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***REPORT  
OF THE EIGHTH OIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON FOOD SECURITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT***

***ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY***

***27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021***

**REPORT  
OF THE EIGHTH OIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. The Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development under the theme “Improvement of Food Systems for Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member States” was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. A total of **147** delegates participated at the Conference, comprising Ministers and Heads of Delegation from 37 OIC Member States, 2 Observer-Countries, 9 OIC institutions, 4 regional and international organizations. The Senior Officials Meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, while the Ministerial segment was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

**OPENING CEREMONY**

2. Following a recitation from the Holy Quran, H.E. Mr. Zhenis Oserbay, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Seventh Ministerial Conference, made opening remarks, whereby he called for consolidating joint efforts to address the food security challenges in OIC Member States. The Vice-Minister also emphasized the potential role of IOFS in promoting sustainable agricultural development and enhancing food security. He thanked the Member States and institutions for the support extended to him during the Chairmanship of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference. Thanked Turkey for hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

**ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

3. The Conference unanimously elected members of its Bureau as follows:

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| - Republic of Turkey     | - Chairman;      |
| - State of Palestine     | - Vice-Chairman; |
| - The Gambia             | - Vice-Chairman; |
| - State of Qatar         | - Vice Chairman; |
| - Republic of Kazakhstan | - Rapporteur.    |

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

4. In his opening address, H.E. Mr. Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, and Chairman of the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, welcomed all delegates to the meeting and noted that

relations between Turkey and the OIC Member States were deepening and remained stronger than before. Considering the recent developments in food security and agriculture, challenges of climate change, droughts, floods and wildfires, which may likely cause future global food crises, the Minister called for acceleration of joint efforts to transform current food systems into sustainable ones. Referring to the high agricultural potential of the OIC Member States in terms of capacity and labor force and the urgent need to address ongoing challenges, the Minister stressed the need to intensify cooperation aimed at enhancing structural transformation, agricultural market stability and efficient use of natural resources by strengthening mutually rewarding partnerships for a secure and prosperous international community.

## **SPEECH OF OIC SECRETARY GENERAL**

5. In his speech during the Conference, H.E. Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, the Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs, pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing food insecurity situation in many OIC Member States, seriously affecting the low-income and vulnerable households. Dr. Sengendo indicated that OIC Member States had sufficient potential to produce enough food for their populations and need to do this through fostering closer cooperation and coordinating efforts. Within this context, Dr. Sengendo underscored the need to empower the rural farmers and communities in OIC Member States so as to enable them increase food production; to address the inadequate levels of knowledge and skills, access to technologies and funds for the farmers; to achieve a match between the OIC Member States with excess supply and the OIC Member States with excess demand; and to increase intra-OIC cooperation through sharing information, knowledge, technologies and resources. The Assistant Secretary General also highlighted of the importance of the new OIC programmes of action for the development of strategic agricultural commodities and the need for the OIC Member States to assume the ownership of OIC decisions and programmes in the area of agriculture, rural development and food security.

## **VIDEO PRESENTATION**

6. The meeting received a video presentation on the experience of Turkey towards improving its national food system. The video also highlighted the importance of solidarity and cooperation among OIC Member States in promoting sustainable agricultural development and achieving food security.

## **VIDEO ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

7. In his video address to the meeting, H. E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey, noted that population increase also brings increased demand for food requiring that ensuring food security becomes a main agenda of the international community. Giving the state of hunger and malnutrition in the world, he stated that the COVID pandemic and ongoing natural disasters, have further worsened the plight of already vulnerable groups. He added that ensuring provision of adequate, nutritious and healthy food was a responsibility of humanity and a right for all people. He observed that despite the abundance of resources, the cooperation among the OIC Member States in agriculture, rural development and food security had not achieved the desired level. His Excellency called for intensification of collective efforts towards increasing the solidarity and cooperation in this important sector. He confirmed the readiness of Turkey to share its rich experience with the OIC Member states in the spirit of intra-OIC cooperation.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

8. The Conference adopted the Agenda, which is attached hereto as *Annex 1*.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING**

9. The Chairman of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), preparatory to the Ministerial Session, H.E. Mr. Akif Ozkaldi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, presented the report of the SOM, which was held in Istanbul, on 25th – 26th October, 2021. The Meeting adopted the report of the SOM, which is attached as *Annex 2*.

## **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION**

10. The distinguished participating Ministers and Heads of Delegation addressed the Conference, highlighting the various endeavors they are making in the food systems sector. In particular, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation shared their national policy and experiences in addressing food insecurity. Within this context, they emphasized importance of the availability and accessibility of adequate nutritious and healthy food, consolidating joint efforts in the area of preventing food loss and waste, and achieving self-sufficiency in food production. They also highlighted the relevance of climate resilient and technically efficient production systems, quality education in food production techniques, enabling policies, facilitation of access to finance and markets. They further stressed the need to develop effective strategies to address negative impacts of the climate change, natural disasters and COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and food security. They called for sharing experiences and best practices and building synergies

of those who have resources, knowledge skills, and technologies and working together through complementarities. Representatives of FAO, IFAD, AOAD and ICBA also briefed the session on their activities and programmes in the OIC Member States.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NINTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

11. The Conference requested the esteemed OIC Member States to communicate their desire to host the Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development in 2023 to the General Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AND THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE**

12. The Conference unanimously adopted the Resolution of the Eighth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development as attached hereto in the *Annex 3*.

#### **VOTE OF THANKS**

13. Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed deep appreciation to H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), for his gracious patronage of the Conference and for his constant support for the various activities and programmes of the OIC. They also expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegates and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the Conference.

14. The Conference also commended the active efforts made by the relevant OIC institutions in support of the implementation of national agriculture and rural development programmes in OIC Member States.

15. At the end of the proceedings, the Conference congratulated H.E. Mr. Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, on his Chairmanship of the Conference, and commended his enormous contribution to the success of the Conference.

**Issued at Istanbul,**  
**27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**