RESOLUTION NO. 15/30-P

**ADOPTED BY THE**

**ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS**

**ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS**

 The Thirtieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Unity and Dignity), held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 27 to 29 Rabiul Awwal 1424H (28 to 30 May, 2003),

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

 **Recalling** that in nearly four decades since the establishment of UNFICYP, it has not been possible to achieve a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus problem;

 **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 other’s equal status in order to pave the way to a lasting settlement on a mutually agreed basis;

 **Recalling** in this regard that, in December 2001, it was the Turkish Cypriot side who took the initiative for a peaceful settlement in Cyprus by inviting the Greek Cypriot side to direct talks;

 **Welcoming** the two-track proposal of 2 April 2003 suggested by the Turkish Cypriot side aimed at overcoming the crisis of confidence between the two peoples of the Island and contributing to the normalization of relations between them, while giving a new impetus to the efforts targeting a comprehensive settlement;

 **Supporting** in this regard the statement of the UN Secretary General of 12 September 2000;

 **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 in 2003;

 **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;

 **Welcoming** the commencement of the direct talks between the two parties in Cyprus;

 **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** 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 build-up 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 and the recent purchase of twelve Russian made Mil Mi-35 type assault helicopters 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 No. 23/9-P(IS) adopted at the 9th 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;

 **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/30-2003/POL/SG-REP.8);

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 resort thereon to the Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.