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**RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG
THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

ADOPTED BY

**THE 10TH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)**

DHAKA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

5-7 February 2018



RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG
THE OIC MEMBER STATES

The Tenth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held from 5-7 February 2018, in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh,

Recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Pursuant to the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,

Re-affirming the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States adopted by the Sixth Session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on 29 June-2 July 2008,

Also re-affirming the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), particularly, resolution No. 1/44-E of the Forty Fourth Session of CFM, held Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the previous Sessions of the ICTM,

Conscious of the central role of tourism in promoting economic, social and cultural interactions among nations, and in contributing to international peace, security and understanding,

Re-iterating the relevance of sustainable tourism to the actualisation of OIC poverty eradication strategies and policies and as a potential contributor to sustainable development,

Expressing satisfaction at the outcomes of the Workshop on the Future Tourism development in Konya, and International Symposium on Konya in Islamic Civilization, held in Konya, Republic of Turkey on 15-16 November 2016 and on 17-19 December 2016 respectively, for the commemoration of the OIC City of Tourism Award 2017,

Welcoming the launching of Madinah Al Munawwarah as OIC City of Tourism 2017, held in Madinah on 18 February 2017,

Expressing appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for organising the Fourth and Fifth Meetings of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 January 2016 and 4 May 2017 respectively,

Further expressing appreciation to SESRIC and ICDT for preparation of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States and the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market respectively,

Taking note with appreciation of the Report titled “International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges: 2017”, which is prepared and presented by SESRIC,

Also taking note of the Report and Recommendations of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Islamic Tourism, held in Padang, West Sumatra, Republic of Indonesia, on 29 September 2016,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of 33rd Session of the COMCEC in the field of tourism held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 20-23 November 2017,

Commending the efforts of the standing Committee for Economic and commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing tourism cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC tourism Working group and COMCEC Project funding Mechanism,

Noting with appreciation the research reports conducted by the COMCEC Coordination Office on supply and demand aspects of the Muslim Friendly tourism (MFT), product development and marketing strategies as well as regulations for MFT accommodation establishments,

Mindful of the strategy for the development of cultural tourism in the Islamic World as established by ISESCO and adopted by the Sixth Islamic Conference of Cultural Ministers, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in 2009,

Also taking note of the activities of the relevant OIC institutions towards implementation of the resolutions of the ICTM, particularly those relating to the commemoration of Konya and Madinah Al Munawwarah, as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2016 and 2017 respectively, capacity- building programmes in the domain of tourism within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme of SESRIC, and implementation of the Regional Project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”,

Considering the outcome of the Sixth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 13 November 2017 with regard to the selection of the OIC City of Tourism Awardees for 2019 and 2020 respectively,

Having considered the Progress Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the ICTM resolutions on tourism development as well as the

Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism Among OIC Member States:

1. **Approves** the recommendations contained in Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, and **requests** General Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the Roadmap;
2. **Endorses** the findings contained in the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market, and invites the General Secretariat to submit a relevant implementation plan in coordination with Member States, all relevant OIC institutions and other stakeholders;
3. **Commends** the elaborate plans by the relevant OIC institutions for the commemoration of Tabriz, as the OIC City of Tourism 2018 including the ICDDT proposal of the organization of the “Islamic Clothing Fashion Expo and Conference in collaboration with the relevant authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and **urges** OIC Member States to actively participate in the said Expo and Conference;
4. **Approves** the selection of Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh as the OIC City of Tourism 2019, and Gabala, Republic of Azerbaijan as the OIC City of Tourism 2020;
5. **Requests** the Secretary General to ensure that commemoration of OIC City of Tourism includes two major activities namely:
 - (1) Cultural/Arts/Heritage Festival;
 - (2) Development of one tourism infrastructure project;
6. **Urges** relevant OIC institutions to support member states in organizing annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flows, through visa facilitation to the extent permitted by the laws of each Member State, investment promotion, branding and standardization, and capacity building;
7. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to encourage their private sector entities to invest individually and jointly in the tourism infrastructure and development projects in member states and requests the OIC institutions to support such joint or collective investment projects with financing and policy facilitation;
8. **Also calls on** OIC Member States to support the staging of OIC Tourism Fairs on the sidelines of ICTM with the full participation and involvement of the Private Sector establishment and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of OIC Member States;
9. **Welcomes** the offers of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd and 4th Tourism Fairs of the OIC Member States to be organized in Cairo on 28-29 October 2018 and in Tehran in 2019 respectively in cooperation with the ICDDT and **urges** Member States to actively participate in these events;

10. **Calls on** the Member States, IDB Group and other funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions, including ICDT and SESRIC, to contribute to the financing of the Regional Project of Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, including the 2nd Donors Conference to facilitate the implementation of this Project;
11. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the Sixth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on March 8th, 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey with the theme of “Cultural Heritage as a Tool of Sustainable Tourism in the OIC Region” and **calls upon** Member States and their Private Sector entities to actively participate in this Meeting;
12. **Calls upon** Member States and their Private Sector entities to benefit from the “COMCEC Muslim Friendly tourism (MFT) Guideline”, which was adopted by the said Session as a reference document;
13. **Emphasises** the need to rigorously implement earlier ICTM resolutions on the Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts and the Heritage Center for Islamic Countries;
14. **Also calls on** all Member States, IDB Group and other OIC Institutions as well as Funding Partners to give priority to the Islamic Heritage Project presented by Bangladesh;
15. **Further calls on** OIC Member States, IDB and other OIC Institutions to support the project for human resource development in Bangladesh in the domain of tourism;
16. **Expresses** its profound thanks and gratitude the Government and the people of People’s Republic of Bangladesh for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Tenth Session of the ICTM;
17. **Welcomes** the designation of Al-Quds Al-Sherif as the OIC Youth Capital 2018 by the Islamic Conference of Youth Forum – Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) and **requests** all OIC Members States and Institutions to support this initiative;
18. **Welcomes** the offer by the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) in 2020;
19. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a report to the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.

Dhaka, 6 February 2018