

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



*OIC 4-ICTM-2005/REP/FINAL*

REPORT OF  
THE FOURTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
OF TOURISM MINISTERS

DAKAR – REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL  
19-20 SAFAR 1426 H (29-30 MARCH 2005)

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1. The Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 29-30 March 2005 (19-20 Safar 1426 H).
2. The Meeting was attended by the following OIC Member States:
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
  - Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
  - State of the United Arab Emirates
  - Republic of Indonesia
  - Islamic Republic of Iran
  - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
  - Kingdom of Bahrain
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Republic of Benin
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Republic of Tunisia
  - People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
  - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
  - Republic of Senegal
  - Republic of the Sudan
  - Syrian Arab Republic
  - Republic of Iraq
  - Sultanate of Oman
  - Republic of Gabon
  - Republic of Guinea
  - Republic of Guinea-Bissau
  - State of Palestine
  - Union of Comoros
  - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
  - State of Qatar
  - State of Kuwait
  - Republic of Lebanon
  - Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
  - Republic of Maldives
  - Malaysia
  - Republic of Mali
  - Arab Republic of Egypt
  - Kingdom of Morocco
  - Islamic Republic of Mauritania

3. The following representatives of the General Secretariat, of the Subsidiary Organs and of the Specialized and Affiliated Institutions of the OIC took part in the meeting:
  - The Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).
  - The Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT).
  - The Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
  - The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).
  - The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA).
4. The Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization participated in the meeting.
5. The list of participants appears in Annex-I.
6. The meeting started with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
7. His Excellency President Abdoulaye WADE of Senegal integrated his speech within the framework of Islamic solidarity and the consolidation of economic cooperation. He also emphasized the importance of emergence of the image of Islam through the latest information and communication technologies. He further developed the image and reputation of Islam through an appeal for sound tourism under the economic angle. The President considered that the tourism development indicators will not rely on the national potentials or the development of infrastructure or even higher tourism influx if they do not increase national wealth. It is for these reasons that His Excellency made an appeal for the integration of national private enterprises, or even joint ventures at the level of the Ummah. He further declared that he was prepared to deploy advocacies with the Sovereigns and Heads of State for the implementation of concrete proposals in this regard. In this context, he did not fail to mention the importance of setting up a Tourism Development Centre and the need to grant financial facilities within the framework of our funding institutions such as IDB and to encourage the emergence of tour operators likely to coordinate their actions with a view to increasing the inter-Islamic flows.
8. In his capacity as Chairman of the Third Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for hosting the Fourth ICTM, congratulating the new Secretary General, His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu for his election at the head of the OIC, and commended the efforts of the former Secretary General Dr. Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ. His Royal Highness recalled in his speech the progress report on the

implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICTM resolutions prepared by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat. He further emphasized the importance of achieving sustainable development in the tourism industry and the latter's growing contribution to the economies of Member States, stressing the need to reactivate intra-OIC tourism and coordinated joint action.

9. His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General, made an opening address in which he expressed his gratitude to the Government of Senegal for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> ICTM, commending His Excellency President Abdoulaye WADE's visit to the OIC General Secretariat headquarters, which reflects interest in and support to the OIC's activities. His Excellency stressed that tourism has become one of the most developed sectors, for it constitutes an efficient tool to fight poverty and improve the standard of living of our people through the creation of job opportunities and generation of income.

His Excellency highlighted the importance of the Kuala Lumpur Work Programme emanating from the Action Plan to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States and its detailed programmes.

His Excellency also pointed out that the various natural resources and rich cultural heritage that we are endowed with, make our countries attractive from the tourism point of view, compared with countries that have a long established tourism experience.

He further stressed the important role of tourism in promoting cooperation and solidarity among OIC Member States on the one hand and between them and the other countries of the world on the other, which will contribute positively to developing dialogue among the various civilizations.

10. His Excellency Mr. Francisco Franjiali, Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization, made a statement in which he laid emphasis on the role of tourism in achieving economic progress, considering it an important factor for rapprochement among peoples. He made reference to the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the two Organizations and stressed the hope for more cooperation between them. He expressed the WTO's willingness to offer all kinds of support to the Muslim States whose tourism facilities have been affected by the Tsunami disaster.
11. The head of delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr. Marashi, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Cultural and Tourism Heritage Organization, made an address on behalf of the participating delegations. He thanked the Government of the Republic of Senegal for hosting the Conference as well as for the initiatives it took to

ensure its success. He also expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to participants.

12. Following brief informal consultations between the participating delegations, it was proposed that the Bureau should be composed as follows:
  - Chairman: Republic of Senegal
  - Vice Chairman for the Arab Group: Republic of Iraq
  - Vice Chairman for the Asian Group: Malaysia
  - Vice Chairman: State of Palestine
  - Rapporteur: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
13. The Meeting adopted its Agenda and Work Programme (Annex-II).
14. The representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (in his capacity as Chairman of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICTM) presented the report of the Follow-Up Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICTM held in Riyadh from 7 to 9 October 2003 (1-3 Shaaban 1423H), a copy of which is annexed to this report (Annex-III).
15. The Meeting took note of the proposals made by the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Maldives, the Sudan, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Morocco. The representative of the Republic of Tunisia informed the Meeting about his country's candidature for the chairmanship of the Executive Council of WTO and sought OIC's support for this candidature. The representative of Palestine proposed the creation of a Fund for the Promotion of Tourism and the Preservation and Restructuring of Cultural Heritage. The Meeting requested Palestine to derive benefits from the existing facilitations within the framework of OIC institutions and, as necessary, to submit its proposal to the OIC Secretary-General for circulation to Member States for examination.
16. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the proposal made by the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers. It invited the Member States to effectively participate in the conference.
17. In their presentations, the delegations expressed their deep gratitude for the keynote speech delivered by His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, and considered it as an official guideline document for cooperation among the OIC Member States.
18. The Conference considered the Draft Resolution on Tourism Development and the Draft Dakar Declaration submitted by the Senior Officials Meeting in

their final versions. After discussion, the Conference adopted the resolution and Dakar Declaration after introducing amendments. (Annexed doc. No. OIC/4-ICTM/2005/RES/FINAL and No. OIC/4-ICTM/2005/DKR/FINAL).

19. At the Closing Session, the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq proposed on behalf of the Conference to address a cable of thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal expressing its deep gratitude for hosting the Conference and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the participants as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the success of the meeting.
20. The participants expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Conference for his wise and competent steering of conference proceedings.

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