

THE OIC CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE WOMEN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
THE INTERNAL RULES AND WORKING PROCEDURES

Upon the initiative of the Republic of Turkey and the approval of the OIC “Member States, the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States held in Istanbul on 1-3 November 2016, adopted resolution number 4/6-W establishing “The Women Consultative Council of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in Development of OIC Member States”.

Accordingly, the OIC Women Consultative Council, having convened in Istanbul on 18 May 2017, adopted the following internal rules and working procedures, to guide its work programme and activities in the period ahead and also to determine its modus operandi. This document is adopted by the Council as an internal guidance document and will be subject to review and further development in the next meetings by the Council as appropriate. This guidance document will be interpreted and implemented in conformity with the basic rules, regulations and all resolutions of the OIC, including the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in Development of the OIC Member States.

General
Article 1

- a. The OIC Women Consultative Council (which shall hereinafter be referred to as the Council) shall serve as a consultative body for the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States on issues within its mandate, and shall prepare recommendations regarding the development of policies and programs pertaining to advancing the status of women in the OIC Member States, in accordance with the resolutions of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in Development of the OIC Member States (Which shall hereinafter be referred to as the Conference).
- b. The Council shall discuss the issues and challenges affecting women in the OIC Member States and advocate women issues in the international arena, with the approval of the Conference, and raise awareness about them.
- c. The work of the Council shall not duplicate the activities and functions of the OIC Women Development Organization.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Council
Article 2

At the request of the Conference and with its approval, in light of the role of the Council as a consultative body.

- a. The Council could study, if necessary, women's policies and initiatives of the OIC and recommend policy proposals on related priority issues.
- b. It could recommend project proposals to Member States, the OIC entities including the OIC Women Development Organization to promote women's empowerment through the Conference.
- c. It could recommend proposals for strategies to improve the global media image of women.
- d. The Council could contact the OIC entities including the Chair of the Conference, national and international organizations and personalities, take part in the international fora and meetings, to promote and strengthen the role of women in contemporary societies.
- e. The Council could act with its Chair in the printed and visual press in light of its mandate.
- f. The Council could be involved in activities that will demonstrate Islamic values to the universal women's movement on a global scale.
- g. The Council could provide recommendations regarding the implementation of the plan of action of OPAAW, and the resolutions adopted by Women Ministerial Conference.
- h. The Council could recommend priority activities in a range of fields including access to education, health, employment, violence against women, participation in decision-making, media, sustainable development, role of women in peace building, and conflict resolution.

Composition of the Council

Article 3

- a. The OIC Member States are entitled to present one candidate for the Council membership. Member States wishing to present a candidate shall notify the General Secretariat of their candidate upon the request of the General Secretariat for nominations, along with their CVs. Three members shall be chosen by the OIC Regional Groups to represent each of the Arab, Asia and Africa groups (9 members in total).
- b. The candidate nominated by the Chair of the Conference shall be appointed as the Chair of the Council.
- c. The OIC General Secretariat and the OIC Women Development Organization shall become members ex-officio and they have no right to vote.
- d. The membership period shall be two years renewable two times with a maximum of 3 terms. The term of office of the Chair shall expire when the representative of the next Chair of the Conference takes over.
- e. The Council will select two deputy chairs in its first meeting, taking into consideration the geographical distribution.

- f. The members of the Council shall continue their duties until new members are chosen to replace them.
- g. As of the second term, for the current members of the Council and the next elections, the decision shall be made by the Regional Groups during the Conference and submitted to the Conference for endorsement.
- h. The Council shall convene every six months to be hosted by the Chair of the Conference.
- i. If necessary, additional meetings can be convened at the request of the Chair or the General Secretariat or the OIC Women Development Organization, and the acceptance of one third of the members of the Council.
- j. The Chair of the Conference shall provide the necessary arrangements for the Council meetings and cover all the relevant expenses.

Working Principles of the Council

Article 4

- a. The Council shall adopt the agenda and work program for each session.
- b. The OIC General Directorate General of Humanitarian, Social and Cultural Affairs shall undertake the secretariat work of the Council, in cooperation with the Chair of the Conference and the Chair of the Council.
- c. The decisions of the Council will be adopted by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached the decision will be taking in accordance with Rules of Procedure of the OIC meetings. The Council may request support from the OIC General Secretariat and OIC Women Development Organization for review of the issues regarding its tasks and duties, provision and preparation of information and documents. The language of the Council shall be Arabic, French and English. All the documents adopted by the Council shall be provided in these languages.
- d. The OIC General Secretariat and the OIC Women Development Organization shall provide all possible support to the Council.
- e. If necessary, the Chair and members of the Council may organize visits to the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, the cities hosting the OIC Conferences, and to participate in the international events/ activities, and they shall inform the Council members, Chair of the Conference and OIC General Secretariat about those contacts and activities they realize this way. The expenses of the visits shall be covered by the OIC General Secretariat from the voluntary contributions provided exclusively by the states in support of the Council activities.
- f. The Council shall take part in the relevant OIC Conferences with its Chair and all members if possible. As for the Islamic Summits and the Councils of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Chair shall take part on behalf of the Council.
- g. The Minister or representative of the Chair of the Conference may inaugurate and participate in the meetings.
- h. The Council shall comply with the provisions of the Charter and the rules and procedure of the OIC.

Financial Resources

Article 5

- a. The Council may receive voluntary contributions from Member States through the General Secretariat to assist it in performing its duties and fulfilling its mandate.
- b. Receiving these resources and their expenditure will be done in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the General Secretariat.

Reporting

Article 6

- a. Ahead of the Conference, the Chair of the Council shall report to the Conference on the efforts of the Council together with its recommendations, in consultation with the Chair of the Conference and the General Secretariat.

Withdrawal

Article 7

- a. In case any member of the Council could not continue their membership, the country of this member shall notify the General Secretariat to inform member states in this geographical group of the vacancy in order to enable those interested to apply for the seat.
- b. New elections shall be organized in accordance with the rules and procedures of the General Secretariat.

Amendments

Article 8

- a. The Council can prepare amendments to the internal rules and working procedures to be presented to the Ministerial Conference on Women.

Code of Ethics

Article 9

- a. The Members of the Council shall abide by the code of ethics of the OIC.

Transitional procedures

Articles 10

- a. The internal rules and working procedures are hereby provisionally adopted by the Council at its first session and takes effect after its adoption by the Ministerial Conference on Women.