanitarian Mission identified three main issues that require urgent attention from humanitarian perspective namely: a) reconstruction of houses, b) rebuilding of school, and c) rehabilitation of health services. It was mentioned that as a result of concerted efforts made by the OIC to raise awareness of this subject, there have been commitments of 1.9 billion dollars from a number of OIC countries.
- 27- The Commission thanked the four briefers for their very useful briefings and supported their call for the urgent need for the OIC States as well as international community to assist in the reconstruction of shelters, schools and hospitals as a matter of priority, especially in view of the proximity to the winter. The Working Group lamented the cruel Israeli policy of restricting the flow of construction materials into Gaza as well as the need for permission on which house or social facility should be reconstructed, which has exacerbated the plight of over 70000 Palestinians still living in various IDP camps. The Commission encouraged the Palestinian Authority to approach ICJ in order to hold Israel accountable for its July-August aggression. The WG emphasized that Israel should be held accountable for all its crimes and should not be allowed to get away with impunity, including through the ICC mechanism.
- 28- With regard to the intended visit to Palestine by the IPHRC, which had to be aborted because of both visa difficulties and the siege on Gaza, the Working Group re-emphasized its determination to undertake the trip, both for the purpose of giving moral support to Palestinians, as well as to see practically areas in which the Commission would be able to mobilize assistance through Member-States, and their financial institutions, especially ADB. The WG decided that the visit should be undertaken in two phases, with the one to Gaza as a priority. As the visit to Gaza would only require visa from Egypt, IPHRC Secretariat was advised to revisit the matter as soon as possible.
- 29- The Commission noted that the plight of the Palestinians under administrative detention by Israel had worsened with hundreds picked up after the Gaza siege. The Commission urged the international community to look into these gross violations of fundamental rights of Palestinians by the State of Israel. In relation to this, the

Commission called upon OIC States to mount serious diplomatic pressure at both the bilateral and multilateral basis, to ensure that the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine has been given access into the Occupied Palestinian Territories in order to see the extent of the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people. The Commission also urged OIC States to fully support the Commission of Inquiry established by the UNHRC on July 23, 2014.

30- The WG condemned the Israeli targeting of the Al-Aqsa mosque, and urged the OIC States to take proactive measures to stop Israel from implementing its well-known plans on the Al-Aqsa Mosque. It encouraged the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in its capacity as the custodian of holy sites in Jerusalem, to take necessary measures to prevent the nefarious Israeli plans on the subject. It also called on the OIC States to boycott and divest from companies and corporations that are taking part in Israeli settlement in the OPT. At the same time the Working Group supported the Turkish initiative of sending mobile electric power plants through ships to Gaza to offset the power shortages caused by the prolonged blockade and destruction of relevant infrastructure. The Commission also issued two detailed press releases on the situation in Palestine, which are attached as Annex 3 & 4.

❖ **AGENDA ITEM ON CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS IN OIC MEMBER STATES –**

❖ **WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE CHILD**

31- The Working Groups on Human Rights of Women and Child as well as Right to Development also held detailed meetings under Commission's permanent agenda item on "Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in OIC Member States".

32- The Working Group on Women and Child Rights was given a detailed briefing by Dr. Fadila Grine, Director of Family Affairs Department of the OIC, on the activities of the department with particular focus to family affairs, capacity building of youth, social security, policy building for elderly and reactivating issues with other organizations and OIC organs. She also gave a detailed account of the 5th OIC Conference on the role of Women in development of OIC States in Baku including its important outcomes. Dr. Fadila expressed readiness of her department to work

with the IPHRC on the rights of women, children and family and sought Commission's support to urge Member States to ratify the statute of the OIC Women Development Organization.

33- The Working Group delved in detail on issues related to gender equality, violence against women and children. It reiterated that men and women enjoy equal human dignity and fundamental human rights but have different roles and responsibilities within the family and society, and that Islam nowhere implies superiority or inferiority to either of the sexes. The Commission also condemned all forms of harmful practices such as FGM and other kinds of physical, psychologically or sexual violence against women and girls including forced or child marriages, trafficking in person, sexual violence against women in armed conflict or in areas under foreign occupation.

34- In order to better define a clear Islamic perspective on these issues, the Commission decided that the Working Group on human rights of women and children will conduct studies on topics such as Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Children, Child-Marriage, Inheritance, protection of family, controversial notions of sexual orientation/ LGBT, and Abortion etc. with the assistance of and in close cooperation with relevant entities and mechanisms such as Fiqh Academy, ISESCO and IDB. The Commission hoped that these studies would provide a better explanation of the Islamic views on these subjects, which may or may not be based on Western standards but clearly respects, promotes and ensures protection of the rights of women and children in line with existing international human rights standards. The Commission also decided to publish a booklet involving scholars and academics with the objective of putting forward IPHRC's views on Women and Child Rights.

35- The WG also called upon Member States to work closely with the UN Women and to participate in the forthcoming Beijing +20 Conference, as well as carefully follow up on the outcome of the just concluded 5th OIC Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in Development of OIC States.

❖ **WORKING GROUP ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

36- The Working Group on Right to Development also held comprehensive discussions on various aspects of its mandate in particular Commission's plan to hold an

International Seminar on the subject of “negative impact of sanctions on the full enjoyment of human rights by the people of affected countries”. The decision to hold this Seminar was taken a follow up activity to the report presented by the Commission to the CFM on this subject. The Working Group discussed various aspects of this Seminar and finalized the concept paper of this event, which was based on the existing international human rights standards and provisions relating to this topic. The Commission decided to hold this Seminar in Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran) on 15-16 December 2014 and to invite relevant international experts in the field besides OIC Member and Observer States and their NHRIs.

37- The WG observed that “comprehensive sanctions and interruption of international economic, trade and financial relations for a protracted period of time, particularly when not assessed and monitored, will cause shrinking national income, which in turn leads to the violations of human rights of the people of affected countries, including their right to life, food, health, education and development.

38- The Commission expressed its full support to the Human Rights Council in its efforts to condemn and reject unilateral coercive measures, including the recent creation of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur through Res 27/21 on the subject, which hopefully would bring enhanced accountability within the UN on the part of Member States and international organizations in the matters relating to implementation of sanctions.

❖ **AGENDA ITEM ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND ISSUES ON OIC AGENDA**

❖ **WORKING GROUP ON ISLAMOPHOBIA AND MUSLIM MINORITIES**

39- The Working Group held detailed meeting under the rubric of Commission’s permanent agenda item on “Human Rights Situations and Issues on the OIC Agenda”, and discussed issues relating to combating Islamophobia, Human Rights Situation of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and the Situation of Muslims in Central African Republic.

Combating Islamophobia and Incitement to Hatred and Violence

40- The Working Group benefited from the briefing made by Mr. Abdulla Manafi Mutualo from the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, who gave a detailed account on

the ongoing activities of the Istanbul Process, including the last meeting held in Doha, which is an important mechanism for monitoring implementation of the HRC Res 16/18 for combating discrimination, hatred and violence on the basis of religion or belief. Mr. Mutualo conveyed that the OIC considers that the process must review the ways and means for the effective and full implementation of the Action Plan contained in Res. 16/18 and the next meeting to be hosted by the OIC in Jeddah in 2015 will focus on this core issue. He also conveyed OIC's intentions to invite all relevant stakeholders of the Istanbul Process including civil society representatives for this meeting.

41- Mr. Mutualo also briefed the WG on the deliberations of the 6th Forum of Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) held in August 2014 in Bali, Indonesia, during which the OIC made clear that the AoC was deviating from its initial mandate. He also explained OIC's efforts to help bring AoC back to its original track of combating hatred and discrimination based on religion, belief or culture, including Islamophobia, in close cooperation and consultation with Member States. To that end, he urged the Commission to support OIC's efforts including by lobbying with Member States.

42- The WG considered the issue of Islamophobia in detail and in that regard recalled its assessment and recommendations contained in its interim report of the 4th Session. It reiterated the need to finalize the comprehensive study on national legislation prohibiting incitement to hatred, which the 12th Summit requested the General Secretariat to undertake as a matter of urgency. The Commission also concluded that OIC Member States should consider elaborating a common strategy on combating the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia. It also welcomed the upcoming meeting of Istanbul Process scheduled to take place in Jeddah in 2015 and urged all stakeholders to focus on the ways to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Action Plan contained in Res 16/18, which has a universal agreement.

Rohingya Muslims

43- The WG benefited from the information on Myanmar presented by Dr. Hassen Abedin of the OIC Muslim Minority Department. Dr. Abedin briefed the WG on the recent developments as well as steps taken by the OIC vis-a-vis protecting the human rights of the Rohingya Muslim population of Myanmar. According to Mr. Abedin, during the last three months, the Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General Syed Hamid Albar (former Foreign Minister of Malaysia), made two visits to Myanmar

including the Rakhine State, and held important meetings with Ministers and senior officials, NGOs, and other organizations in the country.

- 44- The Special Envoy also presented a comprehensive report on Myanmar to the OIC Annual Coordination Meeting in New York, last September, which highlighted 7 recommendations to be taken up by the OIC namely; a) to continue both formal and informal engagement with officials in Myanmar to build trust and familiarity; b) to fund cross-religion activities and interfaith programs involving key representatives of Muslim and Buddhist communities in Myanmar and elsewhere; c) OIC Member States should encourage infrastructure, education, and economic development projects in Rakhine State and elsewhere in Myanmar; d) the OIC contact group should utilize the Member States' embassies and missions in Myanmar to extend cooperation, facilitate humanitarian aid and coordinate its cultural projects; e) the Rohingya Muslim Communities should be given empowerment through leadership training, and through financial as well as administrative supports; f) to extend life-saving assistance, especially medical supplies and establishment of medical facilities; and g) to urge Myanmar authorities to ensure across the board implementation of the rule of law, including against security officials involved in inciting violence against other communities.
- 45- The Working Group thanked the Secretariat for the detailed briefing and asked a number of queries on the current situation of human rights and humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya population. Commissioner Members expressed serious concerns on the continuing deteriorating state of thousands of Rohingya refugees still languishing in various IDP camps for lack of security and adequate humanitarian assistance. It urged OIC Member States to work closely with the UN and EU to ensure that human rights of Rohingya population are protected including their right to nationality as well as equal treatment. The Commission expressed support for the recommendations of the Special Envoy Mr. Hamid Albar and expressed hope that his appointment would help facilitate good communication between the OIC and Myanmar authorities. It also encouraged the OIC countries of ASEAN (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei) to put more pressures on Myanmar to protect the rights of Muslims in Rohingya and Rakhine State.

Situation in the Central African Republic (CAR)

- 46- The Working Group also received a briefing on the situation of Muslims in Central African Republic by Dr. Compaore from the Political department of OIC General

Secretariat. According to the briefing, attacks on Muslims in CAR were intensified, claiming thousands of lives and displacing more than 650000 people to the neighboring countries, mainly to Chad and Cameroon. Dr. Compaore informed the WG that in line with the last CFM Resolution on the subject, the OIC has been playing an active role in all activities aimed at creating and building peace in CAR. He also conveyed details of various activities and efforts made by the OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy on CAR, Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio (former Foreign Minister of Senegal), such as promoting national dialogue through national reconciliation with the aim to bring an end to the violence and hostilities in CAR.

47- Besides providing details of the OIC solidarity delegation's visit to CAR in April 2014, Dr. Compaore stated that the overall situation in CAR remains fragile and unpredictable, while inter-communal tensions persist. He also thanked and welcomed the apt recommendations contained in the IPHRC's report to 41st CFM on "Human rights situation in the CAR".

48- The WG thanked Mr. Compaore for the updates on the situation in CAR and urged OIC Member States to follow up on the recommendations made in IPHRC's above referred report on CAR. The WG requested OIC Member States to pay urgent attention to ongoing situation in CAR, which according to the UNSC resolution would go through elections in early 2015 with far reaching impact on the future political map of the country. The Commission also urged the Special Envoy of the OIC SG on CAR to finalize his report and recommendations, on priority, for appropriate consideration.

❖ **Communication with Member States**

49- The Commission requested the IPHRC Secretariat to convey all finalized documents and session reports to the Member States for their information. In order to raise public awareness on activities conducted by IPHRC, the Commission also requested the Secretariat to post selected documents at the IPHRC website. It also reiterated its request to the Member States to provide information on their human rights legislation to the Commission as well as offered to provide technical assistance in any of the relevant fields.

❖ **CLOSING SESSION**

50- An open ended closing session was held on 6 November, 2014, which was attended by OIC Member and Observer States, OIC officials and media representatives. In his

concluding remarks, IPHRC Chairperson provided a summary of the Commission's deliberations during the six-day Session. He also reflected on the activities of the Commission in the last three years and took pride in conveying that significant progress was made on a number of issues including elaboration of its Rules of Procedures; construction of website; submission of important reports to the CFM including the one which was based on an *on situ* visit to the crisis-torn Central African Republic; regular participation in the Human Rights Council and Third Committee Sessions of UNGA; and study tours to important institutions and mechanisms such as Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant European Union mechanisms. Amb Ibrahim welcomed the latest adoption by the Commission of its procedure for interaction with National Human Rights Institutions and hoped to finalize the other draft on interaction with NGO and civil society at the earliest.

51- IPHRC Chairperson reaffirmed Commission's strong commitment to its aims and objectives and expressed its resolve to fulfilling various responsibilities entrusted by Member States in the area of promoting human rights. Referring to IPHRC's mandate under Chapter IV of its Statute that calls for providing advisory services to Member States with a view to harmonizing OIC human rights legislations and suggest necessary refinement, where needed, he reiterated Commission's request to Member States for providing details of their human rights legislation. He, however, acknowledged and thanked Member States' for their sustained support to the work of IPHRC and assured that the Commission would continue to provide its advisory opinion and recommendations on all human rights issues in accordance with the OIC Charter and its Statute. IPHRC Chair also expressed gratitude to the OIC Secretary General for his special interest in the work of the Commission as well as for providing intellectual guidance and material support for the smooth functioning of the Commission.

52- In the end, a number of Commissioners took the floor to express profound appreciation for the excellent guidance of Ambassador M.K. Ibrahim during his chairmanship. The Commission also issued a final communiqué that summarizes the discussions and decisions taken during the 6th Session of the IPHRC, which is attached as Annex-5.



Draft Agenda

**6th Session of the OIC Independent Permanent
Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)**

**Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1 - 6 November, 2014**

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda and Program of Work

Item 2: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Item 3: Civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in OIC Member States

- Sub item a: Human Rights of Women
- Sub item b: Rights of the Child
- Sub item c: Right to Development
- Sub item d: Human rights education

Item 4: Human Rights situations and issues on the OIC Agenda / mandates from CFM

- Sub item a: Combating Islamophobia and incitement to hatred and violence
- Sub item b: Situation in the OIC Member States
- Sub item c: human rights Situation of Muslim minorities and communities in non- member States including Myanmar and Central African Republic
- Sub item d: Framework for monitoring human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir
- Sub item e: Negative Impact of Economic and Financial Sanctions

Item 5: Report of the Session and Provisional Agenda for next Session

Item 6: Any other business

- Sub item a: IPHRC website
- Sub item b: Establishing contact and framework agreement for interaction with NHRIs and Civil Society including NGOs
- Sub item c: Human rights research and studies
- Sub item d: Networking with Member States and other international and regional organizations



Program of Work

6th Session of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1 – 6 November 2014

Day 1 - Saturday 1 Nov, 2014

10:00 – 13:00 Hrs.	Meeting I	[Closed]
10:00- 10:10 Hrs.	Recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an	
10:10- 10:20 Hrs.	Opening Remarks by the Chair of the IPHRC	
10:20 – 10:30 Hrs.	Adoption of the Agenda and Program of Work	
10:30 – 12:00 Hrs.	Discussion on pending mandates of IPHRC	
12:00 – 13:00 Hrs.	Discussion on Methods of Work of IPHRC and its Working Groups	
13:00-14:00 Hrs.	<i>Prayer / Lunch Break</i>	
14:00 – 17:00 Hrs.	MEETING II	[Closed]
	Discussion / Adoption of decision on the Working Methods of IPHRC and its Working Groups	

Day 2 – Sunday 2 Nov, 2014

09:00 – 12:00 Hrs.	MEETING III	[Closed]
	Discussion on the proposed draft framework for interaction with NHRIs and Civil Society including NGOs; and Networking with Member States and with other international and regional organizations.	
12:00 – 13:00 Hrs.	<i>Prayer / Lunch Break</i>	

13:00 – 16:00 Hrs. MEETING IV [Closed]

Continuation of morning discussion and decision

Day 3 – Monday 3 Nov, 2014

09:00 – 12:00 Hrs. MEETING V [Closed]

0900-1030 hours Working Group on Palestine
Discussion on the ongoing situation /briefing by the OIC General Secretariat and recommendations by the Working Group.

1030-1200 hours Working Group on Islamophobia and Muslim minorities
Discussion on the ongoing situation in Myanmar & CAR. Briefing by General Secretariat and recommendations by the Working Group.

12:00 – 13:00 Hrs. *Prayer / Lunch Break*

13:00 – 16:00 Hrs. MEETING VI [Closed]

13:00 – 14:30 hrs. Working Group on Rights of Women and Children
Briefing by the OIC General Secretariat including on Baku Conference and recommendations by the Working Group.

14:30 – 16:00 hrs. Working Group on the Right to Development
Discussion on the outcome of the upcoming IPHRC Workshop on negative impact of economic and financial Sanctions on targeted member states in December 2014.

Day 4 – Tuesday Nov 4, 2014 (Formal opening Ceremony)

10:00 – 13:00 Hrs. MEETING VII [Open]

1000-1010 hours Recitation of Holy Quran
1010-1025 hours Opening Remarks by the Chairperson
1030-1050 hours Remarks by the Secretary General of OIC
1100-1300 hours Open discussion on the Theme of the Session i.e. “Combating Extremism and Intolerance in Islam” by the Commissioners and Member States

13:00 – 14:00 Hrs. *Prayer / Lunch Break*

14:00 – 17:00 Hrs. MEETING VIII [Open]

1400-1700 hours Continuation of the morning discussion and statements by Member States. (Based on the discussion, the Commission will

prepare and issue a statement on the subject at the end of the Session)

Day 5 – Wednesday Nov 5, 2014

10:00 – 13:00 Hrs. MEETING IX [Closed]

Discussion and finalization of decisions on issues discussed during the Session

14:00 – 17:00 Hrs. MEETING X [Open]

Presentation of the reports of the Working Groups by respective Chairs to the Commission and other decisions followed by Comments and views of Member States

Day 6 – Thursday Nov 6, 2014

09:00 – 10:45 Hrs. MEETING XI [Closed]

Report of the Session and Provisional Agenda for the next Session

10:45 – 11:00 Hrs. Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 Hrs. MEETING XII [Open]

CLOSING CEREMONY



OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) strongly condemned the growing trend of extremism and intolerance in the world and called for joint action to collectively address this menace

At an open discussion under the theme “combating extremism and intolerance”, during its Sixth session, which was held at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah on 4th November, 2014 the Commission strongly condemned any association of extremist ideologies and intolerance with Islam - a religion that promotes compassion, coexistence, justice and peace in its teachings in all aspects of one’s life.

Allah ordains in the Quran that “*And we have made you a median community / a people of moderation in order that you may be a testimony or model for humanity.*” [2:143] In another Surah, Allah Almighty expresses displeasure with the people of the Book on account of the excessive stands of some of them by saying “*O People of the Scripture, do not exaggerate in your religion beyond the truth, and follow not the vain desires of folk who erred of old and led to many astray and themselves strayed off the balanced way.*” [5:77].

Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) said: “*This indeed is a religion of ease. None shall ever argue against it but be defeated. Do therefore endeavour for solidarity and rapprochement, Spread good tidings and help each other in daytime as well as in dusk*”. He also cautioned against such attitudes by saying that “*Be cautioned against excesses in religion – Those who came before had collapsed because of excesses in religion*”.

The Commission affirmed that extremism and intolerance are the opposite of balance and moderation, which are in fact two of the most prominent features of

Islamic faith. It is the absence of balance provided by moderation that creates the vista for extremism to creep in. Extremism involves exceeding the legitimate boundaries in terms of belief or action. It has been cautioned against and discredited in the Scripture and the Sunnah. Islam is a religion of peace, tolerance, moderation and respect for all fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The Commission attributed some of the causes of extremism and intolerance to ignorance, poverty, underdevelopment, lack of education, political injustices as well as denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to self-determination. It urged the international community to address these underlying causes through a combination of economic, social, developmental and political solutions, rather than focusing on its external manifestations alone. Only through strong and unified actions at all levels and at all fronts, including prevention of financial and material support to extremists, would we succeed in our endeavors at combating the scourge of intolerance as well as to further promote the much needed dialogue, peace and harmony among cultures and civilizations, the Commission added.

Extremist ideologies, radicalism, intolerance and terrorism have nothing to do with Islam. Proponents of such ideologies are indeed the enemies of Islam, who wrongly associate our religion with violence and hatred that is used by Islamophobic groups to defame our noble and pristine religion and discriminate against Muslims in various parts of the world. The Commission strongly condemned all such acts that only strengthen the hands of the extremists and protagonists of terror on each side, which are threatening the social fabric as well as peace and security of affected societies. Extremists, in whatever name, who perpetrate crimes against innocent people, should be brought to justice, so as to ensure the rule of law and avoid impunity as well as to ensure peace and stability of respective societies.

Highlighting the importance of education and awareness raising in combating extremist tendencies, the Commission emphasized the crucial role of religious and community leaders as well as the Media to curb such tendencies by promoting the ideals of tolerance, moderation, mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. Member States were also encouraged to promote and strengthen existing mechanisms for inter

and intra religious dialogue, which help in avoiding misperceptions and promote better understanding and mutual respect.

The Commission welcomed OIC and its Member States' upright stance in condemning the acts of hatred, intolerance and extremist ideologies perpetrated by groups such as Daesh (ISIS), Boko-haram and Al-Qaeda etc. as well as their efforts to counter terrorism. It urged the international community to join OIC Member States to collectively tackle the scourge of extremism and intolerance with resolve and strength. The Commission also appreciated the OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism and encouraged all OIC Member States to ratify it, as soon as possible. In this context, the Commission expressed its readiness to assist Member States in any manner possible.



**OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)
Statement
On Al-Aqsa Mosque**

The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) considered during its Sixth Regular Session the situation in Al-Aqsa Mosque and issued the following statement:

The Commission follows with great concern the recent developments in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and is deeply alarmed at the ongoing Israeli practices in the Holy Site in the absence of international reaction. It notes that these developments come in the aftermath of excessive attacks on Al-Aqsa by extremist Israeli settler leaders and groups that have gained pace in recent months, under Israeli police surveillance and protection. The complacency of the Israeli Government vis-à-vis such acts is a clear indication that it condones the attempts aimed at altering the Islamic nature of the Holy Site, a matter that merely serves to incite more extremism, tension and violence.

It should be noted that the British Commission of Inquiry founded in 1929 under the British mandate of Historic Palestine establishes that there is no evidence that Solomon's Temple existed in this area, and that Al-Aqsa Mosque solely belongs to those of the Muslim faith. Further excavations could not prove otherwise. Any attempt to change the nature of the Holy Site would not only run counter to historic facts, but would also represent a threat to the hopes of a peaceful resolution of the

political conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, and adding wider dimensions to the conflict.

The Commission calls on the Occupying Power to uphold its obligation to ensure the sanctity of and free access to the Christian and Muslim Holy Sites in the Occupied East Jerusalem at all times. Attempts to enforce a division and impose restrictions on access to Al-Aqsa based on age or sex run as clear violations of the principle of non-discrimination. According to Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), all individuals are entitled to freedom to manifest his or her religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching, either individually or in community with others, both in public and private, without fear or reprisal. It highlights that extremism begets counter extremism, and violence only breeds more violence.

The Commission further reminds of the obligation of all States under International Human Rights Law to prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.



OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)
Statement
On the Current Situation in Palestine

The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) reviewed during its Sixth Regular Session the situation in Palestine and issued the following statement:

The Commission recalls its statement of 11 August 2014, and is appalled by the tragic loss of lives of innocent civilians, the vast devastation in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing Israeli violations in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The Commission reiterates that the continuation of the Israeli Occupation represents a violation of both International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. It is in fact the root cause of all escalations and ongoing human rights violations of the Palestinian People. The Commission therefore calls for concerted international efforts to pave the way to a peaceful political settlement to end this grave situation and the ongoing injustice against the Palestinian People, hence enabling them to achieve their long awaited legitimate aspiration of exercising their right to self-determination and to establish their own independent, viable and contiguous state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Commission emphasises that indiscriminate and massive killing and displacement of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians are not merely statistics, and their systematic nature and magnitude cannot be justified on any ground. The lives of all individuals are of equal value, regardless of race, sex or religion, and should be treated as such. The Commission reminds that any destruction by the

Occupying Power of real or personal property is prohibited, according to Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. It also underscores that Palestinian civilians are protected persons under the Convention. Guaranteeing their general welfare is the duty of the Occupying Power, which is also obliged not to subject them to forcible transfers or deportations. Collective punishment is not only prohibited, but also considered a blatant war crime, by the Second and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The international community is called upon to uphold its shared responsibility in maintain International Law, and is thus urged to ensure that Israel, as the Occupying Power, fully adheres to and meets these obligations.

The Commission deplores the paucity of international action to address such crimes, and implores the international community to thoroughly investigate them. All attempts should be made to prevent impunity. The Commission therefore supports all endeavours in this regard, including through the existing international accountability mechanisms, and calls for convening the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Four Geneva Conventions as early as possible. It also calls upon Israel to fully cooperate with the mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council, and urges the newly designated Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967 to embark on discharging his mandate without delay.

The Commission is seriously concerned that tens of thousands of Palestinians remain without homes in the aftermath of the latest Israeli incursion on Gaza, and that the health and education sectors are the most affected by the Israeli operations and measures. It underlines in this respect the obligation of Israel, under Articles 50 and 56 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure the unfettered access of the Palestinian Population to education and health services. It also stress Israel's obligation, as the Occupying Power, to lift the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, in order to allow for unhindered access of goods and construction material necessary for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the Commission commends the efforts by UNRWA and other United Nations agencies to address the plight of Palestinians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and encourages the continuation of these efforts. It also underlines that early recovery will not be possible unless the international donor community fulfils the pledges made at the Conference on Palestine and the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Cairo on 12 October 2014, and unless the Palestinian Government is duly empowered by all parties concerned to shoulder its responsibilities.

The Commission is alarmed at the continued application of a duality of laws by Israel on protected persons under the latter's jurisdiction. It emphasises that all individuals should be treated equally and with equal dignity, and no one should be deprived of his or her liberty without due process. Prolonged and arbitrary arrest or detention of Palestinians, administrative or otherwise, should not be allowed to continue unchecked, in line with Article 9 of ICCPR.

Finally, the Commission reiterates that the illegal and illegitimate rampant settlement activities in and around East Jerusalem, and in the West Bank, constitute immediate threats to the two-state solution. Only a just and comprehensive peace would be a lasting one. The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement worldwide is a much welcomed effort to bring this issue to the fore.



OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) concludes its 6th Regular Session in Jeddah held from 1- 6 November, 2014

Jeddah, 6 November 2014: The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) held its 6th Session in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 1-6 November 2014. Representatives of OIC Member and Observer States, Secretary General and other senior officials of the OIC, Islamic Fiqh Academy as well as Media representatives attended the Session.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Mohammad Kawu Ibrahim, Chairperson of IPHRC, reflected on deliberations of IPHRC on a number of issues critical to the achievement of its mandate including various reports submitted to the 41st CFM on important issues such as “situation of human rights in Central African Republic” and “Negative impact of unilateral sanctions on human rights of the peoples of targeted countries”. In addition to providing an overview of the Commission’s recent activities, the Chair also underlined the particularity of 6th Session, where an open debate was held on the theme of “Combatting Extremism and Intolerance in Islam” that was meant to address the current challenges of internal cohesion as well as intolerant views and violent policies pursued by some extremist groups in the name of religion. On behalf of the Commission, IPHRC Chair also expressed sympathy to the people of Gaza for the most inhuman aggression meted to them during the last July-August siege by Israel; and with the people of West African countries being ravaged by the Ebola epidemic, especially the two OIC Member-States of Sierra Leone and Guinea. He also drew attention to the evolving political crisis in Burkina Faso and urged for the immediate deployment of the necessary conflict prevention mechanisms to forestall the possibilities of being plunged into a catastrophic humanitarian disaster.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, appreciated the activities of IPHRC and reiterated the need to continuing progress on its aims and objectives in accordance with the priorities set forth by the Commission as well as the on the mandates entrusted by the CFM. Mr. Madani reminded the Commission to expedite work on one of its core mandates i.e. crafting a yardstick on various issues of human rights concern from an Islamic / OIC perspective that each individual member state can look at to measure the distance between the Islamic human rights model and its own laws and practices. Welcoming the thematic focus of the Session, the Secretary General stated that there was no role or place for extremism and intolerance in Islam, which was a religion of peace, reason and enlightenment. While emphasizing the need for squarely condemning acts of intolerance and extremism in the name of religion to deny the perpetrators of their unjust claims, Mr. Madani stressed the need for addressing the underlying causes of such behavior through a combination of economic, social, developmental and political solutions.

Amb Taib, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the OIC, in his address welcomed the decision taken by the 41st CFM to make Jeddah as the Headquarters of IPHRC, which in his views reflected the importance Saudi Arabia attaches to the promotion of human rights ideals that are in line with the noble values and teachings of Islam. He appreciated the continuing good work by the Commission and reiterated KSA's assurances to providing full support to the Commission in the performance of its mandated tasks in its capacity as the Host country.

During the six day session, the Commission had in-depth discussions on all items on its agenda including human rights violations in Occupied Palestinian Territories; civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in OIC Member States; as well as specific mandates given to it by the CFM such as Islamophobia, negative impact of unilateral economic sanctions on member states; situation of Rohingya Muslim minority, human rights situation in Central African Republic, as well as procedural issues relating to its working methods and establishment of a mechanism for interaction with NHRIs.

On 4th November, the Commission held an open discussion on the theme of the Session i.e. Combating Extremism and Intolerance in Islam, which drew strong interest from

OIC Member and Observer states as an apt topic in the backdrop of ongoing developments in the region. At the end of the discussion, the Commission issued a strong press statement on the subject, which strongly condemns the growing trend of extremism and religious intolerance in the world and calls for joint action to collectively address this menace. It reiterated that Islam was a religion of peace, moderation and tolerance that decries all forms of hatred, intolerance and extremist ideologies. The Commission also decided to address the theme of “protection of family values” during its 7th Session.

The Commission reiterated its condemnation of the Israeli aggression against Palestinian population in Gaza during last July-August and expressed its sympathy with the tens of thousands of Palestinians who remain without homes in the aftermath of this inhuman Israeli incursion, with severe consequences for the health and education sectors. The Commission expressed strong concern on the continuing illegitimate Israeli practice of detaining Palestinian citizens without due process, which was illegal under international law. IPHRC reiterated its strong objection to the continuing illegitimate settlement activities in and around East Jerusalem, and in the West Bank and in that context welcomed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement worldwide to bring to fore this important issue of concern. The Commission also issued a detailed Press Release on the situation in Palestine.

The Commission encouraged Member States to consider elaborating a common strategy on combating the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia. It also welcomed the upcoming meeting of Istanbul Process scheduled to take place in Jeddah in 2015 and urged all stakeholders to focus on the ways to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Action Plan contained in Res 16/18.

The Commission also delved in detail on the issues of right to development and human rights of women and children. As a follow up to its report to the CFM on the “Negative impact of economic and financial sanction on the human rights of the people of targeted States”, the Commission decided to hold an international seminar on the subject that will take place in Tehran on 15-16 December, 2014. The Seminar will be attended by international experts on the subject as well as OIC Member and Observer States and their NHRIs.

In the area of human rights of women and children, Commission delved in detail on issues related to gender equality, violence against women and children. Other controversial issues were also discussed such as gender identity and abortion etc. IPHRC reiterated that men and women enjoy equal human dignity and fundamental human rights but have different roles and responsibilities within the family and society, and that Islam nowhere implies superiority or inferiority to either of the sexes. The Commission condemned all forms of harmful practices such as FGM and other kinds of physical, psychologically or sexual violence against women and girls including forced or child marriages, trafficking in person, sexual violence against women in armed conflict or in areas under foreign occupation. It was decided that the Working Group on human rights of women and children will conduct studies on these topics with the assistance of and in close cooperation with relevant entities and mechanisms such as Fiqh Academy, ISESCO, IDB as well as UN Women and Beijing + 20 process.

The Commission also finalized its decision on how to interact with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and decided to invite them in its future activities in accordance with the modalities set out in that decision. Discussions were also held on the framework to interact with NGOs and broader civil society as well as on the draft working methods of the Commission, which would be finalized in due course.

In his concluding remarks, IPHRC Chairperson reaffirmed Commission's strong commitment to its aims and objectives as well as expressed its resolve to fulfilling various responsibilities entrusted by Member States in the area of promoting human rights. He also thanked Member States' sustained support to the work of IPHRC and assured that the Commission would continue to provide its advisory opinion and recommendations on all human rights issues in accordance with the OIC Charter and its Statute. He also expressed gratitude to the OIC Secretary General for his special interest in the work of the Commission as well as for providing intellectual guidance and material support for the smooth functioning of the Commission.



IPHRC WORKING ARRANGMENTS AND INTERACTION WITH NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIs)

Para 1

Considering the advantages of incremental and sustainable approach towards implementation of its mandate, Commission remains cognizant of the important role that national human rights institutions play in areas falling within its own mandate, and shall continue to undertake appropriate measures towards strengthening cooperation for the constructive pursuit of common objectives.

Para 2

One national human rights institution may be nominated by each Member State. Member States shall communicate the details of their nominated national human rights institutions to Commission's Secretariat in one of the official languages, including the following:

- a) Title and address of the national institution
- b) Name and contact of the focal point
- c) Report on the scope of activities, including area(s) of expertise during past two years
- d) Status, if any, with OHCHR/ International Coordination Committee of NHRIs
- e) Any other relevant information

Para 3

Secretariat shall circulate the details received from Member States, in all official languages, to all Commissioners and Member States for information.

Para 4

Commission reserves the right to review its relationship with national human rights institutions based on their performance in conformity with the provisions of the OIC Charter and IPHRC Statute and Rules of Procedure.

Para 5

Commission shall work with national human rights institutions with the objective of strengthening cooperation for the constructive pursuit of common objectives, and for the purposes of appropriately benefitting from their inputs in areas of their respective expertise.

Para 6

Commission may invite national human rights institutions to participate in its deliberations on relevant agenda items by contributing through written and/ or oral submissions. Bureau and Secretariat shall undertake all possible measures, including prior consultations with the host Member State, to ensure their effective participation in Commission's sessions.

Para 7

National human rights institutions may request the Commission for advice and assistance in areas pertaining to their field of activities. Commission shall undertake all possible and appropriate measures to act on such requests.

Para 8

Commission and national human right institutions may conclude and conduct mutually agreed joint activities.

Para 9

The present arrangements shall come into force immediately on adoption by Commission.

Para 10

The present document shall be reviewed periodically, and may be amended as and when deemed necessary.
