

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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**RESOLUTION**  
**ON THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG**  
**THE OIC MEMBER STATES**  
**ADOPTED BY**  
**THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE**  
**OF TOURISM MINISTERS**

**TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**22-24 ZULHIJJA 1431H**

**28 – 30 NOVEMBER, 2010**

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

*The Seventh Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held from 22 to 24 Zulhijja, 1431H (28 – 30 November, 2010), in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.*

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

Also recalling Resolution No 3/11-E (IS) of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal , on 6-7 Rabiul Awwal 1429 (13-14 March 2008), and Resolution No 5/37-E of the 37<sup>th</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, from 4 to 6 Jumada Al-Thani 1431H (18-20 May 2010),

Further recalling the Resolutions adopted by the previous Sessions of the ICTM,

Recognizing that tourism plays a pivotal role in promoting economic, social and cultural interactions among nations, contributing to international peace and security as well as international understanding,

Acknowledging also the potential of tourism as an important poverty alleviation tool,

Emphasizing that tourism is among the priority areas identified in the Plan of Action on Strengthening Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States,

Recalling the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States adopted by the Sixth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on 29 June - 2 July 2008 as well as the Short Term Plan and Program for the Implementation of the said Framework adopted by the First Coordination Committee Meeting in Damascus, Syria, on 18-19 March 2009,

Reaffirming that the Framework Document contains a set of concrete actions in the field of tourism, based on the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States,

Expressing its solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle against Israeli occupation and condemning the illegal excavations in Jerusalem and the building of separation walls,

Condemning the Israeli attempts to judaise the archaeological and tourism sites in the occupied Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights,

Commending the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Second Coordination Committee Meeting for the preparation of the Progress Report on the implementation of the Framework Document on Tourism, held in Antalya, on 24-25 March 2010,

Also commending the working cooperation between the ICDT, the SESRIC and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for the expeditious implementation of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa,

Expressing satisfaction with the finalization of the feasibility study of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa,

Noting with appreciation the production of a number of reference books in the field of culture, history, arts and crafts of the Muslim world resulting from the IRCICA's various programs and research projects, and organization of academic congresses, awards and diverse exhibitions,

Commending the publication by IRCICA of a Documentary Volume entitled: "Tourism and Handcrafts 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 Member States,

Also commending the successful organization of the International Congress on Employment of Traditional Industries within the new Architectural Projects held in Tunis on 27-31 October 2008 in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Handicraft and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation of the Tunisian Republic,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICCI for successful organization of the Second Forum of Tourism in Islamic Countries in Tehran, Iran, on 28-30 April 2009,

Noting with appreciation the implementation of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Calligraphy Competition, organized in the name of the late Syrian calligrapher M. Badawi Al-Dirani, and sponsored by Abu-Dhabi Culture and Heritage Authority, with a ceremony held in Abu-Dhabi and Istanbul on 15 April 2010,

Taking cognizance of the existing cooperation between the OIC and the UNWTO, and being aware of the outcomes of the Eighty-ninth Session of the Executive Council of the UNWTO, which took place in the Kish Island, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 24-26 October 2010, regarding the rebound of international tourism as well as increase in technical cooperation with and development assistance to Member States of the OIC,

Taking note of the plan of IRCICA to organize the Doha International Festival on Arts, Heritage and Creativity in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the State of Qatar, which includes the organization of an international Seminar on Innovation and Creativity in Arts and Crafts; International Doha Award for Innovation in Crafts and International Exhibition of Artisans, which will be held in Doha, on 5-9 December, 2010,

Welcoming the SESRIC plans, within the framework of the OIC Vocational Education and Training (OIC-VET) Programme, for organising capacity building training programmes on tourism development and high quality on job training for services staff in tourism sectors,

Commending the Syrian Arab Republic and Chairman of 6<sup>th</sup> ICTM for its exemplary efforts in supporting the OIC Tourism agenda,

Expressing appreciation to the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for their significant role as focal points, in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions, for their efforts on promoting tourism facilitation, tourism marketing and research and training in tourism, respectively, and appreciating the reports submitted by them in following up of the actions carried out in their respective fields,

Taking note of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Framework Document, adopted by the Second 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), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), 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. **Endorses** the Progress Report for the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of tourism between OIC Member States (2008-2018), prepared by the Second Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism;
2. **Welcomes** the offer by the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the third meeting of the Coordination Committee in 2011 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;

3. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to ensure effective implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between the OIC Member States;
4. **Urges** all relevant OIC institutions to continue their follow-up of the developments of the sector of tourism in Member States and to ensure effective collaboration with regional, sub-regional and international organizations, particularly with the UNWTO;
5. **Calls on** Member States to participate actively, in the celebrations of the “Tlemcen, Capital of Islamic Culture” which will take place in Algeria during 2011, to promote and develop cultural tourism;
6. **Also calls on** Member States to actively participate in the celebrations of “Al-Najaf Al-Ashraf” as the Islamic Capital of Culture year 2012;
7. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States and their private sector entities to promote intra-OIC tourism by actively participating in the Second Tourism Fair, to be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 9-12 October 2011;
8. **Also calls upon** the OIC Member States and their private sector entities to actively participate in the third OIC Tourism Fair to be held in Syrian Arab Republic in 2012;
9. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States and their private sector entities to actively participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Health Expo including Health Tourism, to be held on 24-27 February 2011 in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia;
10. **Urges** the Member States to eliminate, to the extent possible, existing barriers to movement of tourists in OIC Countries, including through simplification of visa, customs and foreign exchange procedures, as well as by encouraging cross-border projects and cooperation among their tour operators;
11. **Invites** the relevant tourism authorities of the Member States to convene regularly to exchange views on the enhancement of tourism services particularly in the area of religious tourism;
12. **Calls** for the immediate lifting of the siege on Gaza and an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories;
13. **Urges** Member States to actively support the preservation of the Palestinian cultural heritage and the development of the tourism sector in Palestine;
14. **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 at the Donors’ Conference to be held in Dakar, Senegal, on 27-29 May 2011, 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 Follow-up Committee on the Regional Project to continue to provide its support for timely implementation of the Project;

16. **Takes note** of the progress of regional projects of Community of Central African Member States (CEMAC) related to the CEMAC Tourism Training School and development of ecotourism in the trans-border parks and reserves project adopted by 6<sup>th</sup> ICTM, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic in 2008.

17. **Reaffirms** its continued support for regional and bilateral tourism projects and calls upon all OIC Member States and institutions to provide their financial and technical support for such projects to contribute to strengthening their relationship and socio-economic development;

18. **Mandates** the OIC General Secretariat in consultation with OIC Member States to initiate annual “OIC city of Tourism” award in recognition of exceptional contributions to the improvement of tourism in OIC Member States;

19. **Calls on** Member States to provide IRCICA with the required data and information on their Islamic sites and monuments and designate their respective focal points to collaborate with the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database unit at IRCICA in this respect;

20. **Invites** financing institutions and bodies and the private sector in the OIC Member States to join efforts to attain and establish the aspired goals, with a view to empowering the tourism sector to contribute to the economic and social development of the Member States;

21. **Calls on** Member States to encourage and facilitate joint tourism ventures and other investments by the private sector in the expansion and upgrading of the existing tourist capacities and activities and for the construction of new facilities of appropriate quality and service standards, using up-to-date technologies;

22. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States to actively participate in the Tourism Investment Forum, being organized by the Syrian Arab Republic in Damascus in April 2011, in collaboration with ICCI;

23. **Calls** for facilitation of movement of media people among the Member States, in order to utilize the potential of media to serve the purposes of expanding intra-OIC tourism;

24. **Also calls** for increased public awareness in the OIC Member States on the existing tourist resources and facilities in the Islamic world, with a view to encouraging tourist visits to other Islamic countries by providing required information to potential visitors;

25. **Welcomes** the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of an “OIC Electronic Visa Network” and requests the Islamic Republic of Iran, in collaboration with the relevant OIC bodies, to elaborate on the proposed Network and submit a report to the next ICTM session for its consideration;
26. **Invites** the Islamic Republic of Iran, within its function as the Focal Point on Research and Training in Tourism to establish “the OIC Center for Specialized Training on Traditional Arts “ and **invites** the OIC Member States and the OIC relevant institutions to cooperate with the Center;
27. **Adopts** the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran on establishing “the OIC Award of Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts” to preserve and develop traditional and contemporary crafts, to be performed during ICTM sessions, taking into consideration the role of IRCICA as the focal point for handicrafts;
28. **Commends** the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts as the OIC Focal Point on OIC Tourism Research and Training Network and **requests** the OIC Member States to provide the relevant database with information on their tourism research and training courses;
29. **Notes with appreciation** “The Strategy for the Development of Cultural Tourism in the Islamic World”, adopted by the Sixth Session of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 24 to 25 Shawal 1430A.H (13-14 October 2009) and **calls on** the concerned OIC Member States as well as relevant OIC institutions to support and cooperate with ISESCO in implementing the Strategy;
30. **Calls on** the Member States, their private sector and relevant OIC institutions to participate in the workshop on “Private Sector Cooperation for Development of Tourism within OIC”, to be held in Izmir, Republic of Turkey, on 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2010;
31. **Calls on** the Member States to extend their full support to the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF- DC) and contribute to successful implementation of its project on “Promotion of Youth Tourism in the OIC Countries”;
32. **Notes with appreciation** the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting “the First International Conference and Exhibition on Health Tourism”, held in Mashhad, on 2-4 November 2010, and the decision by the Conference on setting up the Secretariat of the Islamic Health Tourism Association and **calls upon** the OIC Member States to extend their support and cooperation to the Association;
33. **Emphasises** the importance of strengthening and promoting eco-tourism partnership and cooperation as an emerging component of tourism among OIC Member States, considering its great cultural and environmental advantages and **endorses** the establishment of an open-ended working group to consider the issue and **submit** an appropriate proposal to the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting in cooperation with UNWTO and relevant OIC institutions;

34. **Expresses** solidarity and brotherhood with the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding the unprecedented devastation brought about by floods during July-August 2010 and **urges** OIC Member States to provide their full support and possible assistance to Pakistan in its reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts particularly in the area of Tourism;

35. **Taking note with appreciation** to ICDT for its technical assistance to OIC Member States to facilitate their accession to WTO and for its reports on the evolution of multilateral trade negotiations presented to the annual meetings of the COMCEC, to the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs of the OIC and to the OIC annual Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM);

36. **Takes note with appreciation** the Report of SESRIC on “International Tourism in the OIC Countries”, calls on the Member States to provide SESRIC with the required statistical data on their tourism sectors;

37. **Requests** the support and the help from the Ministers of Tourism for the OIC to provide Whole Sale Rates, DATA Tourist Attractions, etc. for the Travel Portal for FORAS Holidays. The portal will sell and promote travel between the OIC countries;

38. **Expresses** its profound gratitude to the People and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Seventh Session of the ICTM;

39. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Republic of Sudan for offering to host the Eighth Session of the ICTM in 2012, and **invites** the OIC Member States to actively participate in the Conference;

40. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and **submit** a report to the Eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.

**Tehran, 30 November 2010**