



OIC/CFM-45/2018/INF/RES/FINAL

RESOLUTIONS
ON
INFORMATION AFFAIRS
ADOPTED TO THE
45TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
*(SESSION OF ISLAMIC VALUES FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND
DEVELOPMENT)*
DHAKA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
(19-20 SHABAN 1439H)
(5-6 MAY 2018)

INDEX

No.	Subject	Page
1	Resolution No. 1/45-INF on OIC Member States' support to the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC)	3
2	Resolution no. 2/45-INF on the Establishment of an International Prize for the Media and Journalists	5
3	Resolution No. 3/45-INF on Supporting the OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF)	7
4	Resolution No. 4/45-INF on Strengthening the Media Action of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and its Media Institutions in Partnership with the Member States	9
5	Resolution No.5/45-INF on Advancing cooperation in the media sector to promote peace, development and prosperity, including through harnessing the SDGs	12

RESOLUTION NO. 1/45-INF
ON
OIC MEMBER STATES' SUPPORT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (COMIAC)

The Forty-fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development) held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 19 and 20 Shaban 1439H (5 and 6 May 2018);

Taking note of resolution 1/44-INF adopted by the Forty-fourth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (*Session of Youth, Peace and Development in World of Solidarity*) held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 16 and 17 Shawwal 1438H (Corresponding to 10 and 11 July 2017) on OIC Member State's support for the standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC);

Endeavouring to support the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) to fulfil its mandate, which includes giving information and culture in the Muslim world a new breakthrough to acquaint the international public opinion with the Islamic Ummah's lofty issues, particularly the question of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, to counter ill-conceived Islamophobic campaigns, follow up the implementation of the resolutions of the Islamic Conference in the COMIAC's areas of competence, consider ways to enhance cooperation among Member States on information and culture, and elaborate programmes and proposals to support the capacities of Member States in these two areas;

Pursuant to Paragraph 184 of the final communiqué of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace), held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 April 2016, which praised the efforts of the Republic of Senegal to reinvigorate COMIAC and encouraged COMIAC to develop programmes and activities in the field of information and promote the OIC's media visibility in partnership with the relevant OIC institutions and international partners;

Recalling Resolution 3/10-INF on "the Role of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) in its Capacity as Coordinator of the Action of the OIC Information Organs", and Resolution 5/10-INF on "Reactivating the Standing Committee on Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) and Supporting its Coordination Office", adopted by the 10th session of the COMIAC held in Dakar on 28-29 April 2015;

Proceeding from Resolution 3/10-INF on "supporting the work of joint Islamic media action institutions", adopted by the 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3-4 December 2014 (Session of Media Convergence for Peace and Calm in the Islamic World), which underscores, in Operative Paragraph 3, the need to support the work of all joint Islamic media action institutions, including the Standing Committee for information and Cultural Affairs, to enhance synergy among them,

improve their efficiency, contribute to their activities effectively, and benefit from the services they offer;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on information affairs submitted to the 45th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers:

1. **Expresses** appreciation to the Republic of Senegal for its efforts in support of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), including the appointment of the Director of the COMIAC's Coordination Office and the allocation of its seat in the capital, Dakar, and **calls** for continued reinvigoration and promotion of the work of COMIAC.
2. **Commends** the new dynamism of COMIAC to reinvigorate joint Islamic media action, and highly appreciates its convening of a media workshop on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, in Dakar, Senegal, on 30 May 2016, which was attended by many of the OIC Member States' Ambassadors in Dakar, representatives of the media, civil society and the OIC General Secretariat, who have contributed to the OIC's media visibility in Senegal and Africa, and COMIAC's participation in the organization of many specialized media workshops in partnership with the Department of Information at the OIC General Secretariat and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) in 2017.
3. **Welcomes** the holding on 14-15 May 2018 of COMIAC's 11th session, a good opportunity to initiate strong measures to reinforce information and culture sectors, and invites the member states to participate actively in this event.
4. **Welcomes** the initiative of COMIAC President to launch an international prize to reward outstanding media and media professionals in the promotion of peace, tolerance and intercultural harmony, and highly appreciates the convening on 10 April in Dakar of the first meeting of the ad hoc committee formed during the 11th Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Jeddah on 19-21 December 2016 to study the conditions and modalities for the implementation of the prize. Also **praises** the outcome of the second meeting of this committee held at the headquarter of the IBU and IINA in Jeddah on 30 October 2017 which finalized the discussion on the criteria and procedures of the international prize.
5. **Calls on** all Member States to be understanding of the critical financial situation of COMIAC, which requires them to continuously lending necessary support, including financial and in-kind support, and joint projects and programmes, proposed and submitted by the Coordination Office of COMIAC to enable it to carry out its mandate on information and culture within the framework of the Organisation of Islamic cooperation.
6. **Requests** the OIC Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 2/45 -INF
ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR THE MEDIA AND
JOURNALISTS

The Forty-fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development) held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 19 and 20 Shaban 1439H (5 and 6 May 2018);

Taking note of resolution 2/44-INF adopted by the Forty-fourth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (*Session of Youth, Peace and Development in World of Solidarity*) held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 16 and 17 Shawwal 1438H (Corresponding to 10 and 11 July 2017) on the establishment of an international prize for the media and journalists,

Welcoming the praiseworthy efforts deployed by the chairman of COMIAC by giving new dynamism to the Commission,

Relying on the outcomes of the 10th session of COMIAC held in Dakar on 28 and 29 April 2015, particularly its recommendations on increasing support for Islamic journalism,

Taking into consideration the announcement by the chairman of COMIAC contained in his report which was adopted by Heads of State and Government who met in Istanbul in April 2016 during the 13th session of the Islamic Summit, particularly in relation to the guidelines proposed for adoption as a basis for the COMIAC' future programme,

Convinced of the major role that should be played by the media in the area of peace and development in Member States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on information affairs submitted to the 45th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers:

1. **Expresses** its profound gratitude for the initiative launched by the president of the Republic of Senegal, in his capacity as the chairman of COMIAC to establish as international prize to reward excellent mass media and journalists in the area of promoting dialogue, tolerance and harmony among cultures;
2. **Commends** the efforts of the Republic of Senegal which culminated in the establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Committee in charge of examining the conditions and modalities of the prize, and appreciates highly the commitment of the member states and institutions of the said committee.
3. **Appreciates** the outcomes of the first and second meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Committee held on 10 April 2017 in Dakar and on 30 October 2017 in Jeddah, where the first meeting discussed the introductory paper on the prize containing its target persons and designation as the "OIC International Media Prize", the categories of the press that can participate in the prize, its subjects, accredited languages, the cash and material value of

the prize, number of winners, sponsorship of the prize and its overall value. The second meeting of the Ad Hoc committee discussed the detailed technical matter about the prize containing its objectives, scope, the general criteria for the candidates and the media work to be presented for the prize, the value of the prize, its categories, the method of choosing the winners, the organizational structure of the prize, composition of the panel of judges, as well as the date and venue of launching the prize in 2018.

4. **Welcomes** the holding on 13 May 2018, in Dakar, of the third meeting of the ad hoc committee on the terms and conditions of the Prize, in preparation for the 11th session of COMIAC.
5. **Invites** all Member States, OIC financial institutions and relevant OIC institutions to provide their full support to this initiative.
6. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of this initiative, in cooperation with COMIAC and to present a report in this regard to the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 3/45-INF
ON
SUPPORTING THE OIC BROADCASTING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FORUM
(IBRAF)

The Forty-fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development) held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 19 and 20 Shaban 1439H (5 and 6 May 2018);

Taking note of resolution 3/44-INF adopted by the Forty-fourth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (*Session of Youth, Peace and Development in World of Solidarity*) held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 16 and 17 Shawwal 1438H (Corresponding to 10 and 11 July 2017), on supporting the OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF),

Referring to Resolution No.1/40-INF adopted by the Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, (*Session of Dialogue of Civilizations, Factor of Peace and Sustainable Development*), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 6-8 Safar 1435H (9-11 December 2013) on granting the OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF) an affiliated institution status,

Recalling the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), particularly those calling for promoting solidarity among the Islamic countries and strengthening capacities to protect their security, sovereignty, independence and national rights,

Recalling the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, particularly Paragraph 50 on Media and Public Diplomacy, which affirms that the press and broadcast media, are the most effective tool and source for the dissemination of information and shaping of public opinion, and that the OIC is in the process of putting in place an elaborate strategy for effective public outreach and employing media for promoting the goals and objectives of the Organization,

Taking note the outcomes of the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM), (*Session of the New Media to Counter Terrorism and Islamophobia*), held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 21 December 2016,

Taking note at the same meeting of ICIM, IBRAF was invited through Resolution No.12/11-INF on the Role of Information in Combating Terrorism to prepare "a code of conduct including legislations and legal procedures for the media to encounter terrorism",

Stressing that addressing the issue of Islamophobia starts with presenting the truth about the magnanimous religion of Islam to foreign interlocutors in a thoughtful and effective manner,

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among Member States in developing media mechanisms to fight terrorism,

Having considered the report of the OIC Secretary General submitted to the Conference;

1. **Takes note** of the convening of the second meeting of the steering committee of IBRAF in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 29 September 2017 which discussed the agenda of the 6th Annual Meeting of IBRAF.
2. Expresses its appreciation to the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 5th Annual Meeting in Bandung, Republic of Indonesia on 23 February 2017 under the theme: “Media Literacy & Media Landscape for World Harmony”; also salutes the Republic of Benin and the Audiovisual and Communication High Authority (HAAC) for hosting the 6th Annual Meeting of IBRAF on 19 and 20 February 2018.
3. **Welcomes** the outcomes of the 5th Annual Meeting of IBRAF, in particular the adoption of Bandung Declaration on the Role of Media in Promoting Tolerance and Combating Terrorism and Islamophobia;
4. **Urges** Member States to take the necessary measures to encourage their national broadcasting regulatory authorities and / or institutions with similar functions and responsibilities to collaborate with the OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF), which will be a platform dedicated to establishing and promoting regular coordination, communication and cooperation among the concerned parties in the Member States;
5. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.”

RESOLUTION 4/45-INF

ON

STRENGTHENING THE MEDIA ACTION OF THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION AND ITS MEDIA INSTITUTIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MEMBER STATES

The Forty-fifth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development) held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 19 and 20 Shaban 1439H (5 and 6 May 2018);

Taking note of resolution 4/44-INF adopted by the Forty-fourth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (*Session of Youth, Peace and Development in World of Solidarity*) held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 16 and 17 Shawwal 1438H (Corresponding to 10 and 11 July 2017),

Recalling Resolution 4/9-INF on "Coordination in the Information Field within the Framework of the OIC in Order to Give a Comprehensive Picture of Joint Islamic Action, issued by the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, held in Libreville, Gabonese Republic on 19 and 20 April 2012, which was endorsed by the 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012;

Stressing the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the OIC General Secretariat, the information institutions and member states concerning implementation of media projects and programmes;

Having considered the report of the OIC Secretary General submitted to the Conference;

- 1. Supports** the resolution of the General Assembly of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA), held in Jeddah on 15 October 2017, to convert the Agency into Union of News Agencies of OIC countries (UNA); and **urges** the Member States to support and pay their budgetary contribution to the Federation.
- 2. Appreciates** the media action that has been, and continues to be, carried out by the OIC General Secretariat to develop the capacities of journalists, widen their knowledge and polish their skills on media matters through the organization of specialized media training programmes and courses, especially in 2017, and invites it to organize more of these training programmes and media workshops in cooperation with media, research and training institutions and with relevant authorities in member states and non-member states, in order to strengthen the OIC's media action, benefit the journalists and strengthen the OIC's media visibility through these media programmes.
- 3. Welcomes** the outcomes of the workshop held by the OIC General Secretariat in partnership with ISESCO and in cooperation with Thomson Foundation of Britain to prepare the "Guidebook for Training Journalists to Cover Terrorist Incidents" in the period from 31 October – 2 November 2017 at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, in response to the request of Their excellencies Ministers of Information to the General

Secretariat and ISESCO to submit a study on the mechanisms for training specialized media workers in their resolution no. 12/11-INF on “Role of the Media in Combating Terrorism” adopted by the 11th session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Jeddah on 21 December 2016, and endorsed by resolution no. 4/44-INF on “Reaffirmation of the Resolutions of the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 21 December 2016”, during the 44th session of the Islamic Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Abidjan on 10 and 11 July 2017.

4. **Commends** the conclusions of the 1st workshop held by the OIC General Secretariat in partnership with ISESCO in cooperation with Thomson Foundation of Britain to prepare the “Guidebook for Training Journalists to Cover Terrorist Incidents” in the period from 31 October – 2 November 2017 at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, which adopted the broad guidelines for the guidebook and called on the OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO to hold a second workshop in 2018 to be devoted to completing discussion of the Guide project and approving its final and comprehensive version covering the technical, media, ethical and legal aspects.
5. **Welcomes** the outcomes of the workshop held by the OIC and ISESCO, in coordination with the Senegalese National Authority on in charge of UNESCO, ISESCO, and COMIAC on “Operationalizing the OIC Media Strategy to Counter Islamophobia and the OIC Comprehensive Media Strategy till 2025”, in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 16 and 17 October 2017, which called for the establishment of network of media training institutions in the Muslim world in order to strengthen cooperation among them and to develop a unified plan for the training of journalists, intensifying coordination and partnership between the OIC and specialized institutions in preparing contents and materials that project Islamic and its tolerant values which can be understood by a westerner to contribute to correcting the negative stereotypes about Islam.
6. **Appreciates** the conclusions of the sub-regional workshop on “Women in Civil Society and Strengthening Their Role in the Media” held by OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO and the General Secretariat of Bahrain National Commission for Education, Science and Culture in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain on 4 and 5 October 2017, in implementation of resolution 4/11-INF on “Empowerment of Women in and Through the Media” which recommended the utilization of the successful experience in Member States on strengthening the role of women in the society by establishing a network of female journalists under the supervision of the OIC General Secretariat and documenting the achievements of pioneers; **commends** the objectives of the OIC Media Monitoring Observation for Women in Member States and seek guidance from its orientations; and urged the media to strengthen women presence in media institutions as journalists or those tasked with running media contracts.
7. **Welcomes** the recommendations of the workshop of experts and representatives of the civil society to discuss media and legal measures to counter Islamophobia which was organized by the OIC General Secretariat, ISESCO and the Islamic Cultural Centre in London, United Kingdom on 15 and 16 July 2017, in implementation of resolution 2/11 on “The OIC Anti-Islamophobia Media Strategy” adopted by the 11th session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

on 21 December 2016, which called for intensified coordination and cooperation between governments and civil society institutions and the media to counter those behind Islamophobia and to relate with them as groups who hate Islam, violate human rights and threaten the international efforts aimed at strengthening dialogue among cultures and alliance of civilizations; **calls** on intergovernmental and civil society organizations, to coordinate efforts to implement the charters, treaties, conventions, declarations and resolutions as well as national and international laws affirming the separation between freedom of opinion and expression and the various excesses and defamation of religions perpetrated by the media under the cover of freedom of opinion and expression; and **calls** on Muslims representatives of civil society and Islamic institutions in western countries to improve and strengthen their media narratives and positive interaction with the media, and to launch campaigns, media and cultural programmes to project the true image of the tolerant religion of Islam.

8. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.”

RESOLUTION NO.5/45-INF
ON
ADVANCING COOPERATION IN THE MEDIA SECTOR TO PROMOTE PEACE,
DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY, INCLUDING THROUGH HARNESSING THE
SDGS

The Forty Fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, (Session of Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development), held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, from 19-20 Sha'ban 1439 H (5-6 May 2018),

Bearing in mind the need to continuously promote mutual understanding and solidarity among the Muslim Ummah around the globe;

Upholding the true spirit of Islam;

Recalling the ongoing cooperation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations (UN) in different fields, in particular peace, security, humanitarian assistance and refugees and the promotion of dialogue among civilizations;

Recalling the Media Strategy of the OIC adopted at the 11th session of the Conference of Information Ministers on 21 December 2016;

Referring to the resolutions on cooperation in the media sector adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the ISESCO, SESRIC, etc.;

Aiming to promote peace and development through strategic use of media and cultural events, the 45th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, the People's Republic of Bangladesh agrees on the following;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of OIC affiliated institutions in the area of information;

1. Calls upon the member states to utilize their media sector to highlight and disseminate information on the achievements and positive stories of OIC member states to socio-economic sectors, particularly in areas covered under the UN Sustainable Development Goals such as counter-terrorism, climate change, humanitarian assistance, migration, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, gender issues etc.
2. Urges member states to utilize different means of information and communication channels available, including social media, to disseminate information on contributions of the OIC in promotion of peace, humanitarianism and other regional and global causes for the benefit of the entire Ummah;
3. Encourages press, radio and TV broadcasters in OIC member states to engage in active cooperation in news coverage and reporting through sharing and joint production of media content (news clippings, reports, documentaries and related materials);

4. Supports the exchange of films and other information and cultural contents (TV drama, documentaries, animation, educational or public awareness media products, etc) between government as well as media institutions;
5. Calls upon the related institutions of the OIC, in association with related institutions of the UN, as may be applicable, to facilitate capacity building and strengthening of the media sector in OIC member states. activities may include technical and managerial training for media personnel including holding of seminars and workshops, sharing of facilities and expertise, cooperation in equipment and infrastructure upgradation, exchange of volunteers/interns, etc.
6. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

Proposal of new resolution by Bangladesh on media cooperation in the OIC, titled:

Advancing cooperation in the media sector to promote peace, development and prosperity, including through harnessing the SDGs

Rationale

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the core of the 2030 Development Agenda agreed upon by all member states of the United Nations and serve as a comprehensive development framework for the period up to 2030 with the view to eradicating poverty and deprivation, and generating inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Furthermore, the SDGs are increasingly becoming an integral part of national, regional and international visions and plans. The SDGs consist of 17 specific goals and 169 associated targets.

The 2030 Development Agenda is an ambitious agenda and the achievement of the SDGs requires a collective engagement of all stakeholders (governments, the scientific and academic community, the civil society, private sector and international community). In this framework, multilateral development platforms are expected to assist countries in realizing the agenda. Institutions of the OIC, the second largest international organization after the UN family, can play an important role in facilitating the achievement of the SDGs in the member countries. An IDB-COMCEC joint Study was commissioned in 2016 to explore the possible role and contributions of the OIC institutions in achieving the SDGs. While the various institutions of the OIC such as COMCEC, SESRIC, IDB Group, ICDT etc. are working on the SDGs, there is perhaps not enough awareness of the ongoing work and success stories achieved/ being experienced by the members. Media can be a powerful tool to disseminate this information.

In the light of the above, and being cognizant of the growing and crucial role of media, particularly new media in promoting peace, development and prosperity amongst the members of the OIC, the government of Bangladesh proposes to table the resolution titled *advancing cooperation in the media sector to promote peace, and development and prosperity, including through harnessing the SDGs* at the 45th session of the CFM to be held in Dhaka on 5 – 6 May 2018. Through cooperation amongst the media sector in the OIC countries, news, information and learnings on the progress reached in achieving the SDGs by members can easily be disseminated. Media is also an important platform for establishing bridges of communication and dialogue with the world. Through building on traditional and non-traditional forms of media platforms, OIC countries can also reach out to non-OIC states on sharing of best practices on the SDGs. The proposed resolution recommends greater cooperation between the OIC and the UN system in this regard. The resolution also reinforces cooperation for the development of the Islamic media product and improvement of its performance for the benefits and causes of the Muslim Ummah and on preparing developed media messages based on diversity and plurality. Media dissemination is also required to inform and sensitise the Ummah on burning OIC issues and keep those alive. Media products could also work in dispelling Islamophobia. Capacity building and skills training of media personnel is also focused on the Resolution.