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RESOLUTION  
ON  
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG  
THE OIC MEMBER STATES

ADOPTED BY

THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)

BANJUL, REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

01-03 SAFAR, 1435H

04-06 DECEMBER, 2013

**RESOLUTION**  
**ON**  
**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG**  
**THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

*The Eighth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held from 01 to 03 Safar, 1435H (04 – 06 December, 2013), in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia.*

Recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Pursuant to the OIC Ten-Year Programme Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Summit, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in December 2005,

Re-affirming the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States adopted by the Sixth Session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on 25-28 JUMADUL THANI 1429H (29 JUNE – 2 JULY 2008),

Also Re-affirming the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), particularly, resolution No. No 5/39-E of the Thirty Ninth Session of CFM, held in Djibouti on 01-03 Muharram 1434H (15-17 November 2012),

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the previous Sessions of the ICTM,

Acknowledging that tourism is central in promoting economic, social and cultural interactions among nations, contributing to international peace and security as well as international understanding,

Re-iterating the relevance of sustainable tourism to the actualisation of OIC poverty eradication strategies and policies and as a potential contributor to sustainable development,

Expressing appreciation to the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for their significant roles as focal points and, for their efforts in promoting tourism facilitation, tourism marketing and research and training in tourism, respectively,

Commending the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Third Coordination Committee Meeting for the preparation of the Progress Report on the implementation of the Framework Document on Tourism, held in Tehran, on 12-13 June 2012,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Turkey for organising the First Meeting of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum, held in Izmir, Turkey on 7-8 December 2012 and for the hosting of a training programme for hotel and travel agency managers of the OIC member states, held in Antalya, Turkey on 16-20 April, 2013.

Noting with appreciation the work of OIC relevant institutions, in particular the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA),

Commending IRCICA for the successful organization of the International Symposium on the "History of the Islamic Civilization in Eastern Africa", in collaboration with the National Records & Archives Authority of the Sultanate of Oman, and Zanzibar University, held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on 3-6 September 2013 as well as the production of a number of reference books and organization of congresses in the field of culture, history, arts, crafts and architectural heritage of the Muslim world resulting from the Centre's various programs and research projects,

Also noting, with appreciation, the publication by IRCICA of the Album of the Winning Entries of the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts and the Documentary Volume entitled: Tourism and Handicrafts in the Muslim World, which provides a survey assessment of the prospects of economic, social and cultural development of the relationship between Tourism and Handicrafts in nearly 50 OIC Countries,

Welcoming the launching of the Report entitled "International Tourism in OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges" by SESRIC, and taking note with, appreciation, the initiative of SESRIC for developing capacity building programmes in the domain of tourism within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme,

Noting with appreciation of the efforts of ICDT in the promotion of tourism activities and programmes, particularly its cooperation with UNWTO in coordinating the implementation of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa",

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICCIA for successful organization of Third and Fourth Conference on Health Tourism in Islamic Countries in Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 18-19 December 2012 and 26-27 November 2013, respectively,

Also expressing appreciation for the efforts made by ISESCO to promote culture in the OIC member states particularly its organization and sponsorship of the annual Islamic City of Culture Award,

Taking note of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Framework Document, adopted by the Third Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, the working papers of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) presented to the Conference as well as contributions made by the member states during the deliberations of the Conference,

Commending the OIC General Secretariat for its continued support and invaluable assistance to the Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General thereon:

1. **Adopts** the Mechanism and Criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism and **entrusts** the Coordination Committee and the General Secretariat with the selection process of the Award.
2. **Invites** IRCICA to implement the Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handcrafts.
3. **Welcomes** the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Establishment of “the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries” and **invites** IRCICA and ISESCO to implement the salient aspects of the proposal.
4. **Elects** the following member states to constitute the nine-member Coordination Committee for the period from 2013 - 2017:
  - i. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
  - ii. Republic of Iraq
  - iii. Malaysia
  - iv. Republic of Turkey
  - v. Republic of Senegal
  - vi. Republic of Uganda
  - vii. State of Palestine
  - viii. Republic of The Gambia
  - ix. Republic of Niger
5. **Welcomes** the offer by Republic of the Gambia to host the Fourth meeting of the Coordination Committee in 2014 so as to enable the Committee to continue its work to prepare plans and programmes in order to ensure implementation of the Framework Document on Tourism, and **submit** a report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, through the Secretary General.
6. **Calls upon** the OIC member states and their private sector entities to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in the Second Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 16-17 December 2013.

7. **Takes note** of IRCICA's activities relating to the study and recording of Islamic architectural heritage, its contribution in this regard to knowledge and information for cultural tourism and its collaboration with international bodies concerned; *commends* the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database sponsored by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, President of Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and **invites** the member states which have not done so yet to provide IRCICA with the required data and information on their Islamic sites and monuments and designate their respective focal points to collaborate continually with the Database unit at IRCICA.
8. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Tunisia to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC member states to be jointly organized by the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Tunisia and ICDT, scheduled to be held on 23-26 April, 2014 and **urges** member states to actively participate in this event.
9. **Takes note** of the hosting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tourism Fairs of the OIC member states by Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively in 2016 and 2018
10. **Welcomes** the ongoing arrangement by the ICDT to jointly organize the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Hajj & Umra Expo with the Al-Madinah International Company for Exhibitions, scheduled to be held on 16-20 November 2014 in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and **urges** member states to actively take part in this event.
11. **Also welcomes** the offer by the Republic of Indonesia to organise a conference on Sharia Tourism in Indonesia in 2014 and **urges** member states to actively participate in this event.
12. **Requests** the participating member states in the Regional Project on "sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in west Africa" to include the project in their respective development programmes submitted to bilateral and multilateral donors and to submit the respective national segments of the project to the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the project.
13. **Calls** the concerned member states, OIC institutions and all the stakeholders to implement the said Project with a view to facilitating the mobilization of the needed funds for the financing of the Project.
14. **Also calls on** the member states, funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions to actively participate in the Second Donors' Conference to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa".
15. **Requests** the OIC member states to extend their support and cooperation to the Islamic Health Tourism Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its endeavours to promote health tourism among member states.

16. **Expresses** its profound thanks and gratitude the Government and the people of Republic of The Gambia for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Eighth Session of the ICTM.
17. **Welcomes** the offer by the Republic of Niger to host the Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism (ICTM) in 2015.
18. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and **submit** a report to the Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.

**Banjul, 06 December 2013**