

Check Against Delivery

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR UFUK GOKCEN,
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CONFERENCE TO THE UN
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON HIV/AIDS
10 JUNE 2011, UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

I am deeply honored to be able to address this August Meeting on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat and take this opportunity to commend the United Nations for organizing this High Level Meeting on the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the objectives of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted in June 2006.

We believe that the scourge of HIV/AIDS is a global crisis with disastrous consequences for the social and economic progress of all nations, including the OIC member states. The resolution adopted at the second session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in March 2009 urged the OIC member states to foster HIV prevention programmes in cooperation with, among others, UNAIDS, WHO and the Global Fund. Such programs are being formulated and implemented with full respect for cultural, ethical and social values of the OIC member states.

Ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support is the cornerstone to reverse the HIV epidemic. The resolutions adopted by the OIC invites its member states and the OIC General Secretariat to contribute to the global response to AIDS in the context of international cooperation and partnership.

Mr. President,

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OIC General Secretariat and the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was signed by the OIC Secretary General and the Executive Director of the Global Fund during the 36th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Damascus in May 2009.

The MoU aims at strengthening cooperation between the two organizations to fight against the three diseases, which are in the domain of the Global Fund. Pursuant to the MoU, the General Secretariat has been working with the OIC Member States and other partners, including the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), to advocate action against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis and to raise awareness about the Global Fund's vision, mission and work. Secretary General Ihsanoglu has made many calls to the OIC member states in order to increase the overall contribution of the OIC membership to the Global Fund as well as the number of the contributing OIC members.

Since the creation of the Global Fund, 46 OIC Member States have benefitted from the Global Fund in the form of US\$ 4 billion allocated for fighting HIV/AIDS, 3 billion US dollars for Malaria and 2 billion US dollars for Tuberculosis. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Kuwait, Malaysia, and Nigeria, are among the OIC Member states, which have made significant contributions to the Global Fund.

In September 2010, at the sidelines of the annual session of the UN General Assembly, the OIC General Secretariat and the Global Fund co-hosted a luncheon for the OIC Member States to invite them to contribute to the third round of replenishment of the fund for period of 2011 - 2013. With these efforts we are hoping that the number of the OIC countries contributing to the Global Fund will be increased in the short term.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the OIC Secretary General H.E Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, I would like to express our appreciation to the UN entities working in this field and particularly to the Global Fund and reiterate our appeal to the OIC member states as well as the other members of the international community to contribute or increase their contribution to the Global Fund.

I thank you.