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**Resolutions of the**  
**Eighth Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women**  
**“Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in**  
**Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond”**

**Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt**  
**6-8 July 2021**  
**26-28 Dhul-Qiida 1442 H**

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**Resolution No. 1/8-W**  
**On**  
**Development of the Palestinian Women**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Recalling** the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) in Member States adopted by the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 1-3 November 2016 and the other resolutions of the same Session;
- **Recalling** the resolutions adopted by the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso, on 30 November – 1 December 2018 (corresponding to 22-23 *Rabii I* 1440 H.) on the theme: "*Women Empowerment in the OIC Member States: Challenges and Prospects*";
- **Also recalling** the various OIC resolutions on the protection and supporting the Palestinian people, and **stressing** the need to take all possible measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied Palestinian territories in line with the provisions and commitments enshrined in the international law, and the international humanitarian law in particular;
- **Expressing** deep concern over the precarious situation of the Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territories, include Eastern Al-Quds, due to the dire consequences of the continuing illegitimate Israeli occupation and all its manifestations; and affirming that foreign occupation is a major cause blocking the right of peoples to exercise their inalienable rights and their right to development;
- **Also expressing** deep concern over the escalating difficulties encountered by the Palestinian women and girls under the Israeli occupation. These include continued systematic large-scale crimes and policies including forced displacement, demolition of homes and expulsion of Palestinian citizens from their homes and their seizure, and the racial measures including the revocation of the so-called 'right to housing, and arbitrary detention and arrest. Add to this high poverty and unemployment rates, food insecurity, lack of safe drinking and sanitation, lack of power and fuel supplies, and the declining levels of health, education, and living standards. All these difficulties have led to an increase in traumas and erosion of psychological well-being among the Palestinian women and girls, especially in the Gaza Strip in light of its prolonged humanitarian tragedy that still adversely affects the situation of women and girls;
- **Deploring** the deteriorating economic and social situation of the Palestinian women and girls in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Eastern Al-Quds, and the systematic violations of their human rights, including forced displacement and deportation of civilians,

especially the Bedouin populations, such as Al-Khan Al-Ahmar and the Bedouins of Eastern Al-Quds, forced displacement of the inhabitants of the occupied city of Al-Quds, particularly Sheikh Jarrah and Selwan districts, with the aim of changing the demographic composition of the city of Al-Quds as part of a campaign of ethnic cleansing and the consecration of the apartheid regime being imposed by the Israeli occupation. These violations also include the confiscation of lands, expansion of illegal gnawing settlements and the Separation Wall, continuous closure of the crossings, and imposing restrictions on the movement of persons and goods. Add to this the permit system imposed on all parts of the occupied Palestinian territories, thus undermining the right of the Palestinian women and girls to healthcare, education, labor, mobility and development;

- **Commending** the efforts of the OIC and its Member States to assist the Palestinian people and defend the occupied Palestinian territories with Al-Quds Ash-Sharif as its capital, and **underscoring** the need to implement its resolutions and provide assistance in order to mitigate the deteriorating social, economic, and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian women and girls and their families;
- **Hailing** the role of the Palestinian women in resisting the illegal Israeli occupation and withstanding its direct consequences; **denouncing** all attacks and violations of their rights by the forces of the illegal Israeli occupation and by settlers' terrorism; and **asserting** the importance of strengthening the role of the Palestinian women in building peace and decision making and the significance of their participation and engagement equally with men in all efforts to achieve peace and security;
- **Commending** the efforts made by the State of Palestine, in coordination with its governmental and local-community institutions, to promote women's rights and engage women in decision-making, in addition to implementing the agenda for women, peace and security and adopting the second generation of the National Action Plan to implement the UN Security Resolution 1325;
- **Welcoming** the resolution adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 14 September 2020 on the "Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian Women", which reviewed the situation of the Palestinian women and girls in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Eastern Al-Quds, and the violations of their rights by the Israeli occupation, as well as other UN resolutions on the protection of the Palestinian women and girls in particular and the entire Palestinian people in general;
- **Also welcoming** the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 27 May 2021 on the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate Israeli occupation's violation of the rights of the Palestinian people, including women and girls, and its impact on their enjoyment of their rights similarly to other women in the world;
- **Having considered** the UN reports on the situation of the Palestinian women and the need to protect and assist them in various spheres of life to empower and advance them and support their resistance and resilience in the face of the violations of their rights by the Israeli occupation;

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Confirms** that the Israeli occupation remains the main stumbling block preventing Palestinian women and girls from exercising their inalienable basic rights and from their progress, self-reliance and participation in the development of their society as mentioned by the UN principles related to Sustainable Development Goals, and **denounces** the violations of the illegal Israeli occupation of the rights of the Palestinian women and girls;
2. **Condemns strongly** the Israeli occupation's wide aggression on the Palestinian people, especially on girls, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, targeting of unarmed civilians, forced displacement and the barbaric bombing of civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip and the excessive use of force against them, which caused the death of a large number of women, children and innocent civilians.
3. **Warns** against the dangerous impact of the keenness of Israel, the occupying power, to repeatedly and deliberately fuel religious sensitivities and provoke the feelings of the Palestinian people and the entire Muslim Ummah by escalating its attacks on worshipers, particularly women, preventing them from reaching the holy sites to perform their acts of worship and mounting aggression against them in a grave violation of the principles of international humanitarian law.
4. **Requests** Member States to work towards forcing Israel, the occupying Power, to abide fully by the provisions and principles of the International Declaration of Human Rights, the Regulations annexed with the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention on the Protection of the Civilian Persons in the Time of War of 12 August 1949. Add to these all other related provisions, principles and covenants of the international law, including the two international covenants on human rights, to protect the rights of the Palestinian women and their families.
5. **Calls on** the Member States to endeavor to end all violations committed by Israel, the occupying power, including its disregard of sacred sites and attempts to prejudice their historical and legal status, thus affecting the right of Palestinian women to freedom of worship; and emphasizes that Israel is an occupying power that has no legitimate rights or any sovereignty whatsoever on the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and that all measures affecting the status of Al-Quds and its holy sites are null and void and have no legal effect.
6. **Requests** the international community to shoulder its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people, continue to accord the required attention to promote and protect the rights of the Palestinian women and girls. It also requests the international community to intensify its efforts to pursue and expedite the end of the long-standing Israeli occupation based on the provisions of international law and the foundations and terms of reference of international consensus to materialize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including women and girls, especially the right of return, independence and self-determination.

7. **Requests** the Member States to honor their commitments towards the reconstruction of Gaza and provide the much-needed humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian women and girls in the Gaza Strip, especially after the recent Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, which lasted for 11 days and caused considerable material, moral and psychological destruction, especially for women and girls.
8. **Demands** the international community to support Palestinian women refugees wherever they are and promote their exercise of their rights in all walks of life, and to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) through its current crisis. This would have a direct effect in providing the basic services to the Palestinian refugees. It **asserts** that the closure of many UNRWA schools in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds, would adversely affect the Palestinian girls' access to quality education. It also **demand**s the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel, the occupying Power, to allow the return of the Palestinian refugees and the displaced, especially women and children, to their homes and properties pursuant to the relevant UN resolutions, and in particular Resolution No. 194.
9. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to continue their urgent aids and services to the Palestinian women and girls to alleviate their suffering in line with the Sustainable Development Plan 2030, help reconstruct the Gaza Strip and rebuild the relevant Palestinian institutions while integrating the gender-based perspective in all aid programs.
10. **Requests** the OIC Member States to provide the financial and technical support to the State of Palestine to empower and advance the Palestinian women. This would include helping the State of Palestine to implement the recommendations of the human rights conventions bodies on strengthening the rights of the Palestinian women and girls in all fields, especially those of the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This would also include the provision of technical support through experts in harmonization of national legislation with the international standards and agreements to advance the Palestinian women and protect their rights.
11. **Requests** the OIC Member States desirous of providing the financial and technical support to the State of Palestine to establish a Palestinian national observatory to monitor the violence cases against the Palestinian women and an information platform to document the crimes and violations by the illegal Israeli occupation of the human rights of the Palestinian women and girls.
12. **Expresses** support for enabling Palestinian women to have access to decision-making positions in international and regional organizations, including the OIC, and to benefit from the experiences of Palestinian women in their struggle, resistance and confrontation of colonial occupation of their land and consecrate their efforts to achieve peace.
13. **Calls for** strengthening cooperation and coordination among women to establish projects in different fields, to build their capacities, hold training sessions that would help to that end and provide them with support.

- 14. Welcomes** the agreement to hold the Cultural Festival and the Palestinian Handicraft and Food Exhibition in Germany in support for Palestinian women.
- 15. Expresses appreciation** to UNRWA for delivering education services for Palestinian women and girls, and calls on the international community, particularly the OIC Member States, to provide financial support to the Agency to continue its services of providing schools and teachers for Palestinian women and girls.
- 16. Requests** the OIC Secretary General to take all required measures in this regard in coordination with the Mission of the State of Palestine to follow up the implementation of this resolution and report thereon to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 48<sup>th</sup> session and to the ninth session of the Ministerial Conference on Women.

**Resolution No.2/8-W**  
**On**  
**On Women Protection and Empowerment in Member States for Adaptation and Recovery**  
**during Pandemic and Exceptional Circumstances**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Guided by** the purposes and principles enshrined in the OIC Charter,
- **Recognizing** that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) disease poses an increasingly serious threat to public health, exacerbating existing inequalities, undermining sustainable development and disproportionately affecting women and girls of all ages,
- **Welcoming** the OIC Program of Action (2016-2025) informed by the vision and principles set forth in the OIC Charter, particularly as regards the priority area (13.2) on the "Advancement and Empowerment of Women, Family Welfare and Social Security", which aims, inter alia, at promoting gender equality and family empowerment (goal no. 2.13.1), and at developing appropriate legislative and administrative measures to fight violence against women (goal no. 2.13.6),
- **Having regard to** the recurrent call by the OIC Secretary General for the international community's response to COVID-19 and its impact,
- **Welcoming** SESRIC report "Towards the Achievement of Prioritized SDGs for OIC Member States 2020", wherein focus is placed on SDG (5) aiming to achieve "gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls",
- **Recalling** resolution 16/7-W on the "Protection of Women from all Forms of Violence and Discrimination", adopted by the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its seventh session held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 30 November to 1 December 2018, under the theme "Women's Empowerment in the Member States: Challenges and Prospects",
- **Welcoming** the declaration of the G20 emergency summit held on 26 March 2020 with Saudi Arabia assuming the Chair role, and in which were discussed ways to further coordinate global response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the final statement in which the G20 Riyadh Summit leaders emphasize the ever-growing need for coordinated global action, solidarity and multilateral cooperation to overcome the current challenges and to work in earnest to protect lives and provide support to those categories that are most affected by the coronavirus crisis,
- **Asserting** the core message of the Makkah Charter, issued at the Muslim World League Conference held in Makkah (May 2019) around the "The Values of Centrism and



Moderation in the Quran and the Sunna”, and later endorsed by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers at its 47<sup>th</sup> session (November 2020), with special regard to Article (25) reaffirming the “principles of legitimate empowerment of women and rejection of marginalizing their roles and undermining their opportunities in the religious, scientific, political, social or other affairs, to enable them to hold the deserved positions without discriminations and enjoy equality in wages and opportunities,”

- **Emphasizing** the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/156 on “strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”, submitted jointly by a number of OIC Member States (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Arab Republic of Egypt and the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria), and which was adopted by consensus (23 December 2020) at the UN General Assembly’s 75<sup>th</sup> session,
- **Recalling** the final statement of the OIC Foreign Ministerial Executive Committee’s Virtual Emergency Meeting on the Implications of the Pandemic and Joint Response Measures (22 April 2020),
- **Noting with deep concern** that the COVID-19 and other pandemics and emergency crises have a negative impact on the overall situation of women and girls and exacerbate gender inequalities,
- **Recognizing** the need for Member States to enact laws and legislation that will enable women to protect and strengthen their role in political, economic, social and all spheres of life, and **emphasizing** that women’s active participation in decision-making at all levels is essential for equality, sustainable development and peace,
- **Commending** the efforts of all the Member States to adopt projected strategies and preemptive policies to cushion the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic, while mainstreaming women as an equal agent of national development, as well as adopting women and family-based supportive response strategies for post-pandemic adaptation.
- **Praising** the efforts of the GCC countries to establish and adopt preemptive policies and plans, precautionary and early preparedness measures consistent with the international standards and the WHO recommendations to combat the Coronavirus, in addition to taking actual steps reflecting their commitment to the 2030 sustainable development goals (SDGs) while mainstreaming gender equality in all the laws and legislations that ensure women’s participation in all domains of development and the labor market.
- **Commending** the resolution issued by the GCC Supreme Council at its 41<sup>st</sup> session held in Al-Ula, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 5 January 2021, in which it hails the precautionary measures adopted by the GCC countries and the economic, social and health response measures to COVID-19. **Commends** the efforts by a number of the OIC Member States to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, through national COVID-19 adaptation and recovery measures, strategies and policies and through actions aimed at protection for women and girls.

- **Recognizing** the role of women within the family and the wider community – the more so because the Islamic teachings and values guarantee women all political, cultural and economic rights,
- **Recognizing** the importance of taking immediate and long-term actions, within the OIC Member States, to ensure the protection of women during COVID-19 and similar pandemics and crises, while being mindful of the direct and indirect impact of these pandemics on women and girls and their special needs, the aim being to enhance women’s role in community as a key contributing factor in the development of Member States,

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Urges** the Member States to take further practical measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW), adopted by the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (November 2016), and which aims to facilitate the promotion of the status of women and their participation in decision-making.
2. **Encourages** the Member States to develop national policies and strategies, and take legislative, institutional and procedural measures to protect the rights of women and ensure elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in health, social and economic fields, especially in times of pandemic emergency, such as the one engendered by the COVID-19 outbreak, with equal focus on addressing challenges and crises, and reducing their impact on women and girls, especially those most in need, while involving women and girls in the design and planning of such policies and strategies to achieve the best results and a decent life for them – at all times and in all situations.
3. **Calls for** continued support to achieve the economic empowerment of women and to ensure that the Member States’ economic support packages, including social protection measures, benefit all working women, while making sure that the COVID-19 and other pandemic emergencies do not widen the gender inequality gap and reverse the gains made by OIC Member States before the pandemic, putting in place all such measures that are necessary to dismantle barriers preventing full and effective economic participation of women, such as through boosting their entrepreneurship.
4. **Urges** for measures to be taken to ensure the health system is ready to deal with COVID-19 and other pandemics in all areas, such as through strengthening vaccine programs for complete health immunization coverage, developing tools to combat infection and ensure health protection and healthcare availability and accessibility for women and girls, especially those most in need, against the consequences of epidemics and health crises.
5. **Calls upon** the Member States to develop qualitative strategies for the advancement of women as well as for adaptation and delicate actions to address pandemic challenges, while inviting them to adopt flexible crisis and catastrophe management policies and measures and to develop preemptive plans aimed at:

- Developing laws and legislation to regulate digital transformation processes across all sectors and services.
  - Adopting and implementing new risk management approaches in the health, environment, and economic sectors.
  - Developing innovative plans to ensure sustained women contribution to the labor market, alongside their family roles.
  - Ensuring access to justice and social protection services.
6. **Stresses** the importance of ensuring the continuity of education for women and girls, during the COVID-19 outbreak and in times of pandemic emergency, by taking measures to ensure safe physical and, if need be, online access to quality education.
  7. **Commends** the efforts exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the relief, humanitarian and financial assistance exceeding \$750 million in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which were delivered to many countries of the world, particularly the least development states members of the OIC, paying tribute to the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre for the medical, preventive and humanitarian support provided in support of global COVID-19 response efforts.
  8. **Commends** the United Arab Emirates' efforts in providing COVID-19 response support to as many as 135 countries around the world, providing 2044 tons of medical supplies, ventilators, testing equipment, and granting over \$10 million worth of in-kind assistance to the WHO.
  9. **Pays tribute to** Kuwait for its national and international response efforts to COVID-19 since its outbreak, commending its generous donation of \$100 million in support of global coronavirus pandemic response efforts to preserve the public health-related needs of individuals, women and girls.
  10. **Praises** the Kingdom of Bahrain's Permanent National Response Strategy for Women and Family, which brings together plans and policies to cushion the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic, while mainstreaming women as a main agent of national development, and hails Bahrain's COVID-19 impact adaptation strategy and post-pandemic solidarity plan.
  11. **Commends** the efforts of the State of Qatar since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its support of the global response efforts to the pandemic through providing more than \$256 million in medical and humanitarian aid, of which nearly 88 countries around the globe have benefited.
  12. **Urges** continued promotion of equality between women and men in terms not only of access to and security of employment, but also of benefits and working conditions, wages, equality of opportunity and treatment in employment, occupational safety and health protection, and social insurance.

- 13. Calls on** the Member States to develop educational digital content for capacity building.
- 14. Calls on** the Member States to facilitate openness and technical innovation for local industry development.
- 15. Recommends** harnessing technology to overcome the difficulty of access to healthcare, to psychosocial support and to justice services, while ensuring that multiple other options are available to women incapable of using technology.
- 16. Stresses** the need to take all such measures necessary to combat domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, especially in times of crisis and hardship, through domestic and sexual violence protection programs and initiatives for women.
- 17. Urges** that national laws and legislation ensure the right of women to enjoy their rights in all aspects of their lives, facilitate women's access to legal protection and justice for violations of their legally recognized rights, and promote community sensitization programs to raise awareness among women and all community segments about these rights, toward a decent life for all.
- 18. Calls for** the role of civil society institutions to be activated, in line with national legislation, to contribute to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and providing women and girls with legal counsel, health and psychological care, social assistance and other services to help stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce its impact.
- 19. Calls for** enlisting the support of all OIC organs for the Member States in the implementation of this resolution.
- 20. Commends** the efforts of the Secretary General, the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC specialized organs in supporting the Member States' response actions against the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and in preserving the gains made in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in light the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 21. Requests** the Secretary General to follow up on progress in the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon to the upcoming session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women.

**Resolution No. 3/8-W**  
**On**  
**Ensuring Sustainability of Gains in Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in OIC Member States**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi’dah 1442H), on the theme “Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond”;*

- **Recalling** OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women (OPAAW), adopted at the Sixth OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development (Istanbul, Turkey: 1-3 November 2016), and ensuring resolutions,
- **Recalling** resolution 4/6-W on the Establishment of the Women Advisory Council (WAC), adopted by the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its sixth session (Istanbul, 2016),
- **Referring** to resolution 8/7-W on the Mandate Renewal for the WAC, adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its seventh session (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 30 November - 1 December 2018), and resolution no. 9/7-W on the Women’s role in conflict resolution and social peacebuilding, equally adopted by the Conference’s said session,
- **Placing on record** its appreciation and congratulations to the WAC for the work accomplished under the mandate of Burkina Faso,
- **Recalling** resolution 3/37-ORG regarding adoption of the statute of the OIC Women Development Organization, issued by the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 37<sup>th</sup> session (Dushanbe, May 2010) on the theme “Shared Vision of a More Secure and Prosperous Muslim World”, in which resolution the Member States were invited to join and cooperate with the WDO,
- **Welcoming** the efforts put in by the OIC and the Member States to promote and protect fundamental human rights for women and girls and to combat gender inequalities in the OIC Member States,
- **Commending** women’s role in peacemaking and peacebuilding, decision-making and security on an equal basis with men,
- **Welcoming** the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council to promote women’s protection and participation in decision making and peacebuilding in situations of armed conflict and conflict resolutions phases, including resolution 1325 on women, peace and security of 31 October 2000 and subsequent resolutions;

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Welcomes** the entry into force of the Statute of the Women Development Organization with its headquarters in Cairo, and **recognizes** its crucial role as the center of Women Development within the OIC system.
2. **Reaffirms** that women form an important segment of society experiencing countless challenges impacting their enjoyment of fundamental human rights in certain OIC Member States and hampering their effective involvement in development related matters, and asserts that this situation adversely impacts development given the numerical importance of women and girls.
3. **Commends** the Member States' efforts for equality between women and men and women's empowerment, noting however that these efforts need to be further strengthened.
4. **Condemns** all violations of rights of women and girls and exponential increase in violence against women and girls in certain countries.
5. **Urges** the Member States to take strong and structural measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls and to enhance equality between women and men.
6. **Recognizes** the pioneering role played by Bangladesh during its non-permanent membership at the UN Security Council in 1999-2000 to adoption of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which for the first time emphasized the central role of gender equality in the maintenance of international peace and security;
7. **Commends** Bangladesh for adopting a four-year National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in November 2019 to ensure women's participation in the prevention of conflict and violent extremism, and the protection and advancement of women's rights to promote resilience during crises inside and outside of the country.
8. **Pays tribute** to those Member States that have developed implementation plans for the Program for Women, Peace and Security, while **commending** in this connection the efforts by other Member States, including the Arab Republic of Egypt, to prepare similar plans.
9. **Applauds** the United Arab Emirates' efforts to designate a women's pavilion at the EXPO 2020 in Dubai to a gesture to emphasize gender equality and women empowerment. The pavilion also aims to recognize women's pivotal role throughout history and their contribution to prosperity and well-being.
10. **Calls on** the international community to assume its responsibility to prevent violence against women and girls as an obstacle to inclusive and sustainable development.
11. **Urges** the Member States to honor their commitments and obligations arising under conventions and covenants signed and ratified to protect and promote the rights of women and girls.

- 12. Insists on** the necessity to boost cooperation and coordination among national women mechanisms across the OIC Member States to put in place projects in various fields, especially capacity building projects enabling women and girls to achieve their objectives, while providing them with all forms of necessary support.
- 13. Requests** the Secretary General to take all necessary steps to monitor progress on the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon both to the Council of Foreign Ministers and to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women.

**Resolution No. 4/8-W**  
**On**  
**Developing an OIC Policy on Equality between Women and Men**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme “Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond”;*

- **Emphasizing** the key role of gender equality and women’s empowerment, eradication of poverty and other vulnerabilities, improving health services for women and strengthening women’s contribution to development and decision-making,
- **Recalling** resolution 3/6-W on the “Adoption of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its Implementation Mechanisms”, provided for at the Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its sixth session (Istanbul, 2016) to ensure equal access to all basic social services to equip women with the knowledge and skills to engage actively in community development,
- **Recalling** resolution 4/45-CUL (C) providing for “Promotion of Women’s Status and Empowerment and Family Wellbeing in the OIC Member States”, wherein the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 45<sup>th</sup> session (Dhaka, 2018) invites the IDB to cooperate with SESRIC and the General Secretariat on the implementation of OPAAW;

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Takes note with appreciation** of the Concept Note for the OIC Policy on equality between women and men as an effective tool to address gender-related inequalities and empower women in social, economic and political spheres to close the gender gap historically promoted stereotyping of women; while **inviting** the Member States to harmonize their positions and coordinate their related policies and programs within the OIC.
2. **Expresses gratitude to** the Ministry of Women, National Family, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action of Burkina Faso, President of the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, for its efforts in addressing gender inequalities and empowering women and girls, while **inviting** all Member States to share related knowledge and experience.
3. **Requests** the General Secretariat to coordinate with relevant OIC organs and institutions, including the IDB, ICESCO, the Women Development Organization, COMSTECH and SESRIC and the Women’s Consultative Council, the preparation of the draft text of the Policy on equality between women and men of the OIC, which shall be submitted to and examined by the OIC Open-ended Expert Group before subsequent adoption by the Conference at its ninth session.
4. **Requests** the relevant OIC organs and institutions, including the IDB and the Women Development Organization (WDO), to consider the possibility to contribute to and support



the Member States in promoting the approach for equality between men and women within families, communities and the wider Muslim Ummah.

5. **Calls on** the Member States to contribute and put in place all possible necessary means to support mainstreaming the perspective of equality between women and men into education at all levels for a more just and equitable society.
6. **Commends** the United Arab Emirates for providing \$1.46 billion in aid for women's and girls' empowerment programs in developing countries through multilateral organizations and international funds, and the allocation of another \$31 million for preventing violence against women and girls in man-made conflicts during the Oslo Conference of 2019, in addition to providing \$719 million to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (5) on "Equality between women and men", with a number of programs and projects benefiting over 107 countries around the globe.
7. **Underlines** the importance of cooperation with the private sector, particularly to design development projects for girls, and **encourages** the Member States to provide an enabling environment for the private sector to deliver on equality between women and men.
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to monitor progress in the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Council of Foreign Ministers and the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session.

**Resolution No. 5/8-W**  
**On**  
**Mainstreaming Gender Equality Perspective in COVID-19 Strategies and Policies**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Recalling** the OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women (OPAAW), adopted by the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its sixth session (Istanbul, 1-3 November 2016), and which flagged a key area where action is needed to ensure better access to high-quality healthcare services, clean drinking water and sanitation, and sufficient and adequate food for women and girls,
- **Having regard to** the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with its twelve (12) critical areas of concern, including one on women and health, as well as to the ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) Program of Action, and to the Constitution of the World Health Organization,
- **Welcoming** the adoption of the "OIC Cairo Declaration of Human Rights", which recognizes the right to health for all, emphasizing the special health needs of women involved in the maternity protection right to which women are entitled, and binding the Member States to provide maternal and postnatal healthcare services,
- **Emphasizing** the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/156 on "strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls", submitted jointly by a number of OIC Member States (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The Arab Republic of Egypt and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria) in October 2020, and which was adopted by consensus (23 December 2020) at the UN General Assembly's 75<sup>th</sup> session, becoming the first UN resolution to specifically address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, **Recalling** the final statement of the OIC Foreign Ministerial Executive Committee's Virtual Emergency Meeting on the Implications of the Pandemic and Joint Response Measures (22 April 2020),
- **Having regard to** the final communique of the extraordinary virtual OIC Foreign Minister Executive Committee meeting on the repercussion of COVID-19 and joint response measures (22 April 2020),
- **Emphasizing** the right of everyone, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,
- **Recalling that** COVID-19 has brought human suffering of all kinds, with devastating social and economic effects of mandatory quarantine measures (closure of schools and universities, closure of borders, markets, lockdown of affected localities, partial or total confinement, and social distancing to break the chain of contamination and stem the spread of the pandemic),

and **pointing out** that the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has impacted key areas of development, with different implications for men and women,

- **Realizing** that the advent of COVID-19, declared by the WHO as a global pandemic, constitutes a growing threat to public health, exacerbating existing inequalities, undermining sustainable development, adversely impacting on all social segments, disproportionately impacting on women and girls of all ages, and generating massive uncertainty for public authorities about which anticipatory preventive measures would count as effective, which raises the need to address this protracted crisis with its attendant dangerous human, economic and social repercussions,
- **Given** that COVID-19 has deepened gender inequalities and disparities, with the pandemic threatening to destroy years of progress in the fight for the promotion of fundamental human rights for women across the OIC Member States, as in the UN Secretary General’s statement that the COVID-19 pandemic “could reverse the limited progress that has been made on gender equality and women’s rights”,
- **Noting with concern** the loss of life resulting from the coronavirus outbreak, and **stressing** in this regard the need to ensure that women and girls in the pandemic have access to accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services,
- **Recognizing** that women and girls have specific health needs, and that they should have equal access during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevention, mitigation and treatment services, in addition to basic, safe, effective and affordable medicines and vaccines of high quality, and to effective primary healthcare for all, especially in rural and remote communities,
- **Being concerned** that the negative social and economic impact of the pandemic poses a serious threat to the progress made in women’s economic empowerment, economic independence and productive life, which may affect women disproportionately and differently as compared to men, given that women earn less, save less and have fewer opportunities to acquire the right to own and dispose of land, and because women occupy jobs where they are less secure and are also more likely to be employed in the informal sector, thus reducing their access to social protection and pensions,
- **Expressing concern** that women bear the brunt of unpaid homecare work and spend longer hours than men in unpaid care work; that they take on a greater degree of care requirements at home, and that their work and income may also be disproportionately affected by actions to reduce employers and dismiss them, which may disproportionately place economically disadvantaged female-headed households at risk, especially for COVID-19 infection,
- **Being concerned** about the increasing cases of violence against women in a number of societies, including domestic violence, as a result of closure measures, the lack of protection services and the increasing challenges to holding perpetrators accountable, which also affects frontline health workers and community health volunteers,
- **Emphasizing** the importance of systematic collection and use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other important characteristics relevant

in national contexts, as an essential tool for designing, implementing and monitoring effective pandemic response and recovery policies,

- **Recognizing** that school closure procedures, separation measures and containment strategies may have a disproportionate impact on girls and boys, particularly adolescent girls who, because of harmful social traditions, are more likely than others to bear the brunt of unpaid healthcare and household work, thus limiting their access to distance education and other educational support programs, while **equally recognizing** that this may increase the vulnerability of girls and boys to harmful practices such as child marriage, forced marriage and genital mutilation, in addition to sexual violence, violence against women, child labor and trafficking in persons, which could lead to school dropout for girls, especially girls living in poverty, girls with disabilities, refugee girls and girls living in rural and remote areas,
- **Asserting** that while available statistics indicate that women are less infected than men (18 men for every 10 women infected), it should be noted that women are more exposed to COVID-19 because of the persistent effect of Sexual Division of Labor (SDL) in public administration, within nursing, education and the informal sector,
- **Noting that** measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 lead inevitably to an increase in such areas as violence against women, child marriage, juvenile delinquency, calling on the Member States to take preventive response measures, because the pandemic has caused the loss of livelihood of substantial sections of populations operating in the informal economy in which, according to International Labor Office (ILO) statistics, women account for 81% of workers in informal employment,
- **Expressing concerns** that the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social and economic situation of women and girls and their access to education and essential health services, the increased demand for paid and unpaid care work and the reported surge of sexual violence, and violence against women including domestic violence and violence in digital contexts, during confinement, trafficking are deepening already existing inequalities, exploitations and risk reversing the progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made in recent decades, **Taking note of** the OIC Women and Development Report 2021, which assesses progress towards the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW),
- **Taking note with appreciation of** the statement made by the Women's Consultative Council at its virtual meeting (June 2020) on COVID-19 implications for women and girls in the Member States, in the presence of the Minister for Women of Burkina Faso, President of the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development,
- **Taking note with appreciation of** the statement made by the Women Consultative Council in its virtual meeting (June 2020) on the consequences of the Corona Virus on women and girls in the Member States, with the presence of the Minister of Women in Burkina Faso, chair country of the Conference's seventh session,

**Urges** the OIC Member States to provide social and economic support to the most disadvantaged populations, with due focus on women, girls and children, through active solidarity to ensure access to vaccination for the vulnerable sections of society.

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Expresses** its compassion and sympathy with all of the Member States, populations and families afflicted and left brokenhearted by the coronavirus disease, **inviting** the General Secretariat and the OIC subsidiary organs to take the necessary measures to mobilize and facilitate the flow of resources as part of COVID-19 resilience support for needy and poor populations.
2. **Commends** the measures, policies and strategies developed by the Member States to address and mitigate the impact of the pandemic nationwide, and urges the Member States to mainstream a gender equality perspective in the design, implementation and monitoring of these measures, policies and strategies, through consultation with women and girls, while ensuring their full, equal and meaningful participation, and attending to their specific needs.
3. **Hails** the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt in mainstreaming equality between women and men in the COVID-19 pandemic response nationwide, while commending its world-leading experience in this regard, which put the country at the forefront with its Policy Framework for addressing the impact of the pandemic on the needs of women and girls (March 2020), followed by a series of target tracking reports.
4. **Pays tribute** to Egypt for collaborating with Algeria and Saudi Arabia to submit to the UN General Assembly resolution no. A/75/156 titled “strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”.
5. **Encourages** the Member States to develop, modify and expand, as necessary, national social protection programs to ensure access to protection and social assistance programmes for coronavirus-hit people, particularly women, including those in the informal sector, and to ensure access for women and girls to information on the availability and accessibility of such social protection and assistance programmes.
6. **Invites** the Member States to produce more data and analytical information on gender-related issues to develop strengthened COVID-19 national response programs, noting that increased use of sex-disaggregated data for gender-based analysis of the impact of the pandemic is important to assist in the design and implementation of policies to address the differentiated impact of the pandemic on men and women.
7. **Encourages** the Member States to collect high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other relevant characteristics relevant in national contexts, with regard to the impact of the pandemic and response and recovery efforts to ensure that targeted policies and programmes are developed and implemented adequately to address the challenges occasioned by the pandemic on women and girls.

8. **Invites** the Member States to take into account the COVID-19 direct and indirect effects on the health and special needs of women and girls, including through:
  - a. Ensuring access to and availability of quality healthcare, such as through strengthening vaccine programs for complete health immunization coverage, developing tools to combat infection and ensure health protection and healthcare availability and accessibility for women and girls, especially those most in need, against the consequences of epidemics and health crises.
  - b. Ensuring access to reliable, mass media-disseminated pandemic-related preventative and public health messages for women and girls, including those with disabilities, pregnant women, elderly women, displaced and refugee women, remote and rural community women and Palestinian women under Israeli occupation.
  - c. Providing psychosocial support to frontline health workers; creating a safe and non-violent working environment with adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including basic hygiene materials; while allowing access to safe and affordably priced water, especially for quarantine health workers; addressing the gender pay gap anywhere in the health sector; and ensuring full, effective and constructive participation of women in decision-making and pandemic response plans.
  - d. **Ensuring** effective policies and measures to combat violence against women and girls which has been intensified during the pandemic and to provide adequate services to victims such as shelters and hotlines.
9. **Acknowledges** the need for equality between women and men budgeting and financing to address the economic and other challenges faced by women during the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. **Exhorts** the Member States to promote the right of girls to education in the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that all girls have access to quality education through appropriate measures, such as supporting families to enable their children, particularly girls, to return to school immediately following the pandemic, providing technology for distance learning during the pandemic, and promoting continuing education throughout the pandemic.
11. **Calls on** the Member States to design and document economic recovery packages that support women and girls including through providing childcare and family friendly policies.
12. **Invites** the Member States to use tools that are responsive to the needs of women and girls into all national plans, legislation, policies, budgets, infrastructure and investments for crisis/emergency preparedness and response.
13. **Recognizes** that the elderly, women and girls with disabilities and chronic health conditions need special care as they can be more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19; and **encourages** in this regard the Member States to put in place the necessary measures to support them and their healthcare providers, such as through providing continuous access to basic care services for older populations and persons with disabilities, while ensuring

that the elderly and persons with disabilities are treated with respect and given equality, and bringing more flexibility to healthcare providers.

- 14. Urges** the Member States to take effective measures to prevent and respond to the increase of violence against women and girls amid the COVID-19 pandemic by integrating evidence-based prevention and protection measures, such as through identifying, supporting, increasing budgetary allocations for and optimizing the accommodation capacity of shelters offering essential services for women and girls victims of domestic violence, in collaboration with frontline civil society actors, in addition to helping women and girls victims of violence access justice, and intensifying advocacy and sensitization campaigns against all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, especially with the COVID-19 public health quarantine measures.
- 15. Invites** the Member States to promote principles of tolerance, equality and solidarity among the general population, especially among young people, as the public is insufficiently aware that such a crisis as the COVID-19 pandemic affects women and girls.
- 16. Exhorts** the Member States to document government efforts for women through COVID-19 protection policies and support programs and initiatives for women and their family members.
- 17. Recognizes** the importance of strengthening women's leadership role as well as full-fledged and meaningful participation in decision making for the design and implementation of national response and recovery policies and strategies against the pandemic.
- 18. Invites** Member States to improve cooperation between national mechanisms responsible for equality of opportunity to exchange best practices in alleviating the consequences of COVID-19.
- 19. Urges for intensified** intra-Member State cooperation and wider public-private partnerships to contain the pandemic and to mitigate its impact, such as through the exchange of information, scientific knowledge and best practices, while mainstreaming gender equality to ensure women and girls are not disproportionately affected or left behind in response efforts.
- 20. Calls on** the Member States to foster the synergy of national, bilateral and multilateral actions to promote experience and good practice sharing and mobilization of resources, and to accelerate the implementation of the OPAAW.
- 21. Calls for** the role of civil society institutions to be activated, in line with national legislation, to contribute to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and providing women and girls with legal counsel, health and psychological care, social assistance and other services to help stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce its impact.
- 22. Invites** the Islamic Group in New York to coordinate its efforts in this regard and to submit the draft resolution on "Strengthening national and international rapid response to the

impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls” to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly at its 76<sup>th</sup> session.

- 23. Requests** the Secretary General to follow up progress on the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 49<sup>th</sup> session and to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session.



**Resolution No. 6/8-W**  
**On**  
**Women Consultative Council of OIC Ministerial Council on Women in Development**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Recalling** resolution no. 8/7-W on the "Women's Advisory Council of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development", adopted by the said Conference at its seventh session held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 30 November to 1 December 2018, on the theme "Women's Empowerment in OIC Member States: Challenges and Opportunities",
- **Having regard to** the Rules of Procedure and Operating Procedures of the Women's Advisory Council, and in line with resolution 7/8-W of Istanbul (2016) and the one in Ouagadougou (2018), wherein the Ministerial Conference on Women in Development stipulates that the Council members shall have a two-year term renewable twice for a maximum of three (3) mandates;
- **Considering** the work done by the Council members,
- **Welcoming** the efforts made by the Member States and the OIC institutions for the implementation of the "OIC Program of Action 2025", adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit (Istanbul, 2016), and **hailing** the Member States' efforts for women's advancement and empowerment,
- **Recalling** resolution 4/46-CUL (B) and 4/47-CUL (B) on "Promoting Women's Status and Empowerment and Family Wellbeing in the OIC Member States", adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> sessions respectively, both dealing with the Women's Advisory Council,
- **Welcoming the support provided by the** Republic of Turkey to the Council in fulfilling its first mandate,
- **Taking note of** the activity report of the Council mandate presented by its Chair Ms Assetou Sawadogo Kabore,
- **Having considered** the progress report of the OIC Secretary General on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Women in Development in its seventh session (Ouagadougou, 2018);

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Welcomes** the holding of the three regular meetings of the OIC Women’s Consultative Council and the Special Meeting on Women and COVID-19, and **encourages** the Council to continue its mandated work as provided for in the Council’s Statues.
2. **Hails** the efforts of Burkina Faso and the General Secretariat to boost the activities of the OIC Women’s Consultative Council.
3. **Thanks** the General Secretariat for its technical and financial support to the Council.
4. **Recommends** that the Council’s ordinary or extraordinary meetings be hosted by the country holding the Council Chair or the OIC headquarters in Jeddah or any other Member State, as may be requested by the Council’s Chairwoman.
5. **Places on record its appreciation** to the Council members for contributing to and taking part in the Council’s series of national and regional activities, including OPAAW implementation activities, and for their invaluable contribution to the operationalization of the Women Development Organization (WDO).
6. **Welcomes** the high-level interactive dialogue on “Building Alliances and Sharing Good Practices to Promote Access to Social Protection Systems and Public Services in OIC Member States for Women and Girls”, organized by Burkina Faso on the margins of the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York (2019), with the participation and contribution of the OIC Women’s Advisory Council.
7. **Commends** the efforts by the Republic of Turkey in establishing and supporting the Women Advisory Council, and hails its \$200,000 voluntary contribution, which it will continue to earmark for the Council’s activities as provided for under the arrangement agreement between Turkey and the General Secretariat.
8. **Commends** the second edition of the ALLY for Future Leadership Program for Young Muslim Women, held by the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Services (Istanbul, 13-20 December 2019) with the participation of 49 women from 35 countries, which strengthens leadership capacity for young Muslim women across the Muslim world, expand their visions and horizons, provide them with enabling opportunities to rise up to future challenges and creates a lifelong solidarity network.
9. **Welcomes** the continuous periodicity of the program; **calls on** the Member States to join in supporting this program, such as through financial support, and **encourages** the Member States to ensure active participation of relevant parties.
10. **Requests** the Secretary General to provide all possible support to the Women’s Consultative Council, in consultation and coordination with the Chair of the Conference.
11. **Decides** to renew the mandate of all Council members for a final two-year term of office as follows:

**Chairwoman:** Shall be appointed by the Minister in Charge of Women of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President of the current session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women.

**Asian Group:**

1. Ms Mahinur Ozedemir Goktas (Turkey).
2. Prof. Dato' Sri Zaleha Kamarudin (Malaysia).
3. Ms Fawzia Koofi (Afghanistan).

**African Group:**

1. Ms Fatimata Sanou Toure (Burkina Faso).
2. Ms Binta Jammeh-Sidibe (The Gambia).
3. Ms Syda Namirembe Bbumba (Uganda).

**Arab Group:**

1. Ms La'ana Bint Saeed (Saudi Arabia).
2. Ms Ra'eda Jiyad Al-Qutob (Jordan).
3. Ms Naela Gabr (Egypt).

**12. Requests** the Secretary General to monitor progress on the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session.

**Resolution No. 7/8-W**  
**On**  
**Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Having regard to** the OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women (OPAAW), adopted by the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its sixth session (Istanbul, 1-3 November 2016), **Reaffirming** resolution 63/47-POL on the "OIC Cairo Declaration of Human Rights", adopted by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers at its 47<sup>th</sup> session held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020, under the theme "United against Terrorism for Peace and Development", in which was approved the final text of the "Cairo Declaration of Human Rights",
- **Welcoming** the inclusion in the "Cairo Declaration of Human Rights" of a separate Article on commitment to promoting and protecting women's rights, fostering equality between men and women in rights and obligations, while mainstreaming gender equality throughout the whole Declaration,
- **Welcoming** the importance the OIC places on women, as evidenced by the establishment of a specialized organization of the OIC system which will drive focus on promoting OIC women's role in development, supporting capacity and skill building for women through such mechanisms as training and education, in line with the Islamic principles and values,
- **Recalling** resolution 14/7-W on "Economic Empowerment of Women", adopted by the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its Seventh Session held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 30 November to 1 December 2018, under the theme "Empowerment of Women in OIC Member States: Challenges and Prospects",
- **Having regard to** such universal human rights instruments as the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), wherein provisions are made for appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the full development and advancement of women (Article 3), equal access to employment for women (Article 11), equal rights in all areas of economic and social life (Article 13), women's rights in rural areas (Article 14); and recalling too the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), intended to improve the situation of all women; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which aims to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights,
- **Reaffirming** that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other such outcome instruments have laid the foundation for sustainable development and that their full, effective and speedy implementation on the ground will effectively contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with the understanding that equal economic rights,

empowerment and economic independence of women are the cornerstone of sustainable development,

- **Recalling** the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO and the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work,
- **Recalling** such regional instruments on women's rights as the African Union Agenda 2063, which aims, inter alia, to achieve "full gender equality in all spheres of life", and the Protocol to the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in African (Maputo Protocol, 2003),
- **Regretting** nevertheless that inequalities between men and women are still evident in areas such as access to financial resources and opportunities, and that gender inequality is still pervasive across the world, with women lacking access to certain occupations and to decent employment,
- **Noting** that there still are institutional, economic, sociocultural, psychological and personal obstacles to women taking on traditionally male-dominated jobs in certain countries,
- **Acknowledging** that structural barriers to the economic empowerment of women at all stages of their lives, including in terms of conditions of work, employment, retention, return to the labor market, promotion, access to managerial and senior positions, retirement and dismissal, can be exacerbated by epidemics such as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak,
- **Recognizing** further the importance of the full involvement of men and younger people, as both agents and recipients of change, in the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and **emphasizing** the role of men as partners in achieving women's economic empowerment and in eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls,
- **Recognizing** that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for women's economic empowerment, which drives development, and that women and men make a great contribution to the welfare of the family, with the understanding that the contribution of women to home in particular, including unpaid care and domestic work, which is still inadequately recognized, generates the human and social capital essential for social and economic development,
- **Expressing concern** about the persistent significant gender gaps in labor force participation, leadership positions, wages, income and pensions, occupational segregation, women continuing to bear the brunt of poverty, and the low rate of participation of women with disabilities in the labor force and the various forms of discrimination to which they are subjected,
- **Commending** the Member States' efforts in providing opportunities for girls and offering better pay conditions, while noting that girls are nearly absent in scientific, technical and industrial education pathways that offer better labor and pay conditions in certain countries,

- **Recalling** that awareness raising, education, guidance and training for girls and women are necessary to achieve the objective of women's employability in atypical work sectors and the acquisition of related skills, pursuing non-traditional career options,
- **Being convinced** that girls and women are intellectually equipped to perform in these occupations, and that steering girls and women towards non-traditional career pathways is a new breed of empowerment both in Africa in general and in Gabon in particular,
- **Welcoming** the progress the world in general and Africa in particular have made towards the promotion of women's rights, the fight against women's poverty and vulnerability and the implementation of innovative strategies to reduce women's vulnerability,
- **Noting** the importance of national strategies for the promotion of women's rights and equality between women and men",

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Welcomes** the efforts of the Member States to eliminate inequality between women and men in labor markets, with the understanding that further progress can be made through a number of temporary special measures to ensure equality between women and men in the labor force.
2. **Calls upon** the Member States to take action to upgrade normative and legal frameworks to promote economic empowerment, such as through full implementation of international conventions and covenants they have ratified, while ensuring equality and preventing discrimination against women with regard to their participation and involvement in the labor markets, accessing economic and productive resources, eliminating occupational segregation, promoting equal pay for equal work or equal value, ending all forms of violence and harassment against women and girls and promoting sharing of family work and responsibilities.
3. **Calls upon** the Member States to take the actions necessary to promote education, training and skill development, such as through ensuring full access to a good standard of education, equal access to professional development, training, scholarships and fellowships, mainstreaming a gender equality perspective in education and training programs, focusing on STEM, ICTs, technological education, and transition from education or unemployment to employment, while ensuring that young mothers continue to receive education and complete the full stages of education.
4. **Calls on** the Member States, depending on their own priorities, to:
  - a) **Conduct** public opinion surveys with the general population, particularly women, to capture the public's point of view on women working in non-traditional areas and regarding obstacles related thereto.
  - b) **Conduct** studies on the impact of atypical occupations on women's empowerment.

- c) **Organize** nationwide awareness-raising campaigns through primary, secondary and higher education institutions to encourage girls to choose these promising professions.
  - d) **Establish** databases of women in these occupations.
  - e) **Develop** strategic documents such as catalogues and national maps of women in these atypical occupations.
  - f) **Organize** large-scale conferences to share views and experience among women in atypical professions.
  - g) **Dedicate** TV shows to stimulate transformational leadership for women in non-standard occupations.
  - h) **Equip** occupationally atypical women with training kits and post-training installation kits to encourage self-employment and female entrepreneurship.
  - i) **Build** partnerships with corporate citizens to recruit girls and women trained in these occupations, as part of the fight against unemployment.
5. **Calls upon** the Member States to put in place economic and social policies for the economic empowerment of women through the protection of women's right to work and to full enjoyment of their rights at work and the development of basic social protection systems.
6. **Urges** the Member States to put in place measures facilitating the transition of women employees from informal and low-skill labor to formal sector.
7. **Invites** the Member States to bring about technological and digital change for the economic empowerment of women, through promoting access to decent skills and employment development in new and emerging fields, and the establishment of criteria to enable women to capitalize on science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.
8. **Takes note of** the efforts of the OIC organs and institutions in promoting women's empowerment across the Muslim world, including the study proposed by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) on the impact of the current pandemic on women's entrepreneurship, along with the proposed Forum of Women Cooperatives in Sub-Saharan countries.
9. **Invites** the Member States to establish specific criteria to ensure the full, equal and effective participation of women and allow for their access to leadership and high-level positions in both the public and private sectors in various economic activities.
10. **Hails the Member States for their:**
- a) **Commitment** to putting in place mechanisms to encourage girls and women to take on these forms of non-traditional occupations for a successful integration.

- b) **Commitment** to supporting girls and women performing such occupations, to hone their learning and performance skills.
- 11. Calls upon** the Member States to promote the role of the private sector in the economic empowerment of women, such as through actions to promote a socially responsible and accountable private sector, foster working environments and institutional practices that value all workers and provide them with equal opportunities to realize their full potential.
- 12. Calls on** the Member States to facilitate women’s entrepreneurship as well as promote and protect women’s right to work and full enjoyment of their rights at work in global value chains.
- 13. Calls upon** the OIC organs and institutions to support Member States’ efforts towards economic empowerment of women, and **invites** the WDO to play a key role in promoting gender equality, empowering women and girls and supporting the Member States’ efforts in this regard, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.
- 14. Requests** the IDB to consider the possibility of providing the necessary support for the implementation of structural and comprehensive social and economic projects particularly aimed at building resilience and empowerment for younger women within Muslim communities.
- 15. Invites** the Islamic Group in New York to launch a women’s economic empowerment initiative under which will be examined the possibility of submitting to the UN General Assembly a draft resolution on the matter, on behalf of the Islamic Group, under annual agenda item 14 entitled “Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to the outcome of major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.”
- 16. Requests** the Secretary General to follow up on progress in the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 49<sup>th</sup> session and to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session.



**Resolution No.8/8-W**  
**On**  
**Directing Religious and Media Discourse towards Protection and Promotion of Women's Rights**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Having regard to** the OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women (OPAAW), adopted by the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in Development at its sixth session (Istanbul, 1-3 November 2016),
- **Reaffirming** resolution 63/47-POL on the "OIC Cairo Declaration of Human Rights", adopted by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers at its 47<sup>th</sup> session held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020, under the theme "United against Terrorism for Peace and Development", in which was approved the final text of the "Cairo Declaration of Human Rights",
- **Welcoming** the emphasis placed by the "Cairo Declaration of Human Rights" in Article (6) on the importance of maintaining a commitment to protecting and promoting women's rights and equality between women and men in rights and obligations, pursuant to the laws in force; thus supporting the recognition of women's right to have a separate legal personality and financial autonomy and to retain their birth-given names and line of descent, while equally recognizing the importance of integrating the gender equality perspective throughout the Declaration,
- **Welcoming** the "Makkah Charter", adopted by over 1200 Muslim scholars brought together across 139 countries and 27 religious sects at the Muslim World League Conference held in Makkah, on 27-29 May 2019, around the "The Values of Centrism and Moderation in the Quran and the Sunnah", which document commits signatories, inter alia, to promoting empowerment of women,
- **Welcoming** the "Al-Azhar World Conference for the Renewal of Islamic Thought and Sciences", to which the Arab Republic of Egypt played host on 27-28 January 2021 under the auspices and patronage of H.E. Mr Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and in which were laid down a number of principles, including the renewal of religious discourse being an essential component of Islamic Sharia and a requisite to keep abreast of modern advances and promote public interest issues within Islam, such as permissibility for women to assume all posts that fit them, including government senior public posts,
- **Affirming** that the OIC General Secretariat and OIC organs and institutions such as the IDB, SESRIC, ICESCO, COMSTECH, Women's Consultative Council, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), the Islamic Solidarity Fund

(ISF), the Research Centre for Islamic History, Arts and Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Food Security Organization (IFSO) and the Women's Development Organization (WDO) are playing a major role in mainstreaming the renewal of religious discourse on women's issues, such as relates to the protection and promotion of women's rights within the OIC,

- **Reaffirming** the commitment by the Member States to promote and protect women's rights being a constituent element of all human rights, and **asserting** that sex discrimination contradicts the principles of Islam and is inconsistent with all international, regional and cross-regional covenants and other instruments, including the UN Charter, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,
- **Reaffirming** that deteriorating economic and educational conditions, coupled with the absence of moderate religious discourse, create an enabling environment for violent extremist ideology to expand, including religious discourse linked to women's issues, which creates a misleading impression to the rest of the world about violations against women and girls being associated with Islam and its teachings,
- **Taking note of** the OIC Women and Development Report 2021, which assesses progress towards the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW);

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Condemns** the growing threats Muslim populations are facing in their lives, cultural heritage and religious traditions, especially those linked to women's enjoyment of their rights across the world.
2. **Welcomes** the efforts of Islamic institutions, primarily Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, the Muslim World League and the Muslim Council of Elders, in addressing women's issues and the clarification of religious opinions on them, such as to combat violence against women, eradicate child marriage for girls under minimum legal age for marriage, and provide all means to guarantee women's educational, social and legal rights.
3. **Welcomes** the entry into force, on 31 July 2020, of the Statute of the Women's Development Organization (WDO), after completion of the quorum of ratifications, and **stresses** that the establishment and entry into force of the WDO will bring more effective coordination and synergy of efforts to renew religious discourse about protection and promotion of Muslim women's rights, especially in the face of the waves of religious extremism and terrorism, with their attendant negative and serious impact on the entire Muslim community members, particularly women and girls.
4. **Commends** the establishment by the OIC of the Sawt al-Hikmah (Voice of Wisdom) Centre with as a mandate to use social media platforms as a mechanism to counter

radicalization, and **requests** the OIC to mainstream equality between men and women in the Centre's valuable work.

5. **Stresses** the need to give due attention to and develop concrete action plans to examine all the aspects and full dimension of women's rights within the framework of religious discourse. This is achievable through:
  - a. Redressing political, social and economic conditions giving rise to violations of women's rights, such as poverty, exclusion, marginalization and discrimination against women.
  - b. Confronting all forms of extremist rhetoric and terrorism toward delegitimizing all kinds of religiously motivated discrimination and violence against women.
  - c. Mainstreaming perspective of equality between women and men in all OIC documents relevant to religious discourse, while ensuring that they are free from all forms of discrimination against women.
  - d. Organizing an international conference on women's rights in Islam within the Presidency of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women.
  - e. Engaging the media in raising awareness about women's rights in Islam.
  - f. Calling out the necessity for media-focused institutions in the Member States to scrutinize the content of media-borne messages, especially as regards TV programs and drama series and commercials, and to portray the image of women and the qualitative roles they deliver towards their families and in community development.
  - g. Deploying OIC media platforms to establish a network to unify media discourse, publicize progress on women's status, correct media misconceptions about women's participation in and contribution to development and promote a culture of women's advancement and women's developmental roles in all fields.
  - h. Catering to the spiritual and moral upbringing and education of children, boys and girls alike, on such values as respect for women's rights, while engaging educational institutions in curricula development.
6. **Welcomes** the outstanding cooperation between Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), the Muslim Council of Elders and the OIC General Secretariat, particularly in such areas as renewal of religious discourse and fostering of a culture of tolerance in the world.
7. **Calls upon** the Member States to mainstream elements of religious discourse that exhort and promote respect for women's rights and de-radicalization of women's issues into all activities, programs and policies implemented both nationwide and at the Muslim world level.

8. **Urges** the OIC organs and institutions, along with scientific research centers across the Member States to conduct studies and researches on women, and to portray a true Muslim picture of women and their societal role.
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to prepare a report to monitor progress on the implementation of this resolution, for submission to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 49<sup>th</sup> session and to the Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session. The report shall reflect input and recommendations from the Member States and all relevant OIC organs and institutions.

**Resolution No. 9/8-W**  
**On**  
**Coordinating Mainstreaming of the Perspective of equality between women and men**  
**throughout the OIC System**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Reaffirming** resolution 63/47-POL on the "OIC Cairo Declaration of Human Rights", adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 47<sup>th</sup> session held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020, under the theme "United against Terrorism for Peace and Development", in which was approved the final text of the "Cairo Declaration of Human Rights",
- **Welcoming** the inclusion in the "Cairo Declaration of Human Rights" of a separate Article on commitment to promoting and protecting women's rights, fostering equality between men and women in rights and obligations, while mainstreaming equality between women and men throughout the whole Declaration,
- **Recalling** resolution 3/32-CUL (B) on "Muslim Women and their Role in Community Development", issued by the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 32<sup>nd</sup> session (Sanaa – Yemen, 2005),
- **Emphasizing** that the General Secretariat and OIC organs and institutions such as the WDO, IDB, the WDO, SESRIC, ICESCO, COMSTECH, Women's Consultative Council (WAC), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), IRCICA, the Islamic Centre for Trade Development (ICDT) and the Islamic Food Security Organization (IFSO) are playing a major role in mainstreaming the perspective of equality between women and men throughout the OIC system, as part of implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW),
- **Commending** with great appreciation the efforts, activities and programs carried out by these OIC organs and institutions to promote and protect women's rights and foster their social, economic and political empowerment across Muslim communities,
- **Recalling** resolution 37/3-CUL on the adoption of the "Statute of the Women Development Organization", issued by the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 37<sup>th</sup> session held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May 2010, under the theme "A Shared Vision of a More Secure and Prosperous Muslim World", in which resolution the Member States were invited to join and cooperate with the WDO,
- **Being mindful of** the provisions of the OIC 10-Year Program of Action (2015) adopted by the Third Islamic Summit (Makkah, 2005), the Ten-Year Program of Action (2025), along with the resolutions and outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Women in

Development, and the resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, most notably resolution 4/43-CUL on the adoption of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW), adopted by the Council at its 43<sup>rd</sup> session (Tashkent, 2016),

- **Reaffirming** the commitment by the Member States to promote and protect women's rights being a constituent element of all human rights, and **asserting** that sex based discrimination contradicts the principles of Islam and is inconsistent with all international, regional and cross-regional covenants and other instruments, including the UN Charter, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,
- **Reaffirming** that gender equality and women's empowerment constitute a universally acknowledged strategy for full and effective implementation of OPAAW and SDGs,
- **Taking note of** the OIC Women and Development Report 2021, which assesses progress towards the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW),
- **Aiming to** ensure better implementation of OPAAW goals and objectives which are consistent with the programs and policies for women advancement across the OIC Member States;

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Hails** the joint initiatives of the General Secretariat and COMSTECH to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education for women and girls.
2. **Commends** the efforts of the General Secretariat in preparing the "Refugee and Displaced Women Populations" Project in association with the Islamic Solidarity Fund, and **invites** the Member States concerned to cooperate in the implementation of this project.
3. **Welcomes** with appreciation the joint effort of the General Secretariat and SESRIC in providing capacity-building training for the Member States on the use of the Guidebook to Reporting Progress on the Implementation of OPAAW.
4. **Highly commends** the Women's Consultative Council for its major role and for promptly putting out a proactive statement on the impact of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on women and girls across the Member States, and for cooperating with the General Secretariat to boost women's role in promoting peace and security.
5. **Commends** the efforts of the IDB, ICESCO and the ICDT to shore up the ICCIA (Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture) initiative consisting extending the Family Bank experience to all of the OIC Member States, in cooperation with the General Secretariat.

6. **Welcomes** the entry into force, on 31 July 2020, of the Statute of the Women's Development Organization (WDO), after completion of the quorum of ratifications, looking forward to its operationalization.
7. **Emphasizes** that the establishment and launch of the WDO will enable more effective coordination, synergy and mainstreaming of gender equality throughout the OIC system, especially during and in the post COVID-19 era, given the adverse impact the pandemic has had on all parts of society, more particularly women and girls; while **asserting** that mainstreaming gender equality across the OIC system is part and parcel of the work of the WDO.
8. **Commends highly** the initiative of ICESCO to celebrate ICESCO Year of Women 2021 with the theme "Women and the Future", under the high patronage of His Royal Majesty Mohammed VI of Morocco, and **invites** other OIC organs and institutions to follow in ICESCO's footsteps.
9. **Requests** the Chair of the Eighth Session to hold meetings for all the OIC organs and institutions involved in women-related activities, with a view to creating synergy among their efforts and the concepts related to women issues, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.
10. **Calls upon** the Member States to support mainstreaming of equality between women and men into all activities, programs, policies and documents of the OIC system.
11. **Requests** the WDO, in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat, to prepare a report on its work on mainstreaming gender equality, to be submitted both to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 49<sup>th</sup> session and to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session, to analyze gaps and needs to strengthen mainstreaming of gender equality into the OIC system, promote coordination and identify areas where coordination can be improved, heighten the level of interest of the OIC in this question, concluding with recommendations about taking gender equality mainstreaming on a broader scale.

**Resolution No. 10/8-W**  
**On**  
**Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education for Women and Girls**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Recalling** the objective of the Member States enshrined in the preamble of the OIC Charter, to safeguard and promote the rights of women and their participation in all spheres of life, in accordance with the laws and legislation of Member States;
- **Recalling** the Article (1) of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which sets one of the objectives of the Organization as promote and protect the rights of women and children;
- **Referring** to the priority area of the OIC 2025: Programme of Action on Advancement and Empowerment of Women, Family Welfare, and Social Security, which encourages inclusive and equitable quality education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels and promote life-long learning opportunities that advance knowledge and skills;
- **Having regard to** the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW", 1979).
- **Recalling** that discrimination against women in any ground violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women in the political, social, economic and cultural life.
- **Affirming** the significant role of education in the empowerment of women, eradication of poverty, reduction of vulnerabilities, improvement of health and ensuring women's contribution in the development and decision-making process;
- **Recalling** the Resolution No. 3/6-W on the adoption of the amended OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its annexed implementation mechanisms, adopted at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States, held in Istanbul on 1-3 November 2016, which calls for ensuring equal access for women and girls to education and training to equip them with necessary knowledge and skills to participate in decision-making processes and for promoting education of women and girls through adoption of necessary policies and programs;
- **Recalling** the Resolution No.4/45-CUL, (B) Promoting Women's Status and Empowerment and Family Wellbeing in the OIC Member States" adopted at the Forty-Fifth Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM); which invites the Islamic



Development Bank to cooperate with SESRIC and General Secretariat to contribute to the implementation of the OPAAW;

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Calls on** Member States to eliminate occupational segregation by addressing structural barriers and negative social norms, promoting women's equal access to and participation in labor markets and in education and training, supporting women so as to diversify their educational and occupational choices in emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information and communications technology.
2. **Urges the** Member States to take legislative and executive measures to offer STEM programs for women and girls with the view to bridge the gap between women's and girls' education and the demands of the labor market and **invites** Member States to cooperate and coordinate within the OIC, their policies and programs in this field.
3. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Ministry of Family and Social Services of Turkey, Chair of the 6th Session of the Women Ministerial Conference for successful implementation of the Engineer Girls of Turkey (EGT) program and **invites** all Member States to exchange their knowledge and experiences in STEM education.
4. **Calls on** the IDB, the WDO, ICESCO, COMSTECH and SESRIC to consider the possibility of support building of the necessary capacity for STEM programs in Member States, to address need and potential for further cooperation and coordination among the Member States and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences, including through training programmes, in coordination with the Member States delegations to the OIC.
5. **Requests** the IDB to consider the possibility of contributing to and supporting the efforts of Member States in promoting STEM education, in coordination with the Member States' Permanent Missions to the OIC;
6. **Calls upon** the Member States to contribute all means of necessary support and assistance to help promote teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics, through their science universities and research centers specializing in various science areas.
7. **Calls upon** the Member States to improve and expand women's and girl's access to distance education, e-learning, tele-education and community radio, including in rural and remote communities, owing to the important role they play in helping to overcome issues related to time constraints, lack of accessibility, lack of financial resources and family responsibilities.
8. **Supports and encourages** Member States to celebrate "International Day of Women and Girls in Science" on 11 February and "International Girls in Information and Communications Technologies Day" on 26 April and to organize activities on these occasions;

- 9. Emphasizes** the importance of cooperation with private sector, particularly to offer education and mentoring programs for women and girls, and encourages Member States to provide conducive environment for private companies to contribute these efforts;
- 10. Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 48<sup>th</sup> session and to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session.

**Resolution No. 11/8-W**  
**On**  
**Joint Action to Support and Empower Refugee and Displaced Women**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Recalling** preamble and the Article 1 of the OIC Charter which sets one of the objectives of the OIC as safeguarding and promoting the rights of women and their participation in all spheres of life, in accordance with the laws and legislation of Member States;
- **Recalling** the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in conflict settings and the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
- **Recalling the** relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security;
- **Recalling** Resolution No 3/32-c (b) on "Muslim Women and their Role in the Development of the Islamic Society", adopted by the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Sanaa, Republic of Yemen, in 2005;
- **Recalling** the Istanbul Declaration and the Final Communiqué adopted by the 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 April 2016 in Istanbul underlining the importance of strengthening the role of women in development of Islamic countries and welcoming the efforts aimed at promoting the advancement and empowerment of women;
- **Recalling** the Resolution No. 3/6-W on the adoption of the amended OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its annexed implementation mechanisms, adopted at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States, held in Istanbul on 1-3 November 2016, which calls for ensuring gender-based response to women and girl refugees, migrants, displaced, including those under foreign occupation, and facilitating their access to humanitarian safe zones, food, shelter, education, and healthcare in times of crisis;
- **Recalling** the "Resolution No. 4/47-CUL, C) Promoting Women's Status and Empowerment in the OIC Member States, which invites the IDB to cooperate with SESRIC and the General Secretariat in implementing OPAAW, particularly in the areas of economic empowerment of women and combating poverty in order to ensure decent living to women and girls in conflict zones and in refugee camps.

- **Recalling** the Resolution No. 2/1-S on “Encouraging National Family Social Support Centers for Refugees”, adopted by The First OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey on 7-9 December 2019;
- **Recalling** the Resolution No. 1/47-ICHAD on “the Humanitarian Activities of the OIC”, which calls upon humanitarian stakeholders in Member States to develop and strengthen comprehensive refugee response policies, which seek to explore opportunities that benefit both refugees and the communities that host them, and bridge the gap between humanitarian and development interventions;
- **Acknowledging** the importance of cooperation between the OIC and other international organizations and stakeholders and **taking note** of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the OIC General Secretariat with the United Nations Women and calls for the implementation of the terms of the agreement in order to boost cooperation and implement the OIC Plan of Action on the Advancement of Women (OPAAW);
- **Expressing deep concern** over the reports indicating that the OIC countries account for 61.5% of all displaced population in the world with more than 25 million displaced people and major host countries Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Bangladesh and Pakistan are OIC countries;
- **Gravely alarmed** by the fact that the majority of Rohingya refugees forcibly expelled to Bangladesh are women and children, who were subjected to various human rights violations and abuses including rape and torture;
- **Reiterating** the OIC’s commitment to addressing a range of difficulties facing women and reducing inequalities between women and men;
- **Expressing grave concern** over the vulnerabilities of the women and girl refugees, who are disproportionately affected from the conflicts and natural disasters and facing serious risks including gender-based violence and sexual abuse;
- **Expressing grave concern** about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard;
- **Stressing** the importance of the international humanitarian law particularly the provisions pertaining to the prohibition of military attacks against civilians and the necessity for protecting the victims of such wars particularly women and children; **welcoming** the efforts of the host Member States to provide protection, access to shelter, delivery of food and other basic services for the displaced and refugee people;
- **Stressing** the significant role of education in the empowerment of women, eradication of poverty, reduction of vulnerabilities, improvement of health, and enhancement of women’s contribution in the development and decision-making process;

- **Welcoming** the adoption of the “OIC Strategy to Empower the Marriage and Family Institution and Preserving its Values in the Muslim World” which sets a specific strategic goal on support for refugee families (SG 3.13) as well as its call on a specialized body or think tank at the level of OIC for the rights of refugees and migrants (SG 3.15);
- **Appreciating** the programs and policies implemented in the Member States in order to achieve social inclusion and cohesion in the host countries, in particular the programs provided to the foreigners in Turkey, the host to highest number of refugees in the world; namely the Conditional Educational Assistance as well as the Social Cohesion Assistance which significantly reduce the rate of absenteeism from school in higher rates for girls than boys, break social norms against girls, reduces child labour, empower women and increase women’s participation in social life;
- **Commending** the United Arab Emirates’ endeavors to provide financial aid of \$818 million to the Syrian refugees and the internally displaced persons in Syria, in addition to over \$530 million to support refugee camps in neighboring countries and allocating an annual voluntary contribution of \$200,000 to the UNHCR;
- **Commending** Turkey’s efforts towards protecting the fundamental rights and addressing essential needs of the Syrians residing in Turkey amounting to more than \$40 billion so far only through national resources;
- **Appreciating** Turkey’s endeavors to provide humanitarian aid of \$1.12 billion to Syrian refugees across the Turkey-Syria border since 2012.

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Calls upon** Member States to continue to support the refugee hosting Member States which are disproportionately shouldering a large portion of the burden of providing assistance and protection, **calls on** the international community to increase and coordinate their support to these countries; and **calls upon** humanitarian stakeholders in OIC countries to develop and strengthen comprehensive refugee response policies that benefit both refugees and the communities that host them.
2. **Welcomes** the progress in the implementation of Resolutions and the Istanbul Declaration adopted in the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference that, inter alia, adopted the amended OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women and its implementation mechanisms.
3. **Calls on** the Member States to further cooperate and coordinate their policies and programs to support and strengthen the displaced and refugee women in line with the resolutions adopted by the Conference, particularly the OPAAW and through the mechanisms established under the OIC framework including the Ministerial Conference, OIC Women Consultative Council and OIC Women Development Organization in OIC Member States.
4. **Requests** the OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions and funds, in particular the Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the efforts of the host Member States to provide adequate and accessible services for health, education, childcare,

entrepreneurship and to offer vocational training and employment opportunities to refugee and displaced women; **encourages** the Member States to establish vocational training programs and family support services with the support of Islamic Development Bank, OIC Women Development Organization, chambers and relevant NGOs with a view to strengthen the role of women in family and society.

5. **Reiterates** the urgent need to adopt the “Covenant on the Rights of Women in Islam” taking into account the specific problems and concerns of the refugee and displaced women.
6. **Welcomes** the successful organization of the High Level Meeting and its outcome titled “Women, Migration & Refugee Crises” by Turkey, in cooperation with the General Secretariat and with the participation and contribution of the OIC Women Consultative Council, on the margins of the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 13 March 2018 in New York; and **calls on** the Member states, OIC institutions and the General Secretariat to continue addressing the needs and concerns of the refugee and displaced women.
7. **Recognizes** the special efforts undertaken by the government of Egypt to address the issue of refugees and IDPs on the regional level, including by opening the door for millions of immigrants and refugees, many of whom are women and girls, to reside in Egypt without discrimination, allowing them to take advantage of the services extended to the citizens, including most special procedures to fight COVID-19 and services designed to support girls and women, expanding on humanitarian programs to third countries and working to find solutions to the root causes behind the refugees and IDPs phenomenon.
8. **Calls upon** the Member States to make women labor visible, to increase psychological resilience of women for a healthy family, to support income sources of refugees and to provide psychosocial support for women who faced difficulties in fulfilling their responsibilities within the family during Covid-19 pandemic.
9. **Calls on** the OIC and the Member States to support countries receiving refugees and displaced persons in their remedial measures, their host community infrastructure improvement efforts for refugee and displaced women and girls, and their holistic approach in meeting the needs of victims and survivors.
10. **Calls on** the OIC and the Member States to support the countries concerned in their efforts for the return and settlement of civilian populations consisting primarily of women and children fleeing abuses in their communities, in accordance with internationally recognized standards.
11. **Urges** the Member States to restore stability and ensure a safe environment for displaced persons to return to their homes.
12. **Calls on** the Member States to support those Member States that have experienced instability in conducting their reconstruction, economic empowerment and national reconciliation projects for a safe return home of displaced persons.

- 13. Acknowledges** the fundamental and inalienable right of Palestinian people in general and the Palestinian women in particular, to return to their homes and homeland, and **calls on** the international community to uphold its responsibilities to settle the conflict by ensuring a just solution in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948).
- 14. Highlights** the need to support the efforts of the UN specialized agencies that assist refugees, and urges the international community and the Member States to provide material support to UNRWA to ease the serious humanitarian and development consequences resulting from shortage of financial resources; and urges the Member States to ensure a consistent and sustainable funding for the UNRWA operations.
- 15. Requests** the IDB, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Women Development Organization to consider the possibility to develop tailor-made projects to support the Rohingya women refugees in Bangladesh, taking into account their special circumstances and requirements.
- 16. Appreciates** the efforts of the neighbor countries, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Turkey, Chad, Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Mauritania and other Member States hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees in devising social programs towards improving the conditions of refugee women and empowering them and **calls upon** Member States and Islamic Development Bank to enter into partnership with the host countries to provide sustainable funding to these projects.
- 17. “Praises** the efforts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in hosting Syrian refugees and offering legal, health, psychological, social and educational services, especially to children and women refugees, as part of the Jordan Response Plan for the Syria Crisis, **while commending** its efforts to provide access to coronavirus vaccination to refugees, as the first state to include refugees in its National Program of Vaccination.
- 18. Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and to the Ninth Ministerial Conference on the Women.

**Resolution No.12/8-W**  
**Universal Social Protection for Women and Girls**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Having regard to** the great significance of social protection as a mechanism to provide a solid basis for social and economic development through ensuring the human right to social security as being one of the rights recognized by the majority of the Muslim States,
- **Recognizing that** the issue of social protection in general, and for women and girls in particular, has gained greater attention due to the economic and social repercussions of COVID-19 across the OIC Member States.
- **Stressing** the need to exert more effort to ensure continued social protection, which is indispensable for social solidarity based on the principles of inclusion and gender equality, particularly access to primary health care and occupational insurance, as a minimum.

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Develops** a strategy to guide on social protection for women and girls, thus giving them the right to access a comprehensive, permanent and unbiased social protection system, in pursuance of the SDGs.
2. **Calls** on the Member States to engage in developing this Strategy aimed at the following objectives:
  - **Streamlining** the social protection system to all categories of women and girls, especially those in a fragile situation.
  - **Reviewing** all legislation that includes discriminatory articles that prevent comprehensive social protection.
  - **Insuring** the right to social protection for women and girls as an integral part of economic and social rights.
  - **Considering** social protection of women and girls as a primary mechanism to protect them against all forms of violence and discrimination.
3. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up progress on the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 49<sup>th</sup> session and to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session.



**Resolution No. 13/8-W**  
**OIC Women of Achievement Award**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Recalling** the proposal by HE the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Affairs of Turkey, Chair of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Women Ministerial Conference to establish the OIC Awards on Women Achievement, at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States held in 1-3 November 2016, in Istanbul;
- **Acknowledging** the Istanbul Declaration adopted by Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States called on Member States and relevant OIC institutions to strengthen and support innovation and creativity among women and girls in various fields such as education, entrepreneurship, arts and technology, social, developmental and volunteering work;
- **Recalling** the Resolutions of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers calling for the establishment of an OIC Awards on Women Achievement to appreciate their initiatives and to strengthen their role in the process of comprehensive development in Member States;
- **Guided by** the Resolution No. 6/7-W on Principles and Procedures to be applied to the OIC Award on Women Achievement, which decides that the financial amount of the Award, the cost of trophies, accommodation and travel expenses of the winners will be paid out of the regular budget of the OIC General Secretariat, following approval of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and reaffirms that, the principles and procedures will be applied starting with the second Award, to be granted by the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Women;

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Decides** to grant the Second OIC Women of Achievement Award to the following individuals and institutions on the basis of nominations from the Governments of Member States and advise of the Women Consultative Council as the selecting committee:
  - Center for Research Studies, Documentation and Information on Women, Republic of Tunisia (Arab Region).
  - Association for the Advancement for Rural Women in Gao, Burkina Faso (Africa Region).
  - Ms. Shamim Chol Kashmir, Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Asia Region).
  - The Palestinian Monetary Fund (State of Palestine).

2. **Decides** to grant the plaques and certificates to the winners at the Eighth Ministerial Conference on Women and the prize at a high-level OIC meeting, which would be held before the Ninth Ministerial Conference on Women;
3. **Calls upon** the Member States to make voluntary conditional contributions to the budget of the General Secretariat to be disbursed exclusively for the Award.
4. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and to the Ninth Ministerial Conference on the Women.

**Resolution No. 14/8-W**  
**Date and Venue for the Ninth Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women**

*The OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its eighth session held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 6-8 July 2021 (26-28 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1442H), on the theme "Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond";*

- **Having considered** the offer made by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the ninth session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women;

**Decides what follows:**

1. **Expresses** its thanks and gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the excellent organization of the eighth session of the Conference, and for providing all the necessary facilitation for its convening.
2. **Holds** the ninth session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2023.
3. **Entrusts** the General Secretariat with setting the date for the Conference in coordination with the host country and communicate it to Member States and all relevant OIC organs and institutions.
4. **Entrusts** the General Secretariat with making preparations for the Conference in coordination with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the host country, and the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Chair of the eighth session, and all relevant OIC organs and institutions.
5. **Requests** the Secretary General to follow up on progress in the implementation of this resolution, and to report thereon to the Council of Foreign Ministers at its 48th session and to the OIC Ministerial Conference on Women at its ninth session.