

**De la République de Djibouti
auprès de L'office des Nations –
Unies
Et des autres Organisations
Internationales à Genève**



Unité – Egalité – paix
وحدة مساواة سلام

المبعوثية الدائمة لجمهورية جيبوتي
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى
جنيف سويسرا

Vérifier au prononcé

**STATEMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
DJIBOUTI AT THE HAND OVER MEETING OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE**

GENEVA

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,
Brothers and Sisters,

At the outset, I would like to welcome you all to this handover ceremony followed by a brief presentation of documents prepared by our distinguished coordinators and then a substantive discussion on crucial human rights issues related to the forthcoming main session of the Human Rights Council.

I would also like to convey to you warm greetings from the President of the Republic of Djibouti His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh who during Djibouti's Chair deployment every effort to ensure that the responsibility entrusted to us was adequately fulfilled.

Because of the limited time at our disposal, allow me to make the following brief remarks before I hand over to the Chairman of our Group to the distinguished Ambassadors of Geneva, our brother Ambassador Aly Diane.

Djibouti is deeply honored to have taken on that momentous role and we committed our country to honor the great responsibilities you put upon us with full respect for duties entailed.

We strove, to the best of our ability, and in coordination with all Member States of the OIC, to promote and protect the interests of the Islamic Umma.

For Djibouti, the journey began in November 2012 with the holding of the 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The powerful declaration that was adopted contained a full fledged action plan and constituted a guide for our work here in Geneva.

You would recall that the ambitious action plan laid in Djibouti strengthened a resolve to develop a road map and an action plan aimed at increasing the visibility and the credibility of the OIC Group in Geneva.

Indeed, Geneva, as I pointed out in my remarks a year ago is a vital center of global policy making and governance. It hosts institutions in multiple fields of human endeavor: development, education, environment, human health, human rights, humanitarian affairs, international trade, labor, immigration, refugee population, telecommunication, to cite only a few.

Accordingly, during my tenure and in close collaboration with coordinators, we deployed tremendous efforts at developing a strategy for the Group.

Indeed, the year 2013 was both a year of action and introspection. The outcomes of these reflections are contained in the document that will be submitted to your consideration.

I am confident that they will serve as a sound basis for our work here in Geneva.

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the distinguished coordinators for their commitment, seriousness and thoroughness of the work achieved.

Excellencies,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The year 2013 has been a challenging year for OIC Members States with the continued strife and bloodshed in Syria, the crisis in Mali, the plight of Muslims in Myanmar and of course the sectarian savagery in the Central African Republic which led to the targeted killings of Muslims in that country.

I draw your attention to the strongly communiqué made by His Excellency Mr Iyad Ameen Madani, the Secretary General of OIC in which he condemns the continuing violence against Muslims in that country.

To many observers, this negative development comes as a surprise because in Africa Christians and Muslims coexist with each other. Tolerance more than tension characterizes these relationships.

Whatever may be the cause of this sudden deterioration, we join the Secretary General in his call for an immediate cessation of the unrelenting violence against Muslims in the country and the condemnation of those held responsible.

Djibouti has actively participated in the discussions on Mali and it is glad to note the positive developments that have taken place in the country.

As regards the situation of Muslims in Myanmar, the Foreign minister of Djibouti was part of the OIC delegation that visited that country in November 2013 in an effort to help find a durable solution to the tragic situation of Rohingya's minority.

While noting the reaffirmation of Myanmar to protecting the rights of Muslims, according to credible reports the situation remains of concern and deserves continued attention from this group.

This Group must of course continue to support the brotherly People of Palestine in its struggle for peace and security.

In this regard, we do also condemn the decision of the Israeli authorities to endorse building new 558 settlements units in the occupied city of Al-Qasr as it violates the rights of the Palestinian People and international law.

Excellencies,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we draw the curtain on our term as Chair, I would like to express the deepest gratitude of the Government of Djibouti and our own delegation for the brotherly support extended to me during my tenure.

I should also like to thank Ambassador Slimane Cheik and his team for the valuable support and trust.

Allow me once again to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ambassadors Aly Diane, the incoming Chair. Excellency, you can count on Djibouti's support and I am confident that your vast experience will be of tremendous benefit to the Group.

I would be remiss if I do not pay tribute to the new Secretary General of our organization, Dr. Iyad Ameen Madani and the leadership he has shown in the very significant steps he already taken.

Thank you for your attention.