



OIC/MCSD-1/2019/RES/FINAL

Original: Arabic

**RESOLUTION**

**OF THE**

**FIRST OIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEMBER STATES**

**(ENSURING SOCIAL EQUALITY AND WELFARE FOR ALL IN THE MEMBER  
STATES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES)**

**ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
7-9 DECEMBER 2019**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE MEMBER STATES**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development in the Member States at its first session held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 7-9 December 2019 (10-12 Rabi' II 1441 AH), on the theme "Ensuring Social Equality and Welfare for All in the Member States: Opportunities and Challenges";*

- **Proceeding** from the provisions and principles of the OIC Charter, particularly Article 1 thereof, which calls for fostering cooperation among member states in social, cultural and information fields and for promoting the role of the family and protecting and developing it as the natural and core unit of society;
- **Recalling** the resolutions and final communiqués of the various sessions of the Islamic Summit Conference, especially the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference (Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit) and the Final Communiqué of the 13<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Islamic Summit, which called on the Secretary General to study the rules and mechanisms regulating the work of the various sectoral Ministerial Conferences in order to enhance the effectiveness of their work, and the Final Communiqué of the 14<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, which stressed that the social dimension is essential to achieve sustainable development, and that investment in social protection is a means to attain those goals, and commended the efforts made to ensure the welfare and social security of the elderly and persons with special needs in the Muslim world;
- **Recalling** also resolution 4/46-C on Holding OIC Sectorial Meetings of Ministers of Social Affairs in the Member States, adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers 46<sup>th</sup> session (1-2 March 2019, Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates), which called on the Ministerial Conference on Social Affairs to examine social action issues in the Muslim world and those matters that fell under the remit of sectorial ministerial conferences on the institution of marriage and family, the sectorial ministerial conference on child welfare and child protection in the Muslim world, and the sectorial ministerial conference on welfare and social security preservation for the elderly and special need persons in the Muslim world;
- Further **recalling** resolution No.2/37-Org on the Establishment of an Organization for Women Development in OIC Member States and adoption of its Statute by the CFM's 37<sup>th</sup> Session held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 2010; and the adoption of the Statute of the OIC Women Development Organization with as headquarters the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- **Having considered** the resolutions of the five sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers in Charge of Childhood held by ISESCO in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat on 7-9 November 2005 in Rabat, 2-3 February 2009 in Khartoum, 10-11 February 2011 in Tripoli, 11-12 November 2013 in Baku, and 21-22 February 2018 in Rabat;

- **Taking note of** Article 22 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provides that the “states parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee shall receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance;”
- **Recalling** the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women;
- **Having considered** resolution 4/42-C of the Council of Foreign Ministers’ 47<sup>th</sup> session (27-28 May 2015 State of Kuwait) and the CFM’s 43<sup>rd</sup> session (Tashkent, 2016), on establishing the Ministerial Conference on safeguarding the welfare and social security of the elderly and people with special needs, and the resolutions of the First Session of the Ministerial Conference on Marriage and Family Institution held on 8-9 February 2019 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- **Expressing** profound concern over the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of ordinary people in the member states of their right to development, particularly women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and people with specific or rare diseases;
- **Recalling** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 70<sup>th</sup> session, and the need for the OIC Member States to pay more attention, within sustainable development literature, to highlighting the central role of the family in achieving sustainable development, as there is a lack of attention to the family in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and the erosion of the marriage institution in some regions of the world, which calls for according the utmost importance to the marriage and family institution in the OIC Member States;
- **With reference to** priority areas under the OIC 2025 program of action: namely, the advancement and empowerment of women, family welfare and social security, wherein the focus is on promoting policies for family, childcare, elderly welfare and protection for persons with disabilities and special need people;
- **Being alarmed** that drowning is a leading cause of child deaths from unintentional injury, and is an international development challenge that profoundly lacks recognition relative to its impact;
- **Affirming** that preventing drowning is possible and many thousands of lives can be saved through the introduction of interventions including, but not limited to, supervision, water safety education and swim skills and drowning prevention can contribute towards family, community and societal resilience;

- **Believing** that effective response requires coordinated efforts of international organizations and agencies, member states, regional and local authorities, and civil society;
- **Having considered** the Secretary General’s report on the marriage and family institution and the preservation of its values, safeguarding the wellbeing and protection of the child and social security of the elderly and persons with special needs in the Muslim world;
- **Being desirous** of rationalizing resources and ensuring efficiency in following up the implementation of the outcome of the First Ministerial Conference on Social Affairs;

**Decides as follows:**

**A) Promoting Family Welfare and Safeguarding the Values of the Marriage and Family Institution in the Member States:**

1. **Welcomes** the resolutions and recommendations of the first session of the Islamic Ministerial Conference on the Family and Marriage Institution (Jeddah, 8-9 February 2017), and the Council of Foreign Ministers’ relevant resolutions, particularly the 42<sup>nd</sup> session (Kuwait, 2015), the 43<sup>rd</sup> session (Tashkent, 2016), the 44<sup>th</sup> session (Abidjan, 2017), the 45<sup>th</sup> session (Dhaka, 2018), and the 46<sup>th</sup> session (Abu Dhabi, 2019), regarding the welfare of the family; and **calls on** the OIC member states, organs and relevant institutions to implement them.
2. **Commends** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s follow-up role, as the Chair of the Islamic Ministerial Conference on the Marriage and Family Institution, on implementing the Conference resolutions, while praising it for offering to host two symposia: the first on Opposing UNHRC Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (Jeddah, 9 December 2019), and the second on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Family-oriented Implementation Procedures and Indicators (Jeddah, 10-11 December 2019); **welcomes** the two symposia’s recommendations, while calling on the member states to translate them into action; and **commends** the IPHRC (Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission) efforts to prepare a study on sexual orientation and gender identity, follow up on the implementation of the CFM’s resolutions on opposing the UNHRC resolution on sexual orientation, and appointing an Independent Expert on the matter.
3. **Commends** the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat and the Republic of Turkey to successfully organize the first session of the Islamic Ministerial Conference on Social Development.
4. **Takes note of** the results of the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the OIC Strategy to Empower the Marriage and Family Institution and Preserve its Values in the Muslim World, which took place in the OIC General Secretariat on 1-2 October 2019; **commends** the efforts of the General Secretariat, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research

and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) to develop the draft document; **adopts** the OIC Strategy to Empower the Marriage and Family Institution and Preserve its Values in the Muslim World, and **invites** the member states and the OIC organs and institutions concerned to put it into effect.

5. **Takes note of** the joint submission on the “family’s key roles in achieving sustainable development”, which was prepared by the Secretariat in coordination with the relevant OIC organs and institutions, more specifically the IPHRC, ISESCO, the IDB, SESRIC, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, IRCICA, and the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT), whose elaboration was requested by the first Islamic ministerial conference on the marriage and family institution (Jeddah, 2017), as part of the specific actions to be taken by the Member States to empower the family and to achieve SDGs; **commends** the efforts of SESRIC to finalize the document, and **invites** the Member States to use it and to develop country-specific indicators for SDGs from a family perspective.
6. **Invites** the Member States to consolidate their positions on international gatherings to oppose the UNHRC resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity, in line with the Council of Foreign Ministers’ resolutions (4/43-C, 4/44-C, 4/45-C and 4/46-C) of the Council sessions held in Kuwait (2015), Tashkent (2016), Abidjan (2017), Dhaka (2018), and Abu Dhabi (2019), which called for taking practical steps to counter those UNHRC resolutions.
7. **Reaffirms** its rejection of the UNHRC Resolution on Sexual Orientation and the establishment of the mandate of Independent Expert on the subject; **calls upon** the OIC Group in Geneva and New York to take a common position against that mandate, and **further calls** on the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to provide the required support to the Member States facing pressure in this regard.
8. **Welcomes** the comprehensive study prepared by the IPHRC on “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity’ as contained in document no. “OIC/IPHRC/REP/SOGI/CFM-44/2017”; pursuant to CFM Resolution no. 4/43-C, and **urges** the General Secretariat to formulate a comprehensive strategy, based on the recommendations of the study, to vehemently oppose the UNHRC Resolution no. 32/2 on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, the mandate of Independent Expert on the subject, and to stress this stance at different levels.
9. **Requests** the Member States to disseminate the Islamic values relevant to women, children and the family in general, to convey the right image of Islam and improve the conditions of children in the Muslim world, while rejecting controversial notions such as LGBT families.
10. **Urges** the Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthening and supporting the family as a contributor to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while recognizing that respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members is essential to family wellbeing and to society at large, noting the

importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child.

11. **Urges** all the Member States to sign and ratify the statute of the Organization for Women Development in the OIC Member States, and **calls upon** the states signatories to ratify it as soon as possible in order for the statute to enter into force and thus endow the OIC with a body working on women empowerment.
12. **Urges** the Member States to take immediate steps to promote women's equality in family laws and practices, in compliance with international conventions on human rights, and to respect, protect and realize women's right to equality in the family, cognizant of the recent findings connecting discriminatory family laws to lower levels of women's labor force participation and economic empowerment and promoting equality and non-discrimination in the family, by reforming discriminatory family laws and realizing the importance of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
13. **Urges** the Member States to develop national strategies for the protection of children on the move, children victims of trafficking and children in situation of internal displacement, to promote family dialogue, inventory all forms of violence and eradicate poverty, **invites** the member states to develop national programmes to promote dialogue within the family, combat poverty, and vulnerability, address all gender-based forms of violence, further the promotion of women's rights and women's empowerment, and ensure the protection of migrants and refugees.
14. **Calls on** the member states and the OIC organs and institutions concerned to support the Solidarity Economy experience, by developing microfinance systems to ensure provision of material support to the family, promote its independence and enable their offspring to carry on their studies and prevent them from being dragged prematurely into the labor market.
15. **Calls on** the member states to develop a capacity-building a program for social actors in mediation, communication and listening skills, to reduce domestic violence.
16. **Invites** the member states and the OIC organs and institutions concerned to assist vulnerable social groups, especially poor families, accessing legal services to ensure enjoyment of their rights.
17. **Calls on** the member states to support the youth, empower them materially, provide financial facilities, and secure proper housing for them to form a family, while increasing facilities if one spouse is widower/widow or divorced.
18. Also **calls on** the member states to support the project to fund the care of orphans within their families, provide the necessary financial support to ensure that they live a decent life, and empower alternative families within the legal and humanitarian frameworks, to avoid exploitation.

## **B) Childcare and Child Protection across the Muslim World:**

- 19. Welcomes** the relevant CFM resolutions on child welfare and protection in the Muslim world, particularly those of the 42<sup>nd</sup> session (Kuwait, 2015), the 43<sup>rd</sup> session (Tashkent, 2016), the 44<sup>th</sup> session (Abidjan, 2017), the 45<sup>th</sup> session (Dhaka, 2018) and the 46<sup>th</sup> session (Abu Dhabi, 2019), and **calls on** the member states and the OIC organs and institutions concerned to implement them.
- 20. Equally welcomes** the resolutions of the five sessions of the Islamic ministerial conference on the child, held by ISESCO in coordination with the General Secretariat: namely, (Rabat, 7-9 November 2005), (Khartoum, 2-3 February 2009), (Tripoli, 10-11 February 2011), (Baku, 11-12 November 2013), and (Rabat, 21-22 February 2018).
- 21. Calls on** the member states to develop social protection mechanisms for children and adults to keep them away from delinquency and addiction, toward developing awareness-raising strategy on forms of economic and social exploitation of children.
- 22. Calls on** the member states to develop visions or mechanisms to combat child labor, as part of a participatory vision based on dialogue and the participation of all parties, including government institutions, social actors, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- 23. Invites** the OIC organs and institutions concerned to support addicted child prevention and protection programmes and structures, particularly as regards treatment and rehabilitation, while learning from comparative experiences.
- 24. Calls on** the member states to develop a national diagnostic, medical and psychological treatment, social and pedagogical care work plan for autistic children and those victims of all forms of disability in the Muslim world, because of the spread of autism and the difficulty of dealing with this form of handicap.
- 25. Calls on** the member states to establish psychosocial units to deliver technical advice for relevant authorities to fulfil their obligations towards the children, elderly, people with special needs and disabilities.
- 26. Calls for** adopting an early childhood preventive care programme at schools which consists of school-based food services, preventive interventions, daily pocket money, and other initiatives to attract street children to school and to provide purposeful educational environment for students.

27. **Calls on** the member states to make further efforts to counter Female Genital Mutilation as one of the harmful and violent practices against girls, while reaffirming Islam's rejection of this phenomenon.
28. **Calls on** the Member States to address the problem of child marriages, with a view to discourage the practice as it exists in some societies, and it hinders the rights of the children and denies them their legitimate rights for education, and overall psychological and emotional development.
29. **Recognizes** the challenges on child survival and development in the Member States including the high prevalence of children out of school and call on Member States to make efforts to reduce the high rate of children out of schools.
30. **Considering** the high prevalence of infant and under five mortality including maternal mortality in the OIC Member States, **encourages** all the Member States to improve the capacity of service providers through capacity building on emergency and obstetric case as well as raising awareness in reproductive health.
31. **Calls on** the member states, especially those affected by armed conflicts, to commit to preventing the recruitment of children and their involvement in conflicts by militias and armed groups, and to enact the necessary legislation to eliminate this phenomenon, acting in conformity with the Islamic tolerant principles of child care and child protection, and in compliance with the rules of international law, the provisions of the international humanitarian law, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
32. **Calls on** the member states to accelerate the process for social integration of children who underwent forced recruitment, and to ensure their psychological and educational rehabilitation, in cooperation with the relevant OIC specialized institutions and the UN agencies concerned.
33. **Calls on** the relevant OIC organs (ISESCO, International Islamic Fiqh Academy, SESRIC, the IsDB and the IPHRC) to take the necessary measures, in coordination with the General Secretariat, to finalize and submit the draft OIC Childcare and Child Welfare Strategy to the next session of the Ministerial Conference on Social Development or the Council of Foreign Ministers.
34. Invites all the Member States, including low-lying and disaster-prone States to consider, developing a national water safety plan, including realistic targets and promotion of standards on drowning prevention, to include drowning within civil registration and vital statistics registers and aggregate all drowning deaths into national estimates, and to establish and enforce water safety laws and regulations.
35. **Urges** all Member States to promote community awareness of drowning prevention and intensify community participation in resilience and prevention efforts, and to share learning and experience of progress and best practice, within, and among the Member States.



- 36. Welcomes** the readiness of the Republic of Turkey to share its family-based child protection models and its best practices with a view to strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of those Member States, based on their request, through various actions such as OIC-wide workshops, training programmes and study visits including to OIC member states.
- 37. Urges** the Member States to organize workshops to share their best practices and experiences and awareness raising programs with the support of ISESCO, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, SESRIC, the Islamic Development Bank, and relevant NGOs, with a view to protecting and advancing the rights of children, including those with special needs.
- 38. Commends** the efforts of the IPHRC in finalizing the review and update of the OIC Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam, in accordance with the international human rights instruments, and **calls** for holding an intergovernmental experts' meeting to discuss and finalize the document..
- 39. Commends** Turkey's proposal to establish an OIC-wide technical assistance and capacity- building programme to foster cooperation in combating and reversing the contemporary challenges and addressing relevant issues such as malnutrition, child labor, education of girls and birth registration, and **calls** on the member states, the General Secretariat and the ISDB to cooperate for the successful conduct of the programme.
- 40. Requests** the Member States to further cooperate and coordinate their policies and programs, develop and implement strategies for the protection of children from contemporary challenges and risks such as electronic addiction, drug addiction, online child abuse, peer violence, and digital harassment.
- 41. Calls** on the member states to scale up scientifically accurate and age-appropriate education to children, relevant to the Islamic cultural contexts, in and out of school, with appropriate direction and guidance from their parents or legal guardians, while calling upon - the member states to reject the so-called controversial "Comprehensive Sexuality Education" which some international organization are pushing for its application in the Islamic countries
- 42. Calls on** the Member States and the relevant OIC organs to mainstream the protection of children into all assistance programs and activities for the refugees, and **calls on** humanitarian stakeholders in the OIC countries to develop and strengthen comprehensive refugee response policies that benefit refugees, particularly children.
- 43. Calls on** the Member States and all related OIC institutions to take more effective measures aimed to ensure the protection of children in the world, particularly in armed conflict zones.

44. **Stresses** the need to continue to support the refugee hosting Member States which are disproportionately shouldering a large portion of the burden of providing assistance and protection, and **calls on** the international community to increase and coordinate their support to these countries and transit countries, in coordination with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees,
45. **Calls on** the Member States to further cooperate and coordinate their policies and programmes to support and rehabilitate refugee children, in line with the resolutions adopted by the OIC and the UN.
46. **Urges** the Member States and relevant OIC organs to enhance cooperation and coordination with partners at the regional and international levels, particularly the UN agencies, on refugee children in the Member States.
47. **Calls for** organizing a workshop in cooperation with the relevant UN agencies and humanitarian stakeholders to share experiences and to examine the best practices of services and activities for refugee children in the OIC Member States.
48. **Calls on** the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to consider allocating resources to projects prioritizing the access of refugee children and their families to health and education.
49. Further **calls on** the IsDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to consider developing tailor-made comprehensive projects to support refugee children, taking as a principle the optimal benefit of the child.
50. **Calls for** organizing an Islamic/International conference on the Protection of the Palestinian child from the Israeli occupation violations.
51. **Calls for** ensuring food security to the most vulnerable, especially children and the elderly, to reduce malnutrition and make sure nutritious food is available, for a healthier society, and **calls** for investing in the human capital, financial inclusion and economic empowerment through social protection.

### C) Preserving the Social Welfare and Social Security of the Elderly:

52. **Commends** the General Secretariat's efforts to coordinate with the OIC organs and institutions concerned, including SESRIC, for the development of an OIC Policy for the elderly with the view to deliver guiding principles to preserve the social welfare and security of the elderly, promote their participation in all aspects of development in the OIC member states; **adopts** the OIC Draft Strategy for the elderly; **calls on** the member states to take the necessary actions and measures to ensure that the provisions of this strategy are implemented, and to coordinate its activities to enhance the status of the elderly in the Muslim world, and **reiterates** that this guiding strategy may be subject to review, amendment and refinement at the next ministerial conferences.

- 53. Calls on** the member states to promote social protection for the elderly, by establishing social structures for the elderly, and to protect them from neglect by their offspring, by providing social assistance services.
- 54. Calls for** developing programmes to stimulate positive attitude towards and change society's perception of the elderly, in consistency with our magnanimous Islamic law, and also **calls** for developing preventive treatment services, such as appointing a companion from within their family or, if impossible, from outside, and for offering grants for elderly care at home, and **calls for** supporting and urging the member states to establish sociocultural facilities for the elderly, people with disabilities and special need persons.
- 55. Urges** the Member States to eliminate the prejudice and negative stereotypes about the elderly, and to formulate policies to provide intergenerational solidarity.
- 56. Calls on** the Member States, in accordance with the OIC Strategy on the Welfare of the Elderly, to coordinate their policies and enhance their cooperation and with a view to ensuring the active participation of the elderly into their societies without any discrimination and prioritize protection of their Islamic and traditional role in their families and societies by supporting intergenerational solidarity and educating future generations.
- 57. Welcomes** the readiness of the Republic of Turkey to share its protection model for the elderly and best practices for their institutional protection, with a view to strengthening the legal, technical and institutional capacity of the Member States, based on their request, and ensuring the socio-economic wellbeing of the elderly, through various actions such as OIC-wide workshops, training programmes, study visits and project establishment, including conducting cross-cultural studies in the OIC states.
- 58. Requests** the General Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant OIC institutions, particularly ISESCO and SESRIC, to study different kinds of social protection and safety net programmes in Member States, with the objective of encouraging the sharing of best practices in addressing the wellbeing and social protection of the elderly and people with special needs.
- 59. Calls on** the General Secretariat to expedite the organization of a specialized workshop, in coordination with the relevant OIC organs, to address the challenges faced by the Member States in the field of protection of the elderly and people with special needs, in accordance with the CFM Resolution No.4/46-CUL(E).
- 60. Urges** the General Secretariat, in cooperation with SESRIC and other relevant OIC institutions and organs, to establish an OIC-wide research and follow-up program, which would guide the development of effective socioeconomic policies to ensure the wellbeing of the elderly.

- 61. Encourages** the Member States to introduce legal, administrative, social and educational measures to prevent neglect, self-neglect, vulnerability and violence against elderly people in society and discrimination in all walks of life.
- 62. Calls on** the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development to consider attaching particular importance to the elderly in the rural areas, and to regional development projects financed in the Member States, through small grants.
- 63. Calls on** the Member States to further cooperate and coordinate their policies towards facilitating a healthy, secure and active life for elderly people, with increased access to health, social, urban services and to financial institutions, as well as the creation of an enabling, sustainable and supportive environment.
- 64. Urges** the Member States to promote and implement laws, policies and regulations pertaining to the rights and treatment of older persons and persons with disabilities, and the support institutions responsible for achieving a healthy life for the family and society; bearing in mind that older persons together with women, children and persons with disabilities are the most vulnerable in society.

**D) Providing Care and Welfare for People with Special Needs and Disabilities:**

- 65. Commends** the efforts of the General Secretariat and SESRIC to prepare the draft OIC Strategic Plan on special need people and persons with disabilities, which would provide guidelines for the protection of their wellbeing and social security and enhance their participation in all aspects of development in the OIC Member States; and **expresses** appreciation for the Government of the Republic of Guinea for offering to host a workshop on the integration and empowerment of people with disabilities, which will be organized in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat and SESRIC, on 23-24 December 2019 in Conakry, to address issues including the OIC Policy on People with Special Needs.
- 66. Invites** relevant OIC organs and institutions to hold workshops and programmes to strengthen the capacities of national institutions working in the area of the wellbeing of the disabled and people with special needs in the Member States, and address relevant social issues and the challenges facing Member States in this domain effectively.
- 67. Invites** the Member States to set up social care programmes for the disabled, such as through providing housing, material support, work spaces and employment for social inclusion.
- 68. Calls for** developing educational curricula for all school levels to ensure the highlighting of the rights of the elderly, people with disabilities and people with special needs, and support cooperation among OIC Member States to empower human resources and employ them in a way that protects them from exclusion and discrimination.

- 69. Calls on** SESRIC, in coordination with the General Secretariat, to finalize the draft OIC Strategic Plan on People with Special Needs, prior to its submission to the next Ministerial Conference.
- 70. Emphasizes** the need to further cooperate and coordinate the policies and programmes of the Member States to eliminate all legal, physical, sociological and traditional barriers and prejudices, to ensure the full participation of people with special needs in their societies.
- 71. Requests** the Member States to pursue decisive and inclusive policies to ensure the active participation of people with special needs and disabilities to labour force and employment.
- 72. Requests** the IPHRC to conduct and present a study on the current international legal norms and mechanisms ensuring and safeguarding the rights of people with special needs.
- 73. Calls on** SESRIC to assess the collection and dissemination of data – through its OIC Stat Database – on the people with special needs and disabilities in the Member States.
- 74. Encourages** the Member States to exchange best practices and experiences in building a society inclusive of persons with special needs and disabilities and with accessible and enabling environments, and the elimination of all barriers and provision of equal opportunities.
- 75. Equally encourages** the Member States to introduce legal, administrative, social, and educational measures to prevent neglect, self-neglect, abuse, vulnerability and violence against people with special needs in society and discrimination in work life.
- 76. Calls on** the General Secretariat to finalize its efforts to hold a specialized workshop to address the challenges faced by Member States in the field of protection of the elderly and people with special needs in accordance with the CFM Resolution No.4/46-CUL (E).
- 77. Calls** for fostering cooperation and coordination among the Member States to support and empower persons with special needs and the elderly in the business sector, in line with the requirements of the labour market.

#### **E) Support to Social Development in Palestine:**

- 78. Calls on** the Member States' ministries in charge of social affairs / and development to upscale their initiatives and projects in cooperation with the ministry of social development in Palestine, to bring support to Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its institutions, particularly those concerned with social, educational and women's affairs, as well as to societies that cater for the elderly, the handicapped, children and the youth.

- 79. Calls on** the Member States' ministries in charge of social affairs / and development to reach out to Al-Quds more vigorously through field visits by their specialized institutions.
- 80. Calls** for consolidating social development efforts in Al-Quds Al-Sharif; **praises** the role of Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency of Al-Quds Committee, presided by His Majesty King Mohamed VI of Morocco, in the fields of social assistance, women's empowerment, and care for the orphans, the elderly and people with disabilities, and **calls on** the member states to provide the necessary support to the Agency's projects in this area.
- 81. Recommends** caring for and entertaining Jerusalemite children, by organizing annual educational and cultural camps in the member states, modelling on the Kingdom of Morocco's leading experience in this area.
- 82. Calls for** setting up specific programs to consolidate the Palestinians' steadfastness on their land in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, through specific programs geared towards the families in need, including the restoration of homes and the provision of food and seasonal supplies.
- 83. Calls for** extending support to the Palestinians where they are settled until a just solution to their cause is achieved, consistent with international resolutions, continuing uninterrupted support for UNRWA's budget, through the concerned institutions, and for providing support and back-up for services, particularly in terms of health, education, culture and services targeting, particularly persons with disabilities and special needs, women, the elderly and children.
- 84. Also calls** on the Member States to support the continuation of the work of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Palestine, particularly as this programme benefits the poorest families in the Gaza Strip, Al-Quds, bedouin communities and the poor districts.
- 85. Calls for** enhancing bilateral cooperation with the State of Palestine as to protecting Palestinian children under the occupation.
- 86. Calls for** supporting the Palestinian National Foundation for Economic Empowerment and for the transition from relief to development, from destitution to production and from financial assistance to support for services network, empowerment and self-reliance through the extension of easy-term loans to the destitute and the marginalized categories.
- 87. Calls for** encouraging the Member States to conclude bilateral agreements between the State of Palestine and their ministries in charge of social affairs and development as well as with their agencies and organs specialized in the social field, along with exchanging expertise in the areas of children and minors, women's issues and their protection, combating poverty, care for and protection of the elderly, issues of disability, training and rehabilitation of school dropouts, cooperation in the area of charitable action and voluntary work through charities, institutions and local initiatives in the social field.

**88. Calls for** working with the specialized bodies to consolidate the steadfastness of citizens on their land, particularly in the Gaza Strip, Al Quds Al-Sharif, bedouin communities and refugee camps, through the elaboration of plans for prompt response as a result of the violations perpetrated by the occupier with their economic and social fallouts, specifically for these areas.

**89. Calls on** the Member States to respond to the crisis resulting from the political pressures in Palestine advocating the suspension of allowances for prisoners, detainees and families of martyrs, and to recognize these families as among the segments most critically subject to economic and social marginalization and to place them high on the agenda of relief and development priorities.

**F) Other Social Issues:**

**90. Calls on** the member states to invest in women and the youth, to reap the demographic dividend through fostering access to fundamental social services and establishing an adequate education and training system, on the one hand, and by improving their economic empowerment, on the other, through ensuring sustainable access to efficient financial and nonfinancial services.

**91. Calls on** the Islamic group both in New York and in Geneva to take a unified negotiating stand in various forums regarding all the social issues covered by this resolution.

**92. Encourages** the member states to promote and reinforce the capacities of social workers in disability-related areas, and to spark citizens of the member states to take interest in gerontology and geriatrics.

**93. Invites** the Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of this resolution, and to submit a report thereto to the Conference's second session.