**RESOLUTION NO. 16/24-P**

**ADOPTED BY THE**

**ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS**

**ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS**

The Twenty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 3 Sha’aban, 1417H (9-13 December, 1996),

**Reaffirming** the previous resolutions of the Islamic Conferences on the question of Cyprus which express firm support for the rightful cause of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus who constitutes an integral part of the Islamic world;

**Reiterating** its support for the efforts of the UN Secretary General under his mission of good offices towards a negotiated settlement mutually acceptable to both sides;

**Welcoming** in this context, the acceptance by the Turkish Cypriot side of the package of confidence building measures suggested by the UN Secretary General following his assessment of November 1992 that it would be difficult to achieve any success in the negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement as long as the current crisis of confidence between the two sides continues;

**Noting** that there had been sufficient progress for the United Nations to implement the package of confidence building measures on the basis outlined in the UN Secretary General's complementary report of 28 June, 1994 concerning his mission of good offices;

**Considering** that the excessive rearmament of the Greek Cypriot side deepens further the existing mistrust between the two sides and constitutes a threat to peace and stability in the island;

**Recalling** that in the more than 30 years since the establishment of UNFICYP, it has not been possible to achieve a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus problem;

**Mindful** of the necessity to respect the full equality of the two sides in Cyprus in order to facilitate the efforts towards an overall settlement;

**Recalling** its resolution adopted at the 20th Session as well as the resolution adopted by the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference which decided the enhancement of the participation of the Turkish Muslim community of Cyprus in the OIC;

**Noting** in this regard its resolution adopted at the 22nd Session as well as the resolution No.14/7-P (IS) adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

**Noting with appreciation** the report of the Secretary General contained in document no. ICFM(23-96/PIL/D.9;

**Appreciating** the economic study on the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus undertaken by the Islamic Development Bank;

**Having considered** in this context the request of the Turkish Cypriot side for full membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

**Expressing** its solidarity with the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus and its appreciation for their constructive efforts to attain a just and mutually acceptable settlement;

1. **Reaffirms** the total equality of the two parties in Cyprus as the principle enabling them to live side-by-side in security, peace and harmony without the one having the ability to exploit, oppress or threaten the other.

2. **Urges** the Member States to strengthen effective solidarity with the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus and to increase and expand their relations in all fields and in particular in the fields of trade, tourism, culture, information, investment and sports.

3. **Decides** to support until the Cyprus problem is solved, the rightful claim of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus for the right to be heard in all international fora where the Cyprus problem comes up for discussion, on the basis of equality of the two parties in Cyprus.

4. **Requests** the Secretary General to carry out the necessary contacts with the Islamic Development Bank with a view to seeking the ways and means of the latter's assistance for the development projects of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus.

5. **Considers** that building of mutual confidence between the two parties in the island is essential to make progress towards an overall settlement of the question.

6. **Calls on** the two parties to cooperate fully with the UN Secretary General to achieve agreement for implementing the confidence building measures and to resume direct talks without any precondition.

7. **Decides** to remain seized of the request of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus.

8. **Requests** the Secretary General to take all necessary measures for the implementation of this Resolution and to make further recommendations as appropriate.

9. **Requests further** the Secretary General to monitor closely developments in Cyprus and to present a comprehensive report to the Twenty-fifth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.