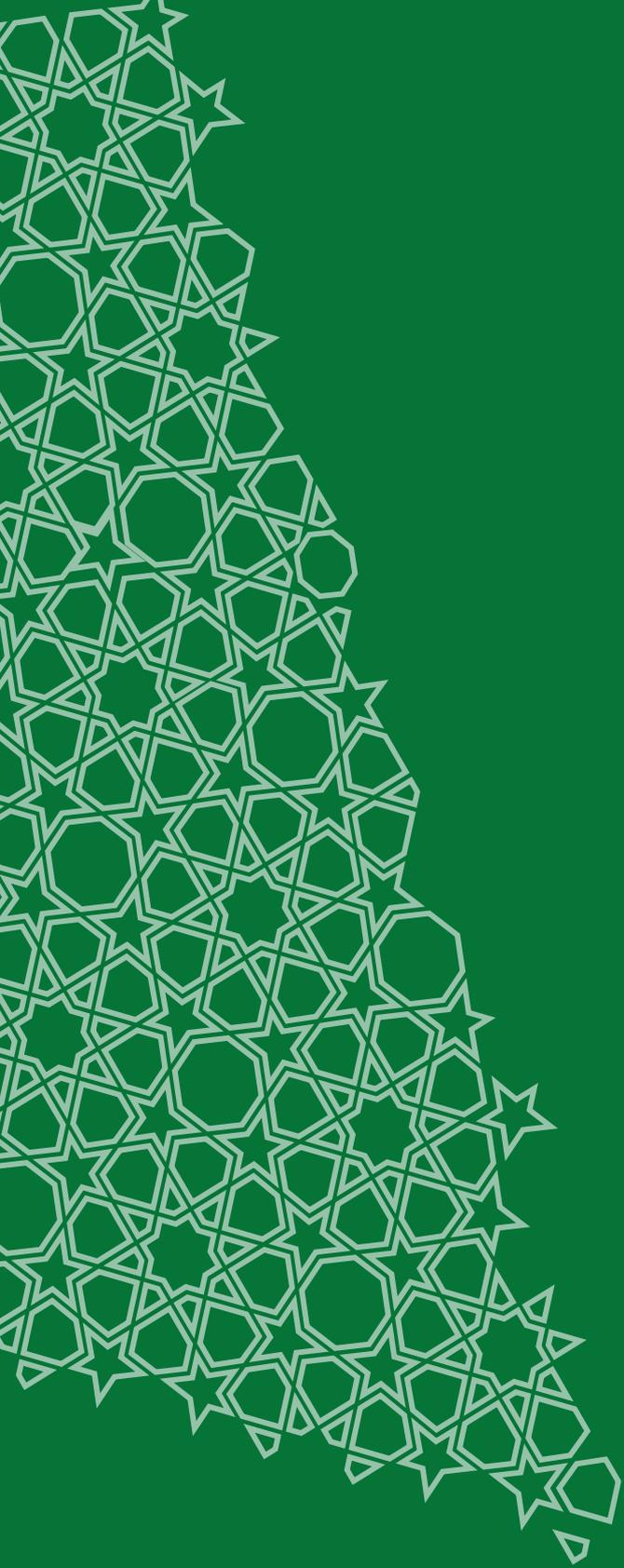




وكالة بيت مال القدس الشريف
Agence Bayt Mal Al Quds Acharif
Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency

**Final Communiqué
of the Trusteeship Committee
of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency
In It's Second Session
Rabat, 22-23 June, 2001**



**FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE
OF BAYT MAL AL QUDS ASHARIF AGENCY
IN IT'S SECOND SESSION
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The Trusteeship Committee of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency held its second session on, 29-30 Rabi al Awwal 1422, corresponding to 22-23 June, 2001 in the ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco. This meeting was attended by the following member countries:

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Senegal, the State of Palestine and the Kingdom of Morocco as well as the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Director General of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency.

The meeting was presided over by His Excellency Mohammed Benaissa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in the Kingdom of Morocco and present chair of the Trusteeship Committee. His Excellency Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister was appointed rapporteur for the meeting. After the adoption of the proposed agenda, the delegates listened to the address by His Excellency Mohammed Benaissa who confirmed the fact that His Majesty the late Hassan the Second had called for the creation of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency because His Majesty felt the need to protect the city and its holy shrines before it was too late. This was also an expression of the collective will of Islamic countries to defend the legitimate and firm rights of Muslims in Al Quds Asharif. Mr Benaissa also insisted on His Majesty Mohammed the Sixth concern as chairman of the Al Quds Committee on the backing of the Palestinian cause in general and Al Quds Asharif in particular. Mr Benaissa added that His Majesty the King follows very closely the works of this Agency. Moreover, the minister called upon the governments of member states, funding institutions and individuals to provide further financial support and help to the Agency so that it can implement the agreed upon projects in Al Quds. This effort, the minister continued, will complement other Arab and Islamic initiatives undertaken to preserve the Arab Islamic identity of Al Quds and in order to enable the Palestinian people to save what is left in terms of infrastructure.

Another concern, Mr Benaissa insisted, was to support national Palestinian institutions within an independent Palestinian state whose capital is Al Quds Asharif At the end of his address, the Moroccan Foreign Affairs minister invited the distinguished delegates to read Al Fatiha in respect of the souls of Palestinian martyrs including leader Fayçal Al Housseini.

His Excellency Mr Abdelwahed Belkziz, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, took the floor next. He began by blessing the soul of the late King Hassan the Second who devoted much of his time to the question of Al Quds. Mr Belkziz said the meeting is important to make the inhabitants of Al Quds feel that their Islamic Umma stands on their side to support them in their courageous fight. He also said that the task for this Committee is important indeed and as such will have far reaching history repercussions and consequences, which will be reflected in deciding the fate of Al Quds and its future for us and for future generations of the Islamic Umma. This puts the responsibility on the shoulders of the Islamic Uma as a whole.

The next speaker was His Excellency Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, Palestinian Foreign Minister. Mr Kaddoumi gave a detailed description of the difficult situation faced by the Palestinian people due to what Zionists exert on them, and the thorough warfare they wage on them using all kinds of weapons including those banned by the international community. However, the Palestinian people are facing the enemy with courage and determination until the fulfillment of their national objectives to return and to decide on their fate thus establishing an independent Palestinian state with Al Quds as its capital. Mr Kaddoumi appealed to Arab and Islamic countries to stand firm and provide financial and political support to Intifada. The Palestinian minister saluted Morocco and its King, chairman of Al Quds Committee for his permanent support of the Palestinian cause and for hosting Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency which was created on the initiative of the late King Hassan the Second in order to preserve Al Quds Asharif within Palestinian sovereignty. He underscored that this institution is playing an important role in order to preserve Al Quds as well as Islamic and Christian holy shrines and that it supervises the implementation of important projects relative to housing, education and health which require further financial and human resources for it to realize such noble objectives.

The head of the delegation of the Republic of Senegal began by apologizing for the absence of the Foreign Minister of his country due

to official engagements. He then spoke about the work undertaken by Senegal at the United Nations in order to defend the Palestinian cause in its capacity as chair of the Committee for the defense of the Palestinian people's rights. He concluded by expressing thanks to Morocco, the King of Morocco and the Moroccan government and people for hosting Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif.

The head of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed an invitation to the Director General of the Agency to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran in the near future in order to expose the projects that he deems are urgent to implement.

The head of the delegation of Saudi Arabia commended the support given to the Palestinian cause and to Al Quds by His Majesty the chairman of Al Quds Committee. He said that continued support of the Palestinian people in Al Quds Asharif will be, God willing, an important weapon to stop Israel from implementing its plans to judaize the city of Al Quds. This challenge imposes on the Islamic Umma to join efforts and to collaborate in financing the Agency's projects in addition to supporting other Arab and Islamic institutions which also aim at realizing these objectives.

The Islamic Development Bank delegate expressed the Bank's readiness to hold talks with the Agency in order to agree on projects for Al Quds Asharif to be jointly funded with the Al Aqsa and Intifada fund and the IDB within the framework of efforts aiming at preserving the Arab and Islamic identity of Al Quds, including support to education, health and housing. He invited the Agency's Director General to pay a visit to IDB headquarters in Jeddah in order to strengthen cooperation and the mechanisms for implementing joint projects to be funded.

The distinguished delegates then listened to the Agency's Director General Report which gave a vivid description of the current situation in Al Quds Asharif. He described life in various parts of the city and what was needed to support the steadfastness of its inhabitants in order to preserve its Arab identity especially following the onset of the blessed Al Aqsa Intifada which is nothing but the result of an escalation of highly dangerous Israeli violations. The Director General gave a supplementary presentation of the Agency's financial situation and its activities and realizations since its last meeting. He also highlighted a number of vital new projects in education, housing and restoration and detailed the required amounts for the implementation of urgent projects in order to face the present situation which is becoming more and more difficult following Israeli aggression against the inhabitants of Al Quds.

After consideration of the report of the Expert Committee, the Trusteeship Committee approved the following recommendations:

1- The Committee examined the programs implemented by Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency in the fields of housing and rehabilitation, education, and health. While commending the efforts endeavored by the Directorate General in discharging of its duties in the city of Al Quds Asharif, the Committee recommends to transform the US 1 million dollars earmarked for revolving credits destined to rehabilitation into the building of new dwellings through personal revolving credits.

2- While commending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its commitment to execute specific projects in the field of education for an amount of 2 US million dollars, the Committee recommends the Islamic countries and public and private institutions to :

- address their attention onto this important aspect, impacting directly on the steadfastness of future generations of the first of the two qiblas and the third of the Holy shrines;

- undertake the building of new schools and the maintenance and equipping of existing ones, thereby fostering the schooling of the children of Al Quds Asharif in the national schools, pursuant to the national educational curricula, as well as raising US 5 million dollars, within next year's ministry of education budget to be partly spent on these projects on the basis of priority.

3- The Committee studied the personal loan project, aimed at allowing the Palestinian land-owners to build their houses on their lands. It also studied the collective housing project proposed by the Palestinian Housing Council in Al Quds Asharif. The Committee highlighted the importance of allowing the refugees of Al Quds Asharif to regain their city, therefore making it possible to meet the increasing demographic requirements of the city of Al Quds and maintaining its specific housing, religious and civilizational identities. On the other hand, the honorable Committee recommends the Board of Directors of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency to examine the method of managing the budgets necessary for the execution of these projects, whose amount is US 10 million dollars for each of these two projects.

4- The Committee studied the projects presented by Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency in the fields of health for an amount of US 3.083.190 dollars. Furthermore, the Committee felt the necessity of executing such

projects which are vital for the support of the perseverance of the inhabitants of Al Quds Asharif. The Committee recommended the Board of Directors to study and decide on these projects.

5- The Committee entrusts the Directorate General of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency with expanding its practical activities within the financial resources available in the economic, cultural and social fields and presenting a plan of action thereon to the honorable members of the Board of Directors at its next meeting which will decide on the budgets needed for their implementation.

6- After reading its budget for the year 2000, the Agency noticed that the crushing majority of the donations of States, institutions and individuals were limited to a very small number of Islamic countries, especially the Kingdom of Morocco, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Pakistan. While thanking these countries, the Committee recalls that the responsibility of protecting the holy land is that of all Muslims. It further incites OIC member states to implement the decisions of the 9th OIC meeting, held in Qatar, and of the Islamic countries' foreign Ministers Conference of Ouagadougou and Kuala Lumpur and Doha, and the recommendations of the Al Quds Committee 15,16, 17 and 18th meetings for the support of the programs and the budgets of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency, by fostering voluntary participation into the Agency and allowing it to open donations' accounts in its respective countries and encouraging private, public, official and civil institutions to supply these accounts, thereby allowing the Directorate General of the Agency to finance the information campaigns necessary for the achievement of this noble goal.

7- The Committee requested the Islamic donor countries and agencies to offer financial support for the execution of the projects initiated by the Agency in the City of Al Quds Asharif, in coordination with the Agency, with an eye to guaranteeing a comprehensive planning and a complementary action in the different activities within Al Quds Asharif.

8- The Committee has taken note of the ongoing endeavors by the Directorate General of the Agency in contacting specialized Arab and Islamic organizations with which it concluded agreements of understanding and which it exhorted to put such agreements into effect. It further invites those organizations which have not yet entered into such agreements to cooperate with the Agency for the implementation of its programs.

9- The Committee took cognizance of the report of the auditors on the budget of the Agency for the year 2000, and noted with much satisfaction the significant efforts made by the Agency to trim the costs and to streamline the expenditures under the operating budget for the year under review. It further recommends the exclusion of the returns on investments of the forthcoming year in last year's budget, as well as submitting a report thereon to the Board of Directors' meeting.

10- The Committee studied the draft operating budget for 2001 as proposed by the Directorate General. While taking satisfactory note of the efforts made by the Agency to decrease the pattern of operating expenses, the committee recommended the Board of Directors to adopt this budget.

11- The Committee recommended the setting up of high level delegations from among the members of Al Quds Asharif Committee in order to pay visits to OIC member states in order to clarify the mission of the Agency and the purpose for which it was created as well as the various activities it undertakes. It also urges States, private and public institutions to cooperate with the Agency in its efforts to implement the vital projects initiated by the latter.

12- The committee commends the invitation extended to the Agency's director general by the Islamic Republic of Iran to pay a visit to Teheran in the nearest future to expose projects to agree on the funding of some of them.

13- The committee commended the invitation extended by the Islamic Development Bank to the Agency's director general to pay a visit to the Bank's headquarters in Jeddah to agree on projects to be implemented in Al Quds and to consider funding possibilities.

14- The committee expresses thanks to the director general of Bayt Mal Al Quds Asharif Agency for the efforts deployed in order to prepare this meeting and for preparing the necessary documents, and for providing valuable clarifications during the works of the committee.

15- The committee expresses its sincere thanks and gratitude to his majesty Mohamed VI, king of Morocco and chairman of Al Quds Committee for his support of Bayt Mal Al Quds Alsharif Agency, and his support to this meeting. The committee's thanks are also extended to the Moroccan government for the hospitality provided to the participating delegations.

