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### **ISSF Hails Baku 2017's Progress Ahead of Games**

Colonel Hamad Kalkaba Malboum, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) and Chairman of the ISG Coordination Commission, has praised the progress made by Azerbaijan Islamic Games Operations Committee (AISGOC) in the build up to the 4<sup>th</sup> Islamic Solidarity Games.

Speaking at the 4<sup>th</sup> ISSF Coordination Commission meeting he said: "We are extremely impressed with the progress being made by AISGOC in its preparations towards hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Islamic Solidarity Games.

"It is clear from the presentations we have witnessed that Baku 2017 promises to be a wonderful Games and a source of pride to people from across the Islamic world. Over the coming six months, as we build up to the Games, we are looking forward to continuing to work in a spirit of close cooperation with our partners at AISGOC."

Responding to these comments, Mr. Azad Rahimov, Minister for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan and CEO of AISGOC said: "There is still much work to be done as we build towards the Opening Ceremony on 12 May, 2017. But, we are delighted the progress we have made so far has been met with such a positive response from the ISSF. Hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Islamic Solidarity Games will be another important milestone in the history of Azerbaijan and an opportunity for us to inspire people from across the Islamic world to celebrate sport; not only as a way of bringing out the very best of us, but as a means of uniting us in a collective spirit of unity, peace, respect and excellence."

Over the course of the event, delegates from the ISSF attended a series of presentations given by senior executives from AISGOC, providing detailed updates on all aspects of the Games, including event venues, the sports programme, opening and closing ceremonies, Games Services, and other organisational and operational developments.

