

RESOLUTION ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The Third Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member States held from 1 to 3 Shaaban 1423H (7-9 October 2002), in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Recalling the Resolution on Tourism adopted by the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held from 3 to 4 October, 2000, in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran;

Recalling also the Resolution on Tourism Development adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held from 25 to 26 Rajab 1422H (12-13 October 2001) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;

Recalling also resolution No. 28/9-E(IS) of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference held in Doha, Qatar on November 12-13, 2000;

Further recalling resolution No.31/29-E of the 29th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 25-27 June 2002;

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 laid 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 prepared by the General Secretariat of the OIC, the working papers presented by the SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI and IUT 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 elaborates a set of concrete actions in the field of tourism, which are based on the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States.
2. Takes note of the report of the Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, 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. Endorses the proposal made by Malaysia for the establishment of an OIC Centre for Tourism Development and submits the proposal to the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for an appropriate decision.
4. Calls for the urgent holding of an experts group meeting with a view to elaborating on the detailed means and modalities of implementation of the tourism section of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States and, in this connection, welcomes the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize the experts group meeting on 23-25 May 2003 and also notes with appreciation the willingness of the Islamic Development Bank to sponsor such an experts group meeting.
5. Decides to set up a follow-up committee for the purpose of pursuing the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the ministerial meetings in line with the principles of composition adopted in the formation of the follow-up committee of the previous ministerial conference on tourism (details are in the Annex).
6. Affirms the necessity of settling crises and differences that impede tourism flow through peaceful and diplomatic means, on just and comprehensive bases and in such a manner as to ensure the preservation of the rights of people all over the world to exercise their right to free tourism, travel, air travel and movement in optimum conditions.
7. Expresses satisfaction at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the World Tourism Organization and the OIC General Secretariat and encourages the two organizations to strengthen their cooperation to foster tourism industry in the Member States.
8. Welcomes the adoption of the Arabic Language as one of the official languages of the World Tourism Organization and calls for expediting measures to activate this decision.

9. Welcomes with appreciation the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the Fourth Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism in 2004 and invites the Member States to actively participate in the Conference.

10. Requests the Islamic Development Bank to place particular emphasis on tourism development by extending financial facilities for the development of tourism infrastructure in the OIC Member States, especially the least developed Islamic Countries. Also by preparing a specialized study about methods to activate this resolution.

11. Thanks the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for their respective roles as focal points, in collaboration with the appropriate OIC institutions, for tourism facilitation, tourism marketing and research and training in tourism respectively.

12. Invites officials of Tourism in Islamic States to participate in the Tourism activities of the private sector, and calls on the private sector, represented in tourist companies, bodies and investors to attend meetings of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism and to consider organizing fairs for tourism activities in conjunction with the sessions of the Conference.

13. Takes note that the ICCI proposes to hold symposia for the private sector working in the field of tourism development once every two years provided that the first symposium be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2003 in coordination with the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry. In this respect the Conference 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 field.

14. Reaffirms the role of the private sector in the development of tourism through the promotion of investment and, in this connection, welcomes the offer of the Republic of Mali to host the Second Private Sector Forum on Tourism in 2004.

15. Thanks ICDT for its efforts to organize, in cooperation with IDB, ICCI and other concerned institutions of the private sector, a Tourism Fair in the OIC Member States once every two years and recommends that the private sector meetings on tourism to be organized by ICCI be held alongside the private sector Tourism Fair at the same venue as far as possible. In this connection, it welcomes the offer of the Governments of the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Lebanon and the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the First, Second and Third Tourism Fairs in 2003, 2005 and 2007 respectively.

16. Urges the use of information technology in the tourism sector on a wide scale. In this connection the following steps will be undertaken:

- To establish a tourism portal on the Internet for Islamic States so as to connect and coordinate the electronic tourism websites of the Member States and of private companies operating in this field. The Syrian Arab Republic expressed its readiness to present an executive study on the establishment of this portal.
- To set up an Image Centre for the civilization of Islamic States on the Internet in order to monitor the features of that image as perceived by the non-member states, and undertake the necessary measures to address any shortcomings that may affect the features of this image. Syria expressed its readiness to present a study in this field.
- To utilize the Geographical Information System (GIS) in the processes of documentation and classification of the archaeological and historical sites as well as the urban heritage sites in all Islamic States. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic expressed their readiness to make available their expertise in this field. The two States will present a study on this matter.

17. Welcomes the initiative recently taken by the Arab States to preserve their cultural and urban heritage through several measures, including the survey of cultural and urban heritage sites, the exchange of information and a project to prepare a Charter for the Arab Urban Heritage. It recommends the need to energize this activity at the Islamic level through:

- Exploiting the urban heritage as a matrix for tourist and cultural activities in the Islamic States and to support the proposal of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to prepare a Draft Islamic Charter for Urban Heritage. In this connection, the Conference welcomed the initiative recently taken by the Organization of Arab Cities to prepare the Arab Charter for the Preservation of Urban Heritage.
- Promoting the production of intra-OIC joint tourist products to exploit the cultural and civilizational heritage of the Islamic States for the purposes of tourism marketing and also to support the proposal of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to present a study on this subject.

18. To organize and facilitate the movement of journalists and media professionals among Islamic States with the aim of exploiting the media outlets in those States to further tourism objectives.

19. Endorses the designation of Makkah Al-Mukarramah as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World.

20. Expresses concern over the recent bloody events taking place in the Palestinian territories with their destructive effects on the Palestinian people and their economic infrastructure, particularly on the tourism sector; strongly condemns the aggressive Israeli actions; and invites the Member States to provide every possible material and technical

assistance to Palestine. The Conference also condemns all actions and attempts by Israel to judaize Al-Quds Al-Sharif and underlines the necessity of preserving its Arab and Islamic identity and maintaining it as the future capital of the independent State of Palestine.

21. Expresses the view that acts of terrorism create barriers to 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 to it anywhere in the world. It also calls for the alleviation of all discriminatory measures against traveling Muslims at the borders of several countries.

22. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism and organizing it in an exemplary manner. The Conference expresses its deep appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, the Second Deputy Premier and Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, for graciously hosting the Conference.

**Guidelines for the composition of the Follow-up Committee
for the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism**

Both in the resolution on tourism adopted by the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism and the Isfahan Declaration a decision is included "to set up a Follow-up Committee with a view to pursuing resolutions and decisions of the Ministerial Meeting and coordinating the activities of the Member States, as well as concerned specialized and affiliated institutions and subsidiary organs of the OIC on tourism." In pursuance of this decision, the General Secretariat circulated on 02 April 2001 a proposal to the Member States with the approval of the chairman (Islamic Republic of Iran). The proposed composition of the Follow-up Committee sought to include all members of the bureau of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism; all members of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC; and the respective host country of the last and forthcoming Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers as well as the last Islamic Summit Conference. The proposal also included several Member States having major tourism industry.

Based on the understanding that it should remain open-ended for any other Member states to join in and in the absence of any objection to the proposal, the Follow-up Committee of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism was composed in the line stated above.

Accordingly, the Follow-up Committee of the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism may be composed as follows:

- (i) The host country of the OIC: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- (ii) All Members of the Bureau of the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism;
- (iii) All Members of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC);
- (iv) The host country of the 29th and that of the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;
- (v) The host country of the 9th Islamic Summit Conference; and
- (vi) A few Member States having major tourism industry.

A proposal in line with the above may be circulated to the Member States by the OIC General Secretariat in consultation with the chairman of the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism.