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REPORT

OF THE

**TWELFTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
INFORMATION MINISTERS**

(Combating Disinformation and Islamophobia in the Post-Truth Era)

Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye

22 October 2022

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- 1- In response to the kind offer extended by the Republic of Türkiye to host the Twelfth Session of the Islamic Conference (ICIM) of Information Ministers (Session of Combatting Disinformation and Islamophobia in the Post-Truth Era), the Session convened in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, on 22th October 2022.
- 2- The meeting opened with a recitation of verses from the Noble Quran. Then, the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the 11th Session of the ICIM, H.E. Dr. Majid Bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, Minister of Information, delivered a speech in which he thanked the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the 12th Session and for the hospitality accorded to the delegations. He also thanked the participating delegations from the OIC Member States and institutions for their eagerness to make this Session a success. He also extended thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and His Royal Highness, Prince Mohamed bin Salman Al-Saud, the Crown Prince, for the support that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provides to the OIC and its institutions. He took note of his country's efforts to enhance joint Islamic action in the field of media and to implement the resolutions of the previous session. He commended the efforts of the OIC Secretary-General and the General Secretariat to activate the OIC media action and the functioning of the OIC media arms.
- 3- Subsequently, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, the OIC Secretary-General, delivered a speech in which he welcomed their Excellencies, the Ministers of Information and Communication, and the heads of delegations participating in this Session. He extended his thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye, especially H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Turkish President, for hosting this Session that discusses important media issues. He also thanked all Member States and the headquarters State, Saudi Arabia, and its leadership represented by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for sparing no effort to elevate Islam and Muslims and defend their legitimate issues, as well as their continuous and generous support for the Organization since its establishment. The Secretary-General indicated that the theme of the Twelfth Session (Combating Disinformation and Islamophobia in the Post-Truth Era) highlights the media's role in supporting the Cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the Special Media Programme Highlighting Africa's Position, and the project to launch the OIC Award for Distinguished Media Outlets and Media Professionals in the Field of Promoting Dialogue, Tolerance and Intercultural Harmony. He also addressed the growing phenomena of Terrorism, extremist discourse, Islamophobia, and disinformation, being one of the most dangerous practices that falsify facts, mislead the local and international public opinion, and distorting truth, news and the Islam's tolerance. After that, H.E. Professor Fahrettin Altun, Director of Communication at the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye delivered a speech, in which he welcomed the participating delegates in this Session. He thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the previous session, and hailed the Kingdom's efforts in pursuit of implementing the resolutions of that session. In his speech, he

shed light on the key topics contained in the theme of the 12th Session, including disinformation and Islamophobia, and spreading false news in the media and on social media networks. He called on the OIC and the joint media Islamic action institutions to combat disinformation and false news, which is the same task that will be entrusted to the OIC Media Forum later.

- 4- The members of the Bureau of the 12th Session of the ICIM were elected as follows:
 - Republic of Türkiye - Chair
 - State of Palestine - Vice Chair
 - Republic of Guinea-Bissau - Vice Chair
 - Federal Republic of Somalia - Vice Chair
 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Rapporteur
- 5- The participants adopted the draft agenda and draft work programme of the 12th Session of the ICIM.
- 6- The Meeting discussed important media issues and projects presented to this Session. It reviewed the report of the OIC Secretary-General in which he presented the media projects accomplished and the efforts made to develop media action since the 11th Session of the ICIM. It also reviewed the report of the Chair of the Senior Officials' Meeting preparatory to this Session. Then, their Excellencies, the Ministers of Information and Communication and heads of delegations, conducted extensive discussions on the issues on the agenda.
- 7- The ICIM adopted the draft omnibus resolution submitted to the Session after incorporating the changes proposed by the Member States.
- 8- The Meeting adopted the draft Istanbul Declaration, after incorporating the changes proposed by the Member States.
- 9- The Meeting adopted the report of the 12th Session of the ICIM.
- 10- The representative of the Lebanese Republic recorded his reservation on the changes proposed by the Republic of Azerbaijan to two paragraphs in the omnibus resolution, as they were proposed too late to be reviewed by the Lebanese government, and as no instructions have been received in this regard.
- 11- The Meeting recommended adopting the "Technical Sheet for the OIC Award for Distinguished Media Outlets and Media Professionals in the Field of Promoting Dialogue, Tolerance and Intercultural Harmony", adding the OIC Media Forum and IRCICA as members of the Award jury, and introducing a specific paragraph thereon within the information-related resolutions to be submitted to the forthcoming CFM.
- 12- The Meeting recommended submitting a proposal to create a Fund for financing the Award, as indicated in the Award Technical Sheet, to the forthcoming CFM for consideration and adoption.
- 13- The Meeting recommended the adoption of the Guide entitled "Covering Terrorist Incidents: Guidelines for Journalists, and circulating it to Member States to enable them to benefit from this document.

- 14- The Meeting decided to form a Ministerial Follow-up Committee for the Session, to consist of the Chair of the 12th Session and the rest of the members of the Session bureau. This committee shall meet at least once at the invitation of the Session Chair.
- 15- The Meeting approved the offer made by the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 13th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers.
- 16- The Republic of Azerbaijan expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Union of OIC News Agencies, and its support for the media delegations programme which is supervised by the UNA in partnership with the Information Department at the OIC General Secretariat. It further proposed holding a virtual workshop on media language in covering crises and disasters and offered to host this workshop.
- 17- The State of Palestine offered to provide all Member States with print and audio-visual information materials in the three working languages, on the aggressions and violations committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people and the occupied city of Al-Quds, and against Palestinian journalists, along with materials on the Israeli disinformation practices. All materials will be posted on the official Palestinian media websites: the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, the Palestinian News and Information Agency (WAFA), and the Ministry of Information. The materials can be received upon request, including all the rights associated with broadcasting, re-broadcasting, publication and re-publication.
- 18- The State of Palestine proposes an information plan on the occupied city of Al-Quds, with a view to further exposing all aggressions and violations committed by the Israeli occupation against the city of Al-Quds and all attempts aimed at altering its Islamic character and distorting its deep-rooted Arab-Islamic history. The aim is to keep Al-Quds always present in the minds and hearts of the Islamic Ummah, given the high status the city of Al-Quds enjoys in the Muslim countries and in the whole world. The State of Palestine will submit a draft proposal of the information plan on Al-Quds to the senior officials meeting scheduled for next January for adoption.

Istanbul, on 22 October, 2022