



**REPORT OF THE
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING
OF THE
SIXTH OIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON FOOD SECURITY
AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

3-4 OCTOBER 2011

The Senior Officials Meeting

1. The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), preparatory to the Sixth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 3-4 October 2011. The Meeting was attended by delegates from 33 OIC Member States and 2 Observer-Countries, representatives of OIC Institutions, and regional and international organizations. List of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

Opening ceremony

2. Following a recitation from the Holy Quran, H.E. Mr. Abdel Hafiz Ibrahim, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the OIC, in his capacity as representative of the chairman of Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, made an opening statement.

Election of the Bureau

3. The Meeting elected members of the Conference Bureau as follows:

Republic of Turkey – Chairman;

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – Vice-Chairman;

Burkina Faso – Vice-Chairman;

State of Palestine – Vice Chairman;

Republic of Sudan – Rapporteur.

4. Subsequently, H.E. Mr. Vedat Mirmahmutoğulları, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey, assumed the chairmanship of the Senior Officials Meeting.

5. On his part, H.E. Amb. Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs, called for delegates' intervention for the prompt submission of the relevant questionnaires to be used in the development of a framework of cooperation for OIC in the areas of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security. Emphasizing the need to support existing OIC projects on agricultural development, he also called on Member States to create special capacity-building programmes and agricultural funding windows in order to assist OIC countries in need and to promote intra-OIC cooperation in this sector.

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Meeting adopted the Agenda. The agenda is attached as **Annex 2**.

Host Country Opening Address

7. H.E. Mr. Vedat Mirmahmutoğullari, in his opening address drew attention to the causes of food price volatility and touched upon the need for transparency in agricultural commodity markets. Detailing the various experience and the best practices of Turkey, the chairman expressed his country's readiness to share its experiences in the domain of technology transfer and promotion of market access of the products of smallholders.

“Food Security: Agricultural Development and Access to Food and Nutrition in OIC Countries”- Sharing of Best Practices

8. Under this agenda item, the Meeting listened to the presentation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on South-South Cooperation scheme to promote agricultural development and food security in OIC Member States. The presentation highlighted the evolution of FAO's South-South Cooperation initiative, which involves fielding of experts and technicians from one developing nation to another for periods covering several agricultural seasons, and the use of triangular cooperation arrangements that enable countries and institutions with financial resources to contribute to covering the costs.

9. The delegations of member states made presentations on their national experience and success stories on agricultural development and food security. The presentations featured actions and challenges in the various areas such as state subsidies to farmers, natural resource management, water saving, information sharing, diversification of crop production, climate change, establishment of grain reserves, as well as exchange agricultural experts, researchers, planners and policy makers, among others. Other areas considered included risk management, establishment of agricultural insurance systems, creation of cereals strategic reserves, role of private sector, transparency and good economic corporate governance, training, research and development. The meeting also listened to presentations on the need for certification of food products as well as creation of an appropriate emergency response mechanism. Presentations made available in writing will be posted on the Conference web site.

Review of the cooperation among OIC Countries on Food and Agriculture

10. Under this agenda item, the COMCEC Coordination Office presented a progress report on the work of the COMCEC Task Force on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security. Afterwards, the representative of FAO briefed the Meeting about the establishment of a website for the collation of information from member states. A test version of this web site may be viewed at <http://typo3.fao.org/testsite/fsatmis/home/en/>.

11. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) also made a presentation on “The State of Food Security and Agriculture Development in OIC Countries: Opportunities for Cooperation”. Participants drew attention to the establishment of safety nets, taking measures to mitigate the effects of price volatilities, initiation of pilot studies. Furthermore, they touched upon South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation among countries.

Consideration of the Agenda of the Ministerial Meeting

12. Under this agenda item, the Meeting considered the draft agenda of the Ministerial Meeting.

Consideration and Finalization of the SOM Report and the Draft Resolutions

13. The Meeting adopted its report and finalized the draft resolutions of the Ministerial Meeting.

Determination of Venue and Date of the Seventh Ministerial Conference

14. The Meeting thanked Senegal for the offer to host the next ministerial conference in December 2012.

Any Other Business

15. No issue has been raised under this agenda item.

Vote of Thanks

16. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Turkey for the generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made to facilitate the success of the Senior Officials Meeting. The Meeting congratulated the Chairman of the meeting for the excellent steering of the deliberations of the SOM.