

Opening Statement of H.E. Dr Ghashghavi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran

**15-17 April 2013
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

In the name of God

Dear Chairman

Dear Participants

By courtesy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran and by myself, I would like to appreciate from Census Organization of Islamic Republic of Iran as host and welcome to all ladies and gentlemen, representatives of census organizations of member states of Islamic Conference Organization as well as other respected guests, ambassadors and diplomats attended in this meeting, members of International Organizations, respected representatives of Islamic Conference Organization, and respected people and hope success for this meeting to attaining its goals.

I also wish good and pleasant staying for our guests in Tehran.

Convergence is considered as a relatively new theory in the field of International Relations Studies. This theory is a result of thought and vision of some groups who attempted for making international organizations, whether economic, political and social to assist reducing the regional conflicts and disputes by making a cooperative environment among states.

Although, historically tendency to solidarity was one of the effective methods for attaining distinct and common objectives, but tendency to convergence, of its new type, is considered as prominent properties of 20th century, particularly recent half century. Contemporary world has turned to a very competitive world in all its facets as well as its political, economic, cultural, and social and security dimensions and no country may not keep itself away from such competitive space and cooperation and convergence may have its meaning in the framework of such competition.

In today's globalized world, no state can individually overcome its international issues, therefore, by sharing their values and capabilities, states take action to make multilateral coalitions. One can see such regionalism approach in Europe and Asia in the framework of successful and efficient unions such as EU and Asian Union. Cooperation in such regional blocks considerably assisted member states to overcome their different political, security, economic, social and citizenship issues. Formation of EU as a successful convergence model caused increased population movement along internal borders of union.

By sharing demographics, member states increased their cooperation in judiciary and civil fields, common actions for combating with unwanted flow of immigrations to Europe and attaining similar approaches in different fields to combat with challenges facing.

Although, by its orders, Islam invites Islamic Nations to unity and unanimity, but unfortunately, in modern Islamic communities, this cooperation has less been practical and

followed by losing many opportunities for promoting modern Islamic feature because of ignorance of Islamic states. In current era, western states particularly are trying hard to link Islam with hateful subjects such as terrorism and human rights violation. Therefore Islamic countries need new methods such as convergence and forming transnational communities for increasing the level of national power and common problem solving. Islamic world enjoys many linking factors such as geopolitical capabilities, commercial capabilities and religious and cultural similarities. Above mentioned factors provide Islamic countries with this opportunity to provide the conditions for making unity and convergence among themselves using a model proportional with status quo in Islamic world.

Convergence in Islamic world can leads Islamic communities towards Islamic Unity Principle and making and promoting love among Muslims and Islamic communities one of the fundamentals for making Islamic unity and reviving this property is accounted as a factor removing prejudice and mythical nationalism as stressed by Islamic Prophet (peace be upon him).

For example Islamic Prophet says: (رخآلا امه ادحا لسغي نيديلا لثم نيوخالا لثم), i.e. two religious brothers are the same as two friends, each washes another, cooperate with each other and cleanse themselves.

Today, Islamic world needs a model with capability of combating with convergence barriers. Such model naturally must benefit from permeability theory. For convergence, Islamic world benefits from many capabilities and opportunities including religious and cultural similarities. Islam, indeed as a common religion, is the greatest opportunity of Islamic world and a model for convergence. Islamic convergence as an undeniable necessity in Islamic World plays fundamental role in empowering the Muslims.

To attain such idea, convergence must be beyond words and mottos with its actual symbols evident in Muslims world. Then, one can hope that Islamic unity can find its way among different classes of society. Imam Khomeini Fatwa for practice for Shiites, according to traditional methods among Sunnis and congregation is resulted from the same unity pro view.

Consulate affairs, registration and personal affairs are among the fields that their convergence will directly address citizens of Islamic countries and develops communications of people in Islamic countries and make friendship among Islamic nations.

As a fundamental principle for registration, Islam considers very high importance and situation for forming the identity of Muslims in current world. In Islam identity has linked to religion and makes a unique identity called "Islamic Identity". According to Islam, all racial, cultural and national identities are servicing Religious Identity, for this reason, Muslims must consider their religious identity higher than all other identities. Islamic identity is higher identity layer among Muslims and beyond geographical barriers and physical drawbacks and modern governmental divisions causes a great and integrated identity in a worldwide word, called "Islamic Nation" and links Muslims through the world as a great and dynamic body. This main principle must be considered as a basis for consulate cooperation and registration

issues of Islamic countries by which regulations can be integrated and formalized in Islamic countries.

Islamic Republic of Iran that taken its legality from Islam with a mission of reviving Islamic values is always defending Islamic convergence and empathy as well as developing the cooperation with Islamic countries as well as defending from the idea of common development of Islamic nations. One can seek the incentive of Iranian people for maximum Islamic cooperation in the first days of entering Islam to Iran. Historically, the first courts established in Islamic era is Court of Properties Registration and Recording and Preparing Financial Affairs of Muslims as well as Court for Registering and Recording Residents and Hosts Names called “Sepah Court”, established by Iranian people.

For this reason, I provided following recommendations for attaining the goals of Islamic unity and hope attended by respected participants:

Integrating executive mechanisms of Islamic rules in member states: cooperation between Islamic countries in consulate affairs such as personal status that is a set of descriptions related to human personal affairs such as marriage, divorce and genealogy. And it can close Islamic Conference Organization a step towards its objectives. In personal status, Islamic nations mainly follow Islamic law in both status and population; therefore, they have similar regulations in four events (birth, marriage, divorce and death) and other affairs related to registration such as custody of children, duties, children affairs,... such contextual similarity could reflect itself in similar and unique executive mechanisms; therefore, Islamic countries provided with this opportunity to integrate their civil documents obtained from Islamic values while cooperating more for recognizing the regulations applied in other Islamic nations.

Integrating identity cards and ID cards in member states: birth certificate or ID card that is the main identity document of any member of a society can indicate the membership of an individual in Islamic nation. Form and content integration of ID card in Islamic nations, inserting similar and standard ID data among all Islamic nations, necessity for inserting beneficial Islamic data such as birth date in Lunar date and Islamic date and making a unique form for ID card with Islamic and unique shape are among mechanisms that can make empathy and convergence among Muslims without interference of governments.

Cooperation for preparing the regulations and recognizing procedures applied in other Islamic countries are also considered as fields that can develop cooperation among consulates of Islamic nations. Immigration among Islamic countries has turned today to making Muslim Immigrants minorities. Islamic Republic of Iran for many years is a host for Iraqi and Afghan Immigrants. Similar situation can be seen in other Islamic countries. Such immigrant populations proportional with their national regulations are following from regulations of their country of origin. Difference in regulations of Islamic countries, particularly in consulate affairs, such as marriage and divorce in all Islamic nations follow from Islamic regulations and make many problems that must be considered in such meeting.

Processing and studying and data sharing among Islamic nations and enjoying from such data for common training, industrial and economic planning as well as sharing human resources

among member states can be considered as a cornerstone for development of Islamic countries.

Making similar Identity Codes for citizens of member states, forming workgroups for consulate cooperation to integrate ID Card procedures, verification and formalizing the ID card of an Islamic country in other parts that cooperation in those filed will also be useful.

Islamic Republic of Iran supports of any movement towards more convergence, particularly developing the cooperation in the field of registration among Islamic nations and for this reason and along with cooperation among member states, it proposes to form consulate cooperation committee in Islamic Conference Organization. Forming Consulate Cooperation Committee for long time may make strategic convergence among Islamic nations.

It must be mentioned that consulate department of Ministry of foreign affairs not only in Islamic Conference Organization but also by using other regional and international capacities is always seeking for developing cooperation and convergence idea. For example, in the framework of ECO Alliance that ten member states of Islamic Conference Organization have membership, not is progressing plans for providing ECO Alliance visa and movement towards integrating procedures and mechanisms and making common visa labels among member states of this alliance.

Finally, I hope such meeting could attain successful experience from regional cooperation and convergence with hope of seeing next firm steps of members to attaining success of Islamic Cooperation Organization.