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**RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG
THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

ADOPTED BY

THE 11th SESSION

OF THE

**ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM
MINISTERS (ICTM)**

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
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RESOLUTION ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE OIC MEMBER STATES

The Eleventh Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held from 27-29 June 2022, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, under the Theme: ‘The Role of Local Communities in Tourism Development’,

Recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Tripoli, Libya, on 16th - 22nd May, 1977,

Pursuant to the OIC-2025: Programme of Action, adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye on the 14th -15th April, 2016,

Re-affirming the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the CFM, particularly, resolution No. 1/46-E of the Forty Sixth Session of CFM, held Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 1st -2nd March, 2019,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the previous Sessions of the ICTM,

Re-affirming the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among OIC Member States adopted by the Sixth Session of the ICTM, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on 29th June- 2nd July, 2008, and

Also re-affirming the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, adopted by the 10th ICTM, held in Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh, on 6th -7th February, 2018,

Conscious of the crucial role of tourism in promoting economic, social and cultural interactions among nations, and in contributing to international peace, security and understanding,

Re-iterating the relevance of sustainable tourism to the actualisation of OIC poverty eradication strategies and policies and as a potential contributor to sustainable development,

Expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the Workshop on Improving Islamic Tourism Ecosystem in OIC Member States: Destination and Industry Development, held in Malatya, Republic of Türkiye, on 9th -12th July, 2018,

Also expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the Training Workshop on Developing Muslim-Friendly Tourism in Suriname and Guyana organized by ICDT, held in Paramaribo, Suriname, on 15th -17th July, 2019,

Welcoming the launching of Tabriz as OIC City of Tourism for 2018, held in Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 25th April, 2018,

Also welcoming the launching of Dhaka as OIC City of Tourism for 2019, held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 11th -12th July, 2019,

Expressing satisfaction at the outcome of the “*International Seminar on Development of Muslim Friendly Tourism in the Dhaka City*” and “the Award Ceremony”, organized by SESRIC in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 15th October, 2019,

Taking note, with appreciation, of the Report titled “*International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*”, which was prepared and presented by SESRIC,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of 35th Session of the COMCEC in the field of tourism held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 25th -28th November, 2019,

Commending the efforts of the standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) towards enhancing tourism cooperation among the OIC Member States especially through the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism,

Expressing appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for organising the Ninth OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum under the theme of “*COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Tourism Sector and Recovery Strategies*”, held virtually, on 16th November 2021,

Mindful of the strategy for the development of cultural tourism in the Islamic World as established by Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and adopted by the Sixth Islamic Conference of Cultural Ministers, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, in 2009,

Expressing its gratitude to the State of Kuwait for organizing with ICDT the Exceptional Edition of the tourism, handcraft and interior design Fair, on 18 – 23 December 2019,

Taking note of the organization by ICDT and SESRIC of the Training Webinar on tourism destination marketing strategies, on 2-4 March 2021 and the Training Webinar on the prospects of sustainable tourism in OIC Member Countries on 1-2 June 2022 and welcoming their initiative to organize jointly in November 2022 a Training Webinar on health tourism in OIC Member States,

Also taking note of the activities of the relevant OIC institutions towards implementation of the resolutions of the ICTM, particularly those relating to the commemoration of Tabriz, Dhaka and Gabala, as the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively, capacity-building programmes in the domain of tourism within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme of SESRIC, and implementation of the Regional

Project on “*Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa*”,

Considering the outcome of the Seventh Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 June 2022 with regard to the selection of the OIC City of Tourism Awardees for 2023 and 2024 respectively,

Having considered the Progress Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the ICTM resolutions on tourism development and the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism Among OIC Member States as well as the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States:

1. **Approves** the selection of Şanlıurfa, Republic of Türkiye, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2023 and Khiva, Republic of Uzbekistan, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2024;
2. **Commends** the elaborate plans by the relevant OIC institutions for the commemoration of Dhaka, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2019 and Gabala, as the OIC City of Tourism for 2020 and **urges** OIC Member States to actively participate in the various activities in awardee cities for 2023 and 2024;
3. **Urges** all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to implement the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, and organize annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flows, through visa facilitation, investment promotion, branding and standardization, and capacity building;
4. **Invites** ICDT to submit a relevant implementation plan on the findings contained in the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market;
5. **Invites** the Member States to express to the OIC General Secretariat and ICDT willingness to host the 3rd OIC Tourism Fair during second half of 2023;
6. **Calls on** the Member States, IsDB Group and other funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions, including ICDT and SESRIC, to contribute to the implementation of the Regional Project of Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, including the 2nd Donors Conference to facilitate the implementation of this Project;
7. **Invites** the OIC Member States to review their existing hygiene, safety, and vaccination protocols on COVID-19 with a view to easing existing pandemic-related travel restrictions in a timely manner, which will help recovery of international tourism activities;
8. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to invest in capacity development activities and programmes to improve the skills of national tourism stakeholders and support the

- recovery efforts in the sector;
9. **Urges** the OIC Member States to extend various types of financial support to relevant national tourism stakeholders in coping with the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic such as tax breaks, subsidies, and investment funds according to their national legislations;
 10. **Invites** the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to share their experiences and good practices in responding to the unprecedented crisis in the tourism sector and innovative policies on restarting tourism activities rapidly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to enhancing the intra-OIC tourism cooperation;
 11. **Invites** the relevant OIC institutions to organize training programmes and activities on new developments, regulations and opportunities in the tourism sector in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to enhancing the capacities of national tourism stakeholders and policymakers in the OIC Member States;
 12. **Encourages** the OIC Member States to enhance the cooperation with international and regional tourism agencies and institutions in order to effectively follow-up new developments in the sector and facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills and experiences;
 13. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to effectively benefit from the programmes and projects offered by the relevant OIC organs/institutions like COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IRCICA, ISESCO, ICCIA and SMIC that would help in developing capacities and exchanging of experiences;
 14. **Commends** the efforts of IRCICA on preservation and promotion of written, tangible and intangible heritage assets and their linkage with tourism by organizing serious of sessions on the written, artistic and archeological heritage assets, including the collections of historical manuscripts and inscriptions on monuments, which are important for cultural tourism in the Member States;
 15. **Takes note** of the efforts of IRCICA to prepare a programme for the implementation of Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handcrafts aimed at stimulating innovations by encouraging artisans be more creative, while drawing attention of craftsmen to their important role in preserving crafts and heritages;
 16. **Encourages** the OIC Member States to review their existing visa policies visa-a-vis for citizens of OIC Member States and facilitate the issuance of visa based on the reciprocity principle to stimulate the intra-OIC tourism cooperation according to their national legislations;
 17. **Calls on** the OIC Member States to invest in ‘digitalization’ for promoting and marketing of their respective destinations as well as improving international visitors’ experience in the tourism sector with a view to speeding up the recovery efforts and hosting more international tourists;

18. **Encourages** the OIC Member States to invest in the diversification of tourism products such as by focusing on some niche markets like Islamic tourism, ecotourism and medical tourism both during and beyond the pandemic according to their national legislations;
19. **Invites** the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to share their experiences and good practices for the development of Islamic tourism including various aspects like Halal standardization, Halal certification, Islamic tourism product development, marketing and promotion;
20. **Invites** the OIC Member States to explore the possibility of involving the private sector organizations to participate in the infrastructural development projects in the newly liberated territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
21. **Invites** the OIC Member States to encourage their citizens to visit Palestine in particular Al-Quds Al-Sharif through the Jordanian Palestinian border crossing gate to express economic support and solidarity with Palestinians;
22. **Encourages** the OIC Member States for positive response to the climate change, to work implementing initiatives, projects to develop tourism sector, and to promote and contribute effectively to the international efforts toward protecting nature and societies;
23. **Further encourages** the OIC Member States and other stakeholders to always provide facilities for tourists with special needs;
24. **Welcomes** the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to hold a “Annual Islamic Tourism Week” in Uzbekistan in the fall of 2022 under the patronage of the OIC and strongly encourages the Member States of the OIC to take an active part in the event;
25. **Calls on** the OIC and its relevant institutions especially SESRIC and COMCEC to organize a workshop for Tourism Boards of African Member States to strengthen their capacities in the development of tourism;
26. **Further calls on** these institutions to compile and produce a comprehensive directory of tourism in all its forms, including tourism sites and heritage in the OIC Member States in Africa as part of efforts to put these countries on the OIC and international tourism map and destinations;
27. **Welcomes** the initiative of the ICDT to prepare studies on sustainable tourism and health tourism and their impacts on the expansion of intra-OIC trade;
28. **Invites** Member States and OIC Institutions to provide support to ICDT, SESRIC and the project stakeholders with a view to accelerating the implementation of the “Regional Project on sustainable tourism development in a network of cross-border parks and protected areas in West Africa”, that is essential for the socio-economic development of West African region;

29. **Commends** the efforts of the COMCEC towards enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States especially in tourism domain through the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and COMCEC Project Financial Support Instruments;
30. **Welcomes** the efforts of COMCEC Tourism Working Group towards producing and disseminating knowledge, sharing experiences and good practices and producing concrete policy options to address the common challenges of the member countries in the area of tourism;
31. **Welcomes** the offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the Tenth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum in the second half of 2022, and calls upon the Member States to encourage their private sector entities to actively participate in this important event;
32. **Also welcomes** the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host First OIC Forum on Sustainable Tourism, in collaboration with OIC General Secretariat and ICCIA, and requests the Member States and other stakeholders to actively participate in the Forum;
33. **Invites** the OIC Member States and OIC Institutions to share good practices and policies for the development of Islamic tourism;
34. **Appreciates** the SMIIC for the development and adoption of the “OIC/SMIIC 9:2019- Halal Tourism Services; General requirements” standards and **calls on** the OIC Member States and the relevant OIC Institutions to raise awareness among tourism stakeholders on these standards for the development and standardization in delivery of Islamic tourism services;
35. **Expresses** its profound thanks and gratitude to the Government and the people of Azerbaijan for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Eleventh Session of the ICTM;
36. **Welcomes** the offer by the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the Twelfth Session of ICTM in 2024, and State of Qatar to host the Thirteenth Session of the ICTM in 2026;
37. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up on the implementation of this Resolution and submit a report to the Twelfth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.
