RESOLUTION NO. 16/8-P (IS)
ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS ADOPTED BY THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT

The Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Dignity, Dialogue, Participation) held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 9 to 11 Sha'aban, 1418H (9-11 December, 1997),

**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;

**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;

**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 resumption of direct talks between the two sides in Cyprus at Troutbeck and Glion and subsequent direct talks in Nicosia on humanitarian and normalization issues under the auspices of UN Secretary General's Representative;

**Regretting** that outside developments raising the possibility of EU membership of the Greek Cypriot side have hampered progress at these talks;

**Welcoming** the fact that the Turkish Cypriot side has accepted the UN sponsored package of military confidence building currently being discussed under UNFICYP auspices;

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

**Considering** that the excessive rearmament and purchase of S-300 missiles 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 24th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers as well as the resolution adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference which decided the enhancement of the participation of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus in the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

**Noting** in this regard its resolution adopted at the 24th Session of ICFM as well as resolution No.14/7-P (IS) adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

**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;

**Noting** with appreciation the report of the Secretary General contained in document No.IS/8-97/PIL/D.12.

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. **Decides** to remain seized of the request of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus for full membership of the OIC.

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

8. **Requests** further the Secretary General to monitor closely developments in Cyprus and submit a report thereon to the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.