



**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

**ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

**SUBMITTED TO THE  
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

**OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

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**First: Introduction**

1- The Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States convened in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 1-3 November 2016, under the theme "**Status of Women in OIC Member States in the Light of Current Challenges**", and adopted four resolutions, namely:

First: Resolution No 1/6 –W on calling for the acceleration of the adoption process of the Statute of the Organization of Women's Development in the OIC Member States

Second: Resolution No 2/6 –W on welcoming the appointment of the OIC Ambassadors of Goodwill in the fields of family values safeguard and women's advancement and empowerment in the OIC Member State

Third: Resolution No. 3/6-W on adoption of the amended OPAAW and its annexed implementation mechanisms

Fourth: Resolution 4/6-W on adoption of the Concept Paper on the Establishment of the Women's Consultative Council of the Women's Conference

2- This report highlights the activities undertaken by the OIC General Secretariat in coordination with the OIC relevant organs and institutions to follow up on the implementation of the above resolutions.

**Second: Follow-up on the ratification of the Statute of the Organization for Women's Development in the OIC Member States**

**About the Organization for Women's Development and the ratification status of its Statute:**

3- The establishment of the Organization for Women's Development, headquartered in the Arab Republic of Egypt, was pursuant to Resolution No. 4/36-ORG of the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Damascus, 2009. This resolution established the Organization for Women's Development as a

specialized organization to develop women, refine their capabilities, and develop their expertise through the promotion and building of capacity, skills, and competence in Member States through various mechanisms, including holding training courses, organization of conferences, symposia, workshops, and meetings in the area of women's development in Member States. It aims also to support and encourage the national efforts in Member States to develop human resources in the area of women's development, enhance their role and ensure their rights in accordance with the OIC Charter and decisions. Resolution No. 4/37-ORG of the 37<sup>th</sup> CFM Session held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in 2010 adopted the Statute of the Organization for Women's Development.

- 4- The organizational structure of the Organization for Women's Development consists of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees comprises of the ministers concerned with women and appoints the Executive Director from among the candidates of Member States in the Women's Development Organization for four years renewable once. The Executive Director manages the affairs of the Organization by implementing and following up the policies and resolutions of the Board of Trustees and implementing the programmes, plans, and projects it may approve. The Statute of the Organization enters into force after the ratification of 15 OIC Member States of which 11 ratified it as of September 2018.
- 5- The following is a list of Member States that signed and ratified the Statute of the Organization for Women's Development so far:

Sr.	Country	Date of Signing	Date of Ratification
1	Arab Republic of Egypt	14 December 2010	1 March 2017
2	Republic of Gabon	-	21 January 2011
3	United Arab Emirates	28 January 2011	Ratified
4	Republic of Mali	17 March 2011	-
5	Republic of Djibouti	21 January 2012	-
6	Republic of the Comoros	June 2012	-
7	Republic of Benin	10 September 2012	-
8	Islamic Republic of Mauritania	6 November 2012	Ratified
9	Republic of Indonesia	4 December 2012	-
10	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	30 December 2012	30 December 2012
11	Republic of the Gambia	30 December 2012	31 January 2013
12	Republic of Turkey	4 February 2013	-
13	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	4 February 2013	17 March 2014
14	Republic of Guinea	4 February 2013	-
15	Republic of Chad	6 February 2013	-

16	State of Kuwait	13 May 2013	Ratified
17	State of Palestine	11 June 2013	August 2014
18	Libya	4 February 2014	-
19	Burkina Faso	3 November 2016	-
20	Republic of Yemen	3 November 2016	-
21	Republic of Niger	22 August 2017	Ratified
22	Republic of Cameroon	6 May 2018	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>

**Efforts of the General Secretariat to follow up the Statute ratification procedures:**

- 6- In Resolution No. 4/44-CUL of the CFM 44<sup>th</sup> Session of held on 10-11 July 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Resolution No. 4/45-CUL of the CFM 45<sup>th</sup> Session on 5-6 May 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, urged Member States that have not yet ratified the Statute of the Organization for Women's Development to expedite the process. The resolutions indicated that this would activate the OIC role in women's advancement and follow-up of the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW).
- 7- Subsequent to the adoption of these resolutions, the Secretary General served letters in in 2016, 2017 and 2018 to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Member States that have not yet ratified the Statute to remind of the importance of expediting the finalization of the ratification procedures; he also raised this issue during his official meetings. He stressed the need to expedite the ratification procedures to allow the Organization for Women's Development to commence its activities. In the same vein, the relevant department held consultations with the institutions responsible for women's empowerment in Member States during the workshop to strengthen their capacities on 17-18 December 2017 at the General Secretariat headquarters and urged their officials to work with the relevant authorities in their respective countries to finalize the ratification procedures.
- 8- The General Secretariat also expressed hope that members of the Women's Consultative Council, established within the framework of the Ministerial Conference on the Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States, would urge Member States to ratify the Statute of this Organization for Women's Development. This was during the second meeting of the Women's Consultative Council on 18 December 2017 at the General Secretariat headquarters given the fact that the countries of six members of the said Council have not yet ratified the Statute.

**Third: Appointment of the OIC Goodwill Ambassador in the field of defending the values of family and marriage institution and combating underage marriage:**

- 9- Resolution No. 4/44-CUL of the CFM 44<sup>th</sup> Session held on 10-11 July 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, called on the Secretary General to appoint OIC goodwill ambassadors in the fields of women's and family empowerment, supporting the youth, and child welfare. The nomination and appointment should be according to the criteria stipulated in Operative Paragraph 16 of Resolution No. 4/43-CUL of the CFM 43<sup>rd</sup> Session held on 18-19 October 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, so that they would be able to advance the OIC efforts in these fields in light of the relevant resolutions taken thereon. In this context, the Secretary General served a letter to H.E. the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs in which he requested the Moroccan authorities' approval of HRH Princess Lalla Meryem to serve as the OIC Goodwill Ambassador in the field of defending the values of the family and marriage institution and combating underage marriage. The Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs informed the Secretary General of the approval of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the said proposal.
- 10- The appointment of HRH Princess Lalla Meryem as the OIC Goodwill Ambassador took place on 8 March 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in the presence of the Secretary General. He invited HRH to visit the General Secretariat to consult and meet with the relevant departments, learn about their efforts in those areas and the role HRH could undertake, as well as visit the headquarters of the relevant organs and institutions of the OIC in Jeddah.
- 11- The Department of Social Affairs prepared a vision of the functions that the Goodwill Ambassador can undertake and sent key documents, as well as a series of OIC resolutions, strategies, and action plans related to the functions of the Goodwill Ambassador to the contact point with HRH Princess Lalla Meryem.

**Fourth: Efforts to prepare for the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of the OIC Member States**

- 12- The General Secretariat held a workshop on 28-29 June 2018 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in preparation for the Seventh Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Development of the OIC Member States. The workshop, attended by the Republic of Turkey as Chair of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference, and Burkina Faso as Chair of the Seventh Session, included experts from the relevant OIC organs and institutions. The workshop aimed at contributing to the preparation of documents to be presented to the Conference and to discuss ways to improve women's situation to enable them to participate effectively in political, economic, Social and cultural fields in Member States. The workshop also considered the issue of gender equity and justice, identification of major challenges and obstacles

faced by women, and recommendations to the Ministerial Conference with a view to enhancing the role of women in development of Member States.

- 13- The General Secretariat sent a report on the results of the workshop to Member States and the participating parties.
- 14- The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the OIC Member States convened to examine the Concept Paper of the OIC Award on Women Achievements in the Muslim world, established by Resolution No. 4/44-CUL of the CFM 44<sup>th</sup> Session on 18-19 July 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The meeting took place in the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 18 September 2018.
- 15- The meeting stressed the need to implement the aforementioned ministerial resolution and the need to work towards giving the award at the Seventh Session of the Ministerial Conference in Burkina Faso. Turkey, the Chair of the Sixth Session of the Conference, shall prepare a draft resolution in cooperation with Burkina Faso, the next Chair, Bangladesh, the CFM Chair, and Egypt, the headquarters of the Organization of Women's Development. This draft resolution shall be in light of the discussions and views presented at the meeting and in coordination with the General Secretariat for submission to the Seventh Ministerial Conference. It shall address the selection committee, nomination criteria, financial aspects, and other logistic issues related to the award. The meeting stressed the need to focus on the literary and moral aspects of the award.
- 16- The General Secretariat communicated a report on the results of the meeting to Member States.

#### **Fifth: Follow-up of the Implementation of the OIC Plan for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW):**

##### **17- Holding a workshop to strengthen the capacity of national institutions concerned with women empowerment in Member States**

The Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women recommended the adoption of the OIC Plan for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and holding a workshop to strengthen the capacities of national institutions concerned with women empowerment in Member States. The CFM adopted OPAAW and its implementation mechanisms by Resolution No. 4/44-CUL in its 44<sup>th</sup> Session held on 10-11 July 2017 in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and called for the convention of the said workshop. In coordination with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the OIC General Secretariat held the workshop on 17-18 December 2017 in its headquarters in Jeddah with the participation of experts from Member States and the relevant OIC organs and institutions. The report of the workshop was sent to the member states and other participants.

**18- Cooperation with Turkey to hold a side event on women, migration and refugee crisis during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York**

The OIC cooperated with the Republic of Turkey, Chair of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Development of Member States, to hold a high-level session on the sidelines of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. The session was to discuss issues related to the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees, especially women and girls, and the means to empower them to access their rights and meet their needs. The session took place on 13 March 2018 at the UN Headquarters, in the presence of H.E. Dr. Fatima Betül Sayan Kaya, Minister of Family and Social Policy of Turkey, and a large number of experts and representatives of the UN relevant agencies, civil society organizations and the OIC Member States present in New York. The session called on the international community to take specific steps to address humanitarian crises resulting from migration and asylum.

**19- Cooperation with the International Islamic Relief Organization to hold a side event during the meetings of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York**

The General Secretariat cooperated with the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) to hold a session on empowerment of rural women and promotion of gender justice in the Muslim world. The speakers at that meeting included Amb. Naela Gabr from Egypt, Dr. Aisha Al-Yafi, representative of the IDB from Saudi Arabia, Dr. Hala Al-Tuwaijri, Secretary General of the Family Affairs Council of Saudi Arabia, member of the Women's Consultative Council, and Ms. Sida Mambamba, Member of the Women's Consultative Council from Uganda. The interventions also included Ms. Iman Sandra Brittik, the in charge of gender-related policies at the IIRO and Dr. Mohammed Nasri, Director of the Regional Office of the UN Women for the Arab Region. One of the most important objectives of the session was to highlight the prominent achievements and challenges. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences among institutions concerned with women empowerment and strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations.

**20- Cooperation with SESRIC to develop guidelines for standardization of national reporting on OPAAW implementation to the General Secretariat**

Pursuant to the recommendations of the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts held on 3-4 November 2015 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat on the preparation of progress reports on the efforts of Member States in implementing OPAAW and submitting them to the General Secretariat, SESRIC prepared in cooperation with the General Secretariat, a paper on Guidelines to standardize the methods and criteria of drafting and submitting progress reports to the General Secretariat. The paper addressed the

importance of standardizing the elements of reports to the General Secretariat on the Member States' efforts in implementing OPAAW to facilitate assessment of its implementation efforts. It also touched upon these guidelines in terms of content and format, and developed questionnaires to measure progress in OPAAW implementation. The paper will be presented to the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Women.

### **Sixth: Supporting the activities of the Women's Consultative Council**

- 21- The Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Development of Member States adopted Resolution No. 4/6-W establishing Women's Consultative Council, which acts as an advisory mechanism and proposes policy recommendations on women's empowerment and advancement within the framework of the Conference. The Secretary General called for the provision of all possible support to activate Women's Consultative Council to the Conference in consultation and coordination with the Conference Chair, stressing that its work should not be a duplication of the functions of the Organization for Women's Development. The resolution also invited Member States to submit nominations to the Council. The General Secretariat received nominations from Member States and circulated them to all Member States.
- 22- The Committee of Permanent Representatives of the OIC Member States held a meeting at the headquarters of the General Secretariat on 16 March 2017 to elect the members of the Women's Consultative Council. Following consultations among the three geographical groups, the following candidates were elected to the Women's Consultative Council:

#### **For the Arab Group:**

- 1) Dr. Hala Al-Tuwaijri, Secretary General of the Family Council of Saudi Arabia.
- 2) Ms. Raeda Qutb, Professor of Public Health from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- 3) Amb. Naela Gabr, Chair of the National Coordinating Committee against Illegal Immigration and a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from Egypt.

#### **For the African Group:**

- 4) Ms. Aina Ouedraogo KONE of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, National Solidarity and the Family of Burkina Faso.
- 5) Ms. Binta Jameh-Sedibe, Executive Director of the Women's Office of the Republic of the Gambia.
- 6) Ms. Bbumba SYda Namirembe, former Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, former Minister of Gender, Labor and Social Development and Member of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda.



**For the Asian Group:**

- 7) Ms. Israa Al-Bayrak, President of the NUN Foundation for Education and Culture (Republic of Turkey).
  - 8) Dr. Dato Sri Zulekha Qamaruddin, Dean of the International Islamic University of Malaysia.
  - 9) Ms. Fawzia Koffi, Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, Women's Rights and the Civil Society Committee in the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- 23- The Women's Consultative Council held its first meeting on 18 May 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. The attendees included the Minister of Family and Social Policy of Turkey, the Chair of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women, members of the Women's Consultative Council, and representatives of the OIC General Secretariat. The meeting adopted a document on the working procedures of the Council and recommended its submission to the next session of the Ministerial Conference on Women in preparation for submission to the CFM.
- 24- The Women's Consultative Council held its second meeting on 18 December 2017 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The attendees included H.E. Dr. Fatima Betül Sayan Kaya, Minister of Family and Social Policy of Turkey and Chair of the current session of the Ministerial Conference and members of the Women's Consultative Council. The Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs, the Assistant Secretary General for Palestine and Al-Quds Ash-Sharif, and the Deputy Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the OIC also attended the second meeting of the Council.
- 25- The Women's Consultative Council held its third meeting on 25 October 2018 in Istanbul with the participation of H.E. Zahra Zumrut Selçuk, Minister of Family, Labor and Social Services of Turkey, members of the Women's Consultative Council and representatives of the General Secretariat..
- 26- The third meeting discussed the report of the Council activities to the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Women. The meeting also reviewed the Concept Paper on the OIC Gender Policy prepared by SESRIC in coordination with the General Secretariat and reviewed the nominations of Member States for the first version of the OIC Women Award given during the Seventh Ministerial Conference in Burkina Faso. It also considered the draft agenda and program of work of the Seventh Ministerial (Burkina Faso, 2018).
- 27- The General Secretariat served Member States reports on the results of the Council meetings.

**Seventh: Other activities of the General Secretariat in the field of women empowerment:**

- 28- The General Secretariat participated in the Entrepreneurship Program for Young Women organized by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey, Chair of the current session of the Women's Conference on 2-11 November 2017 in Istanbul and Ankara. Participants from several Member States, members of the Women's Consultative Council, researchers and specialists, representatives of international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations were among the attendees.
- 29- The General Secretariat and Women's Consultative Council took part in the meetings of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women on 12-23 March 2018 in New York. Members of the Women's Consultative Council met on the sidelines of the meeting with representatives from UNFPA, UN Women and some NGOs working in the field of women empowerment in the United States of America in order to review ways of cooperation with those bodies in the areas of common interest.
- 30- The General Secretariat participated in a number of conferences and coordination meetings organized by the OIC partners on topics, such as the celebration of the National and Arab Family Day in December 2018 in Sudan, family mediation in May 2017 in Geneva, and the Regional Meeting for Planning and Communication in March 2018 in Cairo. It also took part in the regional coordination meeting in Cairo on devising an agreement on violence against women in Arab region, the OIC-UN coordination meeting on cooperation in July 2018 in Rabat, and the meetings of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission on empowerment of women and others.
- 31- During all these meetings, the General Secretariat highlighted the actions taken by the OIC to contribute to the promotion of women's advancement and empowerment and family well-being in the OIC Member States. It also expressed its readiness to cooperate with the international community in the field of women advancement and work towards the activation of partnerships with the organizations and centers that address these issues at the national, regional, and international levels.
- 32- The General Secretariat participated in the activities of the 61<sup>st</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2017 and 2018.
- 33- The General Secretariat issued press releases and statements on various occasions to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, International Women's Day, World

Family Day and World Girls' Day to call for concerted efforts to promote the advancement and empowerment of women in the OIC Member States.

**Eighth: Efforts of the relevant OIC organs and institutions in the field of women empowerment and implementation of the resolutions of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women:**

34- Attached to this report are annexes on the efforts made by relevant OIC organs and organizations in the implementation of the resolutions of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women.