

OIC/4-ICLM/2018/DECLARATION/FINAL

**JEDDAH DECLARATION
ADOPTED BY THE
4th ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF LABOUR MINISTERS**

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

21-22 FEBRUARY 2018

(5-6 JUMADA AL-AKHIRAH 1439H)

JEDDAH DECLARATION
OF THE FOURTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF LABOUR MINISTERS

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
21-22 February 2018 (5-6 Jumada Al-Akhirah 1439H)

DEVELOPING A COMMON STRATEGY FOR MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

1. We, the Ministers of Labour and Employment from the OIC Member States, met in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 21-22 February 2018 at the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers to discuss labour and employment policies, and strategies to address the challenges before our countries,
2. We recognize that employment is crucial for people's wellbeing and economic growth. Accordingly, promoting job creation and addressing the economic and social consequences of unemployment, underemployment and preventing social exclusion are a priority for all our countries,
3. We acknowledge the importance of investment in human resources as a powerful driver of productivity, economic growth, increased welfare and greater social cohesion. Therefore, we commit to increasing our efforts to build skills for work and life and to strengthening the link between education and employment,
4. We also acknowledge that promoting better employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, especially youth and women remains a key OIC objective and an integral part of our development agenda. To this end, we renew our commitment to implement a comprehensive strategy, including policies to facilitate transition from school to work, strengthen quality employment and apprenticeship opportunities as well as action to improve employability, equal opportunities and entrepreneurship,
5. We express concerns about the unemployment rate in OIC Member States, which reached the average of 7.4% in 2016, considerably higher than the world average, whereby youth and women being more affected by unemployment. In this regard, we agree to strengthen our efforts on creating productive and quality employment opportunities for all that will make the greatest contribution to reducing unemployment and increasing people's welfare,
6. We consider the expansion of coordination and cooperation among OIC Member States on labour, employment and social protection, and the exchange of experiences and information on labour and employment issues is an important step forward in our long-term cooperation for the benefit of our peoples,

7. We are resolved to share and exchange our experiences and best practices in employment, labour and social protection to develop comprehensive and effective solutions, as appropriate, for addressing unemployment through job creation, labour productivity, and youth and women employment in our countries,
8. We recognize the importance of the implementation of the OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment, and Social Protection, including its Executive Programme, within OIC countries. Therefore, we are determined to put greater emphasis on fast-tracking the implementation of such programmes as occupational health safety and health at workplace; establishment of an OIC Labour and Professional Training Observatory; legal protection for employees and labour market legislations; social security protection for workers; and exchange of knowledge and best practices on labour issues,
9. We welcome the inclusion of labour-related goals in the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, which was adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016. We strongly support these goals that reflect the priorities of our governments in the social and labour sphere, and we agree to undertake comprehensive measures to achieve these goals, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities,
10. We acknowledge the efforts made to date on creation of OIC Labour Centre, which is the newest OIC specialized institution to be headquartered in Baku, Azerbaijan,
11. We welcome the elaboration of OIC Labour Market Strategy; OIC Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Skilled Workforce; and OIC Standard Bilateral Agreement on Exchange of Manpower, aimed at enhancing intra-OIC cooperation on labour, employment and social protection,
12. We agree to take further steps, as appropriate, to implement these three instruments, which offer strong potential dividends for meeting the socio-economic growth and employment goals of our countries as well as facilitate the mobility of workforce within OIC region, in the spirit of Islamic solidarity and collaboration,
13. We express our deep appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Government and people of Saudi Arabia for the successful organization of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers.

**Adopted at Jeddah,
22 February 2018 (6 Jumada Al-Akhirah 1439H)**