Tobacco Control, Harm Reduction Programme and Research Ethics

The first Kuala Lumpur OIC Health Ministerial Conference held under the patronage of Dato’ Seri Abdullah Hj Ahmad Badawi, the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Chairman of the 10th Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, in Malaysia on 12-15 June 2007, having examined the reports from speakers in the field of current topics of international interests; having heard relevant statements and reports of Senior Officers of Health of Member States and international organizations; and taking note of the statements and reports made by the Member States and international organization; recognizing any upsurge in cases of infectious diseases in a given country is of potential concern for the international community; noting the importance of the contribution of shared responsibilities and collective defenses to international public health security; respecting human rights; recognizing that OIC as a whole is economically disadvantaged in the trade of tobacco; recognizing that tobacco epidemic is one of the greatest global threats to health; recognizing that smoking has been associated with increased mortality from diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and respiratory diseases; recognizing that some Member States have passed legislation on tobacco consumption; recognizing the importance of the SESRTCIC report on tobacco control in OIC Member States as a reference study; recognizing that effective intervention of the Needle Syringe Exchange programme (NSEP) will reduce the number of HIV/AIDS cases; recognizing that Harm Reduction programme is feasible and proven to be successful in some OIC Member States; recognizing that investing in drugs for marginalised population groups (such as people who inject illicit drugs) may not bring profit for the pharmaceutical companies but in fact may cause a deterioration in their public image; respecting human rights in clinical trials; recognizing the ISESCO report on ethics in clinical trials on marginalized population; appreciating and
thanking the ISESCO for taking all the measures and efforts regarding bioethics and medical ethics;

Hereby

1. URGES OIC Member States to:

   (1) implement International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 to achieve health security in the world;

   (2) adopt the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke;

   (3) introduce Legislation as the core element for effective tobacco control;

   (4) engage religious leaders to harness religious concepts against tobacco and substance use in prevention strategy;

   (5) cooperate with the SESRTCIC and the IDB through suitable training programs on getting technical assistance for the implementation of effective and sustainable national tobacco control strategies and programs as well as for establishing appropriate legal framework in order to attain the vision embodied in the WHO - FCTC;

   (6) introduce the Harm Reduction Programme aimed at reducing adverse health;

   (7) develop ethical guidelines on research on human subjects;

   (8) develop technical monitoring capacity for compliance with research ethics;

   (9) develop and implement effective interventions to reduce HIV/AIDS by year 2010.