



**DECLARATION**

**OF OUAGADOUGOU AT THE END OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC  
COOPERATION**

**OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO**  
**(30 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER 2018)**

## ***DECLARATION***

### ***OF OUAGADOUGOU AT THE END OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION***

We, the Ministers in charge of women in the OIC Member States, participants to the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in Development in the Member States held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on November 30 and December 1, 2018;

Considering that the promotion of the role of women in society is a major factor of the development of the Member States;

Considering that no country can achieve development by ignoring half of its population constituted of women;

Considering that, the divine teachings and values of Islam ensure all the political, cultural and economic rights of women;

Recognizing the important role of women within the family unit and society as a whole;

Noting that some women and girls in the OIC Member States are still confronted with inequality, exclusion, marginalization, violence in all its forms and socio-economic difficulties;

Recognizing that gender-related stereotypes and violence against women and girls act as a brake on their empowerment;

Recognizing that poverty, illiteracy, and women's limited access to factors of production, resources and decision-making preclude women from fully playing their part in the development of Member States;

Noting that ignorance of the rights of Muslim women and girls in schools, workplaces and in their social environment limits their cultural and religious development;

Noting that natural disasters, wars and conflicts weaken countries and further worsen the situation of women;

Acknowledging the efforts of the OIC Secretary General for the cause of women and their role in the development of Member States;

Recalling the conclusions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference held in Istanbul (Turkey) from 1 to 3 November 2016;

Endorsing the conclusions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference;

We, the participants at the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held from 30 November to 01 December 2018 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, under the theme "*Empowerment of women in the OIC Member States : Stakes, Challenges and Prospects*",

1. Welcome the establishment of the Organization for the Development of Women in the OIC Member States , based in Cairo, and therefore call upon Member States to act expeditiously for the ratification of its Statute, for its entry into force;
2. Welcome the improvements made to the legal framework governing the rights of women in the OIC Member States, and plead for a further consolidation of this system in order to promote the advancement and enforcement of women;
3. Reiterate the importance of the implementation of the provisions of the Resolution No. 3/32-C (subparagraph b) on "Muslim women and their role in the development of the Islamic Society", adopted by the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Sanaa, Yemen, in 2005;
4. Urge countries to take the necessary steps to ensure equal access to the opportunities and resources available for the progress of the OIC Member States;
5. Urge OIC Member States to act for achieving communication actions on Islam and issues related to the empowerment of women;
6. Reiterate the need to promote and uphold the role of women in the family and society and their participation in both national and international decision-making at the political, economic and social levels;
7. Invite member States to take the necessary measures to remove all obstacles to women's participation in development and to promote their role in all development sectors, with a particular focus on rural women confronted with inequalities, prejudices and social burdens;
8. Insist on the adoption of specific laws to fight violence, and for the prevention of violence in respect for the human dignity of women in all its physical and moral dimensions;
9. Call upon the Member States to entitle women the access to quality education and training, resources and technologies for production, processing and conservation and to promote their participation in decision-making bodies;

10. Urge governments to ensure the right to health for all and to strengthen medical and health programs that ease an equal access to quality reproductive health care and services;
11. Invite Member States to ensure an environment that allows the cultural and religious expression of Muslim women and girls;
12. Express our sympathy to countries hit by natural disasters and plagued by wars; and urge the General Secretariat and the relevant OIC institutions to take steps to organize and facilitate the mobilization of resources from Member States in order to grant assistance to the people in need in order to contribute to the resilience of the poor;
13. Express our solidarity with women organizations in Palestine, affirming our commitment to work for enhancing women's capacity to address the challenges confronting women in Palestine;
14. Commend the initiatives, efforts and contributions of the Republic of Turkey as the Chair of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States;
15. Welcome the establishment of the OIC Women Consultative Council. Commends the successful efforts of the Council and call upon the Member States to support the activities of the Council;
16. Call on the Member States, to continue to cooperate and coordinate their policies and programs for the implementation of the OPAAW and, in that context, improve their regional and OIC-wide cooperation, in coordination with the General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions;
17. Reaffirm the importance of involving women in the mechanisms of conflict resolution and mediation, the process of interreligious dialogue and the search for solutions to the phenomena of growing terrorism and extremism;
18. Invite Member States to improve the means of collaboration at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels in order to promote the sharing of experiences and good practices as well as the mobilization of resources;
19. Commend Burkina Faso's efforts in the substantive and logistical preparation for the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Women; express our hope that Burkina Faso will play a leading role in collective Muslim work on women over the upcoming two years; and call upon all the Member States and international partners to cooperate in advancing the priorities established at this conference;
20. Express to the OIC General Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank our appreciation for the continuing efforts in the development process of the Member

States and their actions for the promotion of the participation of women in this process;

21. Urge the Secretary General to continue his activities aiming to consolidate Islamic Solidarity among Member States in order to promote the role of women in the development of the Member States and to follow up the implementation process of the conclusions of the 7th Ministerial Conference on Women's Issues and to report to the next session.

*Done in Ouagadougou on 01 December 2018*