

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

History:

Background:

- ❖ Palestine Issue
- ❖ Kashmir Dispute
- ❖ Poverty, underdevelopment, illiteracy
- ❖ No platform to unite Muslim Nations
- ❖ Al- Aqsa mosque tragedy

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations with membership of 57 states of four continents which signifies the primary substantial confirmation of the longing for Islamic harmony. It was established following a verdict taken during the **historical summit held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on September 25, 1969** as the result of the response to the **August 1969 Al-Aqsa Mosque tragedy** (Australian Christian fundamentalist Denis Michael Rohan) in occupied Jerusalem – the first qibla (direction of prayer) of the Muslims and their third holiest place. **Twenty-five Muslim states** joined the summit called together by King Hasan of Morocco in 1969. The upshot of the Rabat Summit was the founding of the OIC. The meeting was the first cohesive expression of the Muslim Ummah of its grit to defend its interests, articulate with one tone of voice and guarantee the evolution and welfare of the Muslims in the earth. In March 1970, it took a proper shape and its Secretariat was established in Jeddah and a Secretary General was made its head.

"Muslim government would consult with a view to promoting among themselves close cooperation and mutual assistance in the economic, scientific, cultural and spiritual fields, inspired by the immortal teachings of Islam." *---Excerpt from Resolution*

Headquarter: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Secretary General: Hissein Brahim Taha (Chad) 12th

(1st Tunku Abdul Rehman (Malaysia), 5th Shareefuddin Perzada)

Objectives of OIC

- ✓ To enhance and consolidate the bonds of fraternity – Muslim Solidarity
- ✓ Protection of Holy Sites
- ✓ Helping Palestine cause
- ✓ Mutual Cooperation
- ✓ Poverty alleviation
- ✓ End Discrimination

Priority Areas:

The priority areas include issues of Peace and Security, Palestine and Al-Quds, Poverty Alleviation, Counter-terrorism, Investment and Finance, Food Security, Science and Technology, Climate Change and Sustainability, Moderation, Culture and Interfaith Harmony, Empowerment of Women, Joint Islamic Humanitarian Action, Human Rights and Good Governance, among others.

Significance:

- Only alliance of all Muslim states
- 2nd largest IGO (intergovernmental organization)
- Voice of 1.8 billion Muslims
- 1/4th members states of the globe
- 70% of World's energy resources

Failures of OIC:

- East Pakistan Debacle (1971)
- Soviet intervention in Afghanistan (1979)
- Iran-Iraq war (1980)
- The attack of Lebanon by Israel (1982)
- US invasion to Afghanistan (2001)
- US occupation of Iraq

- ✚ Unresolved Palestine issue
- ✚ Inability to unite Muslim Nations for Kashmir cause
- ✚ Failed to safeguard Rohingya Muslims
- ✚ Inability to raise voice for Uyghur Muslims
- ✚ Majority of Muslim Population living below the poverty line
- ✚ Divided Ummah
- ✚ Sectarianization of the Muslim world

Causes of ineffectiveness:

- ❖ Historic adversarial relationship (Iran-Saudi, Saudi-Turk)
- ❖ Irreconcilable Geo-political aspirations of the Muslim states (KSA, Iran, Turkey)
- ❖ Influence of Geography on intra-OIC collaboration
- ❖ National Interests over Ummah's interests
- ❖ Structural problems (budgetary Constraints, lack of capacity)
- ❖ Arab-Ajam Division
- ❖ Power of the Purse syndrome
- ❖ Lack of Political will of the Muslim Leadership
- ❖ Objectives but not Objectives

- ❖ Only talk no walk
- ❖ Maximalist positions taken by Muslim States
- ❖ Inclination of Muslim States towards West (impact of Great power rivalry)
- ❖ Prioritization of Defense over Development

Pathways to Reorganization of the OIC

- ✓ Adopting Multi-dimensional and inclusive approach
 - ✓ Encouraging Inter-faith Dialogue
 - ✓ Prioritizing Ummah's interest over National interests
 - ✓ Promoting Inter-dependence
 - ✓ Focusing on Delivery
 - ✓ Giving chance to diplomacy
 - ✓ Prioritizing Economic Targets
 - ✓ Performance oriented policy decisions
 - ✓ Establishing people to people contact
 - ✓ Ensuring political will
 - ✓ Prioritizing Development over Defense (investing on education and research)
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“It has neither the credentials nor any operational capacity to be the panacea for the ills of its member-states”
--- Shamshad Ahmed

“The Muslim World is fractured along ethnic lines with Kurds, Arabs, Persians, Turks, Pakistanis and Indonesians all having very different world views”

--- Shamshad Ahmed

“The salvation of the Muslim world does not lie with one individual or any inter-governmental organization. The key to reshaping the destiny of the Muslim world lies in the political, economic and social stability and strength of individual Muslim nations.”

--- Shamshad Ahmed

“We have the means and the capacity to deal with our problems, if only we can find the political will.”
---Kofi Annan

“What governments and people don't realize is that sometimes the collective interest – the international interest – is also the national interest.”

---Kofi Annan

“The Clash of civilizations will dominate global politics. The fault lines between civilizations will be the battle lines of the future”

---Samuel P Huntington, Clash of civilization