

As written

Mission Permanente d'Observation  
de l'Organisation de la Conference Islamique  
aupres des Nations Unies



Permanent Observer Mission  
of the Organization of the Islamic Conference  
to the United Nations

البعثة المراقبة الدائمة لمنظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي لدى الأمم المتحدة

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Statement  
by

Ambassador Mokhtar Lamani  
Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference  
to the United Nations

before the  
Twenty-First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action  
of the International Conference on Population and Development

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**In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful**

Mr. President,

It is my privilege to address you on behalf of the General-Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. I bring you greetings from our Secretary General, His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki, and his good wishes for the success of the twenty-first Special Session of the General Assembly.

I join other delegations, Mr. President, in congratulating you and your colleagues in the Bureau on your assumption of these high offices. Your superior abilities and qualities of leadership are amply reflected in the manner this special session is being directed.

The OIC has extended its support to the United Nations for the principles and commitments adopted in the Cairo Programme for Action. Many OIC Member States are among those who participated in drafting the Programme and who joined the other nations to adopt it. Since its adoption, the **Programme** for Action has had a marked influence on a number of OIC Member States in formulating or transforming national legislation to support healthy, population-related national policies and programs. Though our Member States have encountered numerous obstacles along the way, including institutional, financial, and other constraints, advancements have been made, and are being made.

The OIC congratulates the Chairman of the Commission on Population and Development, His Excellency Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for his patience, perseverance, and leadership in the collective efforts that have gone into drafting the proposals for further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. In doing so, he has not only brought pride to his own country, but also honor to the OIC, as Bangladesh is a distinguished Member State of our Organization. The OIC would also like to extol the Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan and his staff, and the Executive Director of the UNFPA, Dr. Nafis Sadik and her staff, for the comprehensive documentation, and for all the painstaking efforts made in organizing the preparatory committees, the Hague forum, and all other arrangements leading to the convening of the present special session.

Mr. President,

It is gratifying to see that several elements of the Declaration on Human Rights in Islam adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference\* of Foreign Ministers, held in Cairo in August 1990, resonate the essence of those reflected in the Cairo Programme for Action: the Human Rights of Women, the purity and sanctity of marriage and support for a strong and inter-dependent family structure. The Declaration of Human Rights in Islam, the Cairo Programme for Action, and the proposals for further implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action now before you, all emphasize the role of governments in adopting

healthy and constructive developmental policies that provide population related services. Such services include, among other actions, fortifying national capacities so as to strengthen national information systems, national statistics and data collection mechanisms, common indicators on reproductive health programs and the establishment of programs to support the elderly members of the population, intensifying efforts to protect the rights and interests of refugees and migrants, and to cater to their basic needs; the provision of education and training to foster a greater public knowledge and awareness of population issues, ensuring the respect, promotion, and protection of women's human rights, including political, civil, economic, social, cultural, and reproductive rights, and, correspondingly, women's participation in the fulfillment of these rights.

Mr. President,

Member States of the OIC remain resolved to continue to apply their best efforts, and to mobilize their domestic and other resources, to the extent feasible, to accomplish the objectives of the Cairo Programme of Action at the national, regional, and global levels. This requires the continued and enhanced support and partnership of the developed countries, and of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Together we should continue to move forward towards the next century seeking the accomplishment of all those social and economic developmental objectives

that would spell progress and prosperity for all in the global village of the future, the glimpses of which can be seen on the horizon as we approach the frontiers of the next millennium. Towards this goal, the OIC will continue to work with the international community, and in particular, the United Nations, the UNFPA and other funds and programs and agencies of the United Nations System in implementing the tasks identified in Cairo, that are being further developed at this special session in the light of experience, in the time that lies ahead.

Thank you, Mr. President