CHAPTER III

THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC

COOPERATION IN SOLVING ROHINGYA PROBLEM

This chapter will explain about international organization and its objectives. Regarding to the study case, the writer will have concern on the subject which is the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. To get the line, the writer will identify step by step starting from the history of OIC, the objectives, the structure, the objectives and then the effort of OIC towards Rohingya problem. Those data are needed in order to know how far the OIC helps Rohingya regarding to their objective which is to protect Muslim’s right. Besides, the data are also to answer the 5w+1h questions according to the case of OIC in helping Rohingya problem.

According to Cambridge dictionary, organization is a group of people who work together in an organized way for a shared purpose. Organization is a group of people who have and share common interest. International organization works in international scope, with the international membership and the presence itself. So, international organization is a group of people in international scope who have common interest and most of them are interested in international issue.

History of international organization began along with congress of Vienna on Sept 1814 – June 1815. The development of Congress of Vienna 1815 has

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been followed up by the term of conference, then institutionalization. After that, the term international secretariat exists with the executive leadership roles. The first and the oldest international organization was Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine.

Usually international organization is established when the state will not do what they want to do and sometimes it is to prevent something that the state is unsure that they can prevent by themselves. The international organization is fully designed, supported and operated by the state or the state is the main actor to run the international organization. International organization requires three or more countries as the member state and number of member state is somehow related or depends on the issue. For example United Nation or the largest international organization in the world which was established to prevent world war III, which indirectly threatened the world security. Mac Kenzie identified the featured of international organizations:\footnote{Dykmann, K. (2010). The History of International Organization—what is new? In D. M. Kenzie, A World Beyond Borders : An Introduction to the history of International Organizations (pp. 79-82). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.}

- Actions related to a purpose although these goals can change
- International organizations serve as an arena
- International Organizations function as a clearing house for information

From what has been mentioned by Mac Kenzie, it is concluded that international organization will work based on its purpose, and it becomes a forum for the member states to help what cannot be solved by the member states and
international organization will be the place to solve the problem together with other member-state through helping each other.

Basically, international organizations have two types which are INGOs and IGOS. INGOs is Non-Governmental Organization in international scope. A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information. Some NGOs organize specific issues, such as human rights, environment or health and they provide analysis and expertise, and serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements.\(^\text{18}\)

IGOs or intergovernmental organization is more formal than INGOs and the member state is usually sovereign state. Intergovernmental organization is usually known as international organization even though actually international organization is the big scope that also embodies INGOs and MNC. An IGO is an organization composed primarily of sovereign states, or of other intergovernmental organizations. IGOs are established by treaty or other agreement that acts as a charter creating the group.\(^\text{19}\) Examples of


\(^{19}\) Union of International Associations. (1907). What is an intergovernmental organization (IGO)? Retrieved December 28, 2016, from Union of International Associations - Union des associations internationales: http://www.uia.org/faq/yb3
intergovernmental organization are United Nation, World Bank, NATO, European Union and Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

A. **History of Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

Organization of Islamic Cooperation is one of the IGOs that appertain to religion issue. Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second biggest international organization after United Nation, which consists of 57 countries as the member states and 5 countries as the observer over four continents. Basically there are just 25 over those 57 member states as the founding countries that establish the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as a result of criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. Basically, Organization of Islamic Cooperation was formerly the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation was established in Rabat, Kingdom of Marocco on 12\(^{th}\) Rajab 1389 in Islamic calendar or 25\(^{th}\) September 1969. Organization of Islamic Cooperation was ensuring to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.\(^{20}\) Organization of Islamic Cooperation kept their good relationship with other organization such as United Nation which is consultative and cooperative relations, USA and EU that have

permanent seat in OIC in influencing education and scientific matter and many others.

The OIC helps connect its member states with opportunities to participate in educational and scientific seminars and symposiums and long running programs. There are several sub-organizations within the OIC such as ISESCO, IAS, STIO and others. However, the information presented on the OIC website seemed disorganized and hence some details about the various sub-organization of OIC are particularly responsible for the education and scientific development which is expanded for the edification of the readers.21

The objectives of the OIC were mentioned in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Charter article 1 on 14th March 2008. It is used to replace the Charter of the OIC which is registered in the conformity with article 102 of the Charter UN on 1st February 1974.22 Most of the objectives mentioned in its charter is related to Muslim right, Muslim protection, humanitarian issue and anti-discrimination such as: **to combat defamation of Islam and encourage dialogue among civilizations and religions; to promote and to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights of women, children, youth, elderly and people with special needs as well as the preservation of Islamic family values; to safeguard the rights, dignity and religious and cultural identity of Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States; to promote inter-state

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relations based on justice, mutual respect and good neighborliness to ensure
global peace, security and harmony; to reaffirm its support for the rights of
peoples as stipulated in the UN Charter and international law.

B. Member States of Organization of Islamic Cooperation

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation consists of 57 member states. Basically there are just 25 states that agree to join the OIC since the first time or
known as the founder states while on 25 September 1969 the Islamic leaders were
gathered in Kingdom of Morocco related to accident attack in Al-Aqsa mosque.
The gathering now known as the first Islamic Summit and it produced the
decision to establish Organization of Islamic Conference/ Organization of Islamic
Cooperation. Those 25 states agreed to establish the OIC and until now the
member states develop until 57. They are the following;

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<th>No</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>JORDAN, AFGHANISTAN, INDONESIA, IRAN, PAKISTAN, Turkey, CHAD, TUNISIA, ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SUDAN, SOMALIA, GUINEA, PALESTINE, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBYA, MALI, MALAYSIA, EGYPT, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, NIGER, YEMEN</td>
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<td>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, BAHRAIN SYRIAN, SIERRA LEONE, OMAN, QATAR</td>
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<td>UGANDA, BANGLADESH, BURKINA-FASO, GABON, GAMBIA, GUINEA-BISSAU, CAMEROON</td>
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<td>IRAQ</td>
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<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
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<td>KAZAKHASTAN</td>
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<td>UZBEKISTAN, SURINAME</td>
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<td>COTE D’IVOIRE</td>
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*Source: (OIC, Member States)*

### C. Observers of Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Beside the member state, the OIC also has the observers. The observers can be in the form of states, Muslim communities, Islamic institutions and international organizations. The observer’s job is to observe the OIC and their work in addressing an issue. The members of observer as the state consists of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1994), Central African Republic (1996), Kingdom of Thailand (1998), The Russian Federation (2005), Turkish Cypriot State (1979). In Muslim communities there is Moro National Liberation Front (1977), while in Islamic Institution there is Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States – PUOICM (2000) and in International Organizations there are United Nations (1976), Non-Aligned Movement (1977), League of Arab States (1975), African Union (1977) and Economic Cooperation Organization (1995).

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D. Structure Of Organization Of Islamic Cooperation

Similar to the other organization or international organizations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation also has some organs in order to complement the structure of organization. Each body has its own duty and specific concentration. All the bodies work together to complete each other. The structure consists of following organs:

![Structure of Organization of OIC](image)

**Source:** (Abdulrahim)²⁵

OIC’s structure is led by a secretary general who is also the chief administrative officer of the organization and such staff as the organization requires. A secretary general leads seven main bodies with the branch such as General Secretariat as the executive body, Islamic Summit, Council of Foreign Ministers, the Standing Committees, Subsidiary Organs, Specialized Institution and Affiliated Institutions. OIC also supports education services to some Muslim countries in order to develop the human resources especially Muslim which are Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Islamic University Niger (IUN) and International Islamic university Malaysia (IIUM).

The secretary general of OIC is H.E. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen from Saudi Arabia, as the 11th secretary general. H.E. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen replaced Iyad bin Amin Madani since November 2016. The Secretary-General shall be elected by the Council of Foreign Ministers for a period of five years. The Secretary-General shall be elected from among nationals of the Member States in accordance with the principles of equitable geographical distribution, rotation and equal opportunity for all member states with due consideration to competence, integrity and experience.

OIC is composed of three main bodies which are General Secretariat, Council of Foreign Ministers and Islamic Summit. The General Secretariat is the OIC’s executive organ and is entrusted with implementing the decisions of OIC decision making bodies. The General Secretariat is composed of 12 departments that enhance the day-to-day operations of OIC. The General Secretariat works to
help and support the secretary general in his duties which have been listed on OIC charter.

The Islamic Summit is a regular agenda of OIC attended by kings, heads of states and the governments of member states, and is OIC’s supreme authority. It convenes once every three years to deliberate, take policy decisions, provide guidance on issues pertaining to the realization of objectives and consider other issues of concern to member states and the Ummah.

The Council of Foreign Ministers meets once a year and considers the means for the implementation of OIC’s general policy by adopting decisions and resolutions on matters of common interest in the implementation of the OIC’s objectives and general policy, and reviewing progress in the implementation of decisions and resolutions adopted at previous Islamic Summits and Councils of Foreign Ministers.

The Standing Committees are chaired by kings and heads of states and government and are established in accordance with decisions of the summit or upon the recommendation of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the membership of such committees. In order to advance issues of critical importance to the organization and its member states, the Organization has formed the following standing committees. Standing committees work in various fields such

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26 “Ummah” according to Arabic language is group of people and here is refers to whole Muslim. Dictionary. *Op. Cit.* search “Ummah”.

as political, economic, cultural, social, spiritual and scientific among member states.\textsuperscript{28}

The specialized institutions of the organization are established within the framework of the organization in accordance with the decisions of the Islamic Summit or Council of Foreign Ministers. There are six specialized institutions of the OIC. Membership of the specialized institutions shall be optional and open to members of the organization. Their budgets are independent and are approved by their respective legislative bodies stipulated in their Statute.

Other OIC organs which are mentioned in the charter of OIC are International Islamic Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ of the Organization, Committee of Permanent Representatives, Subsidiary Organs, Affiliated Institutions and Independent Permanent Commission of Human Rights which focus on human rights issue by adopting five guiding principles which are complementary, introspection, prioritizing, incremental approach and credibility.

E. Organization of Islamic Cooperation Efforts Towards Rohingya

As mentioned before that OIC is responsible to protect all the Muslim right in the world, no matter it was the member state itself or non-member state. Meanwhile in case of Rohingya, it is related to the human right discrimination of religion. Rohingya got unfair action from the government of Myanmar. Through

\textsuperscript{28} Abdulrahim, \textit{Loc. Cit.}
both variables, the writer tries to take the line instead to highlight the problems that happen until nowadays.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation tries many efforts to help Rohingya problem. The main target is how the government of Myanmar makes clear the status of Rohingya and their citizenship. OIC directly pushes the government of Myanmar to make sure the status of Rohingya. Beside direct instruction, OIC also used the other actors as the media to increase the possibility of pushing these countries. Because if OIC just pushes in one side, it means that the power will not be so strong than if done by many actors.

The media used by OIC are United Nation which known as the biggest international organization in the world, member state of OIC itself, the neighboring countries and through NGOs.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation firstly makes sure that they would have enough power to appoint the case of Rohingya. The 10th OIC’s general secretary Mr. Iyad bin Amin Madani ask the office in Geneva and New York to make the line stronger by coordinating each other about the issue with the international intelligence or agencies and organization for their contribution in regard with the humanitarian issue which happens in Myanmar.

To counter the islamophobia that arises in the world especially in western world, OIC prepared the media strategy and ways to face all the impacts that will happen later. The media strategy that was launched by OIC is called media awareness and then OIC also provided fund raising campaign throughout member states in case to campaign about islamophobia issue that exists.
The last secretary general of OIC appointed former prime minister of Malaysia Tan Sri Dato Seri Syed Hamid Albarto to be special envoy for Myanmar. The role of special envoy for Myanmar is to advance OIC’s diplomatic efforts with the concerned authorities in Myanmar and other regional & international stakeholders to bring about peaceful coexistence and restore inter-communal harmony through dialogue & a comprehensive reconciliation process.²⁹

There are some important agendas held by OIC which focus on Rohingya crisis, such as 2012 plans and Agenda 2015. 2012 plans are an action plan by OIC which tries to help Rohingya problem by providing on the ground aid and support victims by maintaining humanitarian office. In 2015 the Tangible Action was held in Kuwait which is one of the Top Agenda of OIC.

In October 2012, unexpected action by monks happened in Myanmar when OIC planned to open branch office as humanitarian assistance in Rangoon. Actually OIC planned to open office branch in Rangoon to directly control the conflict in Northern Rakhine state between Rakhine people and Rohingya which has been approved by the president of Myanmar. However, the demonstration that happened made the president take contradictive decision. The demonstrators express their disapproval towards OIC plans, support president’s stance on illegal migrants from Bangladesh and they demand that Bangladesh government should protect Buddhist who stays there. The demonstrators expressed their frustration

towards the INGO in Myanmar, because they felt that INGO there acted unfairly to the victims and just preferred Rohingya people.\textsuperscript{30}

Arakan Rohingya Union is one of the domestic organizations as the representative of Rohingya people to express Rohingya’s voice. Arakan Rohingya Union makes a relationship with the OIC as the bridge to communicate between Rohingya people and OIC’s member state. Arakan Rohingya Union also works as the mediator if the international partner is hard to reach the people in Rohingya.

OIC makes a good cooperation and collaboration with the United Nation. OIC pushes Myanmar’s government based on the Human Right Declaration and according to International Law produced by UN. This might be a huge propulsion for Myanmar as the member state of United Nation which has a responsibility to follow the UN rule and roles.

In order to strengthen the coordination between two sides, OIC with UN organizes kind of coordination meeting. One of those was held in UN branch in New York in September 2015. The meeting is called Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers. It was attended by representative of OIC, representative of UN, special envoy to Myanmar Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar and also Dr. Wakar Uddin, the director general of Arakan Union.\textsuperscript{31}

OIC provides humanitarian aid through Islamic Solidarity Fund (one of the OIC’s subsidiary organ) as their main objectives is to grant assistance to Muslim


\textsuperscript{31} Organization of Islamic Cooperation. (2015, October 1). OIC contact group on Myanmar adopts plan of action on Rohingya Muslims. Retrieved January 6, 2017
minorities and communities for their daily life improvement. On 42nd session of OIC council in Kuwait exactly on 27-28 May 2015, the members agreed to approve $200,000 for the humanitarian aid to Myanmar. The assistance will spread with help from local NGOs to facilitate the process.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation gave mandate to all the member states of OIC. OIC suggested that they open their door for the refugees, push the government of Myanmar privately in bilateral relationship and help the refugees by humanitarian aid. The African Country of Gambia offered an aid towards the Rohingya refugees by open their door to the Rohingya refugees but then the problem was not easy to reach Gambia. In one side, Rohingya refugees are hard to reach country of Gambia but in the other side Gambia lacks of resources to transport the refugees. Turkey also offering financial assistance by offered $1million recently.

As the neighboring countries, OIC do believe that they would be more useful and effective to push their neighbor or Myanmar. Myanmar is located in South East Asia, so the countries which might be possible to help them are the ASEAN countries especially Malaysia and Indonesia that are also the member state of OIC. Malaysia and Indonesia are willing to help Rohingya by allowing them in. Malaysia accepted around 120,000 migrants and Indonesia allowed them to float in Indonesia’s sea exactly in Aceh. It cannot be denied that the presence of Rohingya could give negative impact towards the society such as criminals, because they lack of job and also the government cannot guarantee that they can handle all of them properly since there are still many internal problems which
must be solved. So, both countries made the decision - Malaysia want more migrants and Indonesia cannot hold the refugees in long term.

OIC utilizes international non-governmental organization as the media for the humanitarian aid to Rohingya. Because if the aid from the OIC is direct, then this case will be in the name of religion and this might invite new issue or riot. In the other side, NGOs also become the partner to prepare action plan in order to address the crisis that happened.

In 2012, OIC arranged a special meeting with international NGOs. This meeting was attended by 30 NGOs in the world and also UN representative. All the actors agreed to push the government of Myanmar to make clear status of Rohingya and also made the government of Myanmar allow the humanitarian assistance for Rohingya. Another outcome got from this meeting is they agree to create a committee in controlling the case of Rohingya.

In May 2015, organization of Islamic cooperation was invited and participated in Oslo Conference in Norway. The conference was focusing on the problem with the title “Ending the Systematic Persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar” and the conference was attended by OIC special envoy to Myanmar - Ms. Dina Madani, Prime Minister Former Norwegian Mr. Khell Bondevik, Former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Dr. Mahatir Mohammad and Mr. Tomas Quintana which is the Former UN Special Reporter on the situation of Human Right Myanmar.

In Oslo Conference, OIC’s representative said that they do disagree about the statement that Rohingya is not indigenous but illegal immigrants from
Bangladesh. Besides, the representative of OIC also asked the government of Myanmar to abide international law and human right covenants, and take necessary measures to stop violence and discrimination. Second, OIC also pushed the Myanmar’s government to apply an inclusive transparent policy about the citizenship for the ethnic and religious communities in Myanmar. Third, OIC reminded the government of Myanmar to consider Rohingya Muslim as their part in accordance to UN General Assembly 238/64. Fourth, OIC restored Rohingya’s citizenship which revoked in Citizenship Act 1982.

Recently after the switch of new general secretary, Council of Foreign Ministers OIC held an Extraordinary Session on The Situation of The Rohingya Muslim Minority in Myanmar. It was held on 19th January 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting aimed to find solution for the Rohingya problem through the government of Myanmar and also the member states of OIC. The meeting used to called upon government of Myanmar to focus to stop the violence that happened in Northern Rakhine state based on International Law, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Covenants, so government of Myanmar should take the effective measure and eliminate the root of causes by restoring peace and inter-communal harmony, and government of Myanmar should group the Rohingya as part of ethnic minority based on UN General Assembly and Human Right Council.32

The meeting produced a resolution which consists of some point and one of that is taking into consideration that the plight of the Rohingya Muslim Minority in Myanmar cannot be tackled from a purely humanitarian perspective, and should be dealt with within the framework of their inalienable rights as citizens;33

a. Welcomes Myanmar’s transition to a new democratically elected government that provides historic opportunities towards building peaceful, prosperous and socially cohesive communities in Myanmar.
b. Recalls the Joint Communiqué signed on 16th November 2013 between OIC and the Central Committee for Implementation of Stability and Development in Rakhine State of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which sets the foundation for future cooperation, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to implement an all-inclusive and transparent verification process which will lead to the granting of citizenship for the Rohingya Muslim Minority in line with UN General Assembly resolution No. 64/238.
c. Appreciates the initial steps taken by the Government of Myanmar, such as the establishment of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development (PSDC) in Rakhine State on 30th May 2016, and the Rakhine State Advisory Commission on 23rd August 2016, to improve the conditions of

vulnerable communities, including the Rohingya Muslim Minority in Rakhine State who face various forms of discrimination based on their religion and are forced to live in segregation or in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

d. Expresses concern over acts of violence and serious human rights violations and abuses towards the Rohingya Muslim Minority as well as violations of international humanitarian law, and in this regard, urges the Government of Myanmar to take effective measures to prevent their recurrence, implement the rule of law, provide security for all and uphold the rights of each individual to live and move without fear and persecution based on their religion or ethnicity.

To sum up, OIC is an organization which is working as the representative of Muslim all over the world. They work towards prosperous Muslims in the world. In order to fulfill their vision and mission, OIC made their organs, institutions and built their link to strengthen their power. OIC made several organs to work in every aspects such as economic, education, social and politics, so that they will complement each other. Every organ has its own jobs and scope of work, but sometimes they could collaborate and cooperate. Through all the organs, institutions and links of OIC kept uphold their objectives through Muslims all over the world especially in addressing Muslim’s problem.

In case of Rohingya problem or the conflict of Muslim discrimination that happens in Myanmar, OIC also does the same thing by trying to help as much as
they can. OIC helps Rohingya in form of financial, humanitarian aid, called upon the government of Myanmar, visited the refugees, helped through the member states of OIC in the name of Islamic solidarity and also built link in international actors. Many ways were tried by OIC even though some of their plans cannot be implemented well or even un-implemented. In this case, OIC uses their power in international scope to help solve the Muslim discrimination in Myanmar.