

Annex-VI

OIC/2-ICLM/2013/BAKU DEC./FINAL

BAKU DECLARATION

TO BE ADOPTED BY THE SECOND SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF LABOUR MINISTERS

BAKU, REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

25-26 April 2013/15-16 JUMADA II, 1434H

We, the Ministers in charge of Labour of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the heads of delegation participating in the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-26 April 2013,

Inspired by the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action, adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, on 7-8 December 2005,

Underlining the Cairo Final Communiqué of the twelfth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Cairo, Egypt, on 6 and 7 February 2013, General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among member states of the OIC adopted by the 8th ICFM, held in Tripoli, Libya, in May 1977, as well as the relevant resolutions and declarations adopted by the Islamic Summit Conferences and the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers aimed at strengthening cooperation among the Member States in the area of labour, employment and social protection,

Noting conclusions of the First Meeting of Labour Ministers of OIC Member States, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 10 September 2011,

Being committed to pursue policy of openness and close cooperation with the world's relevant international organizations operating in the field of labour, employment and social protection, such as International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Arab Labour Organisation,

Reiterating that Islam is a religion of peace and advocates such principles as appreciation of human values, tolerance with regard to religion and races and peaceful coexistence of all nations,

Recognizing that the present challenges and accelerating changes call for the OIC to intensify its efforts and strengthen its capacity to stimulate cooperation among the Member States in the area of labour, employment and social protection,

Believing that decent work, productive employment and safe work places are important elements to ensuring the sustainability of societies and combating poverty,

Emphasizing the importance of development of sound social protection system that can serve as an efficient mean for poverty eradication and achievement of Millennium Development Goals by the Member States,

Mindful that terrorism, conflicts, territorial occupation, natural disasters, epidemics and economic crises seriously harm the economic and social development of the Member States,

Hereby decide to urge member states to:

- establish a sustainable social protection system by developing effective social programmes, aimed at protecting the welfare of the most vulnerable people of OIC member states;
 - create a comprehensive and accessible social protection system that ensures protection of national interests of OIC member states;
 - implement the proposal of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish an OIC Labour Centre, and request the Secretary General to expedite the preparation of the necessary studies, given the urgent need for such an institution in view of the multiple problems faced by member states in the area of labour;
4. also create a favourable environment for the elaboration of projects of, intra- and inter-regional scope through, inter alia, wide dissemination of necessary information and broader participation by relevant OIC and international financial institutions as well as the private sector, thereby ensuring their effective implementation;
 5. strengthen cooperation and expertise, aimed at supporting efforts by individual member states for the promotion of labour, employment and social protection;
 6. address demographic challenges by developing relevant social protection policies, aimed at increasing participation of women, youth, migrants and their families;
 7. establish networks among relevant institutions of member states and ensure exchange of experiences and best practices among them to promote development of skilled and competitive labour forces and occupational standards;
 8. increase participation in elaboration and implementation of employment, occupational safety and health and social protection policies at the international level;

9. develop a good governance system in the appropriate fields to combat poverty and unemployment;
10. increase cooperation for innovative approaches and methods by introduction of active labour market and social assistance programs to accelerate alleviation of poverty in OIC member states;
11. creates and develop a sustainable protection system for the most vulnerable and the least protected migrant workers residing in the respective OIC member states;
12. condemn any manifestation of terrorism and aggressive separatism and stress the importance of expeditious resolution of conflicts, all of which have detrimental impact on social welfare and on the exercise of peoples' social rights to employment , in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, particularly those related to the territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of a state;
13. also condemn the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and acts of aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly those in Al-Quds Al-Sherif, the prisoners and the refugees; and
14. strongly condemn the aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan that entailed occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other seven administrative districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan and led to destruction of thousands of industrial and agricultural enterprises and loss of hundreds of thousands jobs in the Republic of Azerbaijan; express concern over the plight of more than one million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons expelled by Armenia; and demand immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Issued at Baku, 26th April 2013