



*OIC/5-ICHM/2015/DECL*

## **ISTANBUL DECLARATION**

**5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Health Ministers**

**Istanbul, Republic of Turkey  
17-19 November 2015  
(5-7 Safar 1437h)**

## ISTANBUL DECLARATION

We, the representatives of the Member States of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), participating in the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) in Istanbul, Turkey from 17-19 November 2015;

**Having** discussed the priority items on the health agenda of the Ummah;

**Appreciate** the solidarity and efforts of OIC Member States, General Secretariat, and relevant OIC institutions;

**Acknowledge** that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction on the basis of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition;

**Condemn** the occupation depriving the Palestinian people of their fundamental right to health;

**Consider** that the right to health must be placed at the core of the global agenda;

**Recognize** that well-being at all ages is an indicator of development as well as one of its preconditions;

**Understand** the necessity of developing multi-sectoral approaches to achieving the highest desirable standards of health;

**Underscore** the centrality of health for socio-economic development and general well-being of the people;

**Reaffirm** that policies prioritizing health lead to sustainable development and higher quality of economic growth;

**Encourage** the need for proactive participation of all relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of global health policies;

**Note** that accountability, transparency and equity in policy making process is the basis for sustainability;

**Acknowledge** the critical importance of supporting the OIC General Secretariat in terms of financial and human resources for proactively addressing the health challenges facing the Ummah;

**Commend** the crucial role of the MDGs in prioritizing health in the global development agenda;

**Reaffirm** the value of carrying forward the momentum and successes of the MDGs vision to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process;

**Underline** the imperative of applying the lessons learnt from the MDGs experience to ensure the successful implementation of the SDGs;

**Affirm** the need for placing health related SDGs at the core of health policy development process;

**Commit** to the establishment of high quality data collection infrastructures for monitoring and improving results during the implementation of the SDGs;

**Note with appreciation** the relevance of the thematic priorities of the OIC Strategic Health Action Programme 2014-2023 (SHPA) to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development;

**Thank** the Members of the Steering Committee on Health (SCH) and Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs) for their contribution to the development and implementation of the SHPA;

**Decide** to work towards the establishment of a portal for efficient networking and sharing of experiences and best practices in the implementation of the SHPA;

**Support** the implementation of the SHPA with the complementary activities conducted in and between Member States;

**Stress** the importance of further enhancing capacity inside OIC Member States to deal with health related threats arising from disasters and to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from health emergency at the local, regional, national and international levels;

**Emphasize** that resilient health systems must be built on human centered policies and enable Universal Health Coverage;

**Reaffirm** our commitment to continuing to accord high priority to maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in our national agendas and to work towards attaining the relevant SDG targets.

**Emphasize** the significance of providing sustainable access to medicines and health technologies in the establishment of resilient health systems;

**Encourage** Member States to consider the development of common approaches in the area of health tourism by taking growth potential of the field into consideration;

**Recommend** to Member States to encourage their citizens seeking treatment opportunities abroad to use facilities in other OIC Member States to take advantage of similarities of culture and religion;

**Underscore** the need for strengthening national efforts and international cooperation for preventing and combating communicable diseases, in particular malaria, polio and tuberculosis;

**Reaffirm** our commitment to the global targets set by “Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases”;

**Express** concern at the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, mainly cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease, and their risk factors, social and economic impact for the Member States;

**Call upon** Member States to work towards the SDG target of reducing by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promoting mental health and well-being;

**Reaffirm** the significance of the universalization of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and its Protocols for combating tobacco consumption in Member States;

**Invite** Member States to strengthen cooperation in mitigating, preparing, for responding to and recovering from health emergencies and disasters; and **underscore** the significance of implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR) to institute minimum core capacities in Member States for prevention and management of public health emergencies;

**Appreciate** the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) which is a multilateral effort to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect and respond rapidly to infectious disease outbreak;

**Encourage** Member States and OIC Secretariat to closely follow technology use patterns and develop policies to protect the health of Ummah against unhealthy trends in technology utilization;

**Acknowledge** the need for developing viable mechanisms for utilizing the services and expertise of NGOs, community health workers and volunteers in the implementation of the SHPA;

**Appreciate** the OIC General Secretariat for its continued support for the organization of Islamic Conferences of Health Ministers;

**Look forward** to concrete progress in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of ICHM; and to the convening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of ICHM in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2017.

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