



State Tourism Agency  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS  
PREPARATORY TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE  
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS**

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

# **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS PREPARATORY TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)**

**Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

## ***Theme: The Role of Local Communities in Tourism Development***

1. The Meeting of the Senior Officials preparatory to the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.
2. Senior Officials from the OIC Member States, the General Secretariat and representatives of six OIC Institutions, namely: COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, IRCICA, ICDT, ICCIA and SMIIC, as well as delegation of Arab Tourism Organization attended the Meeting.
3. Following recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the Head of the delegation of Bangladesh, Mr. Abu Tahir Muhammad Zaber, Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh Tourism Board, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 10<sup>th</sup> ICTM, welcomed all delegations and highlighted the various achievements realized during his country's Chairmanship of ICTM. While highlighting the initiatives of Bangladesh on development of tourism sector, he underscored the importance of skills development, partnership and capacity building for sustainable tourism development. He also urged the OIC Member States to enhance intra-OIC cooperation through organizing tourism fairs, and mutual recognition of tourism potentials and cooperate more.

## **Election of the Bureau**

4. The Meeting unanimously 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

## **Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme**

5. The Meeting adopted its Agenda and Work Programme as contained in Annex I.

## **Opening Statements**

6. In his opening statement, upon assumption of the Chairmanship of the Eleventh ICTM, Mr. Kanan Gasimov, representative of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, expressed Azerbaijan's commitment to the activities and programmes of the OIC, emphasizing its readiness to continue to work for the promotion of the Islamic

joint action towards the development of tourism and socio-economic development of OIC Member States.

7. On his part, Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs, addressed the Meeting on behalf of H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC, and drew attention of the Meeting to the need for the implementation of the OIC programmes, including the need to give prominence to infrastructure development, domestic tourism facilitation, cross-border projects, private-public partnership and regional and international cooperation during the post pandemic era.

### **Progress Report on Implementation of OIC Framework on Tourism**

8. The Meeting considered the Progress Report of the General Secretariat, which embodied the Progress Report on the Implementation of the ICTM Resolutions and the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States. The presentation dwelled on the various activities accomplished under the Plans and Programs of the Framework as well as ICTM Resolutions, including implementation of the OIC City of Tourism and Seal of Excellence and Handicrafts Awards projects.

### **Reports by Relevant OIC Institutions**

9. The Meeting received the activity reports and presentations made by the following OIC Institutions: COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA, ICCIA, and SMIIC on their various contributions on the implementation of the OIC Programs in the domain of tourism.

10. SESRIC presented its research report titled “International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022 – Prospects and Challenges amid COVID-19 Pandemic”. The Report provides assessment of tourism sector in OIC Member States by analyzing available data with a particular focus on the impacts of COVID -19 pandemic on the tourism sector. The Report highlights the policy responses and recovery strategies toward reviving the tourism sector in OIC Member States.

### **Presentations by Relevant OIC Member States**

11. The Meeting received the following presentations made by the relevant OIC Member States.

12. The delegate of Türkiye made a presentation on their national initiative “Safe Tourism Certification Program which covers series of measures and regulations adopted for safe travel and accommodation of tourists as well as wellbeing and healthcare of the travellers and of employees working at touristic facilities.

13. The delegate of Malaysia made a presentation on national efforts aimed at recovering tourism sector and enhancing tourism promotion with the Member States. The delegate also provided briefing on the national tourism marketing plan, Muslim friendly tourism strategies and promotion of tourism products.

**Reconstitution of the Coordination Committee on Tourism for the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the domain of Tourism among OIC Member States (2022-2026)**

14. The Meeting approved the following members of the Coordination Committee for the next four (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 12<sup>th</sup> ICTM)

**Implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism**

15. Under this agenda item, the representatives of the SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA, ICCIA and ICNT provided briefs on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Strategic Roadmap mainly focusing on promotion of Muslim friendly tourism branding in the global market, promotion of Islamic culture and heritage tourism, development of Islamic tourism standards, and increasing the contribution of traditional cultures and locations in tourism, and implementing tourism capacity building programs.

**Presentations of Tourism Potentials by some Member States**

16. Delegates from Nigeria, Senegal, and Azerbaijan made presentations about tourism potentials of their respective countries highlighting the need for more investment, access to financing and affordable transportation, visa facilitation, improving tourism infrastructure, capacity development, creating directory of tourism of Member States, widening intra-OIC cooperation in this domain through all possible means.

**Review on the progress and challenges on Organizing OIC Tourism Fairs**

17. The Meeting received the Report of the ICNT on the challenges and problems with regard to organizing the OIC Tourism Fairs and requested the Member States to express willingness to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Tourism Fair during second half of 2023.

**OIC City of Tourism Award**

18. The Meeting considered and decided to submit for endorsement by the Ministerial Session the Recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022, on the selection of Şanlıurfa (Republic of Türkiye) for 2023 and Khiva (Republic of Uzbekistan) for

2024. Nigeria requested to maintain the candidature of Lagos City for the next round of nomination for OIC City of Tourism Award for 2025 and 2026.

### **Consideration of the Draft Agenda and Draft Work Programme**

19. The Meeting discussed and recommended the attached Draft Agenda and Draft Work Programme for the Ministerial Session- Annex-II.

### **Consideration of the Draft Resolution of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of ICTM on Tourism Development among the OIC Member States and the Baku Declaration**

20. The Meeting also recommended the attached Draft Resolution and the Draft Baku Declaration for the consideration of the Ministerial Session – Annex-III.

### **Venue of 12<sup>th</sup> ICTM**

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

### **Vote of Thanks**

22. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to all delegates as well as the excellent arrangements made for the successful hosting of the Meeting. The delegates also expressed their appreciation to the Chairman of Senior Officials Meeting for his leadership and wisdom, which facilitated the smooth conduct of the Meeting. Similarly, the Meeting thanked the OIC Secretary General and members of the OIC General Secretariat and OIC Institutions for their invaluable contributions and support for the Meeting.

**Baku, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**