

RESOLUTION ON TOURISM

The First Meeting of the Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member States held from 5 to 6 Rajab 1421 (from 3 to 4 October 2000), in Isfahan, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Recalling resolution No. 28/8-E(IS) of the Eighth Islamic Summit in Tehran and resolution No. 28/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit in Casablanca,

Recalling resolution No. 29/26-E of the 26th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Ouagadougou and resolution No. 31/27-E of the 27th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Kuala Lumpur,

Considering that tourism is one of the priority areas of the Plan of Action for Promotion of Economic and Trade Cooperation among OIC Member States,

Cognizant that cultural and scientific exchanges, as well as tourism are encouraged by the sublime teachings of Islam,

Recognizing that commonalities among Islamic countries provide a solid basis for expansion of tourism.

Noting that tourism plays a pivotal role in promotion of economic and cultural interactions amongst nations, thus contributing to poverty alleviation, enhancement of sustainable development and international peace and security,

Acknowledging that the initiative of the Dialogue Among Civilizations heralds an alternative to confrontation and helps forge a conducive international environment for collective endeavor to ensure a better future for all nations' and, in this respect, welcomes the contribution of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) to the Dialogue Among Civilizations by deciding to elaborate on the role of tourism as a mean for promotion of peace and dialogue among civilizations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary General of the OIC.

1. **Considers** that the First OIC Ministerial Meeting on tourism is a starting point and **expresses** the readiness and commitment to take further steps towards promotion of cooperation among Member States in tourism;
2. **Decides** to cooperate in the following areas:
 - *expansion of information exchanges and promotion of public awareness,*
 - *encouraging and facilitating cooperation among private sectors in tourism,*
 - *providing for investment opportunities in tourism,*
 - *facilitating the visa procedures for tourists from the Member States. with due respect to the national laws,*
 - *holding of joint training courses on tourism;*

3. **Requests** the Islamic Development Bank to pay a particular attention to tourism through provision of financial facilities for development of tourism among Member States, taking into account its regulations;
4. **Requests** also the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO) and International Islamic News Agency (IINA) to take concrete actions aimed at expansion of tourism through, inter alia, increased involvement of private sectors, cultural organizations and academia;
5. **Recognizes** the need to hold expert meetings on ways and means towards effective and expeditious implementation of the relevant provisions of the OIC Plan of Action on tourism;
6. **Requests** further the OIC Secretariat to explore ways and means of enhancing cooperation with World Tourism Organization (WTO) and other relevant international organizations;
7. **Decides** to set up a follow-up committee with a view to pursuing resolutions and decisions of the ministerial meetings and coordinating the activities of the Member States, as well as concerned specialized and affiliated institutions and subsidiary organs of the OIC on tourism;
8. **Decides** to hold Ministerial Meetings of the OIC on a regular basis and **welcomes** the invitation extended by the government of Malaysia to host the Second OIC Ministerial Meeting on tourism.