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**REPORT OF
THE MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
PREPARATORY TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS**

Niamey, Republic of Niger

21-22 December 2015

**REPORT OF
THE MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
PREPARATORY TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)**

Niamey, Republic of Niamey, 21-22 December 2015

The Meeting of the Senior Officials preparatory to the Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 21-22 December 2015.

2. Senior Officials from 15 OIC Member States, the General Secretariat and representatives of four OIC Institutions, namely: SESRIC, IRCICA, ICDT, and ISESCO, as well as representative of UEMOA attended the Meeting (list of participants is attached as Annex-I).

3. Following recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the Head of The Gambian delegation, Mr. Momodou JOOF, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Culture of the Republic of The Gambia, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 8th ICTM, welcomed all delegations and highlighted the various achievements realized during his country's chairmanship of ICTM.

Election of the Bureau

4. The Meeting unanimously elected the following members of the Bureau:

- Chairman: Republic of Niger
- Vice Chairman: People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Vice Chairman: Republic of Iraq
- Vice Chairman: State of Palestine
- Rapporteur: Republic of The Gambia

Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

5. The Meeting adopted its Agenda and Work Programme as contained in Annex II.

Opening Statements

6. Ambassador Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs addressed the Meeting on behalf of H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC and drew attention of the Meeting to the need for an executive programme for the effective implementation of the OIC Framework for Development of Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among OIC Member States including the need to give prominence to infrastructure development, cross-border projects, private-public partnership and regional and international cooperation.

7. In his opening statement, upon assumption of the chairmanship of the Ninth ICTM Mr. Karidio Zataou KATO, Director General for Tourism and Hotels of the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts of Republic of Niger, expressed Niger's commitment to the activities and programmes of the OIC, emphasizing its readiness to continue to work for the promotion of the Islamic joint action towards the development of tourism and socio economic development of OIC Member States.

Progress Report on Implementation of OIC Framework on Tourism

8. The Meeting considered the Progress Report of the General Secretariat, which embodied the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States as well as its recommendations. The presentation dwelled on the various activities accomplished under the Plans and Programs of the Framework as well as last ICTM Resolution, including implementation of the OIC City of Tourism and Seal of Excellence and Handicrafts Awards project. This Report is attached as Annex- III.

9. The Meeting strongly condemned the spate of destruction, theft and pillage of historical and heritage monuments due to acts of terrorism, which have affected many OIC member states, including Iraq and countries of the Sahel, and expressed its readiness to work with all international stakeholders for the repatriation of these monuments.

10. The Meeting considered and approved the Report of the Fourth Coordination Committee Meeting, held in Jakarta on 3 June 2014 with particular reference to the selection of Al-Quds Al Sherif (Palestine) and Konya (Turkey) as the Awardee Cities of the OIC City of Tourism for 2015 and 2016 respectively.

11. The Meeting agreed to consider nominations by member states for OIC City of Tourism Award only upon ascertaining that none of their cities has won the Award within the past five years.

Reports by Relevant OIC Institutions

12. The Meeting received the activity reports and presentations made by the following OIC Institutions: SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA and ISESCO, on their various contributions to the implementation of the OIC Framework document on tourism. The presentations by these Institutions are attached as Annex IV.

OIC City of Tourism Award

13. The Meeting considered the Decision of the 5th Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Niamey, Niger, on 22 December 2015, on the selection of the Madinah Al Munawwarah (Saudi Arabia) and Tabriz (Islamic Republic of Iran) as OIC City of Tourism for 2017 and 2018, respectively.

14. The Meeting reviewed the activities on the commemoration of the OIC City of Tourism 2015 as well as took note the Report and Recommendations of the Workshop on Improving Tourism Potential of Al-Quds Al-Sherif City, organized by SESRIC, in

Istanbul, Turkey, on 24-25 November 2015. While commending the various projects submitted by SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA and ISESCO in commemoration of Konya as OIC City of Tourism 2016, the Meeting urged all member states to submit their respective plans for the commemoration of this City to the General Secretariat, including the airing of the documentary film on Konya.

Islamic Tourism in the Member States

15. The Meeting considered and approved the Report and Recommendations of the 1st OIC International Forum on Islamic Tourism, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 2-3 June 2014 is attached as Annex V.

16. It agreed to establish a Working Group on Islamic Tourism comprising of the following members: Republic of Indonesia (Coordinator), People's Republic of Bangladesh, SESRIC, and Islamic University of Technology (IUT).

17. The Meeting considered the Report on Islamic Tourism presented by the SESRIC is attached as Annex VI. In this regard, it welcomed the offer of SESRIC to carry out a project on "Strategic Plan for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries."

Tourism Occupational Skill Standards

18. The Meeting noted with appreciation the Presentation on the Tourism Occupational Skill Standards by the Republic of Turkey, as the Coordinator on Tourism Occupational Skill Standards. It requested the General Secretariat to collate the responses of member states and liaise with Turkey and SMIIC on modalities for elaborating relevant OIC guidelines on Tourism Occupational Skill Standards.

Tourism Facilitation, Research and Training, and Tourism Marketing

19. The Meeting commended Malaysia for its valuable Report on OIC Tourism Marketing Strategy and requested the General Secretariat to convene a meeting of Tourism Marketing Authorities in OIC Member States with a view to elaborating an appropriate plan of action on this important subject (the Report is attached as Annex-VII).

Consideration of the Draft Agenda and Draft Work Programme

20. The Meeting discussed and recommended the attached Draft Agenda and Draft Work Programme for the Ministerial Session- Annex-VIII.

Consideration of the Draft Resolution of the 9th Session of ICTM in the domain of tourism and the Draft Executive Programme for the implementation of the Framework on Tourism

21. The Meeting also recommended the attached Draft Resolution including the Draft Executive Programme for the implementation of the Framework on Tourism for the consideration of the Ministerial Session – Annex-IX

Venue of 10th ICTM

22. The Meeting commended People's Republic of Bangladesh for its offer to host the 10th Session of ICTM in 2017 and urged Member States to actively participate in the Session.

Members of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the domain of Tourism between OIC member states (2015-2017)

23. The Meeting welcomed both the Republic of Niger and the People's Republic of Bangladesh as the new Chairman and member of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Framework on Tourism, respectively.

Vote of Thanks

24. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of Republic of Niger for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to all delegates as well as the excellent arrangements made for the successful hosting of the Meeting. The delegates also expressed their appreciation to the Chairman of SOM for his leadership and wisdom, which facilitated the smooth conduct of the Meeting. Similarly, the Meeting thanked the OIC Secretary General and members of the OIC General Secretariat and OIC Institutions for their invaluable contributions and support for the Meeting.

Niamey, 22 December 2015.