

OIC/4-WCOD/2012/REP/FINAL

REPORT

**THE 4TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
OIC MEMBER STATES**

**“STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION
AND ROLES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN OIC MEMBER STATES”**

**JAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
04 - 06 DECEMBER, 2012**

1. In the framework of OIC implementation of the Ten-year programme of Action, adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al Mukarramah in 2005, and in conformity with the Resolution No. 3/32-C on “Muslim Woman and Her Role in the Development of Islamic Society” adopted by the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Sanaa, Republic of Yemen, which called for organizing a Ministerial-level conference aimed at “generating more opportunities, for women in every walk of social life”, and within the follow-up process of resolutions of the First, Second and Third Ministerial Conferences on Women’s Role in the Development of the OIC Member States, held in 2006, 2008 and 2010 respectively in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt and in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of the OIC Member States was held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia on December 04-06, 2012, in response to a kind invitation extended by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. Delegations representing more than forty (40) OIC Member States participated in the conference in addition to the representatives from the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation, Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), and UN Women.
3. The opening ceremony began with National Anthem of Indonesia followed by the recitation from the Holy Quran. This was followed by the statement of the Chair of the Third Session of the conference delivered by Mrs Maryam Mojtahedzadeh, Adviser to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and President of the Woman and Family Centre. After that H.E. Mrs. Linda Amalia Sari Gumelar, Minister of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia delivered her welcoming Statement. Following were remarks by H.E. Mdm. Michelle Bachelet Under Secretary General/Executive Director of UN Women,
4. His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General, in his address to the opening, highlighted that Islam pioneered in according recognition to the role of women and upheld the dignity and rights of women and their rightful place in society. He underscored that Women stand out in holding high positions in society however; such opportunities are still limited only to the privileged few and that vast majority of Muslim women remain deprived of their basic rights. He emphasized that the OIC was never short in its realization of the huge potential women’s role in development and it was on this ground that he took the initiative of holding OIC Ministerial Meetings on Women, which took a number of visionary decisions, including adoption of the OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and the Mechanism for its implementation. He mentioned that the establishment of the Women Development Organization in Cairo, was another milestone for women’s advancement. He urged all Member States, once again, to join the body by signing and ratifying its statute. He also mentioned that the cause of women was achieved with the establishment of an OIC Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights (IPCHR) which inter alia was mandated to promote the rights of women within the OIC boundaries. He underscored the sorry plight of women of Palestine living under occupation who continue to be deprived of the basic human rights and urged all to take a renewed initiative to sensitize the international community of their obligation to protect the women and children of Palestine from repression of the occupying forces.

5. At the end of the opening, H. E. Prof. Boediono, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia delivered his statement to the conference. The Vice-President on behalf of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, reaffirmed Indonesia's steadfast support to the work of OIC, among other by acting as a host for various OIC meetings and conference, including this Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in Development of OIC Member States. He further stated that the theme chosen for the Fourth Conference corresponds with the current international situation and clearly shows the continuation of commitments of OIC Member Countries in stepping up its efforts to promote the role of women in the development of OIC Member States. The Vice President emphasized Indonesia believes that gender equality and the advancement of women is not only basic human rights, the attainment of gender equality has proven to yield positive impact on the members of the families as well as the communities. Furthermore, such efforts can bring about multiplying effect to the development of women capacity in other fields.
6. In the first working session, the chairperson and members of bureau of conference were elected unanimously. The Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mrs. Linda Amalia Sari Gumelar, after being elected as chairperson of the Conference delivered her statement in which she welcomed the participants to the Republic of Indonesia and stated that through the theme of the Conference, Indonesia wishes to encourage a more profound and strategic discussion on women in the field of economy, which is one area set out in OPAAW and also a common interest for most developing countries. The ministers underlined that the increase of economic opportunity for women in employment, access to financial and productive resources, and the issue of migration remains to be the challenges within the OIC.
7. The Conference Bureau was composed as follows:

Republic of Indonesia – Chairperson

Arab Republic of Egypt }
Republic of Uganda } Vice-Chairperson
State of Palestine }

Islamic Republic of Iran – Rapporteur
8. The Conference adopted its programme of work and agenda which included:
 - 1) Vision for Strengthening Women's Participation and Roles in Economic Development in the OIC Member States.
 - 2) Review of the status of Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW):
 - a) Women empowerment; Eradication of poverty, achievement of sustainable development and promotion of adequate resources and support for achieving gender equality.
 - b) Raising women's participation in decision making mechanisms.
 - c) Providing equal opportunities for women in society including access to quality education, health care and enhanced participation.

- d) Elimination of all forms of discrimination including combating violence against women.
 - e) Developing Indicators and Action Oriented Studies.
 - f) Discussion and adoption of conference report and Jakarta Declaration.
9. The conference witnessed intensive discussions on women issues and the challenges they are facing in OIC Member States, particularly as regards the issues of Women, Family and Economy. The aim was to enable women to participate in economic activities parallel to performing their basic role in the family. The conference stressed on the necessity of providing equal opportunities for women in the work market and facilitating their access to the necessary means, including financial means.
 10. The participants considered poverty as a substantial obstacle to the empowerment of women and stressed the necessity of alleviating poverty. They called for addressing the issue of the marginalization of women which stems from conditions of poverty. The participants urged the Member States to prepare programs for the alleviation of poverty including micro-finance in order to achieve economic liberty for Women.
 11. The Conference urged for the effective participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions of civil society to prepare programs that aim at integrating women in the economic cycle and called for increasing awareness among men and women of the rights of women, including their right to development.
 12. The Conference highlighted the importance of ratifying the necessary laws and relevant international agreements by parliaments of the OIC Member States, in order to lessen the economic and social deprivation of women and improve their material and moral status and ensure their protection from all forms of violence, including domestic violence.
 13. The Conference discussed the status of implementing OIC Plan of Action for the advancement of women (OPAAW). Representatives of Member States reviewed their contributions towards the implementations of this plan which inter alia aims at increasing awareness of the issue of empowering and developing women. The need for drawing up national strategies for the advancement of women became apparent.
 14. The Conference welcomed the mechanism proposed by the General Secretariat to implement the OPAAW and reiterated the need to draw up indicators for evaluation and follow up concerning the implementation of this plan.
 15. The Conference requested to consider the establishment of a forum for the creation of a network among the OIC Member States in accordance with recommendation No. 7 in the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women.
 16. Participants considered drawing up mechanisms for decision making at the local and national level , and reconfirmed the need for finding opportunities for equal participation of women in the decision making process within the family and in the work place, as well as at the level of national policies.

17. The Conference confirmed that combating violence against women constitutes a priority considering that violence constitutes a violation of Human Rights and the Basic Rights of women. It considered violence as an impediment to the advancement of women.
18. The conference stressed the need for the propagation of Islamic teachings that oppose violence against women. It urged the Member States to educate both men and women about the rights and the proper status of women in society. The conference invited the OIC Member States to exchange expertise and programs on preventing violence against women and children and urged them to support the processes of rehabilitation and re-integration of women and children who are the victims of violence. The conference requested the member States to exert intensive efforts to organize awareness campaigns to promote positive social change for the benefit of children and women, victims of violence. It called for the establishment of national centers for data and information about violence against women and children for the sake of effective intervention at the right time.
19. The conference condemned the recent attacks by Israel on Gaza. It also condemned continuation of the blockade imposed by Israel on Gaza Strip and exhorted the international community to urgently act to lift the blockade which is imperiling our Palestinian brothers and sisters, especially women and children who fall within the human danger zone. The conference stressed that the blockade imposed on Gaza, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the International Humanitarian Law, is considered the most pernicious form of violence against women and humanity in general.
20. The conference called for the acceleration of the signing and ratification of the statute of the Women Development Organization in Cairo, a specialize OIC institution established by the 37th Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan to enable the organization to start its functions.
21. The conference welcomed the establishment of a department of Family Affairs in the OIC General Secretariat and recommended that the Department should participate in the implementation and follow up of the Cairo Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women.
22. The conference welcomed the offers made by the delegations of a number of Member States to hold meetings and conferences on issues relevant to the advancement of women in the OIC countries and asked them to coordinate their efforts with the OIC General Secretariat.
23. The conference welcomed proposals from the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States, scheduled to be held in 2014.
24. The conference endorsed Jakarta Declaration.
25. The Conference commended the OIC Secretary General, Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, for his extensive efforts in promoting the cause of women and in empowering them in the OIC Member States with a view to enabling them to play greater role in the development and participate in the decision making mechanism at all levels since the time of his assumption of office in 2005. The Conference applauded his support and initiative in setting off the first women Conference of the OIC Member States in Istanbul in 2006 and the subsequent three other meetings that brought about outstanding developments, including the OPAAW.

26. The conference expressed its profound thanks and appreciation to His Excellency President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono for his lofty patronizing of the conference, as well as to the government and people of the Republic of Indonesia for the distinguished preparations made for the conference and for offering all the necessary facilities throughout the duration of the meetings.

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