

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



OIC/4-ICTM/2005/RES-FINAL

RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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The Fourth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held from 18 to 20 Safar 1426H (28-30 March 2005), in Dakar, Republic of Senegal,

Recalling the Resolution on Tourism adopted by the First ICTM held on 3 and 4 October, 2000, in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran;

Recalling also the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by the Second ICTM held on 25 and 26 Rajab 1422H (12-13 October 2001) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

Recalling also the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by the Third ICTM held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 1 to 3 Shaaban 1423H (7-9 October 2003);

Recalling also resolution 28/10-E (IS) of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 20 and 21 Shaaban 1424H (16-17 October 2003);

Further recalling resolution 31/31-E of the 31st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, from 26 to 28 June 2004;

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

Recognizing also that the promotion of tourism among the OIC Member States further enhances the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah;

Emphasizing that tourism is one of the priority areas identified in the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States;

Reaffirming the importance of publicizing the provisions of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism adopted by the Thirteenth Session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization;

Acknowledging the importance of the emphasis placed by WTO on tourism as a means of promoting peace and dialogue among civilizations;

Mindful of the current volatile international situation;

Taking note of the Background Report of the OIC General Secretariat, the working papers of the IRCICA, SESRTCIC, ICDT, and the ICCI, presented to the Conference as well as contributions made by the Member States during the deliberations of the Conference:

1. Reaffirms that the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action for the Development and Promotion of Tourism in the OIC Member States develops 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.
2. Takes note of the report of the Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Second ICTM, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 5-6 September 2002, and endorses the specific actions taken by some Member States or at individual or collective levels, as elaborated in the Matrix attached therewith.
3. Thanks the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for following up on the resolutions adopted by the Third Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, and for submitting an exhaustive report thereon.
4. Endorses the proposal made by Malaysia for the establishment of an OIC Centre for Tourism Development, which was transferred to the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States for appropriate decision.
5. Calls for the urgent holding of an experts group meeting with a view to exploring ways and means to implement the tourism section of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States; and, in this connection, welcomes the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the experts group meeting from 21 to 24 July 2005; and also commends the willingness of the Islamic Development Bank to sponsor such meetings.
6. Decides to set up a follow-up committee to activate the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the ministerial meetings in line with the principles which form the basis of the follow-up committee of the previous ICTM.
7. Emphasizes the need to settle crises and disputes hindering tourism movement using diplomatic and peaceful means on just and comprehensive bases such as to preserve the right of all peoples of the world to exercise their right to tourism, travel and movement in optimal conditions.

8. Expresses satisfaction at the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the World Tourism Organization and the OIC General Secretariat, and urges both organizations to strengthen cooperation between them in a bid to promote tourism industry in Member States.

9. Takes note of Tunisia's request of support for candidacy to the chairmanship of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization for the year 2006, and proposes its submission to the forthcoming ICFM which will be held in Yemen.

10. Invites the international community to establish greater understanding among all cultures on the basis of understanding and mutual respect of the specificities of each people.

11. Welcomes the adoption of the Arabic language as an official working language in the World Tourism Organization, and calls for the acceleration of the procedure therefor.

12. Appreciates the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Fifth ICTM in 2006, and invites the Member States to actively participate in the Conference.

13. Thanks the Islamic Development Bank for preparing a brief report on the progress made in the implementation of resolution N. 10 adopted by the third Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (Riyadh, 7-9 October 2003), including the IDB's initiative to help finance certain activities of the First Tourism Forum which will be organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and requests the IDB to redouble its efforts and interest in the development of tourism in Member States, including exploring more mechanisms and means that enable it to contribute to develop Member States' tourism infrastructure, in accordance with the Bank's objectives and priorities and in compliance with the laws and regulations that govern its work.

14. Invites OIC financing institutions and bodies and the private sector to join efforts to attain and establish the aspired goals, with a view to empowering the sector of tourism to achieve the economic and social development of our States.

15. Thanks 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 appropriate OIC institutions, for tourism facilitation, tourism marketing and research and training in tourism respectively.

16. Invites officials in charge of tourism in Islamic States to participate in the private sector's tourism activities, and further invites the private sector, represented by the tourism companies and investors, to participate at the meetings of the Council of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, and

to consider the organization of tourism fairs on the sidelines of the council's meetings.

17. Notes that the ICCI proposes to hold forums of the private sector involved in tourism development once every two years, with the first such forum to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2005 in coordination with the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry. In this respect expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the continuing support extended to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this regard.

18. Welcomes the offer of the Republic of Mali to host the Second Forum of the private sector on tourism in 2007.

19. Commends the efforts of ICCI aimed at encouraging the private sector to play its due role in promoting tourism by participating in tourism-related projects; reiterates the role of the private sector in developing tourism by encouraging investments.

20. Thanks ICDT for its efforts to organize, in cooperation with IDB, ICCI and other private sector institutions concerned, a Tourism Fair in the OIC Member States once every two years. In this connection, the Conference welcomes the offer of the Governments of the Republic of Turkey to host the First Tourism Fair on 15-18 September 2005, in Istanbul, the Republic of Lebanon and the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Second and Third Fairs in 2007 and 2009 respectively.

21. Decides to organize the tourism fair and forum in concomitance with the ICTM, and to apply this system after the organization of the tourism forums expected to be held in Turkey, ~~Lebanon~~ and Egypt respectively.

22. Urges the Member States to invite the Palestinian tourism sector to participate in the tourism fairs to be held in Member States.

23. Urges the Member States also to participate in the Workshop on the Role of Tourism in Promoting Economic Cooperation among Member States, to be organized in Casablanca by the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade, the Ankara Center and the other institutions concerned and competent bodies in the Kingdom of Morocco on 14 and 15 June 2005 in preparation for the 21st Session of The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States (COMCEC).

24. Notes with appreciation the study submitted by the ICDT on tourism activity in OIC Member States and the on-going negotiations on this issue within the World Trade Organization, and commends the efforts put in by the ICDT to prepare this study.

25. Notes with appreciation the paper submitted by the Ankara Center on the situation and development of international tourism in OIC Member States,

and commends the rich statistical booklet on tourism in Member States issued by the Center.

26. Pays tribute to the Ankara Center for its invaluable contributions to the organization of various workshops and expert group meetings on tourism in such a manner that helps member States identify each other's potentials, including the establishment of continued cooperation among them in this field.

27. Urges the Ankara Center to continue its follow-up of the developments of the sector of tourism in member countries and submit a report thereon to the forthcoming session, and invites the member countries to respond to the relevant questionnaires circulated to them by the Ankara Center.

28. Extends thanks to the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for preparing a Draft Charter for the Preservation and Development of Architectural Heritage in Islamic States, and urges the Member States to implement its provisions.

29. Extends thanks also to the Syrian Arab Republic for preparing a Project for the establishment of a Center for the Projection of the Civilizational Image of Muslim States on the Internet and a draft Islamic tourism portal, and encourages every measure aimed at realizing the executive study.

30. Expresses thanks to the Syrian Arab Republic and to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for preparing a preliminary conception for the project for developing tourism and cultural products among Member States, and recommends the implementation of this concept by the OIC Member States.

31. Confirms the joint proposal submitted by Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Mauritania regarding the preparation of a feasibility study on the creation of a network of trans-border reserves.

32. Takes note of the report submitted by the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) of the OIC, and commends the Center's efforts embodied in its activities in the domain of Islamic civilizational heritage, which provides the sector of tourism with excellent areas for development, as a vital field for publicizing the cultural and heritage personality of Member States, highlighting the areas of Islamic civilizations, and encouraging studies thereof with the purpose of generating more interest among our societies and enhancing civilizational and cultural dialogue among peoples and nations, as well as encouraging studies and documentation works in the field of architectural heritage, arts and handicraft, such that ensure a complete awareness of tourism productivity of the Islamic civilizational heritage that helps boost the development efforts in our States. The Conference invites Member States to participate at the cultural week that will be organized by IRCICA on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

33. Extends gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic for preparing a framework for a project on the use of Geographical

Information System (GIS) in documenting and classifying archeological and historical sites and archeological heritage in Member States; extends thanks to the Research Center on Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) for preparing a feasibility study on the project and urges Member States to examine ways to finance it.

34. Welcomes the efforts made by the Islamic States to preserve their cultural and architectural heritage through measures, including surveying and registration of cultural and architectural heritage sites, exchange of information, preparing an Islamic Charter for Architectural Heritage, following the example of the Arab charter.

35. Calls for facilitating the movement of media people among the Islamic States in order to utilize the media in those States to serve the purposes of tourism.

36. Supports the designation of Makkah Al-Mukarramah as a cultural capital of the Islamic World.

37. Condemns all Israeli actions and endeavors to judaize Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as well as settlements and the construction of the Apartheid wall around the City, and stresses the need to preserve its Arab and Muslim identity and maintain it as the capital of the State of Palestine.

38. Expresses concern over the events taking place as a result of the destructive Israeli occupation of the Palestinian occupied territories with their devastating effects on the Palestinian people and their economic infrastructure, particularly on the tourism and archeological sites; strongly condemns the aggressive Israeli aggressions, persistent settlement and construction of the Apartheid wall on Palestinian territories; and invites the Member States to provide every possible material and technical assistance to Palestine; and, in this connection, encourages tourism offices and institutions in Muslim countries to cooperate with Palestinian tourism offices and institutions in order to support the Palestinian tourism sector.

39. Expresses the view that acts of terrorism hinder the development and promotion of tourism and condemns terrorism in all its manifestations since Islam rejects terrorism in all its forms as well as any action leading thereto anywhere in the world. It also calls for the alleviation of discriminatory measures against Muslims traveling at the borders of several countries.

40. Expresses its compassion with the victims of the devastating earthquake that hit Indonesia and Malaysia, and its deep concern over the recent Tsunami disaster that hit certain OIC Member States from the Asian group, namely Indonesia, Malaysia and the Maldives; invites Member States to provide every possible assistance to reconstruct their travel and tourism infrastructure that has been damaged by the tragedy.

41. Expresses its profound gratitude to H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, for kindly patronizing the present

conference, as well as for the inspiring speech he delivered at the opening session, and considers the speech as a working document of the Conference.

42. Further expresses its gratitude to the government and people of the Republic of Senegal for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality extended to the delegations, as well as for all the arrangements made to ensure the success of the conference.

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