



OIC/10-ICTM/2018/MIN/REP/FINAL

**REPORT OF
THE TENTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS**

**Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh
6 February 2018**



REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)

1. The Tenth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 6 February 2018.
2. The Conference was attended by 25 Member States, comprising Ministers in charge of Tourism and heads of delegation. Other attendees include representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, OIC institutions, regional and international Organizations. List of participants are attached in **Annex-I**.

OPENING CEREMONY

3. Following the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, Mr. S.M. Ghulam Farooque, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, welcomed all the participants and highlighted the various tourism, cultural and heritage projects in Bangladesh.
4. In his handing over speech, H.E. Mr. Botto Ahmet, Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of Niger, Chairman of the Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, welcomed the incoming Chairperson of Tenth ICTM and highlighted the main tourism activities and programmes, which were implemented during his country's chairmanship.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

5. The Conference elected the following members of the Bureau:
 - Chairman: People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Vice Chairman : Kingdom of Bahrain
 - Vice Chairman : Republic of Cameroon
 - Vice Chairman : State of Palestine
 - Rapporteur : Republic of Niger
6. In his Statement, Mr. Harry Hwang, Deputy Regional Director, regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific of the United nations World Tourism

- Organization (UNWTO), pledged the continued support of UNWTO for the various activities of OIC in the domain of tourism in promoting socio-cultural exchanges and preservations of Islamic cultural heritage and highlighted the recent global trends of tourism and the increasing number of the international arrivals.
7. In his own speech, His Excellency Dr. Yousef A. Othaimen, Secretary General of the OIC, enumerated the various OIC activities in the domain of tourism since the last ICTM. As a positive trend in intra-OIC tourism activities, the Secretary General stated that OIC member countries attracted 173.4 million tourists in 2015, compared with 160.6 million in 2011, while intra-OIC tourist arrivals increased from 60.9 million in 2011 to 67.7 million in 2015, corresponding to 39 per cent of total OIC international tourist arrivals.
 8. Mr. Muhammad Faruk Khan MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Civil Aviation and Tourism of Bangladesh, delivered his special remarks at the Session. He indicated that his country attached great importance and emphasis to developing tourism.
 9. In his Statement, H.E. Mr. Abdul Hassan Mahmud Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh highlighted the importance of tourism for the economic development, poverty alleviation as well as intercultural dialogue among the peoples of OIC member states.
 10. In his welcome speech as chairperson of the Session, H.E. Mr. Shajahan Kamal, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism of Bangladesh underscored the great opportunity afforded by the Conference for the Ministers and other stakeholders to share their respective diverse experiences in the domain of tourism. The Minister also emphasized the vital role of tourism as a major contributor to employment generation and wealth creation, including improving the livelihood of the populations of OIC Member States.
 11. In her inaugural Speech, Her Excellency Madam Sheikh Hasina Wazid, Honorable Prime Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh underscored the importance of the intra-OIC cooperation in the tourism sector and promised to intensify her country's collaboration with the Organization. She also commended OIC monumental support for the Bangladesh towards the plight of the Rohingya people.
 12. The Conference adopted the speech of the Honorable Prime Minister as its official document. All statements are attached as **Annex II**.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

13. The Conference adopted its Agenda and Work Programme, which are attached in **Annex III** and **Annex IV**, respectively.
14. The Conference considered and adopted the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the 10th ICTM held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 February 2018 as presented by the Chairman of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Mr. S.M. Ghulam Farooque, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism of the People's Republic of Bangladesh The report of the SOM which is attached in **Annex V**.
15. Dr. Hossam Darwish, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Tourism Organization (ATO) made a presentation on the tourism potentials and trends in the Middle East and the global arena.
16. During the General Debate the delegations deliberated on a number of issues concerning the promotion of tourism among OIC Member States. Delegates congratulated the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the OIC City of Tourism Awards for 2019 and 2020 won by Dhaka and Gabala respectively. They also highlighted their various national programme on tourism development.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TOURISM BETWEEN OIC MEMBER STATES (2018-2022)

17. The Conference approved the following members of the Coordination Committee for the next 4 years (2018-2022):
 - People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Republic of Iraq
 - Republic of Indonesia
 - Republic of Cameroon
 - State of Palestine
 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Republic of Uganda
 - Chair of 11th ICTM 2020

ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AND THE DHAKA DECLARATION

18. The Conference adopted the Resolution on Tourism Development among the OIC Member States and the Dhaka Declaration. The documents are attached in **Annex VI** and **Annex VII**, respectively.

VENUE OF THE 11th ICTM

19. The Conference expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for its offer to host the 11th Session of ICTM in 2020 and urged Member States to actively participate in the Session.

VOTE OF THANKS

20. The Conference expressed its profound gratitude to Her Excellency Madam Sheikh Hasina Wazid, Honorable Prime Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh, for her personal attendance at the opening Session of the Conference and for her visionary speech. In the same vein, the Conference expressed its gratitude to the Government and people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegates and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the Conference.
21. The Conference further expressed its gratitude to H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Othaimeen, the OIC Secretary General and his entire staff for their dedicated and tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the Tenth Session of the ICTM.
22. The Conference addressed a special vote of thanks to H.E. Mr. Shajahan Kamal, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism of Bangladesh and Chairman of the Tenth Session of the ICTM and congratulated him for his wisdom and leadership in successfully steering the proceedings of the Conference.

Dhaka, 6 February 2018
