



State Tourism Agency
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

OIC/11-ICTM/2022/MIN/REPORT

**REPORT OF THE
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS**

**Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
28th – 29th June 2022**

REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)

1. The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) under the theme: “*The Role of Local Communities in Tourism Development*” was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 28th -29th June, 2022.
2. The Conference was attended by 37 Member States, comprising Ministers in charge of Tourism and heads of delegations. Other attendees included representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, OIC organs/institutions, regional and International Organizations.

WELCOMING MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

3. In his welcoming message, delivered by H.E. Mr. Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, underscored the importance of the intra-OIC cooperation in the tourism sector and promised to intensify his country’s close collaboration with all OIC Member States. Referring to the increasing tourist flows from the OIC Member States, he expressed confidence in the acceleration of tourist flows among the Member States and further expansion of tourism relations in the coming years. He also expressed his belief that the Baku Conference would serve to put forward new ideas and initiatives to enhance tourism cooperation, strengthen trust and mutual understanding between OIC Member States.

OPENING CEREMONY

4. H.E. Md Mahbub Ali, Minister of State, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Chairman of the Tenth Session of the ICTM, made opening remarks, whereby he highlighted the main tourism activities and programmes, which were implemented during his country’s chairmanship. He thanked the Member States and institutions for the support extended to him during his Chairmanship of the Tenth ICTM. He also thanked Azerbaijan for hosting the Eleventh Session of the ICTM. While enumerating tourism potential and rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh, he emphasized the need for enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Member States, increasing investment, enhancing capacities through sharing knowledge and expertise in the tourism domain, collective promotion of Islamic culture and heritage.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

5. The Conference elected the following members of the Bureau:

- Chairman: Republic of Azerbaijan
- Vice Chairman : Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Vice Chairman : Republic of Yemen
- Vice Chairman : State of Palestine
- Rapporteur : People’s Republic of Bangladesh

STATEMENT OF THE 11TH ICTM CHAIRMAN

6. In his opening address, His Excellency Mr. Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Chairman of the Eleventh Session of ICTM welcomed all the delegates and underscored that enhancing cooperation with OIC and its Member States was one of the priority areas of importance. Referring to the diverse and rich potential of the Member States, he called for intensifying joint action to ensure tourism sustainability and minimize external risks. He called for implementation of joint projects to compensate the losses occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemic.

SPEECH OF THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL

7. In his speech, His Excellency Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC, enumerated the various OIC activities in the domain of tourism since the last ICTM. He mentioned that the worldwide tourist arrivals declined by 72.8% in 2020 as compared to 2019, which resulted in an estimated loss of US\$ 1.3 trillion in export revenues. The Secretary General added that the OIC Countries are estimated to have host only 70.4 million international tourists in 2020 instead of a baseline projection of 277.8 million. This translates into a potential loss of US\$ 155.5 billion in tourism receipts in the OIC group. In this regard, the Secretary General mentioned that it is a combination of various factors such as the availability of efficient public mechanisms, financial resources, and crisis-response preparedness that determines how and to which extend each OIC member country can successfully respond and recover from the unprecedented crisis that hit the tourism stakeholders. He, therefore, invited all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to promote Islamic tourism and various regional infrastructure and tourism projects as well as to create new tourism programmes in OIC Cities of Tourism in order to attract more tourists.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

8. The Conference adopted its Agenda and Work Programme, which are attached in **Annex I** and **Annex II**, respectively.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

9. The Conference considered and adopted the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the 11th ICTM held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 27th June 2022 as presented by the Chairman of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) ICTM Mr. Kanan Gasimov, representative of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The report of the SOM is attached as **Annex III**.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION

10. During the General Debate the delegations deliberated on a wide number of issues concerning the promotion of tourism among OIC Member States. Ministers and Heads of Delegation, while sharing their national strategies towards developing the tourism sector in their respective countries, underscored the need for OIC Member States to pay more attention to developing human capital and capacities, improving quality of infrastructures, and increasing the role of local communities for tourism development, including enhancing women's contribution in tourism industry. Increasing the capacities of national institutions, facilitating access to finance, availability of efficient public mechanisms and strengthening the resilience and crisis response preparedness were among the issues which were identified as needing intensified joint efforts to address the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
11. Participants also emphasized the relevance of digitalization, technology, data collection and dissemination, promotion of Muslim friendly and family friendly tourism branding and products in the implementation of national tourism development strategies. They further called for effective and timely implementation of the OIC cooperation frameworks in the domain of tourism through all possible means, including exchange of best practices and knowledge sharing. Similarly, they drew attention to the need to introduce tourism potentials of Member States to each other with a view to increasing intra-OIC tourist exchanges and domestic tourism in each Member State.

OIC CITY OF TOURISM AWARD

12. Delegates congratulated the Republic of Türkiye and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the selection of Şanlıurfa and Khiva as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2023 and 2024 respectively.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TOURISM BETWEEN OIC MEMBER STATES (2022-2026)

13. The Conference approved the following members of the Coordination Committee for the next 4 years (2022-2026):
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - People's Republic of Bangladesh

- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- State of Qatar
- Republic of Sudan
- Republic of Cameroon
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Uganda
- Republic of Uzbekistan (Chair of the 12th ICTM)

ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AND THE BAKU DECLARATION

14. The Conference adopted the Resolution on Tourism Development among the OIC Member States, and the Baku Declaration. The documents are attached in **Annex IV** and **Annex V**, respectively.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE 12th ICTM

15. The Meeting commended the Republic of Uzbekistan for its offer to host the 12th Session of ICTM in 2024 and State of Qatar for its offer to host the 13th Session of the ICTM in 2026 and urged Member States to actively participate in these sessions.

VISIT TO SHUSHA

16. As part of a cultural program for the delegates of the ICTM, Ministers and Heads of Delegations visited the City of Shusha, Cultural Capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 29th June, 2022.

VOTE OF THANKS

17. The Conference expressed its profound gratitude to His Excellency Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his patronage of the ICTM and his keynote address. In the same vein, the Conference expressed its gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegates and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the Conference.

18. The Conference further expressed its gratitude to H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, the OIC Secretary General and his entire staff for their dedicated and tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the Eleventh Session of the ICTM.

19. The Conference addressed a special vote of thanks to H.E. Mr. Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the Eleventh Session of the ICTM and congratulated him for his wisdom and leadership in successfully steering the proceedings of the Conference.

Baku, 29th June 2022
