



As in the past, today Islam is the only remedial.

— Sayed Ali Khamenai (Ayatullah'il Uzma)

*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful*

I wish to start my speech in this brotherly forum, which is to echo the voice of Muslims worldwide, by praising and glorifying Allah: O Lord, I Praise you for knowledge, for monotheism, for worship, and for kindness. I praise you for Islamic brotherhood, for human dignity, for instruction of patience and reliance (on the Almighty), and for recommending beneficence and generosity.

I extend greetings to the Holy Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (peace and praise be upon him), Your servant and Your Messenger who hoisted the banner of monotheism and equity, who raised the call of human dignity, and who liberated mankind from serving anyone or anything but You.

I also send greetings to the immaculate Household, sincere friends, and disciples of the Holy Prophet (S), all worthy servants of Allah and all human beings with pure nature.

I wish to cordially and fraternally express welcome to all you dear guests, heads of state and officials of the Islamic countries, as well as heads and members of all delegations, the U.N. secretary general, the secretary general of his summit, and other dear guests.

Brothers and Sisters,

You have now gathered together in one of the homelands and strongholds of Islam. Even though officially our president is your host, each and every Iranian also considers himself/ herself as your host and welcomes you to this land of faith.

Dear Guests,

Our gathering is not one of friends who get together in pursuit of certain interests such that when other interests appear some other time our bonds would be severed. We are brothers who have been eternally linked by our belief in the Quran and who have all become a united body, namely

the Islamic *ummah* (nation), irrespective of any historical, geographical, and political diversity.

We have inevitably accepted this link through our submission to Islam. Complaints, differences, and even tensions cast a pall on this fact, but these can always be washed away by recourse to wisdom, reason, and forbearance.

Let us glance at this august gathering and this historical meeting in such a spirit to be able to reap benefit from it for determining the destiny of our own nations and that of the grand Islamic *ummah*.

Brothers and Dear Guests,

At the opening of this meeting, I will present my inaugural statements with regard to three issues, namely Islam, the Islamic *ummah*, and the OIC meeting and its prospects, and then come up with conclusions.

1. Islam

During the early days after its advent and even at present, Islam has been - and still is - a pathway toward a new world, warranting a prosperous life, moral soundness, and salvation for mankind. At the time of the advent of Islam, previously and even today, the major sufferings and grievances of man - which Islam is bent on eradicating - have permanently been the same: poverty, ignorance, discrimination, war, insecurity, and finally man's incarceration in the prison of materialism and captivity by his evil tendencies.

And Islam is the religion of humanity, moderation, wisdom, and submission to the Almighty - and evidently all religions have been so before being subjected to distortion. As such, Islam presented non-extravagant remedies to the human pains and sufferings in logically and rationally acceptable ways. Islam invited mankind toward remembrance (of Allah), supplication, and establishment of spiritual relationship with the Almighty. Islam taught man and recommended to him to combat evil, aggression, corruption and to constantly fight against egotism, selfishness, and bent for carnal desires.

Islam's major decrees have taken shape in this way, and Islam's program for man's individual, social, moral, and political life have grown out of these roots.

In Islam, social justice, different types of freedom, equitable peace, combat with oppression and aggression, male-female relationship, relationships among the people and among the societies, self-edification, inherent relationship with the Almighty are all based on those pillars and geared toward alleviating the perennial and permanent pains (gripping humanity).

Today, too, contrary to life's colourful and pleasant surface



appearance, mankind suffers from the same pains and sufferings that have beset humanity in the course of history: The majority of people of the world are poor, while a small number hold the major part of assets and wealth on earth. Most nations are deprived of scientific progress, while a group have used their science and knowledge as a means to mete out oppression on others. Wars flare in nooks and corners of the world, while others (not affected by war) are constantly in fear of the eruption of war. All over the world, there is discrimination among the countries, while there are class differences in most states. The Western materialistic civilisation is directing everyone toward materiality, while money, gluttony, and carnal desires are

made the greatest aspirations, finally, sincerity, truthfulness, altruism, and self-sacrifice have been replaced in many parts of the world by deception, conspiracy, avarice, jealousy, and other indecent features.

Science, technology, equipment, speed, and facility have dramatically changed the world as compared with the past, but the chronic and age-old pains and chagrin of humanity still remain unchanged. The major problems of today are the same that existed in the past.

Western liberalism, communism, socialism, and all otherisms have gone through their tests and proved their debility. As in the past, today Islam is the only remedial, curative and saviour angel: As with one thousand four

hundred years ago, today, too, the following call echoes:

Come to you light and clear book from Allah; with if Allah guides him who will follow His pleasure into the ways of safety and brings them out of utter darkness into light by His will and guides them to the right path. (Holy Quran, Chapter Maidah, Verses 15 and 16).

Indeed, there has been the observation and recognition of the true visage of Islam (devoid of any embellishments). The illuminated visage of Islam has been defaced and defiled in the course of several centuries by the foes and in the course of longer spans of time by the ignorant and heedless friends. They have deliberately or ignorantly made additions or deletions in Islam.

At present, too, incorrect understanding and quest for interests are still at work by the inner circles to tarnish the image of Islam. But without a shade of doubt, enemy publicity in this regard is by far more effective, by trying to embark upon this move through subtle and sly way.

One instance of the enemies' incessant efforts to this end is the massive bulk of publicity against the Islamic Iran after the establishment of the Islamic government in Iran. They felt that levelling accusations and furnishing false news would be the most conclusive ways to stave off the impacts of this grand revolution. They have uttered such falsities about us and ascribed such things to us that their words have become repetitive and completely monotonous and boring for the listeners. The Zionists, the notorious global Zionist media, and arrogant agents, in particular the Americans - namely those sustained the greatest losses due to the revolution - have been - and are - most active and vocal in this area.

Muslim brothers, on this basis, our great task is to recognise Islam and make it recognised and become more familiar with one another.

2. The Islamic Ummah

The Islam ummah which sprang up in Madinat ul-Nabi and which stepped in the way of

and unprecedented uprising, transformation, and revolution in science, culture, and civilisation and link the history of science from ancient Greece and Rome to the Renaissance, as though science and civilisation had died for a thousand years and were of a sudden reborn during the

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quantitative and qualitative growth in an astonishing and legendary way was the first political - human product of Islam.

In less than half a century after the emergence of this auspicious phenomenon, it treaded almost half the entire territories of the three large neighbouring ancient civilisations, namely Iran, Rome, and Egypt. A century later, it developed a brilliant civilisation and grand and powerful government in the heart of the world which was bound on the east by the Great Wall of China and the Atlantic Ocean coasts and on the north by the Siberian steppes and on the south by the southernmost part of the Indian Ocean.

The third and fourth centuries A.H. and afterwards are embellished with such a brilliant civilisation whose academic and cultural achievements can still be seen in the modern world after a thousand years. When recounting the history of science and civilisation, Western historians overlook and neglect this grand

Renaissance!

But the truth of the matter is that the Middle Ages was a period of darkness, ignorance, and consternation only for the West and Europe, but for the Islamic world, which was several times larger than Europe by ranging from Andalusia to China, this was a period of illumination, awakening, and academic sublimation and boom.

This remainder does not aim at boasting of the past or lamenting the decline of those days, the aim is to underline the fact that Islam and its life - inspiring knowledge which gave rise to such a massive civilisation are now at our disposal and warn us:

O you who believe! answer (the call of) Allah and His Apostle when he calls you to that which gives you life... (Holy Quran, Chapter Anfal, Verse 24)

Islam has proven that it has the capacity to lead its ummah toward civil and academic sublimation and political might

and main: Faith, struggle, avoidance of discord are the only prerequisites for fulfilment of this grand objective. The Holy Quran teaches us:

And be not inform, and be not grieving, and you shall have the upper hand if you are believers. (Holy Quran, Chapter A'lay Imran, Verse 139)

The Quran also teaches us:

And (as for) those who strive hard for Us, We will most certainly guide them in Our ways; and Allah is most surely with the doers of good. (Holy Quran, Chapter Ankabut, Verse 69)

It also offers the following instruction:

And obey Allah and His Apostle and do not quarrel for then you will be weak in hearts and our power will depart, and be patient; surely Allah is with the patient. (Holy Quran, Chapter Anfal, Verse 46)

diverse historical and political factors and conditions, intensely contributed to this condition and today we have inherited them from the past generations.

Brothers, let us bequeath something more glorious to the posterity.

In studying the external factors conducive to the present condition, I believe that the invasion of the arrogant front is more effective. In our culture, arrogance refers to a power clique which relies on its political, military, scientific, and economic power and gets inspiration from a discriminatory outlook toward mankind to exert pressure on and exploit large groups of human beings, namely nations, governments, and countries will bullying and contemptuous dominations, to interfere and intervene in their affairs, to

colonisers and their heirs. All of these are carried out in front of the eyes of our nations, which are lasting their bitter fruits.

In the effective invasion, the Western powers have reaped benefit of their academic and technological advancement and of some of their national and indigenous features. We do not reprimand the enemy. Those who pave the ground for the victory of their enemies and their own defeat through short-sightedness, search for ease and comfort, and egotism deserve to be rebuked.

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Weakness in relation to these three factors has at present engulfed the Islamic ummah in a pitiable condition. At least, over the past two centuries, the persistent and cunning enemies possessing prudence and policy and some incompetent Muslim governments have, alongside

plunder their assets and wealth, to bully the governments, to oppress the nations, and to insult their cultures and traditions. Salient examples are colonialism, neo - colonialism, and recently the extensive and all - out political, economic, publicity, and even military invasion of the previous

gripped. Indubitably, this ethical quagmire will, on a not - too - distant day, engulf the present Western civilisation and wipe it out.

At the present juncture, the world of Islam is in a calamitous condition due to hostile invasions, coupled with inner factors

affecting the past generations. Poverty, ignorance, academic backwardness, moral laxness, and worst yet, the cultural and at times political domination of its enemies on the one hand and great problems such as those of Palestine, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Kashmir, Bosnia - Herzegovina, the Caucasus, and other on the other hand offer a long list of divine and human responsibilities to the governments, political dignitaries, and leaders of the Islamic world.

Today, we should take the initiative. So far, the enemy has always held the initiative, and we have, at most, complained.

In a historical process comprised of dozens of initiatives of the enemy, Palestine has been turned into the personal belonging of the Zionists. First, Palestinian lands were purchased. Then the immigrant Zionists were armed. Afterwards, civil war raged, and Palestine's dismemberment was declared. Then new parts of that Islam and Arab country were conquered and occupied, and ultimately it was usurped entirely while parts of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan were also annexed to it.

Up to this point, the Arab neighbours of Palestine have only once held the initiative. And that was the October 1973 attack by Syria and Egypt during the holy month of Ramazan. This attack did not reach full results due to the cooperation of the U.S. with Israel and inaction of the Islamic countries; nonetheless, it was a source of honour for the Arab upheld and preserved our national unity in an unprecedented way and enhanced public involvement in the affairs contrary to the claims and innate wishes of our enemies. The brilliant presidential elections this year was an example of this daily increasing public involvement (in the affairs).

The government is united and uniform and all officials are

cordial with one another. Confidence and self-reliance are the major decisive factors in all our academic, political, economic, and cultural endeavours. Possessed of this belief in our selves, which Imam Khomeini taught us, we have been able to reconstruct and rehabilitate a ruined and backward country left from the Pahlavi era and made even more ruined during the eight-year-long imposed war. We witness the same endeavour in some other brotherly countries as well.

If co-ordination of these efforts requires a hub, we now have it at our disposal: the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). We should glance at this Organisation and its future prospects.

3. Organisation of the Islamic conference (OIC) and Future Prospects

Today, 27 years have lapsed since a fire broke out in Masjid at - Aqsa, an event which resulted in the set-up of the OIC. We shoulder the duty of the founders of this Organisation and voicing

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference should, moreover, be able to establish the interparliamentary union of the Islamic countries and translate the idea of the common Islamic market from a far-fetched dream to reality.

But political dignity and power are of greatest importance. Our nation and government have eradicated the influence and intervention of the foreigners in their country by recourse to Islam. Nowadays, the Islamic *ummah* is avid for that self-confidence and for this dignity and independence. And all of us should muster efforts to this end. This is a historical responsibility. Today, the ground is paved for fulfilment of this duty and for acquisition of dignity, power, and full independence of the world of Islam.

appreciation to them.

But the world's present conditions expose the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to more serious expectations as compared with those of the past. This Organisation can be the symbol of true unity of the Muslim countries in the face of events and common interests.

It can speak on behalf of its members, make demands, carry out requisite measures, and enjoy their financial, economic and political backing. It can serve as troubleshooting liaison among its

members. Whenever measures and activities for an enormous task and a common objective require co-ordination, the Organisation can act as the co-ordinator. Where needed, it can engage in arbitration, and when beneficial, it can offer advice and consultations.

At present, though the world of Islam has a share of less than 20 percent of the global trade - which is the approximate ratio of Muslims compared to the overall world population - very insignificant percentage of this amount is devoted to trade among the Islamic states.

The Organisation can play an active role in this effective economic area, which will have impacts on politics of these countries as well.

Currently, some of our countries enjoy precious natural and productive facilities, as well as academic, industrial, and cultural capacities and capabilities, while some other countries are in dire need of these. The Organisation can seriously intervene in fostering a logical and just exchange of these facilities.

Today and forever, large groups of Muslims are inflicted by heart-aching pains that entail immediate solution and panacea. For instance, at present, some Afghan states, such as Bamian, are exposed to public starvation and terribly cold winter conditions. The people of Iraq are gripped by one of the most difficult problems in their history due to scarcity of foodstuff and medicine. Lives of millions of human beings, especially children, are threatened there. In Algeria, the most gruesome crimes are perpetrated by covert hands to accuse the Islamists with them and to defile Islam. In Bosnia, Kashmir, Somalia, Karabakh and some other regions, the Muslims are beset with problems.

The Organisation of the

Islamic Conference and set up special committees to see to these issues and solve the tangles with an effective measure in which all members have a share.

To activate the Organisation in issues related to the member states, we need no one and nothing, except public will and financial donations of the rich Islamic countries. The possible opposition of governments that stand to lose from Muslim Unity will not be able to create any barriers along the way, if our resolve is firm.

When the Muslim people of the Balkans were barbarically subjected to genocide and when the nation was standing alone and defending its Islamic identity in the face of the Organised military invasion of some countries and the indifference of other countries, the need for such a centre was felt to allay a part of the sufferings of those brothers and to significantly tilt the balance of global equations in favour of that oppressed nation.

Right now, the presence of foreign warships and more importantly the U.S. military muscle flexing in the Persian Gulf, which is an Islamic Sea and important source of energy for the entire world, is faced with insecurity. A powerful Organisation of Islamic conference can on the one hand use the medium of Islamic power and dignity to force the aliens to dispense with this intervention and on the other hand eliminate the pretexts for this improper presence (in the region). The Organisation can, when need, deploy forces from the Islamic countries to preserve and safeguard peace and security in this area.

At present, Muslim minorities are intensely in pain in some countries due to discrimination, oppression, and discriminatory treatments. It is incumbent on all

Muslims to aid and assist them. But in order to offer serious and acceptable assistance within the framework of international relations, we are in need of an Islamic inter-nation centre. And which centre can be more adequate than the Organisation of the Islamic Conference? There are scores of incomplete and half done enterprises, each of which is the duty of all Islamic governments. I only mentioned some examples. In all these instances, no Islamic government can fill the vacuum for an Islamic inter-government centre.

Brothers and Dear Guests,

Let us benefit from the opportunities with succour of the Al-mighty and gain greater proximity. Let us strengthen and cement the centre than binds us together. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference should be able to follow up its resolutions until full implementation so that such meetings would be fructifying for our nations.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference should, moreover, be able to establish the interparliamentary union of the Islamic countries and translate the idea of the common Islamic market from a far-fetched dream to reality. It should lay the foundations for the Islamic arbitration tribunal. And finally as the representative of 55 Islamic countries and one billion and several million people, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference should become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and be the sixth member with veto right so long as this right exists.

This was an account of the future prospects of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, and this can delineate and depict the future prospects of the Islamic ummah.

And peace be upon you, and the mercy, and blessings of Allah.