# RESOLUTION NO. 18/26-P

**ADOPTED BY THE**

**ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS**

**ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS**

The Twenty-sixth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace and Partnership for Development) held in Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso from 15 to 18 Rabiul Awal 1420H ( 28 June - 1 July 1999),

**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 People of Cyprus who constitutes an integral part of the Islamic world;

**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;

**Calling for** a just political settlement by respecting the legitimate aspirations of the Turkish Cypriot side;

**Emphasizing** in this regard the key importance of respecting the principles of equal political status in the attainment of a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable solution;

**Calling on** the two parties in Cyprus to reciprocally acknowledge each others equal status in order to pave the way to a lasting settlement on a mutually agreed basis.

**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 willingness shown by the Turkish Cypriot side for a political and viable settlement by presenting a comprehensive proposal on 31 August 1998 ;

**Regretting** that outside developments raising the possibility of EU membership of the Greek Cypriot side have continued to hamper progress towards a negotiated settlement ;

**Considering** that building of mutual confidence between the two sides in Cyprus is essential to make progress towards a just and lasting settlement

**Welcoming** to this effect the shuttle talks that the UNSG Deputy Special representative for Cyprus has initiated with the two sides , with the goal of reducing tension and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement;

**Welcoming** the fact that the Turkish Cypriot side has accepted the UN sponsored package of military confidence building measures presented by the UN Secretary General.

**Calling on** the Greek Cypriot side to show a reciprocal constructive approach by accepting this proposal;

**Considering** that the massive arms purchase and the establishment of a military air base in Paphos as well as the continuing construction of a naval base in Zygi by the Greek Cypriot side further deepen the existing mistrust between the two sides and constitute a threat to peace and stability in the island and the region;

**Recalling** its resolution adopted at the 25th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers as well as the resolution adopted by the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference which decided the enhancement of the participation of the Turkish Muslim People of Cyprus in the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

**Noting** in this regard its resolution adopted at the 25th Session of ICFM as well as resolution No.16/8-P (IS) adopted by the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference;

**Appreciating** the economic study on the Turkish Muslim People 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 People of Cyprus and its appreciation for their constructive efforts to attain a just and mutually acceptable settlement;

**Noting with appreciation** the report of the Secretary General on the situation in Cyprus contained in document No. ICFM/26-99/PIL/D.10.

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 govern, exploit, oppress or threaten the other.

2. **Urges** the Member States to strengthen effective solidarity with the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus and with a view to helping them to overcome the inhuman isolation which has been imposed upon them 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 People 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 Cypriot side

5. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the request of the Turkish Cypriot side of Cyprus for full membership of the OIC.

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

7. **Requests** further the Secretary General to monitor closely developments in Cyprus and submit a report thereon to the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the next Islamic Summit.