

Speech by IEA Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi at the 51st OIC Ministerial Meeting

22 June 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد، وعلى آله وأصحابه أجمعين أما بعد

Excellency Hussein Ibrahim Taha,

Honorable Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Honorable Brother Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye,

Distinguished Ministers and Representatives of Member and Observer States,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh,

Excellencies,

We are gathered at a time when the world, particularly our region, is undergoing profound shifts and transformations that requires timely and responsible attention.

Like myself, statements by all speakers would be focused on the tragedy of Gaza and other global issues, but the Israeli attack on Iran last week has forced me to open my remarks with this issue.

Even before the Gaza tragedy could come to an end, a new crisis has erupted in our region: Israel's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran!

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan strongly condemns the recent attacks by Israel on the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the killing of Iranian military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. These actions are blatant violations of fundamental principles of international law, particularly the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

Our region has been exhausted by imposed wars. It simply cannot withstand another crisis or conflict.

Excellencies,

The global order is moving from a unipolar system toward a new structure, wherein globalization is facing reactions and regional and cultural identities are gaining prominence. While this transition undoubtedly presents challenges, its opportunities must not be overlooked. As the Islamic world, we now have a vital opportunity to unite around our shared Islamic values and heritage.

The Islamic world is presently confronting emerging challenges significantly hindering our path to advancement and reconstruction. These challenges range from political and economic issues to identity crises, which have driven many of our youth into a troubling state of despair. It is now imperative for the Islamic world to thoroughly examine the underlying causes of this stagnation and to formulate a common identity for future generations that emulates not foreign models, but draws proudly from our rich Islamic history and civilization.

Excellencies,

Our gathering takes place at a time when brutal atrocities and the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people by the occupying regime is intensifying across Palestine, especially in Gaza. This situation serves as a historic test for the global order, human values, and legal mechanisms, which unfortunately have largely failed. Beyond this failure, the current illegitimate occupation poses a grave threat not only to the Islamic world but to global peace and security as a whole. It must never be underestimated.

I call on the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to bring an end to the Israeli regime's atrocity in Palestine and Iran. Failure to do so would pose a direct threat to the security of all countries in the region and lead to devastating consequences.

The Israeli occupying regime, in clear violation of all international laws and humanitarian principles, is waging a ruthless war aimed at exterminating an oppressed nation and erasing thousands of years of history. The continuation of such situation is not only a major humanitarian tragedy seeking the elimination of the Palestinian people, but also a serious threat to global peace and stability in the 21st century. Taking urgent and

practical steps against this threat is an inescapable obligation of the collective human conscience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The political, economic, and civilizational realities of the Islamic world provide us the opportunity to assume a role not merely as observers, but to play an impactful and trailblazing role in the new international order in line with Islamic principles. This gathering should serve not only as a venue for documenting challenges, but as a starting point for laying down action plans, unified positions, and innovative solutions. If the Islamic countries have resolute political will, adopt Islamic brotherhood, collaboration, and cooperation as a foundation, they will not only uphold the dignity of their nations but also influence global decision-making.

Excellencies,

Afghanistan, after decades of conflict, occupation, and foreign interferences, has now by the Grace and Favor of Allah Almighty entered a phase of independence, stability, and reconstruction under the shade of an Islamic system.

Praise be to Allah, Afghanistan is making unprecedented progress in unity, security, institutionalization, economic growth, and the restoration of foreign relations in accordance with Islamic teachings and Shariah principles.

Afghanistan is no longer a country defined by conflict and regression. We stand at the beginning of a new chapter in our history. The one that, after ensuring security, sovereignty, and national unity, opens new opportunities for progress, cooperation, and regional connectivity according to Islamic principles. We seek to define this opportunity with the Islamic countries through joint economic, cultural, and strategic projects grounded in our shared Islamic faith.

Excellencies,

Afghanistan is currently facing unlawful economic sanctions imposed by certain Western nations. Allow me to highlight that after two decades of war in Afghanistan, the United States has frozen the national assets of the Afghan people, which has created challenges for Afghanistan's organic economic growth.

Once again, I call upon the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its member states to ensure the unconditional and immediate release of Afghanistan's frozen central bank reserves. On the basis of Islamic and human responsibility, I urge you to use your full influence to advocate for the removal of the economic and political restrictions placed on the Islamic Emirate.

Distinguished Representatives,

As a free country committed to religious values, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has based its foreign relations on the principles of mutual respect and balanced engagement, and seeks to open a new chapter of interaction grounded in mutual cooperation, dignity, and positivity.

On behalf of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, I propose that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in line with its responsibilities, to support the reconstruction and economic development of those member states that have now entered a phase of stability. Afghanistan is one of them, located at the heart of Asia, and stands ready to serve as a vital gateway for transit, trade, and economic connectivity among Islamic nations. We are prepared to play a constructive role within the OIC's strategic economic agenda, particularly in the areas of regional connectivity, energy, logistics, and investment.

To conclude, I once again emphasize the need for urgent, serious, and practical measures to end the heart-rending crisis in Palestine and Israel's attacks against Iran, especially the ongoing atrocities in Gaza, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and the commencement of reconstruction efforts.

Thank you for your attention.

Wassalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.