



**The Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

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**Report of the Senior Officials Meeting**

**Preparatory to the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women  
in the Development of OIC Member States**

**“Status of Women in OIC Member States in light of Current Challenges”**

**Istanbul, Republic of Turkey  
1-3 Safar 1438 A.H.  
1-3 November 2016**

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The Senior Officials Meeting Preparatory to the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on Tuesday 1 November 2016 (1 Safar 1438 A.H.).

**Opening session:**

1. The meeting was opened with a recitation of verses from the holy Quran, followed by an address given by **Sabina Marafora** representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in her capacity as the chairperson of the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the Member States. In this regard, she reviewed the activities carried out by the OIC and the main issues it addressed during the chairmanship of Azerbaijan of that session. She also expressed the appreciation of her country’s government to the Member States and the General Secretariat for their contributions and collaboration.
2. The Deputy Minister of Women and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. **Mehmet Ersoy**, attended this meeting, and gave an opening statement, in which he highlighted the significance of choosing “Status of Women in the OIC Member States in light of Current Challenges” as the theme of the current session. He also expressed his hope that this session will devote more attention to the status of women in the Member States and implement the recommendations by the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Islamic Summit Conference with regard to Women advancement and empowerment. At the end of his statement, he welcomed the participating delegations and wished success to the conference.
3. H.E. Mr. Salih Mutlu Şen, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC chaired the meeting of senior officials. He also expressed his country’s gratitude for the confidence vested in it, calling on all delegations to collaborate for the success of the meeting.
4. The Director General of the OIC Directorate of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, Mrs. Mehla Ahmed Talebna, gave an address at the opening of the meeting, on behalf of the OIC Secretary General. In this connection, she briefed the conference on a

number issues related to the status of women in the OIC Member States and ways to empower them and promote their participation in the development process of the societies and people of the Islamic states. Likewise, she shed light on the constraints that impede Muslim women's effective involvement in improving the economic and social conditions of the Member States, including marginalization and exclusion as well as the suffering women endure as a result of conflicts in some Member States.

Furthermore, the Secretary General urged the Member States to accelerate the procedures of signing and ratification of the statute of OIC Women Development Organization, so as it enters into effect and the organization starts to operate.

### **Election of the Bureau:**

5. The meeting unanimously elected the Republic of Turkey Chairperson of the Meeting of Senior Officials. The rest of the meeting's bureau members were as follows:

The Republic of Sudan	}	Vice-Chairperson
Burkina Faso		
The State of Palestine		

The Republic of Azerbaijan      Rapporteur

6. The meeting then adopted the meeting's agenda and programme (annexed to this report).
7. The meeting expressed its appreciation for the attendance of the Deputy Minister of Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and considered it a clear proof of his country's commitment to the success of the Conference's current session.

### **The presentations:**

8. The meeting followed a series of presentations on the various aspects of the session topic, including:
  - a. Presentation on the efforts of OIC General Secretariat in the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Conference (General Secretariat);

- b. Presentation of the Draft Amended OIC Plan on the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its implementation mechanisms, and discussion of evaluation and follow-up indicators (SESRIC)
  - c. Presentation of Member States' policies and success stories in the field of women empowerment, and inputs of the participating delegations (SESRIC)
  - d. Presentation of the educational and cultural measures implemented by the Member States to combat violence against women, and achieve justice and gender equality (ISESCO)
  - e. Efforts of the Islamic Development Bank Group to empower women in OIC Member States and in Muslim communities in non-Member States and promote their status.
  - f. Efforts of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy to empower women and eliminate the impediments to their empowerment and protection of their rights.
  - g. Women in the Member States' media: Towards the establishment of an observatory to correct the image of women in the Member States (IINA)
  - h. Presentation of the Organization's efforts in the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 1325 on women, peace and security in Member States (New York Office),
9. The participants discussed the content of the presentations, commending the actions, programs and activities carried out by OIC organs and institutions to support and empower women in Member States at all levels. The meeting also lauded the leading role of his Excellency Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, former President of the Islamic Development Bank Group, and expressed their congratulations to his Excellency Dr. Bandar Hegar, the new President of the bank.

### **Draft Resolutions**

10. The meeting considered and adopted the following draft resolutions, and submitted them to the Sixth Ministerial Conference for approval (Annex 2):
1. Resolution No 1/6-W (Women Conference) on Calling for the acceleration of the Adoption Process of the Statute of the Organization of Women's Development in OIC Member States;
  2. Resolution No 2/6-W (Women Conference) on Welcoming the appointment of OIC Ambassadors of Good will in the fields of family values safeguard and women's advancement and empowerment in OIC Member States;
  3. Resolution No 3/6-W (Women Conference) on the adoption of the Amended OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its attached implementation mechanisms;

4. Resolution No 4/6-W (Women Conference) on the Establishment of the Advisory Women Council of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States.

**Draft agenda and work programme of the Ministerial Conference:**

11. The meeting adopted the draft agenda and work programme of the Sixth Ministerial Conference (Annex 3) and recommended their submission to the Ministerial Conference.

**Date and venue of the Seventh session of the Conference:**

12. The meeting welcomed the offer of Burkina Faso to host the Seventh session of the Conference in 2018, and mandated the General Secretariat to follow-up on the Conference date.
13. The Meeting expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the generous hospitality extended and for the good organization of the Conference works. The Meeting also commended the good management of the meeting by Ambassador Salih Mutlusen, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It praised likewise the Secretariat's role in the success of this Conference.

Istanbul on 1 November 2016