

ICMT/3-2002/RIYADH/DEC

**RIYADH DECLARATION**

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We, the Ministers in charge of Tourism and Heads of Delegations of the OIC Member States, gathered in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the Third Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism;

**Recalling** the Isfahan Declaration and the Resolution on Tourism adopted by the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran on 3-4 October, 2000;

**Recalling also** the Resolution on Tourism Development and the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action adopted by the Second Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 13-14 October, 2001;

**Inspired** by the sublime teachings of Islam which calls for promotion of solidarity, understanding and tolerance;

**Committed** to working for a better future for all nations by ensuring peace, security and economic development, through dialogue and popular participation;

**Mindful** of the objectives and purposes of the OIC Charter as well as provisions of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member States;

**Recognizing** the contribution of tourism to economic growth and development through provision of job and investment opportunities and alleviation of poverty;

**Resolve:**

1. **to implement** the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action on tourism marketing, tourism facilitation, and tourism research and development in an expeditious manner.
2. **to reaffirm our readiness** to facilitate development of tourism by adopting appropriate strategy and by removing any impediments, with due regard for the respective national laws of the Member States;
3. **to boost** cooperation among Member States on tourism, through promotion of public awareness, education, training, and marketing; creation of investment opportunities; and involvement of the private sector;
4. **to support** joint actions at bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen and expand tourism activities among the Member States;
5. **to promote** the use of information technology in the tourism sector on a wide scale.

6. to **cooperate** jointly to develop tourism in the OIC countries, as an important means to present and preserve the richness of the Islamic civilization and culture;
7. to **stress** the need to preserve and protect the Islamic monuments, sites and places which constitute the common cultural heritage of the world; and to work to preserve the urban and cultural heritage.
8. to **condemn** the attempts and illegitimate actions by Israel to destroy or otherwise change the identity of holy Islamic and historical places, in particular Al-Quds Al-Sharif and, in this respect, call on the international community to take appropriate measures to put an end to these actions;