

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mission Permanente d'Observation
de l'Organisation de la Conference Islamique
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève



Permanent Observer Mission
of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
to the United Nations Office in Geneva

البعثة المراقبة الدائمة لمنظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة بجنيف

Succinct report

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. António Guterres briefed the OIC Group in Geneva (19th September 2008)

On September 19th 2008, the OIC Group in Geneva in its monthly Ambassadorial meeting received the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. António Guterres in which he briefed the meeting on the UNHCR and OIC cooperation in the field of humanitarian affairs.

Mr. António Guterres stated that the OIC is the most important partner in UNHCR. The bigger number of refugees is hosted by the OIC member states. Some of the OIC member states also are important donor in UNHCR. Moreover, the concept of hosting and sheltering refugees is deeply rooted in the Islamic law although it is not well known in the western society. Therefore, a joint project is underway with Arab League for documenting the Islamic law concerning refugees. It will be published in Arabic, English and French.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. António Guterres also reiterated the importance of continuing contacts with the OIC Group in Geneva as well as with the OIC Office in Geneva on regular bases in order to deepen dialogue and cooperation between the OIC and UNHCR. He also hoped that long over due conference on refugees in the Islamic world take place in Islamabad as soon as the host country is ready.

Mr. António Guterres in his briefing touched up on some of the undergoing reforming efforts in UNHCR such as simplifying reporting mechanism, application of the new system of mobilization of human and financial resources, creating the Global Training Service center in order to de centralizing the UNHCR's activities.

Briefing of Mr. António Guterres was followed by intervention of number of representatives of the OIC member states in which they supported his efforts in reforming the Agency. They also appreciated the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' desire for deepening cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat as well as with the OIC member states.
