

OIC/7WMC/2018/REP.FINAL

**Seventh Islamic Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in Driving
Development for the OIC Member States**
“Session of Women’s Empowerment within Member States: Challenges and
Prospects”

FINAL REPORT

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
22-23 Rabi’ I 1440H
30 November – 1 December 2018

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1. The Islamic Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Driving Development for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) convened at a seventh session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 30 November – 1 December 2018, at the kind invitation of the Burkinabe government.
2. The conference brought together delegates from 35 Member States, along with representatives of the General Secretariat, as well as subsidiary and affiliated organs and specialized institutions. High-ranking personalities and representatives of other institutions were also in attendance. (See list of participants in Annex I)

Opening Ceremony:

3. The Conference opened with recitation of verses from the Noble Quran, followed by a statement made by the Turkish Minister of Labor, Social Services and Family, Ms Zehra Zümürüt SELÇUK, Chair of the Conference's Sixth Session. The minister provided an account of Turkey's work in the area of women's empowerment, along with an overview of the Turkish achievements over the period between the previous and present sessions of the Conference.
4. Ms SELÇUK expressed gratitude to the government of Burkina Faso for accepting to play host to the Conference's seventh session, pointing out that the Conference constitutes an opportunity for the Member States to share their

experiences in the area of women's empowerment, particularly with regard to fighting violence against women and enhancing women's access to employment. She also underlined that the situation of Palestinian women is such that it requires from the Member States and the OIC organs and institutions to further combine their efforts under the OIC to ensure they are given the protection they need.

Election of the Conference's Bureau:

5. Following the statement of Ms Zehra Zümür SELÇUK, the Conference approved the composition of the Bureau of the Senior Officials Meeting. The approved composition was as follows:

Chair: Burkina Faso

Vice-chairs:

- United Arab Emirates.
- Republic of Indonesia.
- State of Palestine

Rapporteur: Republic of Turkey

6. Speaking on behalf of Burkina Faso, and in her capacity as Chair of the Seventh Islamic Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Driving Development for the OIC Member States, Ms H  l  ne Marie Laurence ILBOUDOU/MARCHAL, Minister of Family, National Solidarity and Family of Burkina Faso, offered a word of welcome to the delegations, thanking them for their presence. She also expressed gratitude to the Member States for the confidence they placed in her country, accepting the offer by Burkina Faso to play host to this session. She also placed on record her appreciation to the Member States for their full support to Burkina Faso to bring this session to fruition.
7. The Burkinabe minister said the valuable presence of delegates speaks volumes for the interest they give to the topic of this session (Women's Empowerment within Member States: Challenges and Prospects). The choice of this topic, she explained, is an expression of Burkina Faso's will to place women's empowerment at the core of its policies, pointing out that the conference's seventh session constitutes an opportunity for the Member States to meet and debate the issue of women's empowerment, identify obstacles and propose solutions. She also expressed her appreciation for the work of the Chair of the Conference's previous session.
8. For his part, Secretary General Dr Yousef Al-Othaimen expressed appreciation to the government of Burkina Faso and the Burkinabe people for

the generous welcome extended to the delegations, commending the choice of the topic of the seventh session. He also emphasized that the issues and challenges Member States are facing in relation to women's empowerment call for increased cooperation between Member States and institutions active in this area.

- 9.** The OIC Secretary General gave an overview of the activities the General Secretariat and the OIC organs have made in implementation of the resolutions of the Conference's sixth session, with focus on programmes geared to women's advancement. He also appealed to all participants to collaborate toward greater experience sharing in this field.
- 10.** Mrs. Esraa Al-Bayrak, President of the OIC Women's Advisory Council, emanating from the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Driving Development for the Member States, made an address wherein she expressed gratitude to Her Excellency Madam Sika KABORE, the First Lady of Burkina Faso, for her honoring the Conference, and to His Excellency the Prime Minister for the warm welcome and hospitality given to the delegations in attendance.
- 11.** She also underlined that the OIC Women's Advisory Council, designed to act as a consultative mechanism on policies for women's empowerment and advancement, within the framework of the Islamic Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Driving Development for the OIC Member States, aims at capacity building to create greater opportunities for girls in the Member States. Further, she explained that combating violence against Palestinian women is an integral part of the Council's work. This is the more so, she went on to explain, because women's empowerment involves addressing harmful practices against women. She concluded by inviting the Member States to work for the promotion of women's rights.
- 12.** Declaring open the Conference, His Excellency Paul Kaba Thiéba, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, thanked the Member States, the OIC General Secretariat, the OIC organs and institutions as well as partners that have contributed technically and financially to holding this seventh session in Burkina Faso. He stressed that the development of any country, the welfare of its people and the safeguarding of world peace cannot be conceived of without the full participation of women. He also shared with the audience the actions undertaken by Burkina Faso for women's empowerment.
- 13.** Before declaring open the Conference's seventh session, the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso urged the OIC Secretary General to continue his efforts for greater Islamic solidarity among the Member States, to help advance women's role in driving development and progress for the Member States. He also

requested the Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of the concluding remarks of this Conference.

14. The Conference adopted its agenda and programme as presented at the Senior Officials Meeting. (Annex II)

Deliberations:

15. The participant delegations reviewed Member States' policies and efforts concerning women's empowerment. They also took stock of the progress made by the Member States in implementation of OPAAW. Statements centered on the need to strengthen national legal frameworks, measures to improve women's representation in decision-making processes and actions to improve socioeconomic conditions for women.
16. They also discussed the challenges at hand, including inadequate financial resources and sociocultural constraints. In this regard, they stressed the need for strong political and social will and a real synergy of actions to further advance women's empowerment in the Member States.

Resolutions adopted:

17. The Conference adopted the following resolutions (Annex III):

- 1) Resolution 1/7-W on Palestinian women's empowerment.
- 2) Resolution 2/7-W on Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education to Young Women.
- 3) Resolution 3/7-W on the OIC Prize for Women's Achievements.
- 4) Resolution 4/7-W on Joint Action for Refugee and Displaced Women's Empowerment.
- 5) Resolution 5/7-W on Initiatives and Actions undertaken under Turkey's Chairmanship of the Conference's Sixth Session.
- 6) Resolution 6/7-W on the Terms of reference of the OIC Prize for Women's Achievements.
- 7) Resolution 7/7-W on the Guidelines for the Preparation, Drafting and Presentation of OPAAW Implementation Reports.
- 8) Resolution 8/7-W on the Conference's Women Advisory Council.
- 9) Resolution 9/7-W on Women's Role on Conflict Resolution and Social Peace (in light of UN resolution 1325).
- 10) Resolution 10/7-W on Popularization of the Family Bank Concept in the OIC Member States.
- 11) Resolution 11/7-W on Building a Permanent Market for Women's Products and Women's Empowerment in Jordan.

- 12) Resolution 12/7-W on Changing the Conference's Name into "OIC Ministerial Conference on Women".
- 13) Resolution 13/7-W on Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership Promotion.
- 14) Resolution 14/7-W on Women's Economic Empowerment.
- 15) Resolution 15/7-W on Women's Social Empowerment.
- 16) Resolution 16/7-W on Protection for Women.
- 17) Resolution 17/7-W on Establishing a Select OIC Steering Committee for Women's Empowerment.
- 18) Resolution 18/7-W on the Date and Venue for the Conference's Eighth Session.

18. The Conference also adopted **Ouagadougou Declaration**, as prepared by the host country. (Annex IV)
19. Also adopted were the Internal Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Council on Women. (Annex V)
20. The Conference also adopted the report of the preparatory Senior Officials Meeting. (Annex VI)

Date and Venue for the Conference's Eighth Session:

21. The Conference welcomed the Arab Republic of Egypt's offer to play host to the Conference's eighth session scheduled for 2020, while requesting the General Secretariat to follow up on the matter and fix a date for this session, in association with Egypt, and to inform the Member States thereof.
22. The Conference also took note of the offer made successively by the Republic of Mali and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the ninth session in 2022.
23. Based on the nominations of the governments of Member States, and following the recommendations of the Advisory Council on Women in its capacity as the selection committee, the Conference awarded the first edition of the OIC Prize for Women's Achievements across the Muslim world to the following persons and institutions:
 - Mrs Hiba Nazmi El-Hamdi from Palestine (Arab region).
 - RAMA Foundation of Burkina Faso (African region).
 - KADEM Foundation of Turkey (Asian region).

Closing Ceremony:

24. Speaking at the Conference's closing ceremony, His Excellency Mr Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, expressed his gratitude and congratulations to the participant delegations for their work over the two-day Conference, hailing their commitment and interest in issues relative to

women's empowerment within the Member States. He also said the choice of the Conference's topic was a true expression of the Member States' keen interest in enhancing women's empowerment for the development of the Member States. The choice by the OIC of this topic, he went on, was an indication of the cardinal importance of increasing women's participation in the development process, while preserving and protecting their basic human rights.

25. The President of Burkina Faso also said the Conference's concluding remarks were pertinent, pointing out to the need for the Member States to place women's empowerment at the core of development activities. Before declaring closed the Conference, President Kaboré launched an appeal to development partners to ensure sustained assistance to the Member States in the achievement of their objectives.

A Message of Thanks and Appreciation:

26. The participants expressed their deep and grateful appreciation to President Kaboré of Burkina Faso and to First Lady Mrs Sika Kaboré, for their support and the care and attention they gave to the Conference.
27. They also placed on record their gratefulness and appreciation to the government and people of Burkina Faso for so gallantly and expertly organizing this session of the Conference.
28. The participant delegations were invited to a gala dinner to mark the close of the Conference. The dinner was offered by the Burkinabe Minister of Women, National Solidarity and Family, Mrs Hélène Marie Laurence Marchal.

Ouagadougou, 1 December 2018.