

BISMILLAHIR RAHMAANIR RAHIIM.

The Right Honourable,
Mr Cemil Cicek,
Speaker
of the Grand National Assembly
of Turkey;

His Excellency,
Mr Iyad Ameen Madani,
Secretary General of the OIC; [if present];

His Excellency,
Prof Dr Mahmud Erol Kilic,
Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member Countries (PUIC);

Excellencies Heads of Delegations from PUIC Member Countries;
Honourable delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Assalamualaikum wahrahmatulla
hi wabarakathu.**

Mr Chairman,

Alhamdulillah. All praises are to Allah, the Merciful, the All – Beneficent, by whose Grace and Blessings have enabled us, Members of Parliaments of PUIC Member Countries, to gather here for the 10th Session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) Conference.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to begin this statement with the words of Allah in Surah AR-RAD verse 11 in which it is stated:

***"Surely Allah does not change the fate
of a community until the community
has tried to change its fate itself."***

***God does not change the condition
Of a nation unless it changes what
Is in its heart.***

AND it had been the tradition of our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW to hold discussions or Musawarah to find solutions and make decisions where appropriate for the good of his followers in particular and for mankind in general.

A conference such as this is in conformity with the said Surah and Sunnah.

Mr Chairman,

As usual, in a conference such as this, each head of delegation will be given the opportunity to share his or her thoughts and experiences.

But in your speech in last year conference in Tehran, you have questioned the wisdom of sharing thoughts and experiences **with no further action or follow up after the conferences to translate what have been agreed upon at the conference into reality.**

Malaysia totally agree with your stand. It will be a waste of our time and resources if we do not act on what we have said or agreed upon in a conference.

Mr Chairman,

Malaysia is a small non align nation. We are not subservient to any power or super power. We speak our minds where and when necessary, and we say and do things what we think is right. This stand have been respected by others.

For example Mr Chairman, while the rest of the world are divided in their opinion in handling the problems facing the Muslim Ummah after NINE ELEVEN, Malaysia voiced out her opinion in the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Sept 2010. In his address to the member countries, Malaysian Prime Minister Mohd Najib Razak called upon members and leaders of the world's major faiths to censure and reject their own extremists and jointly support GMM or Global Movement of the Moderates.

The idea behind GMM is the promotion of moderation or **WASSATIYAH in dealing with global challenges and issues be it armed conflicts, religious issues or even financial challenges.**

Mr Chairman,

In our experience Wassatiyah works. It helped us in the tragedy of MH 17 - the flight that was shoot down by those people for whatever reasons best known to them while flying legally over Ukraine -

In that incident, friendly leaders of super power countries tried to help us to be allowed to enter the red zone area to recover the black box and remains of the passengers. Their effort for reasons best known to those concern were ignored.

But a humble request from our Prime Minister to the leaders who are in control of the said red zone area was granted. Our officials were given permission to enter the red zone area and was allowed to bring out the black box and remains of the passengers.

Mr Chairman,

Over the years the Israelis dominance and acts of atrocities over Palestinian was the global issue that grab headlines in all front of mass media, be it the print media, social media or electronic media.

In every meeting or conference, be it organised by Muslims nations or otherwise, ideas were always floated as how best the conflict is resolved. But to date, I dare say that the solution is not insight.

Mr Chairman,

With the recent happenings in the world such as the kidnapping of our daughters and sisters in Nigeria by the Boko Haram militants; the atrocious act which took the lives of many school going children in Peshwar, Pakistan in December last year; the recent bout of violence and killings in Paris; and the continuous events happening in Iraq and Syria by ISIS, seems to have drowned the issue of atrocities of the Israeli army towards the Palestinian in Gaza.

Mr Chairman,

Today the world media headlines are dominated by acts of ISIS, Boko Haram, the happenings in Paris, the one man act that stormed the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, and the holding of hostage in a Cafe in Australia.

This new phenomena, needs explanation and answers by the Muslim leaders.

Unfortunately, the explanations and answers thus far do not negate the negative perception of the non Muslim towards us Muslim.

The demonstrations by Muslim ummah in Muslim countries as expressions of displeasure towards the act of an individual who depicted the images of Prophet Mohammad have been **portrayed by the global media as an act of endorsing or condoning terrorist act.**

We never win, Mr Chaiman.

Mr Chairman,

While walking around in the precinct of the Blue Mosque yesterday, I saw a placard in which the farewell sermon of the Prophet Mohammad SAW was written: I quote:

**"All man kind is from Adam and Ave,
An Arab has no superiority over a non
Arab nor a non Arab has any superiority
over an Arab, also a white has no
superiority over black, nor a Black
has superiority over White,
Except by piety (Takwa) and good action".**

Mr Chairman,

Base on this words, I dare say, may be the reason why we failed in our quest to solve the Palestinian issue and other issues against the Muslim Ummah, is:

Thus far, we failed to take **good action**.

Mr Chairman,

In Surah **Ali Imran verse 103** the God Almighty said:

"All of you united hold fast to the rope of God (the Quran and his Messenger) and recall how He favoured you when your hostility to each other had torn you apart. He united your heart in one faith and through His Grace you became brothers. You were on the verge of falling headlong into the abyss of fire, but God saved you. This is how God explains to you His Revelations so that you may have the right Guidance".

Instead of uniting in our effort as brothers in Islam to fight our enemy, we let ourselves divided. We turn hostile against each other for the sake of self interest.

We are fully aware of the meaning of the English proverbs, "**United we stand, divided we fall**", yet we allow ourselves to be divided and never united in our fights.

We are cognisant of the thinking behind the political saying, "**divide and rule**", yet we failed to stand together.

Mr Chairman,

There are so many Islamic Scholars and Ulamas around the world. Yet, we could not even agree on the definition of JIHAD.

To some of us, the killing of another human beings regardless of their religion is forbidden. But to others it is JIHAD or the passport to heaven.

Mr Chairman,

In our quest to seek justice for the ummah, we tends to forget the reality behind the words, "**Cause and Effect**". We tend to forget that our action will trigger respond from our adversaries or enemies.

Mr Chaiman,

To the perpetrator and supporters of the act of terrorism on **September Eleven** - which the majority of the Muslim ummah condemned -, the act was justified as a respond to the acts of the enemy of Islam toward the Muslim in some part of the World.

But what they did not see or realise or ignored are **the effects of or respond to that action**. To me, September 11 brought about four things which are not necessarily good for the benefit of the Muslim Ummah; 1. The demise of the leader of the perpetrator of the terrorist act, 2. The Downfall of two Islamic Nations and 3. the demise of two leaders and their families of that two Islamic nations. 4. The continuous humiliation to the Muslim Ummah by the enemy of Islam.

Mr Chairman,

As if SEPTEMBER ELEVEN were not enough as a burden to the Muslim World, **right now**, other happenings are unfolding right before our eyes. The actions by ISIS in Syria and Iraq, the recent attack on the office of Frence satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, the hostage-taking incident in Lindth Cafe in Sydney and the incident in the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa **enhances** the negative perception of others towards Islam as a religion of peace and tolerance.

These recent acts continue to taint the sanctity of Islam as a religion of peace.

Mr Chairman,

We will not win our fights if we do not do the "**right action**" as commended by God the Almighty in Surah Ali Imran verse 103. God commanded us to unite but we choose to fight against each other.

God told us in Surah Ar-Rad verse 11 that He will not change the fate of a community until the community has tried to change its fate itself.

Ofcos, we are making efforts to change our fate. PUIC conference is one of them.

BUT, the question here Mr Chairman is, **are we making an effort to change our fate in the right way?**

Is September 11 the right action?

Is ISIS the right move?

Are the happenings in Paris, Ottawa and Sidney the right path?

Extremism in our action in our opinion is not the answer.

An action - **eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth is** not the right respond.

Mr Chairman,

I stand and speak before you, not as head of a state nor a Statesman.

I stand and speak before you not as a cleric or an ulama.

I stand and speak before you not as a academician, philosopher or political scientists and I stand before you not as a diplomat.

As such, if you Mr Chairman find this statement protocally offensive, diplomatically inappropriate, religiously inaccurate or politically absurd, **please do understand**, for I stand and speak before you as Parliamentarian, and as a fellow Parliamentarian we do

speaking our minds openly based on the principle of democracy, the essence of which, is ***agree to disagree*** and to respect other opinions.

Mr Chairman,

I have mentioned earlier that Malaysia believes that the right approach to solving conflict is through moderation or *Wassatiyah*.

Recent history and political happenings around the world proved that *Wassatiyah* brings about a win-win situation.

For example, when the apartheid regime of South Africa was dismantled and free democratic elections took place which were won by the party led by the late Nelson Mandela, President Mandela did not fall to the wishes of the majority of his supporters to take revenge against the White minority. He took the path of moderation. He expounded the idea of "Reconciliation". Had he acted otherwise, South Africa would not have been the same as now.

Mr Chairman,

In the same line of thoughts, now the new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran portrays a moderate image to the world, as he has displayed while expressing his opinion in his speech delivered in the United Nations recently.

To me, partially he has won the hearts of his adversaries.

Mr Chairman,

As a Muslim, from small, we were taught to live our lives as commanded by God as enshrined in the Holy Quran and make the acts and Deeds of Prophet Muhammad SAW as an example.

In this regard, let me end this statement with the thought of a non Muslim leader - Mahatma Ghandi after he has read the Autobiography of the Prophet:

“ I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind... I became more than ever convinced that it was not the SWORD that won a place for ISLAM in those days in the scheme of life.

It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness and his absolute trust in GOD and in his own mission.

These and not the SWORD carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle”.

Mr Chairman,

The Global Movement of Moderation (GMM) initiated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia is exactly this idea. The promotion of MODERATION / WASSATIYAH will be the response in countering incitement to violence and extremism.

We must win the hearts and mind of our enemies not by the SWORD but ***by rigid simplicity, the utter self effacement, the scrupulous regard for pledges, intense devotion to our friends and followers, intrepidity, fearlessness and absolute trust in GOD and in our own mission.***

By so doing as what has been described by Ghandi, Insyallah we shall be victorious.

Mr Chairman,

Before I resume my seat, allow me to say a few more words.

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I would like to convey our deepest gratitude and our sincere appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality by our gracious host, the Turkish Government and You Mr Chairman as the Speaker of Parliament of Turkey.

I would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman for the efficient and smooth handling of the Conference.

This Istanbul PUIC Conference will certainly enrich our minds by the the sharing each other thoughts views and experiences as brothers and sisters in Islam pertaining to handling matters that have bearing with the livelihood of the Muslim Ummah.

Certainly, for me personally, this Istanbul PUIC Conference will not only enrich my mind but it will also enrich my souls and the feeling that I have experiencd while I was praying at the Blue Mosque yesterday had left a permanent imprint in my heart.

To me, it is no doubt that Istanbul, the city of minarets and mosques, is one of the most beautiful city in the world, physical and spiritual.

At this juncture, I wish to state our appreciation and gratitude for the support of the OIC in our candidature as a non permanent member of the security council/committee of the United Nation.

Malaysia assures you that she will use this platform for the benefit of the Muslim Ummah in particular and mankind in general.

Thank You, Mr Chairman.