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Mission Permanente d'Observation

de l'Organisation de la Conference Islamique auprés des Nations Unies

Permanent Observer Mission

of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations

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Statement of

His Excellency Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu Secretary-General
of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

at the

High-Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly

United Nations Headquarters – New York

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Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to address this august Assembly, on behalf of the Organization
of the Islamic Conference, as the General Assembly, five years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, takes a pause to review the state of affairs of the world in general, and the achievements realized in implementing the Millennium Development Goals in particular.

It was, indeed, a good omen to see the leaders of the world, seizing the opportunity of the Millennium celebration, to collectively review the path that the world is pursuing and to ponder over the many problems afflicting the humanity.

The results of their meeting were highly constructive and noble goals were set. The building blocks for the edifice of a more equitable world order were identified, and a global partnership between rich and poor was recommended.

Today, five years later, many developing countries perceive that the political will to forge ahead in implanting what was agreed upon is not vigorous.

Looking at this matter from the Muslim World's vantage point, and despite our good intentions to take comfort from the promising objectives enshrined in the Millennium Declaration, we in the Muslim World are still awaiting and hoping to see a better world.

Despite the prevalence of the lofty principles of respect of human rights, and the supremacy of the rule of law, the international law and the international humanitarian law, and at a time when the issues of people's right to self determination have almost been settled, the Muslim World finds itself still exposed to numerous injustices, violation of rights and campaigns of defamation.

Many people in the Muslim World are still deprived of their rights to self-determination
or living under foreign occupation as is the cases in Palestine and Kashmir.

At the same time, we are fully aware of the fact that the OIC Member states should do more in the process of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. I would like to emphasize that campaigns of defamation are still waged – and have even intensified – against Muslims and Islam itself; the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia is the best example of this trend. Human rights of Muslims, particularly in the long established democracies, have become subject to violation. Worse still, the rule has in many instances become that the Muslim is guilty until proved innocent.

We hope that the idea of transforming the present office of the UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights to a Human Rights Council will help upholding these rights.

In the face of this situation, we in the OIC are making every effort to deal with this reality
in the interest of global harmony, concord, and peace. The leaders of the Muslim World will hold an Extraordinary Summit in Makkah to examine the situation. The OIC General Secretariat is also continuing a process of overhauling the Organization, rewriting its Charter and objective with the aim to bring its activities to the mainstream of the concerns of the international community, especially in the field of development of societies and contributing to the international cooperation with concrete projects.

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Mr. President,

Regarding peace and security issues, we firmly believe that the scourge of terrorism