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**JEDDAH DECLARATION**

**Issued by the**

**First OIC Ministerial Conference  
on Marriage and Family Institution's Empowerment  
and Value Preservation in Member States**

**Theme**

**“Towards an OIC Approach to Marriage and Family Institution's  
Empowerment and Value Preservation in Member States”**

**Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
8-9 February 2017  
(12-13 Jumada I, 1438H)**

**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**  
**الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على نبينا محمد بن عبد الله**  
**وعلى آله وصحبه ومن اتبع هداه**

We, the Ministers and Representatives of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), participating in the First Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on “The Marriage and Family Institution and the Preservation of its Values in Member States”, held on 9 February, 2017 (12 Jumada Al Awal, 1438H) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the theme: “Towards an OIC Approach to Empower the Marriage and Family Institution and Preserve its Values in the Member States”.

**Proceeding** from the OIC Charter which establishes the need to “*emphasize, protect and promote the role of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society*”; based on the importance attached by Member States to the empowerment of the marriage and family institution and the preservation of its values, and in consecration of the importance of the family and its role in the upbringing, education and protection, as a main source for the individual’s moral and religious character and the ethical system that inspires his/her stands and conduct,

**Guided** by Islamic teachings and major international conventions and agreements which underscore the fundamental and pivotal role of the family –being conceptually a bond between a man and a woman united through marriage within a *sharia* framework- in achieving social security and sustainable development, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stipulates under Article 16 that the family is the natural and fundamental unit for society, as well as the UN principles and resolutions in coherence with the OIC principles and goals regarding the family,

**Recalling** the resolutions issued by the various sessions of the Islamic Summit Conference and particularly by the Third Extraordinary Session (Makkah Al Mukarramah Summit, 2005) and the Thirteenth ordinary session (Istanbul Summit, 2016) as well as the resolutions adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) no.4/42-C and 4/43-C issued by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CFM (Kuwait, 27-28 May 2015) and the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CFM (Tashkent, 18-19 October 2016), on “consolidating the capacities of the marriage and family institution and preserving its values in the Member States, and inviting the Council to convene a special ministerial conference to explore the subject, and recalling also the recommendations of the sixth session of the ministerial conference on Women’s role in the Development of OIC Member States’, the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Youth and Sports’ and the Fourth Islamic Conference on the Child,

**Reaffirming** that the family is one of the key levers of sustainable development and that focusing on the family provides a strategic approach to dealing with the challenges of durable development; and further stressing the responsibility of the OIC Member States and relevant subsidiary organs and affiliated specialized institutions, in building the capacities of the family institution and preserving its values in the Member States,

**Underscoring** the importance of religious values in preserving the family, and the importance the Islamic Sharia attaches to human rights and to the protection of the family, as well as on the parents' prime responsibility in the proper upbringing and protection of the child, and the role of civil society institutions in supporting their efforts to ensure proper nurture for the child within a sound family environment,

**Expressing** our deep concern over the threats posed by the ongoing wars, armed conflicts, occupation and terrorism, for peace and stability in many of the Member States, and their repercussions on the stability and security of the family and society,

**Having considered** the Member States' policies and strategies in the area of building the capacities of the marriage and family institution and preserving its values, and having listened to the presentations made by the organizing institutions and the civil society organizations active in the field, and after due deliberations on the matter, we recommend as follows:

1. Paying utmost attention to the marriage and family institution (MFI) as the nucleus of society and as a contributor to developmental efforts, including in the achievement of the development goals agreed on internationally. We emphasize in this respect the need to develop strategies and implement comprehensive family policies geared towards consolidating the marriage institution, empowering the family and preserving its values,
2. Urging the Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to establish mechanisms for the consolidation of the OIC's role in coordination with the international organizations active in the field and to exchange information and expertise in order to boost the capacities of the marriage and family institution and preserve its values,
3. Calling on the Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to take practical steps to eliminate poverty and its impact on the family and activate their role in the achievement of economic development, along with fostering family cohesion and prioritizing the family in developmental plans.
4. Inviting the OIC Member States and relevant institutions to offer grants and micro-credits to enable beneficiary families to set up income-generating projects, to develop and implement policies slated to enhance the role and mechanisms of solidarity, strike

balance between the responsibilities of work and the requisites of the family and bridge the generation gap.

5. Inviting Member States and the relevant OIC institutions to take practical steps for the establishment of mechanisms to manage and confront the risks resulting from wars or natural disasters, to provide assistance to affected families, and to set up institutions and centres specialized in family issues in time of crisis.
6. Categorical rejection of the advocates of homosexuality and of the voices calling on the Member States to recognize in their legislations the rights of those groups as minorities, as well as any other political or economic pressures faced by certain Member States.
7. Inviting the General Secretariat and OIC Institutions to reinforce their positive role at the international level regarding the promotion of the marriage and family institution and preserving its values.
8. Inviting the General Secretariat to develop a general framework for cooperation and coordination among the OIC organs active in the field of women empowerment and capacity-building, and endeavoring to create special structures and departments within those organs that would be dedicated to family issues.
9. Emphasizing the need for Member States to urge the family to assume its responsibilities toward children and youth by enshrining the principles of moderation and protecting them from deviance and terrorists ideologies, and propagate the spirit of love, peace and fighting hatred, ensuring that they grow into useful people for themselves, their societies, and rest of the world.

The Conference expresses thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, for having hosted the First Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Marriage and Family Institution (MFI) and the preservation of its values in the Member States, and for the excellent arrangements made for the conference's success. The Conference expressed appreciation to the OIC for its commendable efforts in ensuring the success of the Conference.

The Conference and participating delegations conveyed their appreciation and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdelaziz Al-Saud, for his kind invitation to, and hosting of, the Conference in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

