



OIC/8-ICTM/2013/SOM/REP/FINAL

Original: English

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

BANJUL, REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

01-02 SAFAR 1435H

04-05 DECEMBER 2013

**REPORT OF
THE MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
PREPARATORY TO THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)
BANJUL, REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA 04-05 DECEMBER 2013**

The Meeting of the Senior Officials preparatory to the Eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia, on 01-02 Safar1435H (04-05 December 2013).

2. Senior Officials from 27 OIC Member States, and representatives of five OIC Institutions, namely: SESRIC, IRCICA, ICDT, ISESCO and SMIIC, attended the Meeting. List of participants is attached as Annex-I.
3. Following recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the Head of the Iranian delegation, Mr. Ali Haji Shizari Director General of Tourism of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 7th 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 The Gambia
 - Vice Chairman: Republic of Tunisia
 - Vice Chairman: Malaysia
 - Vice Chairman: State of Palestine
 - Rapporteur: Islamic Republic of Iran

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. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC and invited the Meeting to consider practical measures for the actualization of the OIC Framework for Development of Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between 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, Mr. Momodou C. Joof, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Republic of The Gambia, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 8th ICTM, underscored The Gambia'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 Report of the Secretary General, 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 Short Term Plan and Program, including recent bilateral activities and regional projects. It also highlighted various activities of the OIC institutions towards the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among OIC Member States. This Report is attached as Annex- III.

Reports by Relevant OIC Institutions

9. The Meeting considered the 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.

The Mechanism and Criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism

10. The Meeting considered the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism and, after making several amendments, approved the said Mechanism attached as Annex-V.

The Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts

11. The Meeting also reviewed the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts and approved the said document with some amendments. It agreed that IRCICA should implement the Mechanism, which falls within its mandate as a subsidiary institution of the OIC, charged with developing Islamic arts, history and culture. The approved Mechanism is attached as Annex- VI.

Establishment of the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries

12. The Meeting reviewed the proposition by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries as an international specialized institution against the background of the similarity between the mandate of the proposed Centre and the functions of such existing OIC institutions as IRCICA and ISESCO. The Meeting, therefore, agreed that the Iranian proposal should be considered by these two institutions within their respective mandates. The proposal is attached as Annex- VII.

Consideration of the Draft Agenda and Draft Work Programme

13. 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 8th Session of ICTM in the domain of tourism

14. The Meeting also recommended the attached Draft Resolution for the consideration of the Ministerial Session – Annex-IX.

Venue of 9th ICTM

15. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Government of the Republic of Niger to host the 9th Session of ICTM in 2015 and urged Member States to actively participate in the Session.

Reconstitution of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the domain of Tourism between OIC member states

16. The Meeting recommended the following member states to be members of the Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Framework on Tourism:

1. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2. Republic of Iraq
3. Malaysia
4. Republic of Turkey
5. Republic of Senegal
6. Republic of Uganda
7. State of Palestine
8. Republic of The Gambia
9. Republic of Niger

Vote of Thanks

17. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government of Republic of The Gambia for 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 Institutions for their invaluable contributions and support for the Meeting.

Banjul, 05 December 2013.