Statement

of

the OIC Secretary General

at

the OIC-CERT Annual Conference 2016
Towards Cyber Resilient Ummah

Jeddah, KSA

11 December 2016

Excellencies,
Members of OIC-CERT,
Distinguished speakers, participants
and Guests,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

At the outset, let me welcome you all to the Headquarters of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as well as to Jeddah, the gateway to the two most holy places for the Muslim Ummah. I thank you all to be able to make time to join us for the OIC-CERT Annual Conference 2016 under a very pertinent theme "Towards Cyber Resilient Ummah".

The OIC-CERT draws its mandate as well as strength from the OIC resolution on "Collaboration of Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) among the OIC member Countries adopted in Kampala, Uganda by the 35th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in June 2008.

Terrorism is the enemy of all mankind. It has no borders, creed, race or faith. It is simply a crime driven by hate and destruction. Islam considers terrorism as one of the most heinous crimes against humanity for which it stipulates severe punishment that intends to protect the sanctity of human life and to preserve the society against intimidation and unjust aggression.

You are all aware as well as concerned with the emergence of ever evolving new patterns and trend in international terrorism and violent extremism particularly cyber terrorism and crime in the area of cyberspace.

In this connection, the OIC-CERT was established to provide a platform for member countries to explore and to develop collaborative initiatives and possible partnerships in matters pertaining to cyber security that shall strengthen their self-reliance in the cyberspace.

Distinguished participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

In today's world, very fast development of technologies and faster and easier access to them at one hand, is making our life easier and more comfortable. However, on other hand, these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of member states to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields, such as cyberattacks, hack threats, intrusion worms, viruses or fraud. We all realize that the nature of the internet and cyberspace is not confined to the physical boundary of a country. Hence there is a strong need to strengthen the OIC-CERT, which is meant to establish cross border collaborations to share information and initiatives to counter cyber threats. As such, I urge the OIC Member States, who are not yet members to exert more efforts to join the OIC-CERT towards making this important mechanism more effective in dealing with cyber security issues.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to inform you that the OIC is in its way to establish a Cybersecurity Center preferably in 2017 with the objective of promoting and developing cooperation among OIC Member States to prevent, combat, and eliminate cyberterrorism, in

accordance with the principles of the OIC Charter, the OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, and with full respect to the sovereignty of Member States, the rule of law, international law, including human rights law.

Distinguished guests

I am very happy to learn that the four sessions of today is going to deliberate on four different but relevant themes for Cyber Security namely 1) Economic Impact of Cyber Breaches - What You Should Know? 2) Advanced Persistent Threats - What We Need To Watch Out? 3) Security Vs Convenience and 4) Cyber Incidents & Responses.

To this end, I wish your deliberations every success and hope that the outcome of the sessions will contribute in making our world safer and more secure against the scourge of cyber terrorism.

Thank you all.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh