



OIC/CFM-47/2020/S&T/RES/FINAL

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

ON

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION; HIGHER EDUCATION;
HEALTH, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTORS**

ADOPTED TO THE

**47TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF UNITED AGAINST TERRORISM FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT)**

**NIAMEY, REPUBLIC OF NIGER
12-13 RABI AL THANI 1442H
(27-28 NOVEMBER 2020)**

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RESOLUTION NO.1/47-S&T
ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MATTERS

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Referring to the OIC Vision 1441H for Science and Technology adopted by the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya in October 2003, the OIC 2025: Programme of Action adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016, and ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science& Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017,

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 1/46–S&T on Science and Technology Matters adopted by the 46th session held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Also recalling Astana Declaration adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017 and the Final Communiqué adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016,

Taking note of the First meeting of the Steering Committee, comprising OIC institutions and headed by COMSTECH, for the implementation of OIC STI Agenda 2026 on 18-19 March 2019 that approved a detailed plan of action for carrying out the implementation activities,

Taking note of the proposal of His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to establish OIC-15 Dialogue Platform on science and technology comprising leading OIC Member States in science, technology and other related fields.

Appreciating the holding of the brainstorming meeting on OIC-15 Dialogue Platform on science and technology in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 19th November 2019.

Appreciating the efforts of the COMSTECH and the activities and programmes of ISESCO, SESRIC, IAS, IsDB and ICCI in the field of the development and promotion of science, technology and Innovation in the OIC Member States,

Acknowledging the importance of development of science, technology and innovation by the Member States in achieving the objectives of OIC 2025: Programme of Action and targets set by OIC STI Agenda 2026 and UN Sustainable Development Goals,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology; Higher Education; Health; and Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/47-CFM/2020/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Recognizes** that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the OIC 2025: Programme of Action;

2. **Calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to take necessary measures for the practical implementation of the recommendations of ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ through a focused series of initiatives and programs and by actively promoting and supporting collaborative research programs;
3. **Encourages** interested Member States to work together in developing ‘Big Science Projects’ as outlined in ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’, which are multidisciplinary in nature and content;
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to organize high level review meeting of the implementation of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 involving member states and all relevant OIC institutions and organs with a view to assess the progress made in carrying out the programmes and activities towards the realization of the approved goals and objectives of OIC STI Agenda 2026;
5. **Commends** General Secretariat for the successful holding of the “1st OIC Robotics Challenge”, in coordination with COMSTECH in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 28-31 October 2019 and **calls upon** the General secretariat to hold similar competitions in other disciplines in cooperation with interested Member States and relevant OIC institutions on a regular basis;
6. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to work with the Government of Kazakhstan and General Secretariat for holding of the meetings of OIC-15 Dialogue Platform as recommended by the brainstorming meeting held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 19th November 2019.
7. **Emphasis** the central role of Governments, with active contributions from stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and research institutions, in creating and supporting an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship and the advancement of science, technology and engineering, in accordance with national priorities;
8. **Calls upon** all relevant OIC institutions to coordinate their programmes and activities with COMSTECH with a view to achieve synergies and complementarities in the pursuit of the STI-related objectives outlined in the OIC STI Agenda 2026;
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.2/47-S&T
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Referring to the relevant Resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 2/46 – S&T on Higher Education Matters adopted by the 46th Session of CFM held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Recalling the OIC 2025: Programme of Action adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016, and ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Taking note of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Islamic Conferences of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, including those adopted by the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14-15 November 2016,

Acknowledging the contribution of Member States’ public and private universities to the OIC Educational Exchange Programme by offering scholarships at graduate, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral levels for the students of the OIC Member States,

Noting with appreciation the contribution of the OIC affiliated/subsidiary universities i.e. Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Bangladesh; Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU); Islamic University in Niger (IUN); and International Islamic University in Malaysia (IIUM) in promoting higher education, research and development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water related issues and Environment Sectors (OIC/47-CFM/2020/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Reiterates** its call for the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to continue and further strengthen their programmes and activities in the domain of higher education, including efforts for improvements in curricula, faculties, networking among higher education institutions, promotion of joint research projects, distance learning arrangements, scholarship programmes and vocational training programmes;
2. **Expresses** appreciation for the higher education scholarships offered by Governments of Pakistan, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Oman, Azerbaijan and the constituent Turkish Cypriot State;
3. **Invites** Member States to encourage their public and private sector higher education and research institutions to actively collaborate with the OIC for further strengthening and promoting the OIC Educational Exchange Programme;
4. **Emphasizes** the need for active coordination between OIC General Secretariat, ISESCO and IsDB to establishing a general framework for promoting and advancing higher

education through enhanced exchanges, scholarships, sharing of expertise and joint research;

5. **Encourages** Member States to accord due priority to further improve the quality of higher education institutions, particularly scientific research institutions, and calls upon the General Secretariat and other relevant OIC institutions to organize regular meetings between the leading universities of the Member States with an aim to strengthen their collaboration geared towards supporting education exchange programs, research partnerships, sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices.
6. **Looks forward** to the implementation of the ‘Key Performance Indicators for Universities in the Islamic World’, pursuant to the decisions of the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14-15 November 2016;
7. **Takes note**, with appreciation, of the efforts of relevant OIC institutions for promoting and advancing higher education in Member States, including ISF’s annual grants to IUIU and IUN and IsDB’s and ISESCO’s support for OIC universities as well as their respective programmes;
8. **Reiterates** its support for the efforts of IsDB, ISF, ISESCO, OIC General Secretariat and interested donor Member States to contribute to the establishment of an International Islamic University in Kabul, Afghanistan and to mobilize financial resources for this purpose;
9. **Invites** General Secretariat to convene a meeting of higher education regulatory bodies of OIC Member States in collaboration with ISESCO to establish a platform of higher education regulatory authorities for synchronizing various regulations governing the universities in the Member States, which is an important pre-requisite for facilitating the mobility of students;
10. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 3/47-S&T -Approved
ON
HEALTH MATTERS

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Recalling the OIC 2025: Programme of Action adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016, and ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017,

Recalling also the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) 2014-2023 adopted by the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) held in Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2013,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Referring to the relevant resolutions adopted by the successive sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) including Resolution No. 3/46–S&T on Health Matters adopted by the 46th session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Abu Dhabi, State of United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 1-2 March 2019,

Referring further to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) including those adopted by the 7th ICHM held on 15-17 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE,

Taking note of the national plans and steps taken by Member States to strengthen their national public health systems including measures for preventing and combating diseases,

Recognizing that the problem of infectious diseases contributes to a vicious cycle of suffering and poverty which undermines social and economic development,

Welcoming the convening of the sixth annual meetings of the Islamic Advisory Group for Polio Eradication (IAG) in Cairo on 04 September 2019,

Recognizing the enormous human suffering caused by non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, and the threat they pose to the economies of many Member States,

Welcoming the extension of the Practical Arrangements Agreement signed between OIC-IDB-IAEA in the area of comprehensive cancer control in common Member States for another three years until 05 April 2022,

Regretting the tragic and enormous loss of lives, injuries and disabilities resulting from emergencies, disasters and crises of all descriptions,

Taking note of holding of the brainstorming workshop on the operationalization of the OIC Medical Corps on 17-18 July 2019 at SESRIC in Ankara, Turkey,

Underlining the importance of addressing the global shortage of medicines and vaccines and noting that that OIC Member States lag far behind in the domain of vaccine production and yet the

region is beset with constant outbreaks and a high prevalence of various diseases that have been eradicated elsewhere,

Recognizing the progress made by Indonesia to establish the Centre of Excellence on Vaccine and Biotechnology Products (COE),

Appreciating the Government of Indonesia for organizing a Workshop for the OIC Member States on Cold Chain Management in Bandung, Indonesia on 1-2 October 2019,

Commending the Government of Malaysia for hosting a training program in Vaccines Lot Release on 21-23 October 2019 in Selangor, Malaysia,

Commending also the role of relevant OIC institutions especially, IsDB, ISESCO and SESRIC in carrying out programs and activities that advance the OIC agenda in the health domain,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing cooperation in the field of health between the OIC and international partners including the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the Global Fund to fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and the Global Alliance for Vaccines (GAVI),

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment Sectors (OIC/47-CFM/2020/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Encourages** Member States, relevant OIC institutions and international partners to scale up actions aimed at accelerating progress on all health-related objectives of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and OIC STI Agenda 2026, in particular, universal access to immunization and key child survival interventions, prevention and treatment services for malaria and tuberculosis, the achievement of which would have the greatest impact on public health and development;
2. **Reiterates** its commitment to effective and timely implementation of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) 2014-2023; and **calls upon** Member States to coordinate their efforts with the respective Lead Country Coordinator Group (LCCs) in implementing the activities under each of the six thematic areas of the OIC-SHPA;
3. **Calls upon** the Member States to implement the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the 7th session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held on 15-17 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;
4. **Appreciates** the support by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for international efforts to strengthen health systems and increase readiness to control epidemics and outbreaks through the application of the International Health Regulations and efforts to control antibacterial resistant bacteria;
5. **Recognizes** the various challenges that Member States face in the area of Health matters, and in this regards expresses the importance of the primary health care systems in Member States and invites them to strengthen their cooperation in this area;
6. **Recognizes** that the problem of infectious diseases contributes to a vicious cycle of suffering and poverty which undermines social and economic development;
7. **Notes** with concern the rise in polio cases; **calls on** the OIC Member States to support the two remaining polio endemic countries in their efforts to stop polio transmission and **urges**

the Islamic Advisory Group (IAG) to continue to work closely with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), Member States and religious and community leaders to help address challenges regarding community misperceptions about polio eradication, vaccination, and safety of polio vaccine, and to help secure access to all children for immunization especially those who have consistently been missed;

8. **Underscores** the important role of religious and community leaders and Islamic scholars in promoting appropriate health seeking behavior and enhancing access to high quality and respectful health services for all women, children and families and **invites** the interested Member States to work with the Islamic Advisory Group (IAG) in line with IAG's expanded mandate;
9. **Emphasizes** the need to regularly exchange information and **calls for** carrying out research for the prevention and treatment of respiratory diseases such as coronavirus;
10. **Expresses** concern at the rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mainly cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease, and their risk factors, social and economic impact for the Member States;
11. **Takes note**, with concern, of the increasing cancer burden and limited access to radiotherapy and related cancer services among Member States; and **urges** Member States to support the OIC-IsDB-IAEA efforts aimed at assisting interested Member States towards their national cancer control programmes as well as supporting the establishment, up-gradation, and/or expansion of the radiotherapy services;
12. **Welcomes** the launch of Women's Cancers Partnership Initiative between IsDB Group and IAEA aimed at increasing Access to Diagnostics and Treatment of Women's Cancers in Low- and Middle-income OIC Member States; and **invites** interested Member States, relevant OIC institutions including COMSTECH to organize training programmes for radiation oncologists, radiation therapy technologists (RTTs) and medical physicists in Low and Middle Income OIC Countries (LMICs);
13. **Mandates** the General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States, relevant OIC institutions and international partners to organize High-level Regional Seminars on promoting cancer awareness and advocacy programmes for the Member States;
14. **Invites** Member States to strengthen cooperation in their mitigation efforts that include preparedness, response and recovery from health emergencies and disasters by organizing capacity building programmes, particularly for those Member States which are most affected by displacements due to conflicts and natural causes; in particular to help OIC Sub-Saharan Member States whose health systems have been destroyed due to acts of terrorism;
15. **Reaffirms** the commitment of the OIC Member States to continue according high priority to maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in their national agendas and strengthen their efforts for ending preventable maternal and child death through optimal prevention, treatment and care based on WHO guidelines and standards on antenatal, delivery, postpartum, newborn and child care;
16. **Invites** General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States, COMSTECH, relevant OIC institutions, and international partners to hold a training workshop for medical

and community health workers of OIC Member States particularly those from Sub-Saharan Africa in the field of Mother, Newborn and Child Health care (MNCH);

17. **Encourages** Member States to take additional measures to develop national pharmaceutical industries to ensure adequate supply of essential medicines and vaccines and further develop public-private partnerships in the production of pharmaceuticals including vaccines to enhance their collective capacity;
18. **Calls** for strengthening of cooperation and networking among the National Medicine Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) in the Member States; and **encourages** regular interaction between the NMRAs including holding of their meeting at least once every two years in accordance with the OIC Plan of Action to promote collaboration among NMRAs;
19. **Takes note** of the ongoing collaborations between members of the Vaccine Manufactures Group (VMG) and encourages closer cooperation in all aspects of vaccine manufacturing for the promotion of self-reliance in supply and production of affordable vaccines; and **invites** the General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States, relevant OIC institutions and international partners to convene the fourth meeting of VMG in 2020;
20. **Takes note** of the progress report on the establishment of the Centre of Excellence on Vaccine and Biotechnology Products (CoE); and **urges** the OIC Member States to fully utilize and contribute to the advancement of the CoE for the benefit of all OIC Member States;
21. **Requests** the General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States, relevant OIC institutions and international partners to organize capacity building programmes in the field local pharmaceutical production and supply including training programmes in Post Marketing Surveillance; pharmacovigilance system; GMP formulation technology;
22. **Appreciates** the efforts being made for effective functioning of the OIC Health Portal; and **calls upon** General Secretariat to organize the periodic training sessions for the focal points from Member States and OIC institutions in coordination with SESRIC to ensure that the Portal is fully operational at the earliest;
23. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Maldives to host the 8th session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in 2021; and calls upon Member States to actively participate in the Conference,
24. **Further welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the second meeting of the Heads of National Medical Regulatory Authorities from the OIC Member States in November 2020 and invites all Member States to actively participate in the meeting;
25. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Indonesia to hold Virtual Workshop on "Enhancing Collaboration amongst the OIC NMRAs in Research, Manufacturing, Management of Medicines and Vaccines in the OIC Member States" on 9-10 December 2020 and calls upon Member States to actively participate in the Virtual Workshop.
26. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO.4/47-S&T
ON
ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Referring to objectives of the OIC-2025: Program of Action that are related to Environment, and Astana Declaration adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017,

Recalling the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Recalling further the relevant resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 4/46 – S&T on Environment Matters adopted by the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Taking into account the resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers including the 8th session held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 2-3 October 2019 that, inter-alia, adopted Declaration on promotion of cultural and religious roles on the protection of environment and achieving sustainable development,

Bearing in mind, the UN Sustainable Development Goals related to environment adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of relevant OIC institutions including ISESCO, IsDB, COMSTECH and SESRIC in providing capacity-building and technology support to Member States in environment-related fields,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, and Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/47-CFM/2020/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Reaffirms** its commitment to the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of OIC fora including the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 2-3 October 2019, regarding environmental protection and achieving sustainable development;
2. **Encourages** the General Secretariat and other relevant OIC institutions to continue strengthening the capabilities and skills of the Member States on environmental issues by arranging workshops and training sessions to support their efforts in implementing commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
3. **Calls upon** the General Secretariat and relevant OIC Institutions to promote joint Islamic environmental action and facilitate the sharing of expertise and best practices in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development;

4. **Reiterates** its call to Member States to undertake consultations and coordinate their positions to effectively address challenges stemming from climate change and deteriorating environmental conditions, develop environmental policies and allocate necessary human, technological and economic resources for this purpose so as to make a unified, substantial contribution in these processes;
5. **Calls upon** the General Secretariat to coordinate and liaise with relevant international bodies, institutions, mechanisms and initiatives and assist climate vulnerable OIC Member States to enhance their skill and capacity to access the available climate finance for adaptation and mitigation;
6. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to accord special attention to the promotion of cooperation among the Member States and related OIC institutions in areas such as environment protection, climate change, renewable energies and green technology;
7. **Calls upon** General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions to actively cooperate with the Member States to combat climate change in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as most of the OIC Member States are vulnerable to and affected by climate changes that results in water scarcity, global warming, land degradation rising sea level and other natural disasters like flooding, tornadoes and desertification.
8. **Commends** the ongoing efforts for the implementation of this resolution; **and requests** the Secretary General to report on the updated status of implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.5/47-S&T
ON
WATER RESOURCES RELATED MATTERS

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Referring to the provisions of OIC 2025: Program of Action, which calls upon Member States to strengthen cooperation for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision and attainment of the goals and targets defined in the OIC Water Vision,

Mindful of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by United Nations particularly Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation and its associated targets related to increasing water–use efficiency across all sectors,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028;

Recalling that the International Decade “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028 aims to the further cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda and in this regard welcome the Second International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for the Sustainable Development” 2018-2028 to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 18-20 June 2020;

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Further referring to the ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 September 2017,

Recalling all its previous resolutions including Resolution No. 5/46–S&T on OIC Water related issues adopted by the 46th Session of CFM held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Recalling further the resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water including that of the 4th session held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, 14-16 October, 2018 which adopted the Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision,

Acknowledging the efforts of the OIC relevant institutions including, COMSTECH, IsDB, ISESCO, IOFS and SESRIC in advancing the OIC agenda in the domain of water resource management,

Taking note of lack of necessary financial means to build or upgrade the required infrastructure related to water services, such as supply, sanitation, treatment and water management and the need to increase both public and private investment towards solving water-related problems within and among OIC countries, particularly in the Least Developed Member States of the OIC

Underscoring the significance of cooperation between the Member States for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision including access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/47-CFM/2020/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Takes note** of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of OIC Water Council held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 21-22 October 2019, and **affirms** its commitment to take practical measures to address the challenges faced by Member States in water sector;
2. **Acknowledges** the importance of collaboration among the water-related institutes and training and research centers in the Member States to facilitate exchange of knowledge, collaborative research and best practices and **invites** the General Secretariat to arrange a meeting of these Centres of Excellences in coordination with other OIC Institutions and Member States;
3. **Calls for** the strengthening of the Resource Mobilization Group as per the OIC Water Vision Implementation Plan to solve water problems in Member States.;
4. **Takes note** that agriculture is the largest consumer of the world's freshwater resources, and there is a need to adopt an integrated approach to ensure water and food security, and sustainable agriculture and energy production; and **calls upon** other OIC institutions including IOFS to work with the General secretariat in arranging advocacy and public awareness events as well as capacity building workshops for water professionals of the Member States;
5. **Calls upon** SESRIC to reactivate the web portal on water resources to highlight the success stories, case studies and other information about the water-related activities carried out by the Member States;
6. **Invites** all member states to participate actively in the proposed Capacity Building Workshop on increasing water use efficiency in agriculture, being organized by IOFS, in collaboration with General Secretariat , COMSTECH and other relevant OIC institutions;
7. **Calls** upon the General Secretariat to engage with other regional and international stakeholders to establish institutional mechanisms to benefit from international best practices and capacity building opportunities in order to overcome shortage of technical resources by many OIC Member States;
8. **Reiterates** its call to the Member States to prepare and adopt national strategies and plans and align their implementation activities for the achievement of the water related SDGs particularly No. 6 and its targets as well as the objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water For Sustainable Development 2018-2028";
9. **Requests** Member States, relevant OIC institutions, international development partners as well as donor agencies to further increase cooperation and technical assistance for the effective implementation of OIC Water Vision, OIC-2025: Programme of Action and UN Sustainable Development Goals related to water and sanitation;
10. **Emphasizes** the importance of active coordination among the National Focal Points (NFP) of the Member States, OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions for the implementation of OIC Water Vision and reiterates its request to the Member States that have not designated NFPs to do so at the earliest;

11. **Commends** the efforts of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to arrange a training course for young water professionals of OIC Member States in the field of Integrated Water Resource Management in Cairo from 20-24 October 2019;
12. **Commends** the role of the UAE in highlighting water issues and finding global sustainable solutions for those who are deprived and in need of water through the UAE Water Aid Foundation; and **further commends** the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid International Prize for Water of USD 1 million to encourage research institutes all over the world to find sustainable, cost-effective and innovative solutions for water problems;
13. **Encourages** the OIC institutions, international financial institutions including the IsDB, and other international partners to coordinate their efforts for assisting the OIC Member States, particularly the Least Developed OIC Countries and OIC countries facing water scarcity, to pursue the implementation of the OIC Water Vision and SDGs;
14. **Highly appreciates** the efforts of OIC Central Asian countries to strengthen regional cooperation including trans-boundary rivers among riparian states to achieve mutual benefits;
15. **Welcomes** the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Regional Program for the Rational Use of Water Resources in Central Asia.
16. **Welcomes** the offer by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 5th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water in 2020 and **calls upon** Member States to actively participate in the Conference;
17. **Calls upon** Member States, General Secretariat and OIC relevant institutions to actively participate at the Second International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for the Sustainable Development” 2018-2028, which is to be held on 18-20 June 2020 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan;
18. **Commends** the ongoing efforts for the implementation of this resolution; and **requests** the Secretary General to report on the updated status of implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 /47-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (COMSTECH)

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Referring to the previous resolutions including Resolution No. 6/46-S&T on the activities of Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) adopted by the 46th session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Recalling the resolutions and recommendations of the successive meetings of the General Assembly of COMSTECH including the 15th meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 31 May- 1 June, 2016,

Commending COMSTECH for convening the first meeting of the Steering Committee of OIC organs for the implementation of STI Agenda 2026,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Appreciating the efforts of COMSTECH for organizing the “1st OIC Robotics Challenge”, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 28-31 October 2019,

Further appreciating COMSTECH for the formation of active working group for preservation and enhancement of plant genetic resources (PGR), and expanding OIC membership within the Biodiversity and Health Big Data Alliance,

Commending the Government of Pakistan for its continued support and facilitation to COMSTECH and the efforts of Coordinator General of COMSTECH for efficient coordination and management of affairs of COMSTECH,

Acknowledging the efforts of COMSTECH to help the Member States in the field of science and technology, higher education, health, environment, food security and water-related issues by providing research grants and achievement awards to scientists, and by organizing training workshops and working groups that provide opportunities to the researchers from Member States to interact with eminent scientists of the developed countries as well as within the OIC region,

Having considered the activity report of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation):

1. **Calls upon** for COMSTECH to take necessary measures for strengthening coordination among the Member States, Centers of Excellence, research institutions and universities in OIC Member States for increased collaborative research, sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology and to develop policy guidelines in this regard;
2. **Commends** COMSTECH for preparing a comprehensive implementation plan of OIC STI Agenda 2026 that was adopted by the first meeting of the steering committee of OIC institutions held on 18-19 March 2019 and **calls upon** COMSTECH to continue

coordination with the OIC Member States , General Secretariat and other relevant OIC organs for carrying out the activities for the implementation of the provisions of OIC STI Agenda 2026;

3. **Commends** COMSTECH for promoting international co-operation among scientists by signing agreements and facilitating exchanges of experts and information with the international research institutes; and **Calls upon** COMSTECH to develop more linkages for the benefit of the scientists and researchers of the Member States;
4. **Further commends** COMSTECH for encouraging R&D through provision of research grants and awards, and for initiating efforts for formation of an working group on energy and renewable energy portal of the Member States;
5. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to continue with its Human Resource Development activity through conducting of thematic workshops and by making the Inter-Islamic networks more active;
6. **Expresses** profound gratitude to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its continued support and facilitation to the COMSTECH and requests other Member States and relevant OIC institutions to generously support COMSTECH enabling it to expand its programs in various fields of science and technology;
7. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.7/47-S&T
ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC UNIVERSITIES

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Recalling its relevant resolutions including Resolution No. 7/46–S&T on Activities of the OIC Universities adopted by the 46th Session of CFM held in in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Referring to resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research including the 8th held in Bamako, Mali, on 14-15 November 2016,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Acknowledging, with appreciation and profound gratitude, the continued support and assistance rendered by the Governments of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Niger and Uganda to the respective OIC universities,

Further expressing gratitude to the OIC Member States, relevant OIC institutions and other donors for their support and provision of assistance including contribution to the establishment of relevant Waqf and other income generating projects to the OIC universities,

Taking note with satisfaction the progressive role being played by the OIC universities for the development of the human resources in various fields,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water related issues and Environment Sectors (OIC/47-CFM/2020/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Acknowledges** the role of the OIC universities in disseminating knowledge and research in the fields relevant to the needs of Member States and contributing the human resource development in the Member States concerned;
2. **Reiterates** its appeal to Member States to continue donating generously to the OIC universities including contributions to their respective waqf projects for further development of their academic programmes and infrastructure and addressing other specific needs;
3. **Commends** highly the annual grants by the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) to the Islamic university in Niger (IUN) and the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) and **encourages** ISF to continue such support for these universities;

Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka, Bangladesh

4. **Expresses** its gratitude to the Government of the host country, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, for the support it renders to IUT including the financial contribution for the construction of the first phase of the female dormitory project and for the establishment of virtual classrooms;

5. **Reiterates** its calls for the Member States to settle their current and arrear mandatory contributions to IUT; and **invites** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to contribute generously to the IUT Endowment Fund and development of its infrastructure;
6. **Appreciates** the efforts being taken by the University to recruit female staff members including faculties by creating a new milestone in the history of employment of womenfolk in the University;
7. **Calls upon** the University to disseminate information regarding the admission and other opportunities available in the university for the benefit of the interested candidates;
8. **Commends** the accreditation of Civil Engineering Programme at undergraduate level by the Board of Accreditation for Engineering and Technical Education (BAETE), Bangladesh and **calls upon** the University to expedite the process of accreditation of other programmes with different local, regional and international accreditation bodies;
9. **Takes note** of the introduction of new academic programmes, faculties and departments in the university and **urges** the management to develop its Master Plan by including new disciplines on emerging and frontier technologies and ensuring optimum utilization of its available land space keeping in mind provisions of the ‘OIC-2025; Programme of Action’ and ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’;
10. **Urges** the university to devote more attention to undertake research relevant to the needs of the Member States and disseminate research findings to the potential beneficiaries;
11. **Welcomes** the recruitment of staff and students from other Member States and **urges** the university management to further increase the number of students from other Member States thereby stressing the international character of the university;

Islamic University in Niger (IUN)

12. **Commends** highly the Government of the host country, the Republic of Niger, for the support and assistance it continues to render to IUN including the donation of additional 125,000 square meters of land for the construction of female educational facilities at the IUN;
13. **Takes note**, with satisfaction, of the finalization of the first phase of the construction of IUN’s commercial center Waqf project (SAY-CENTER) financed by the IsDB through Waqf Fund and **calls on** the Member States to donate towards the construction of the second phase of the Waqf;
14. **Reiterates** its request for the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to support the IUN through all possible means to improve its infrastructure, academic programmes and welfare of the faculty;
15. **Takes note** with satisfaction of the finalization of the 2nd and final phase of construction of Faculty of Agriculture including scientific laboratories and library;
16. **Takes note** of the progress in the construction of the project of King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Female Complex, by donation of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Humanitarian Foundation and supervised by the Islamic Development Bank which is expected to be completed in July, 2020.

17. **Further takes** note of the progress in the implementation of IUN strategic plan (2015-2025) which aims at modernizing the university with a view to attaining the level of higher education institutions;

Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)

18. **Expresses** thanks and gratitude to the Government of the host country, the Republic of Uganda, for the support it continues to render to IUIU including providing a Sovereign guarantee of the IsDB Loan for Phase II meant to help the University construct a Faculty of Engineering and Technology, one hostel, and a new Library;
19. **Commends** Islamic Solidarity Fund for the assistance it gives to IUIU of US\$ one million annually;
20. **Commends further** other OIC institutions, donors and philanthropists including IsDB, University of Lahore, Pakistan, Doctors Worldwide, Turkey, SESRIC and TIKA, AMAL Foundation of Malaysia, and the Habib Family in Jeddah; and **calls upon** public and private sector institutions and universities to consider extending similar support to the IUIU in addressing its requirements;
21. **Appreciates** the efforts towards the implementation of the Reverse Linkage Project, which aims to increase the capacity of IUIU in the field of vocational training through promoting training for trainers (ToT) and supplying of fixtures and equipment for ToT programs in the areas of interest to local community and market, in cooperation with SESRIC, IsDB, ISMEK and TIKA;
22. **Takes note** of the Progress with regard to IsDB US\$14.58 million Istisna'a financing for construction of the Phase I of the new Waqf project for the University to be built in Kampala, Uganda, on the land donated by the Government of Uganda; and **calls upon** Member States and OIC institutions to donate the remaining US\$65 million needed for construction of the rest of the buildings of the Waqf project;
23. **Appreciates** the steady progress of the construction of the new university library using US\$ 973,644 donated by the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and **calls upon** other Member States to give voluntary financial and material assistance towards the university's infrastructure development programme;
24. **Appreciates** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Republic of Nigeria for seconding staff to IUIU and **urges** other Member States to consider seconding academic staff to IUIU especially in medical and engineering fields;
25. **Expresses** satisfaction with the steady increase in the number of students and expansion of facilities at IUIU and **urges** the university to continue its efforts for providing educational opportunities for the Muslim communities in English-speaking African countries;
26. **Notes** the huge demand for medical professionals in Africa and **calls upon** Member States, relevant OIC Institutions and other donors to extend financial and material for the university to support newly started academic programmes of Bachelor Science in Nursing; Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences; and Bachelor of Public Health;
27. **Congratulates** the University for graduating its pioneer medical doctors and for the three awards won in different spheres of education in 2019;

28. **Requests** Member States, OIC relevant institutions and individual philanthropists to continue providing sustainable financial support to IUIU to improve staff welfare and also to enable the University to acquire the facilities they need to provide quality education to the youth of Africa;

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

29. **Encourages** IIUM to continue its support to the IUT, IUIU and IUN;
30. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 8/47-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC INSTITUTIONS
OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
HIGHER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Recalling Resolution No 8/46 – S&T on the Activities of the OIC Institutions operating in the Fields of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment adopted by the 46th Session of CFM held in in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Commending SESRIC, ISESCO and IsDB, for their activities and programmes in the fields of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment,

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

Appreciating the role of SESRIC in collating, processing and disseminating socioeconomic statistics including major indicators in the field of science and technology, education, health and environment for the utilization of OIC Member States,

Further appreciating SESRIC for preparing technical reports and studies on the issues pertinent to the Member States in several domains including Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health, Environment, and Water-related issues.

Acknowledging capacity building programmes and training activities organized and conducted by SESRIC in the fields of health, environment and water resources management,

Taking note of the report by SESRIC:

1. **Appreciates** SESRIC for regularly preparing the “OIC Health Report”, “OIC Water Report”, “Education and Scientific Development Report” and “OIC Environment Report” as background documents for the Islamic Conferences of Health, Water, Higher Education and Environment Ministers;
2. **Further appreciates** SESRIC for designing and launching the OIC Health Portal which acts as the main information sharing platform for the OIC efforts in health area and a communication facilitator among the partner institutions in the implementation of OIC SHPA;
3. **Commends** SESRIC for regularly contributing presentations on major health issues in high level meeting to facilitate the technical discussion and policy dialogue;
4. **Appreciates** SESRIC for regularly updating the OIC Statistics Database (OIC Stat), which provides data on various socio-economic variables including science and technology, education, health, environment and water for the OIC countries;

5. **Calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively contribute and participate in the various training programmes in the field of health organized by the SESRIC under the framework of Ibn Sina Health Capacity Building Programme;
6. **Commends** SESRIC for its active participation and contribution in the Reverse Linkage Projects namely; IUIU Vocational Training Centre Project; Developing the Capacities of the Africa City of Technology of Sudan; Capacity Development of the School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences at the University of The Gambia; and Earthquake Seismological Research between Pakistan and Turkey.
7. **Stresses** the importance of capacity building programmes and training activities conducted by SESRIC in different fields tailored for the specific needs of the Member States and aimed at matching the needs and capacities of relevant national institutions working in the domain of vocational education, health, water resources management and environment through various modalities, and calls upon the Member States to fully benefit from these programmes by responding to the relevant questionnaires;
8. **Commends** the efforts of SESRIC towards the implementation of the OIC Water Vision by implementing the Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) with the aim of facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the domain of water resources.

ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ISESCO)

Appreciating the efforts exerted by ISESCO in the field of science and technology, higher education, health, water and environment,

Acknowledging the efforts of ISESCO in building scientific, technological and innovative capacities in various important and vital areas directly related with socio-economic development of the Member States,

Welcoming the establishment of the Pan-Islamic Research and Education Network (PIREN) as a platform for collaboration between scientists, researchers and education networks and sharing of knowledge, best practices and stimulating joint research,

Taking note of the report submitted by ISESCO:

1. **Hails** ISESCO's important roles in supporting Member States to adopt Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in their policies and integrate ICT into their educational systems through proposing initiatives and implementing new programmes aiming to achieve technical empowerment of the competent parties in such a way as to optimally use such technologies, enhance the quality of the educational services and disseminate them in the formal and non-formal education, literacy programmes, technical and vocational training, and youth rehabilitation, and promote national production of knowledge and digital contents reflecting the cultural specificities of Muslim countries;
2. **Commends** ISESCO's efforts to improve higher education systems in Member States and **expresses** support and appreciation for ISESCO's "Tafauhum" Project of Student, Faculty and Researcher Exchange among Universities of the Islamic World and the establishment of the Pan-Islamic Research and Education Network (PIREN) likely to ensure cohesion and combines efforts to promote cooperation between universities and research institutions

in the Islamic world; and **urges** ISESCO to enhance partnerships among prestigious universities and schools, and share expertise and knowledge, with the ultimate aim of fostering peace, understanding and mutual respect among Member states and with the Other;

3. **Commends** ISESCO's efforts to hold the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers (ISESCO headquarters – Rabat, October 2019) under the theme “Role of cultural and religious factors in the protection of the environment and sustainable development”, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat, which adopted the strategy on the promotion of cultural and religious factors, launched the programme of the environmentally-friendly capitals of the Islamic world, adopted the executive work plan for natural disaster risk reduction and management in the member States 2020-2022, recommended the projects of the establishment of the Islamic network for environmental action and sustainable development, and invited Member States to contribute to the activation of the Conference's recommendations, particularly the executive plan of the Organization's relevant strategy;
4. **Commends** ISESCO's efforts to coordinate with the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Morocco to follow-up the necessary practical procedures to establish “the Islamic Academy for Environment and Sustainable Development”, and commends the efforts of ISESCO on taking charge of the General Secretariat of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Award for Environmental Management (KSAAEM), and granting the Award to its winners at the opening session of the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers;
5. **Welcomes** ISESCO's initiative to set up a number of specialized prizes in the fields of education, scientific research, human and social sciences, environment, communication and volunteerism; and thanks the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for sponsoring a number of these prizes;
6. **Praises** the efforts deployed by the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) in establishing university chairs, devising plans and strategies, and implementing activities, programmes and projects adopted by the FUIW's 7th General Conference (Rabat, 13-14 February 2017) to promote higher education; and commends the FUIW's role in developing partnership and cooperation ties with Member Universities and parallel organizations through its achievements and initiatives which have earned the FUIW its position as a leading player in joint Islamic higher education action.

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IsDB)

Noting with appreciation the commitment of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) towards addressing the needs of OIC Member States in the area of science and technology, higher education, health and environment and its programmes and initiatives in these areas,

Appreciating IsDB for focusing on health sector, particularly in the area of combating diseases and epidemics and strengthening human and institutional capacity in various Member States,

Appreciating further IsDB continued efforts in enhancing collaboration among OIC Member States, through its Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), Science and Technology operations plus the Reverse Linkage mechanism,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary General on the activities of the IsDB in the domains of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment:

1. **Commends** IsDB's initiative to scale up its Technical Cooperation Program by introducing the Reverse Linkage mechanism, which enables the Member States to exchange expertise, knowledge, technology and solutions among themselves with the objective of building local capacity to address development challenges, while sharing the project cost; and urges the Member States to propose to the Bank Reverse Linkage projects through the IsDB official channel in the respective countries;
2. **Appreciates** the efforts and initiatives of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for promoting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the Member Countries, including project financing and its specialized programs for Technical Cooperation, Science and Technology and Resource Centers Mapping;
3. **Takes note** of capacities of the Resource Centers identified by the IsDB, and urges Member States to utilize their capacities and expertise in addressing the local development challenges;
4. **Reiterates** its call for IsDB to assist Member States in improving quality of education by allocating more grants for capacity building and development projects;
5. **Requests** IsDB to continue collaboration with the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and other national, regional and international partners in combating diseases and epidemics, and health systems strengthening.

RESOLUTION NO. 9/47-S&T
ON
MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE SAND AND DUST STORMS IN
SOME MEMBER STATES

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Referring to the objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation where it demands the Member States to Endeavour to protect and preserve the environment,

Having considered the OIC-2025: Program of Action calling upon Member States to coordinate their environmental policies and positions in international environmental fora so as to prevent adverse effects of such policies on their economic development; and the OIC- STI Agenda 2026 which identifies issues pertaining to environment and climate change as one of the priorities,

Recalling further article 3 of the Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development, ratified by Islamic Environment Ministers in Jeddah, on 10-12 June 2002, where it names the environment a gift from Allah and calls upon all individuals and communities to take care of it and promote it,

Having considered UNGA resolutions: A/RES/70/195 entitled “combating sand and dust storms”, A/RES/71/219 entitled: “combating sand and dust storms”, A/RES/72/225 entitled “combating sand and dust storms”, E/ESCAP/RES/72/7 entitled “Regional Cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the pacific” and UNEA resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.21 on dust and sand storms,

Taking into account the adverse effects of severe and long-standing drought and implications of climate change, in the shape of dust and sand storm in certain Member States,

Further taking into account the final report of the Fourth Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for Environment which, among other things, calls on Member States competent authorities to redouble efforts and better coordinate actions to meet the new challenges posed by climate change and deterioration of environmental situation including desertification,

Recalling Resolution No. 9/46-S&T on Mainstreaming Efforts to Combat the Sand and Dust Storms adopted by the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Welcoming the UNEP initiative of Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms including Ministerial Meeting held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 and the Technical Meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 6-7 May 2013, attended by more than 50 countries, relevant UN agencies, regional organizations and other participants,

Welcoming further the International Workshop on Sand and Dust Storms organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey in Istanbul on 23-25 October 2017, in cooperation with Secretariat of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification, UNEP and WMO,

1. **Expresses** concern over the unprecedented wave of sand and dust tempests and for the considerable losses they have been causing in desert areas in the Member States in both Asia and Africa;

2. **Welcomes** the International Coalition for coordinated action on Sand and Dust Storm launched at United Nations Convention to Combat of Desertification (UNCCD) COP 14 on 6 September 2019;
3. **Takes note** of the first international conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3-5 July 2017, in cooperation with UN agencies; and commends the work of the Islamic Republic of Iran to combat Sand and Dust Storms;
4. **Calls on** all the Member States affected in desert areas in Asia and Africa to engage in a conscientious and constructive dialogue to resolve this problem in an appropriate manner;
5. **Appreciates** the participation of the OIC Member States in the UNEP regional project on catalysing Cooperative Actions to Combat Land Degradation and Dust Storms under the UNEP initiative of Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms and **encourages** other OIC Member States to join the UNEP regional project;
6. **Also expresses** appreciation for the efforts to limit sandstorms and drought in states of the region under the umbrella of a programme developed by the World Meteorological Organization in the context of limiting the impact of climate change;
7. **Reiterates** its support for developing a collective regional mechanism for awareness raising early warning and risk management network enabling the affected countries to face the problem in a suitable manner;
8. **Calls upon** all international and regional environmental instruments and institutions, including ROPME, to seriously and rapidly address the issue and to mobilize their resources, both technically and financially to assist the affected countries;
9. **Appreciates** the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with UNEP, UNDP and DESA for holding an international conference to combat sand and dust storms on 3-5 July 2017 based on UNGA resolutions;
10. **Invites** the Member States to contribute to the reforestation of desert zones in the OIC Member States, and to take firm measures against the abusive cutting of trees and bushfires;
11. **Further** invites the OIC Specialized Institutions such as Islamic Development Bank to take all appropriate measures to develop concrete projects for assisting the affected countries enabling them to overcome the disastrous effects of this phenomenon;
12. **Decides** to remain seized with the matter.

RESOLUTION NO. 10/47-S&T
ON
THE FORMER SEMIPALATINSK NUCLEAR TEST SITE AND THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS AND REHABILITATION OF
THE ARAL SEA REGION

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Taking into consideration UN General Assembly resolution 64/35 “International Day against Nuclear Tests” and also UN General Assembly resolution 63/279 “International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan”,

Taking into account the official document of the UN General Assembly No. A/68/686 title “Program of measures to eliminate consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea and prevent disaster of the ecosystem in the Aral Sea region”,

Recalling resolution No.4/33-S&T on environmental issues adopted by the 33rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, requesting the Islamic Development Bank and charity foundations of the Muslim countries to explore ways and means to evolve a programme providing support to the regions of the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk in coordination with existing international, regional and national programmes,

Expressing serious concern over the consequences of ecological problems of the Aral Sea and former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site,

Taking note of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev’s decree of 29 August 1991, the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site had been shut down, having functioned from 1949 to 1991 and produced 456 nuclear tests,

Acknowledging that the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site remains an issue of serious concern for Kazakhstan, in view of its long term hazardous effects on the lives and health of the region’s inhabitants and the environment,

1. **Reiterates** its call upon Member States to observe the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August in order to increase awareness of the effects of nuclear weapons test explosions;
2. **Emphasizes** importance of implementation of the Third Aral Sea Basin Program-3 (ASBP-3) at the Donor Coordination Conference held on December 9, 2010, in Almaty, Kazakhstan in terms of environment protection;
3. **Supports** the activities of the Multi-partner Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the United Nations, aimed at developing international cooperation and mobilizing funds from the donor community to implement targeted projects to improve the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea region;
4. **Highly appreciates** the implementation of the joint program of Uzbekistan and the United Nations titled “Building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through the Multi-partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea” aimed at improving the

welfare of the population through the creation of additional sources of income, improvement of healthcare system and development of infrastructure;

5. **Welcomes** the arrangements of the Council of the Heads of the State – Founders of International Fund for Saving of Aral Sea (IFAS), held in Turkmenibashi, Turkmenistan on August 24, 2018 that called for cooperation among IFAS Member States in the field of water resources management;
6. **Supports** the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to declare the Aral Sea region a zone of environmental innovations and technologies; and **welcomes** the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan to adopt a special resolution during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on the announcement of the Aral Sea region as the “Zone of Environmental Innovations and Technologies”;
7. **Calls on** OIC Member States and donors to actively engage in the implementation of targeted programs/projects in the Aral Sea region and the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site, providing financial and technical support for the implementation of specific investment projects
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 11/47-S&T
ON
CELEBRATING THE 1150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABU NASR AL-FARABI

The Forty-Seventh Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (United Against Terrorism for Peace and Development) held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H).

Reaffirming the commitment to the principles and objectives enshrined in the OIC Charter, in particular the dissemination, promotion and preservation of Islamic teachings and values, Islamic heritage, developing science and technology encouraging research and cooperation among Member States in these fields;

Taking into consideration the enormous contribution that was made by an outstanding scientist-philosopher Abu Nasr Al-Farabi to the development of global science, medicine, education and culture, whose heritage is the heritage of the entire world civilization;

Taking note of the fact that the Anniversary of the great oriental thinker Abu Nar Al-Farabi will be celebrated under the auspices of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2020 on an international scale;

Acknowledging the importance of popularizing and widely disseminating the rich scientific and encyclopedic heritage of Abu Nasr Al-Farabi not only among the youth of the OIC Member States, but also to the rest of world to stimulate research on his scientific works, which is in line with the recommendations of the OIC STI Agenda 2026, adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology held in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan on 10-11 September 2017.

1. **Welcomes** the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to celebrate the 1150th Anniversary of the outstanding scientist-philosopher Abu Nasr Al-Farabi within the framework of the OIC,
2. **Agrees** that introducing the landmark scientific achievements of the great scientist-philosopher Abu Nasr Al-Farabi to the youth of the Member States is an important step in inculcating the spirit of critical thinking, reasoning and evidence-based research which is a pre-requisite for the development of science, technology and innovation in the Muslim world as stipulated in the OIC STI Agenda 2026,
3. **Invites** the Member States to join Government of Kazakhstan in celebrating the anniversary through, inter alia, organization OIC wide and international programs to highlight the scientific achievements of Abu Nasr, Al-Farabi and calls upon the General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions, particularly the standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) to work with the Government of Kazakhstan in the organization and implementation of relevant activities in the OIC Member States.
