



OIC/CFM-49/2023/S&T/RES/FINAL

RESOLUTIONS

ON THE

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, HIGHER EDUCATION,
HEALTH, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTORS**

ADOPTED BY THE

49TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(MODERATION: KEY TO SECURITY AND STABILITY)

NOUAKCHOTT, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA
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**RESOLUTION NO.1/49-S&T
ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MATTERS**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Recalling the ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017 and the OIC 2025: Programme of Action adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016,

Recalling also the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31st May 2019,

Referring to the relevant resolutions adopted by the successive sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 1/48–S&T on Science and Technology Matters adopted by the 48th session held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022,

Referring also to the Astana Declaration adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology and the Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted by the Second OIC Summit on Science & Technology held virtually on 16 June 2021,

Reaffirming the commitment to work closely with General Secretariat, COMSTECH and other relevant OIC institutions to implement the initiatives approved by the First and Second OIC Summits on Science and Technology,

Appreciating the Republic of Kazakhstan for facilitating the Senior Officials Meeting preparatory to the Ministerial meeting of the OIC-15 Dialogue Platform held on 1-2 December 2022 at COMSTECH Secretariat- Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

Taking note with appreciation the efforts of the COMSTECH and the activities and programmes of ICESCO, SESRIC, IAS, IsDB and ICCI in the field of the development and promotion of science, technology and innovation in the OIC Member States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology; Higher Education; Health; and Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/49-CFM/2023/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Recognizes** that science, technology and innovation, including information and communication technologies, as well as capacity building, financing and technology transfer, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the OIC 2025: Programme of Action;
2. **Reiterates** its call to the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to take necessary measures for the implementations of the Matrix of Proposed Actions based on the programmes and activities adopted by the Second OIC Summit on Science & Technology and to actively support the collaborative efforts that these programmes require;
3. **Recognizes** the efforts of COMSTECH and other members of the *Steering Committee for the Implementation of OIC STI Agenda 2026* in preparation of a Matrix of Proposed Actions based on the programmes and activities adopted by the Second OIC Summit on

Science and Technology held virtually on 16 June 2021;

4. **Recognizes also** the efforts of COMSTECH in organizing the meetings of the *Steering Committee for Implementation of the OIC STI Agenda 2026* and in organizing a process for the review of the progress made by Member States in pursuing the goals of the STI Agenda 2026;
5. **Applauds** efforts of Pakistan and COMSTECH to hold on 28 September 2022 in Islamabad the 31st Executive Committee Meeting of COMSTECH;
6. **Welcomes** the offer of Kazakhstan to host, in 2023, the first Meeting of the Ministers of OIC-15 Dialogue Platform and **Calls upon** concerned OIC Member States to actively participate in the said meeting;
7. **Mandates** the General Secretariat and COMSTECH to actively coordinate with the Government of Kazakhstan for successful convening of the First Meeting of concerned Ministers of OIC-15 Dialogue Platform;
8. **Invites** Member States to increase national support for research, innovation and development of enabling technologies and **Calls upon** General Secretariat to establish necessary mechanisms for bringing together Government institutions, academia, and private sector to take part in these activities from basic research to implementation and commercialization;
9. **Calls upon** General Secretariat and other relevant institutions to arrange high level meetings of the expert in the field of energy with a view to facilitate the exchange of information, sharing know-how, technology, and best practices among OIC Member States with regard to developing and utilizing different energy resources;
10. **Encourages** the OIC institutions including the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), to coordinate their programmes and activities with General Secretariat with a view to achieve synergies and complementarities in pursuit of the STI-related objectives outlined in the OIC STI Agenda 2026 and Abu Dhabi Declaration;
11. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO.2/49-S&T
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Recalling the OIC 2025: Programme of Action, ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana in September 2017 and Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted by the Second OIC Summit on Science & Technology held virtually on 16 June 2021,

Recalling also to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Referring to the relevant resolutions adopted by the successive sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 2/48 – S&T on Higher Education Matters adopted by the 48th Session of CFM held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022,

Taking note of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Islamic Conferences of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, including those adopted by the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14-15 November 2016,

Acknowledging the contribution of Member States’ public and private universities to the OIC Educational Exchange Programme by offering scholarships at graduate, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral levels for the students of the OIC Member States,

Welcoming the signing, on 14th March 2022, of a Framework Agreement between the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Republic of Türkiye (YTB) and the OIC General Secretariat aimed at providing scholarships and promoting cooperation with the OIC Member States, particularly the least developed countries, in the field of higher education and scientific research,

Taking note of the signing, on 24th October 2022, of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OIC General Secretariat and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation to promote the development and consolidation of long-term and constructive relations in the fields of science and higher education,

Expressing appreciation for the contribution of the OIC affiliated/subsidiary universities i.e. Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Bangladesh; Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU); Islamic University in Niger (IUN); and International Islamic University in Malaysia (IIUM) in promoting higher education, research and development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water related issues and Environment Sectors (OIC/49-CFM/2023/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Reiterates** its call for the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to continue and further strengthen their programmes and activities in the domain of higher education, including efforts for improvements in curricula, faculties, networking among higher education institutions, promotion of joint research projects, distance learning arrangements, scholarship programmes and vocational training programmes;

2. **Encourages** Member States to accord due priority to higher education; and **Emphasizes** the importance of investing in accessible learning platforms, digital hybrid learning, including through safe, better, universal, affordable and equal access to the Internet, stronger parental or guardian support, targeted teacher capacity development programmes and the development of online learning platforms and resources;
3. **Invites** Member States to encourage their public and private sector higher education and research institutions to actively collaborate with the General Secretariat for further strengthening and promoting the OIC Educational Exchange Programme;
4. **Expresses** appreciation to the Member States that have generously offered scholarships through the OIC Educational Exchange Programme including Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Pakistan and Türkiye; and **Urges** all other Member States to do likewise;
5. **Takes note**, with appreciation, the offer of scholarships from Observer States including the constituent Turkish Cypriot State and the Kingdom of Thailand;
6. **Calls upon** the General Secretariat to mobilize, in coordination with interested Member States, OIC relevant institutions and international partners resources for making the OIC Educational Exchange Programme fully operational;
7. **Welcomes** the Framework Agreement signed between the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of The Republic of (YTB) and the OIC General Secretariat aimed, inter alia, to provide Scholarships and to promote cooperation with the OIC Member States the field of higher education and scientific research; and **Calls upon** concerned parties to take the necessary steps for its implementation;
8. **Endorses** the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OIC General Secretariat and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation to promote the development and consolidation of long-term and constructive relations in the fields of science and higher education;
9. **Calls upon** the General Secretariat and other relevant OIC institutions to organize regular meetings between the leading universities of the Member States with an aim of strengthening their collaboration geared towards supporting research partnerships, sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices;
10. **Appreciates** the efforts of relevant OIC institutions for promoting and advancing higher education in Member States, including ISF's annual grants to IUIU and IUN and IsDB's and ISESCO's support for OIC universities as well as their respective programmes;
11. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3/49-S&T
ON
HEALTH MATTERS**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Recalling the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) 2014-2023 adopted by the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) held in Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2013,

Referring to the relevant resolutions adopted by the successive sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) including Resolution No. 3/48–S&T on Health Matters adopted by the 48th Session of CFM held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022,

Referring further to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) including those adopted by the 7th ICHM held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 15-17 December 2019,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the extraordinary meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health at the level of Ministers of Health and extraordinary meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the level of Foreign Ministers held on 09 and 22 April 2020 respectively to share knowledge and information about COVID-19 and to formulate a collective response to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic,

Recognizing that COVID-19 has highlighted how unprepared the world and the Member States, in particular, were to face a pandemic of such magnitude and demonstrated the vulnerability of national health systems in ensuring continuous access to essential health services amid such emergencies,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of many Member States to emergencies from multiple hazards including disease outbreaks and natural disasters, and noting with particular concern the multiple protracted conflicts and subsequent humanitarian crises across the OIC Member States that have caused major health system disruption and posed enormous obstacles to universal health coverage and health security,

Recognizing that many Member States are reviewing their health systems to develop new strategies toward the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and are incorporating a “build back better” approach,

Appreciating the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for the successful organization of the Second Meeting of Heads of National Medicine Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs), held in Istanbul on 5-7 September 2022 under the theme “Access to safe, effective and quality medicine and vaccine in OIC Member States”,

Appreciating also the Government of Malaysia for organizing a Training Programme on thematic area three of the OIC SHPA on Maternal, New-born, and Child Health and Nutrition held virtually on 23-24 November 2022,

Commending the Government of the United Arab Emirates for organizing the Fourteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee on Health (SCH) on February 06, 2022, at the Headquarters of the OIC’s General Secretariat,

Acknowledging the essential role of international partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; in the provision of funding to eligible Member States to scale up programme specific priority services and health system strengthening,

Noting with appreciation the programmes and activities undertaken by the relevant OIC institutions including COMSTECH, SESRIC, IsDB and ICESCO in the domain of health,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment Sectors (OIC/49-CFM/2023/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Notes with concern** the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, occurrence of epidemics and other public health emergencies on vulnerable populations in the Member States, who already experience a large burden of disease and are exposed to multiple public health risks;
2. **Recognizes** the need to strengthen integrated disease surveillance as an integral part of building resilient health systems that can better address the potential impact of pandemics, epidemics and other health emergencies;
3. **Commends** the Member States for the measures they are taking to harness the experience of the heightened global awareness of infection prevention and control and investments made during the COVID-19 pandemic for sustained improvements in infection prevention and control;
4. **Welcomes** the initiative of the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to proclaim March 2nd of each year a “Health Martyr Day”, as a token of gratitude to all those who lost their lives while performing their lofty mission to serve Mankind and preserve human health in all conditions and circumstances; Recommends that the “Health Martyr Day” item be included on the agenda of the next “Islamic Conference of Health Ministers” for consideration and adoption; ADOPTS this initiative at the level of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and Encourages scaling up this initiative to be an initiative at the level of OIC Member States and also at the global level, which will perpetuate the great role performed by all health workers, serve as a source of pride for all those working in the health sector, and eternalize health martyrs as true examples of devotion and selflessness”;
5. **Calls upon** the Member States to coordinate their efforts with the respective Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs) for the OIC SHPA thematic areas in ensuring safe functioning of the health system in all relevant aspects necessary for an effective public health response to the ongoing epidemics, and the uninterrupted and safe provision of population and individual level services, for, among others, communicable diseases, including by undisrupted vaccination programmes, neglected tropical diseases, non-communicable diseases, mental health, mother and child health;
6. **Expresses** its appreciation for the support extended by Member States and relevant OIC institutions to the most vulnerable countries particularly OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which included the provision of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and personal protective equipment either bilaterally or through generous contribution to the existing international initiatives;

7. **Requests** the General Secretariat in coordination with interested Member States, relevant OIC institutions and international partners to facilitate resource mobilization in support of national efforts especially those of the Least Developed Member States, in reviewing their health systems to develop new strategies toward the recovery phase of the COVID-19 and to ensure effective implementation of priority actions and progress towards achieving the health-related SDGs and health related objectives of OIC 2025: Programme of Action and OIC STI 2026;
8. **Takes note** of the fact that despite multiple challenges related to COVID-19, conflict, drought and vulnerable populations in need of emergency assistance, the momentum to eradicate polio in the world's last endemic bloc – comprising Afghanistan and Pakistan remains strong due to the efforts of all the stakeholders including the Islamic Advisory Group (IAG), political commitment of the leaderships in the countries concerned and the international support towards this goal including the contribution of the United Arab Emirates to the polio elimination efforts in Pakistan in the form of a donation to the tune of USD 200 million, which is also acknowledged by the World Health Organization;
9. **Encourages** Member States and other stakeholders including IAG to continue their regional coordination and collaboration to support countries with continued endemic wild poliovirus transmission and countries responding to polio outbreaks; and to intensify solidarity and commitment to preventing and stopping all polio outbreaks in the region;
10. **Recognizes** the role of religious scholars and leaders in dealing with health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic; and **Commends** IAG's valuable efforts in raising community awareness about the importance of preventive health measures, advocating for vaccine equity, and promoting vaccine acceptance and supports its efforts for repositioning and expanding its scope to cover the African Sahel countries with its training/awareness activities;
11. **Takes note**, with concern, of the ever increasing burden of non-communicable diseases including cancer; and **Reiterates** its mandate to the General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States, relevant OIC institutions and international partners to organize High-level Seminars on promoting cancer awareness and advocacy programmes as well as to organize training programmes for radiation oncologists, radiation therapy technologists (RTTs) and medical physicists of the Member States;
12. **Commends** Morocco's hosting of the first African Conference of Health Harm Reduction, held in Marrakesh on November 16-18, 2022, organized by the Moroccan Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in partnership with the Moroccan Association of Addictive Medicine and Associated Diseases (MAPA); **WELCOMES** the Conference's outputs and recommendations included in the "Marrakech Declaration", especially the establishment of an African charter for health harm reduction, which was officially launched in December 2022, in Casablanca, Morocco, with the aim of protecting health security and promoting quality healthcare for all citizens throughout the African Continent;
13. **Calls upon** Member States to continue according high priority to maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in their national agendas; and **Reiterates** its call to the General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States, COMSTECH, relevant OIC institutions, and international partners to hold training workshops for medical and community health workers of the Member States, in particular the Sub-Saharan Africa, in the field of Mother, Newborn and Child Health care (MNCH);

14. **Commends** Malaysia for successfully organizing a virtual training programme on thematic area three of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action regarding Maternal, Child and New-born Health and Nutrition; and **Encourages** other Lead Country Coordinators for SHPA thematic areas to organize capacity building programmes and other activities in the respective areas they lead;
15. **Welcomes** the efforts of some Member States that have developed their own vaccines; and **Encourages** Member States to take additional measures to develop national pharmaceutical industries to ensure adequate supply of essential medicines and vaccines and further develop public-private partnerships in the production of pharmaceuticals including vaccines to enhance their collective capacity;
16. **Encourages** Member States to further strengthen the ongoing cooperation amongst the OIC National Medicine Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) to build their regulatory capacities by organizing capacity building programmes;
17. **Expresses** thanks and appreciation for the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the Second Meeting of the Heads of National Medicines Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) on 5-7 September 2022; and **Encourages** Member States to implement the recommendations of the Meeting;
18. **Commends** the efforts by COMSTECH and the support of the IsDB for capacity building in various areas of health for African Member states. In particular, the conduct of trainings and equipment repair in ophthalmology, and cataract surgery campaigns conducted in Niger and Chad; and **welcomes** COMSTECH efforts for arranging neurology training for health professionals in Uganda, and the technician trainings in health for Somalia and Yemen;
19. **Welcomes** Kazakhstan's initiative to establish a special multilateral body at the UN – the International Agency for Biological Safety - announced at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, which will contribute to the prevention of biological threats and the exchange of data on dangerous diseases. In this context, it supports Kazakhstan's efforts in multilateral fora to enable an effective and substantial exchange of views with the involvement of experts from the OIC Member States and develop recommendations on practical implementation of the initiative with the goal of strengthening international cooperation in the field of biotechnology;
20. **Invites** the General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States, relevant OIC institutions and international partners to organize a workshop to consider the establishment of a consortium of research institutions of the Member States for strengthening vaccine production;
21. **Takes note** of the efforts being made to ensure effective functioning of the OIC Health Portal; and **Calls upon** the General Secretariat in coordination with SESRIC and other relevant OIC institutions, to upgrade the Health Portal into an institutional mechanism consisting of national experts and policy makers with an aim of knowledge sharing and coordination for better preparedness of public health institutions of the Member States as per the recommendations of the 2nd OIC Summit for Science & Technology;

22. **Calls on** the OIC General Secretariat to coordinate with interested Member States and OIC relevant institutions to convene OIC coordination meetings on health related issues at the margins of international fora, particularly the World Health Assembly with the aim of developing and sharing OIC unified positions on issues of common interest;
23. **Mandates** the Secretary General to consult with Member States to find a host for the Eighth Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) following the regret by the Republic of Maldives from doing from hosting the Conference;
24. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO.4/49-S&T
ON
ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Referring to objectives of the OIC-2025: Program of Action that are related to Environment, and Astana Declaration adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017,

Recalling the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Recalling further the relevant resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 4/46 – S&T on Environment Matters adopted by the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates on 1-2 March 2019,

Taking into account the resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers including the 8th session held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 2-3 October 2019 that, inter-alia, adopted Declaration on promotion of cultural and religious roles on the protection of environment and achieving sustainable development,

Welcoming the launch of UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with the aim of restoring the ecosystem worldwide,

Recognizing the gravity of the global climate change and its disproportionate impact on OIC Member States and appreciating the value of multilateral, collective and concerted action within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as the only means to address this truly global threat,

Commending the outcomes and achievements of the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt which included adoption of the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan "SHIP" as the main decision for guiding ambitious climate actions; the establishment of a fund for responding to loss and damage; and the launch of the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation initiative,

Commending the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its ‘10 Billion Tree Tsunami’ initiative to revive Forest and Wildlife resources in Pakistan,

Also commending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Middle East Green Initiative to restore an area equivalent to 200 million hectares of degraded land reducing 2.5 % of global carbon levels by planting 50 billion trees across the Middle East region,

Taking note of the initiatives taken by the Arab Republic of Egypt during the the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) in the period from 6-20 November 2022 in the domains of water and agriculture, adaptation, energy, hydrogen, biodiversity, sustainable transportation, and sustainable cities, which in turn contribute

to dealing with the climate crisis by finding innovative due to their centrality in achieving societal stability,

Welcoming the “Regional Ministerial Meeting on Environmental Cooperation for a better Future”, held on 12 July 2022 in Tehran, and calling Member States to strengthen collaboration to mitigate the climate change and natural disasters, including sand and dust storms, desertification and water scarcity,

Commending Malaysia for the Greening Malaysia Programme, including the 100 Million Tree - Planting Campaign 2020-2025,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of relevant OIC institutions including ISESCO, IsDB, COMSTECH and SESRIC in providing capacity-building and technology support to Member States in environment-related fields,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, and Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/49-CFM/2023/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Reaffirms** its commitment to the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of OIC fora including the 8th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 2-3 October 2019, regarding environmental protection and achieving sustainable development;
2. **Urges** the Member States to continue to incorporate environmental considerations in their developmental policies and to mobilize available financial and institutional resources needed for implementing national programs of environmental protection;
3. **Calls upon** the OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions to coordinate with competent international bodies, institutions, mechanisms and initiatives the matter of strengthening the Member States capabilities and skills on environmental issues through arranging workshops and training sessions; and supporting by that the Member States efforts to implement their commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), alongside with the matter of facilitating the Member States to get access to climate funds;
4. **Reiterates** its call to Member States to undertake consultations and coordinate their positions to effectively address challenges stemming from climate change and deteriorating environmental conditions, develop environmental policies and allocate necessary human, technological and economic resources for this purpose so as to make a unified, substantial contribution in these processes;
5. **Recognizes** the importance of facilitating the accelerated transition of the OIC Member States to a sustainable economy; and **urges** the OIC Member States to join the Green Bridge Partnership Program, adopted at the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2011, which will strengthen international cooperation by promoting technologies and best practices, business development and investment;
6. **Commends** the launch of the "Saudi Green Initiative", which aims to reach Carbon neutrality by 2060, and reduce Carbon emissions by 278 million tons annually by 2030, in order to achieve sustainability in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, increase reliance on clean energy, reduce Carbon emissions and combat climate change, in addition to raising the level of quality of life and protecting future generations. The Saudi Green Initiative also combines environmental protection, energy conversion and sustainability programs to

achieve a set of initiatives aimed at building a sustainable future for all. It also welcomes the Middle East Green Initiative, which is a catalyst for action and a framework for leading climate efforts within and outside the region;

7. **Further commends** the launch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the LINE city, which redefines the concept of urban development and what cities of the future should look like in an environment free of roads, cars and emissions, and will contribute to preserving 95% of NEOM lands for nature and will run on 100% renewable energy, and people's health and wellbeing will be prioritized over transportation and infrastructure, unlike traditional cities;
8. **Welcomes** the hosting by the United Arab Emirates of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) which would be held from 30 November to 12 December 2023. Also welcomes the hosting by the United Arab Emirates of the Eighth Session of the World Investment Forum of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in October 2023, a track focusing on promoting climate financing and investment, and the declaration of 2023 as Year of Sustainability under the theme Today for Tomorrow;
9. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to accord special attention to the promotion of cooperation among the Member States and related OIC institutions in areas such as environment protection, climate change, renewable energies and technology transfer;
10. **Calls on** the General Secretariat and COMSTECH to establish cooperation relations with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on the environment, renewable energies and related technologies;
11. **Calls on** the IsDB to put in place a capacity-building program for the OIC Member States to deliver on their commitment to climate change;
12. **Commends** the Arab Republic of Egypt for the successful hosting the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh; and Applauds the outcomes of the Conference which are of critical importance for addressing global issues, including climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;
13. **Urges** the OIC General Secretariat, OIC relevant institutions and international partners, as appropriate, to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the COP27 outcomes which, inter alia, include calling on international financing organizations and multilateral development banks to expand concessional financing tools, and urging the parties to accelerate the pace of emission reduction measures and to present ambitious plans to ensure synergy between national commitments and the Paris Agreement goals;
14. **Requests** the OIC General Secretariat to accord particular attention to tackling matters of Climate Change to make the OIC voice consistently heard in the relevant global foras;
15. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the updated status of implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO.5/49-S&T
ON
WATER RESOURCES RELATED MATTERS**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Referring the OIC 2025: Program of Action, that calls upon Member States to strengthen cooperation for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028,

Lauding Government of Senegal for hosting the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal on 21-26 March 2022 under the theme “Water Security for Peace and development”,

Referring to the ‘OIC STI Agenda 2026’ adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 September 2017 and the Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted by the Second OIC Summit on Science & Technology held virtually on 16 June 2021,

Referring to the relevant resolutions adopted by the successive sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) including Resolution No. 5/48–S&T on OIC Water related issues adopted by the 48th Session of CFM held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022,

Recalling further the resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water including that of the 4th session held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, in 2018 which adopted the Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision,

Acknowledging the efforts of the OIC relevant institutions including, COMSTECH, IsDB, ISESCO, IOFS and SESRIC in advancing the OIC agenda in the domain of water resource management,

Taking note of lack of financial means to build or upgrade the required infrastructure related to water services, such as supply, sanitation, treatment and water management and the need to increase both public and private investment towards overcoming water-related challenges within and among OIC countries, particularly in the Least Developed Member States of the OIC,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/49-CFM/2023/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Calls upon** General Secretariat and other relevant OIC institutions to work closely with the Member States to implement the recommendations of the Second Meeting of OIC Water Council held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt in October 2019 for addressing the challenges faced by Member States in water sector;
2. **Acknowledges** the importance of collaboration among the water-related institutes and training and research centers in the Member States to facilitate exchange of knowledge, collaborative research and best practices and **invites** the General Secretariat to arrange a meeting of these Centers of Excellences in coordination with other OIC Institutions and Member States;

3. **Appreciates** the role of the “Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award” in developing innovative and sustainable solutions to the problem of clean water scarcity in the world, and URGES research institutions and centers to contribute studies and innovative ideas to face this problem;
4. **Calls for** the strengthening of the Resource Mobilization Group as per the OIC Water Vision Implementation Plan to help to improve the capacities in Member States upon their request as appropriate;
5. **Appreciates** SESRIC for the publication of the OIC Water Report 2021 “Towards Sustainable Water Management” and for reactivating the web portal on water resources to highlight the success stories, case studies and other information about the water-related activities carried out by the Member States;
6. **Requests** all Member States to arrange in collaboration with General Secretariat , IOFS, COMSTECH and other relevant OIC institutions Capacity Building Workshops for water professionals of the Member States, , as well as arranging advocacy and public awareness events on increasing water use efficiency in agriculture;
7. **Calls** upon the General Secretariat to engage with other regional and international stakeholders, as appropriate, to establish institutional mechanisms to benefit from international best practices and capacity building opportunities in order to overcome shortage of technical resources by many OIC Member States;
8. **Reiterates** its call to the Member States to prepare and adopt national strategies and plans and align their implementation activities for the achievement of the water related SDGs particularly No. 6 and its targets as well as the objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water For Sustainable Development 2018-2028”;
9. **Calls on** the General Secretariat to engage with climate change and water research and training centers and institutes, as appropriate, to explore the impact of water scarcity on food security in the OIC Member States and submit the related findings to the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water ;
10. **Encourages** the Member States, in collaboration with the General Secretariat and other relevant OIC institutions to continue their efforts for pursuing integrated water resources management based on cooperation and partnerships at all levels, as well as to increase wider societal awareness of the need for water availability and accessibility and sustainable and resilient management of water resources;
11. **Encourages** the OIC institutions including the IsDB, international financial institutions, and other international partners to coordinate their efforts for providing further technical and financial resources to the OIC Member States, particularly the Least Developed OIC Countries and OIC countries facing water scarcity, for the effective implementation of OIC Water Vision;
12. **Highly appreciates** the efforts of OIC Central Asian countries to strengthen regional cooperation and dialogue including trans-boundary waters among riparian states to achieve mutual benefits;
13. **Calls on** the Member States to take tangible actions to cope with water-related challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, water related disasters, waterborne diseases, ets. Which seriously affect the OIC countries and to increase member countries’ capacities in this regard, Least Developed member countries in particular;

14. **Welcomes** the offer by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 5th Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water and **Calls upon** General Secretariat to actively coordinate with the Government of Saudi Arabia for successful convening of the Conference;
15. **Welcomes** the hosting of the World Water Forum 2024 by Indonesia under the theme “Water for Shared Prosperity” and acknowledges the importance of this Forum to provide a platform for collaboration to address global water challenges;
16. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the updated status of implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6/49-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (COMSTECH)**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Referring to the previous resolutions including Resolution No. 6/48-S&T on the activities of Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) adopted by the 48th session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022 (19-20 Shabaan 1443H),

Recalling the resolutions and recommendations of the successive meetings of the General Assembly of COMSTECH, including the 15th meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Recalling Astana Declaration adopted by the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology held in Astana on 10-11 September 2017 and the Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted by the Second OIC Summit on Science & Technology held virtually under the chairmanship of Government of the United Arab Emirates on 16 June 2021,

Appreciating the cooperation between Indonesia and COMSTECH in organizing training for researchers from OIC member states in vaccine production in Indonesia, in October 2022,

Also appreciating COMSTECH for its continuous role in coordinating the efforts of other OIC organs and specialized institutions in the implementation of the STI Agenda 2026, and further, for its efforts to initiate a process for assessment of the progress made by member states in science, technology and innovation, following the guidelines of the 2nd OIC Summit on Science and Technology virtually on 16th June 2021,

Expressing gratitude to the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, Chairman COMSTECH for his continuous support and dedication to the OIC agenda for the advancement of science and technology in the Member States,

Further Commending the efforts of COMSTECH to help the Member States, particularly the African LDCs, in the field of science and technology, higher education, health, environment, food security and water-related issues by providing fellowships, research grants, establishment of specialized laboratories, organizing trainings and workshops to further develop the capacity of Members; for providing opportunities to the researchers from Member States to interact with eminent scientists of the developed countries as well as within the OIC region,

Having considered the activity report of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH):

1. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to develop policy frameworks and take necessary measures for strengthening coordination among research institutions and universities in the OIC Member States for increased collaborative research, sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology;

2. **Appreciates** COMSTECH for coordination with the OIC Member States, General Secretariat and other relevant OIC organs to implement the OIC STI Agenda 2026 from the platform of the Steering Committee for the Implementation. Further appreciates it for the formation of Expert Groups to assess the progress made by member states in the various priority areas of Science, Technology, and Innovation;
3. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to further expedite the process of assessment by Expert Groups of the progress made by Member States in science and technology and to obtain their recommendations, so that the Member States may be advised accordingly to accelerate their efforts for the implementation of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 and the initiatives outlined in Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted by the 2nd OIC Summit on Science and Technology held in June 2021;
4. **Commends** COMSTECH for promoting international co-operation among scientific community of the OIC Member States by the formation of the Consortium of Excellence, for development of OIC Africa Program of Universities and by signing agreements and facilitating exchanges of experts and information with the international research institutes; and **Calls upon** COMSTECH to develop more linkages for the benefit of the scientists and researchers of the Member States;
5. **Further commends** COMSTECH for encouraging R&D through provision of research grants and awards, and for focusing on the development of innovative capacities and technology indigenization of member states through its Technology Portal, relevant workshops, technology exhibitions, competitions and institutional linkages; and **Calls upon** COMSTECH to continue with its Human Resource Development activities in partnership with other institutions and member states;
6. **Appreciates** COMSTECH efforts for activating the Inter-Islamic networks and **requests** the Member States hosting these networks to further enhance their support and ownership of the network activities;
7. **Appreciates** COMSTECH efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2nd STI Summit and the Dhabi Declaration in enhancing its focus on new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, digital technologies, distance learning, virology and vaccine development, through its fellowships, research grants, trainings, workshops, and online webinars and institutional linkages;
8. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to arrange meetings of Experts bringing together Member States, academia and, private sector for making necessary recommendations to increase intra-OIC cooperation for research and innovation in energy efficiency and technologies, including renewable energy and other enabling technologies from basic research to implementation and commercialization;
9. **Notes with appreciation** COMSTECH efforts to launch 5000 Digital Skill Fellowships, in collaboration with several virtual and technical universities in Türkiye, Iran, Pakistan and Indonesia, with the aim of making OIC LDC countries Youth competitive in international labour market;
10. **Expresses** profound gratitude to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its continued support and facilitation to the COMSTECH and **Requests** other Member States and relevant OIC institutions to generously support COMSTECH enabling it to expand its joint research activities and other for the scientific community of the Member States;

11. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO.7/49-S&T
ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC UNIVERSITIES**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Referring to the previous resolutions including Resolution No. 7/48-S&T on the activities of the OIC Universities adopted by the 48th session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022 (19-20 Shabaan 1443H),

Referring to resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research including the 8th held in Bamako, Mali, on 14-15 November 2016,

Acknowledging, with appreciation and profound gratitude, the continued support and assistance rendered by the Governments of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Niger and Uganda to the respective OIC universities,

Further expressing gratitude to the OIC Member States, relevant OIC institutions and other donors for their support and assistance including contribution to the establishment of relevant Waqf and other income generating projects to the OIC universities,

Taking note with satisfaction the progressive role being played by the OIC universities for the development of the human resources in various fields,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water related issues and Environment Sectors (OIC/49-CFM/2023/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Acknowledges** the role of the OIC universities in disseminating knowledge and research in the fields relevant to the needs of Member States and contributing the human resource development in the Member States concerned;
2. **Reiterates** its appeal to Member States to continue donating generously to the OIC universities including contributions to their respective waqf projects for further development of their academic programmes and infrastructure and addressing other specific needs;
3. **Commends** highly the annual grants by the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) to the Islamic university in Niger (IUN) and the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) and **encourages** ISF to continue such support for these universities;

Islamic University of Technology

4. **Commends** the progressive role being played by the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) for the development of the human resources of the Ummah in the fields of engineering, technology and technical education;
5. **Expresses** profound gratitude to the host country, Bangladesh in general and H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, in particular, for the continuing patronage of the university;

6. **Reiterates** its calls for the Member States to settle their current and arrear mandatory contributions to IUT; and **invites** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to contribute generously to the IUT Endowment Fund and the development of its infrastructure;
7. **Lauds** the fact that the Centre for Arabic Language and Islamic Studies (CALIS) has been established in the university with full funding from the Arabic Language Academy in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates;
8. **Takes note** of the steps taken to enhance the research activities of the university by introducing schemes like research seed grants, incentives for quality publications in indexed journals and for attending and presenting papers in reputed seminars and workshops;
9. **Advises** the university to design short courses and webinars, especially in the fields of the frontier, cutting edge and emerging technologies for the in-service professionals suiting the requirements of the Member States;
10. **Commends** the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) for their generous techno-financial assistance in setting up the Fabrication Laboratory (Fab-Lab) and training the trainers of the university;
11. **Notes** the gearing up of efforts for further internationalizing by increasing the number of the students and staff members from different Member States;
12. **Calls upon** the university to further strengthen efforts to translate meaningful cooperation under Memorandums of Understanding signed between IUT and other reputed Institutions as well as Industries;
13. **Appeals** to the member states to donate generously to the IUT endowment fund for granting scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships, establish research centres, strengthen library resources, set up new laboratories & workshops;
14. **Puts on record** the initiatives made by the university for the construction of infrastructure, within the purview of the proposed Master Plan for the next 50 years timeframe, including an academic building, a students' dormitory, an apartment building, a vertical extension of the existing female dormitory and development of laboratory facilities with a view to admitting 4,500 additional students in phases by an expansion of academic programmes;

Islamic University in Niger (IUN)

15. **Praises the role** of the Islamic Solidarity Fund of the OIC in granting continuous support to the University, amounting to (43) million US dollars over the past 30 years; And commends the settlement - by ISF - of the initial instalments of the University Waqf loan to the Islamic Development Bank, which amounted to (5.7) million US dollars;
16. **Takes note** of the completion of construction of the Commercial Centre project (University Waqf), which was financed by a loan granted by the Islamic Development Bank and guaranteed by the Islamic Solidarity Fund of the OIC and Commends this important achievement, and calls on Member States to donate to the University, to enable it settle the remainder of instalments to the Islamic Development Bank;
17. **Commends** the completion of construction of the King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Complex for girls, a donation from the King Abdullah International Foundation for

Humanitarian Work worth (65) million US dollars and handing over of the project to the University;

18. **Praises** the completion of establishing the College of Agriculture, Veterinary College, scientific Laboratories and the Library;
19. **Welcomes** the implementation of the strategic plan of the Islamic University in Niger (2015-2025), aimed at developing the University to the level of advanced higher education institutions;

Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)

20. **Expresses** thanks and gratitude to the Government of the host country, the Republic of Uganda, for the support it continues to render to IUIU including providing a Sovereign guarantee of the IsDB Loan for Phase II meant to help the University construct a Faculty of Engineering and Technology, one hostel, and a new Library;
21. **Commends** the university for developing its own Online Delivery e-Learning (ODeL) platform/system following the closure of all academic institutions due to COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda, and **Calls upon** Member States, relevant OIC institutions and philanthropists to give financial, material and human resource support to enable IUIU enhance its digital learning support platforms and technologies and continue to operate effectively even after the COVID 19 Pandemic;
22. **Commends** Islamic Solidarity Fund for the assistance it gives to IUIU on annual basis;
23. **Commends further** other OIC institutions, donors and philanthropists including SESRIC, IsDB, ICESCO, University of Lahore, Pakistan, Doctors Worldwide- Türkiye, and TIKA, AMAL Foundation of Malaysia, and the Habib Family in Jeddah; and **Calls upon** public and private sector institutions and universities to consider extending similar support to the IUIU in meeting its requirements;
24. **Encourages** the reactivation of the Reverse Linkage Project, which aims to increase the capacity of IUIU in the field of vocational training through promoting training for trainers (ToT) and supplying of fixtures and equipment for ToT programs in the areas of interest to local community and market, in cooperation with SESRIC, IsDB, ISMEK and TIKA;
25. **Takes note** of the Progress with regard to IsDB US\$14.58 million Istisna'a financing for construction of the Phase I of the new Waqf project for the University to be built in Kampala, Uganda, on the land donated by the Government of Uganda; and **Calls upon** Member States and OIC institutions to donate the funds needed for construction of the rest of the buildings of the Waqf project;
26. **Appreciates** the steady progress of the construction of the new university library using US\$ 973,644 donated by the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and **Calls upon** other Member States to give voluntary financial and material assistance towards the university's infrastructure development programme;
27. **Appreciates** the Member States including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Türkiye, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the State of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for the valuable support they give to IUIU such as seconding staff; provision of scholarships for staff development programme; and other forms of technical assistance and **Urges** other Member States to consider seconding academic staff to IUIU especially in medical and engineering fields;

28. **Appreciates** the joint efforts of COMSTECH and SMIIC in organizing an international training workshop of Halal Standards and Products Testing at International Islamic University in Uganda. This effort is leading to the establishment of internationally accredited halal products testing laboratory at the IUIU;
29. **Expresses**, with satisfaction, the steady increase in the number of students and expansion of facilities at IUIU and **Urges** the university to continue its efforts for providing educational opportunities for the Muslim communities in English-speaking African countries;
30. **Notes** the huge demand for medical professionals in Africa and **Calls upon** Member States, relevant OIC Institutions and other donors to extend financial and material assistance for the university to support newly started academic programmes of Bachelor Science in Nursing; Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences; and Bachelor of Public Health;
31. **Requests** Member States, OIC relevant institutions and individual philanthropists to continue providing sustainable financial support to IUIU to improve staff welfare and to enable the University to acquire the facilities they need to provide quality education to the youth of Africa;

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

32. **Encourages** IIUM to continue its support to the IUT, IUIU and IUN;
33. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 8/49-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC INSTITUTIONS
OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
HIGHER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Recalling Resolution No 8/48– S&T on the Activities of the OIC Institutions operating in the Fields of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment adopted by adopted by the 48th session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022,

Referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the adopted by the 14th Islamic Summit held in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 31 May 2019,

Commending SESRIC and Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), for their activities and programmes in the fields of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment,
The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

Appreciating the role of SESRIC in collating, processing and disseminating socioeconomic statistics including major indicators in the field of science and technology, education, health and environment for the utilization of OIC Member States,

Further appreciating SESRIC for preparing technical reports and studies on the issues pertinent to the Member States in several domains including Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health, Environment, and Water-related issues,

Acknowledging the various capacity building programmes, projects, and training activities initiated and conducted by SESRIC in the fields of science and technology, education, health, environment and water resources management,

Taking note of the report by SESRIC:

1. **Appreciates** SESRIC for regularly preparing the “Education and Scientific Development Report”, “OIC Health Report”, OIC Environment Report” and “ OIC Water Report” as technical background documents for the Islamic Conferences of Higher Education, Health, Environment and Water Ministers;
2. **Takes note with appreciation** of the study prepared by SESRIC titled “Statistical Evaluation of the Current Situation of OIC Countries Towards the Implementation of the OIC STI Agenda 2026” which evaluates the progress of the Member States vis-à-vis the 12 priorities of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 based on most recent available data;
3. **Further appreciates** SESRIC for continuing to host the (i) OIC Health Portal, which acts as the main information-sharing platform for the OIC efforts in the health area and a communication facilitator among the partner institutions in the implementation of OIC-SHPA; and (ii) SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries, which has the objective of raising public awareness and offering policy makers with a tool to guide their ongoing efforts in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic;

4. **Commends** SESRIC for regularly making presentations during OIC fora on major health, education, science & technology, water and environment issues in high-level meetings to facilitate the technical discussion and policy dialogue;
5. **Calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively contribute and participate in the various capacity-building training programmes and activities of SESRIC in the domain of health organized by the SESRIC within the framework of its IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB), Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and Tobacco-Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB);
6. **Commends** SESRIC for its active role and contribution to the Reverse Linkage Project on “Earthquake Seismological Research” between Pakistan and Türkiye;
7. **Stresses** the importance of the capacity-building programmes and training activities conducted by SESRIC in different fields tailored to the specific needs of the Member States and aimed at matching the needs and capacities of relevant national institutions working in the domain of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), health, water resources management and environment through various modalities, and **calls upon** the Member States to fully benefit from these programmes by responding to the relevant questionnaires;
8. **Commends** the efforts of SESRIC towards the implementation of the OIC Water Vision through developing an OIC Portal on Water Resources and implementing capacity building training activities within the framework of its Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) with the aim of facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices among the Member States in the domain of water;

Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS)

Noting that the IAS is an international forum of the science community of the OIC that is actively raising the profile of science and science education and promoting networking in OIC countries as well as with the international science community,

Commending the IAS for organizing the 22nd scientific conference titled “Landscape of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Islamic Countries” under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, virtually on December 1, 2020,

Further Commending the IAS for organizing a conference on Biodiversity on 1st April 2021, under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, IAS Founding Patron, and in cooperation with COMSTECH. The conference aimed to raise awareness of Islamic Countries of the global international frameworks and protocols governing access to genetic material and enabled active participation of OIC Member States in further understanding the article of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD),

Appreciating the IAS for organizing two series of webinar sessions on Agriculture production and food security under COVID-19 pandemic (4 sessions) and Nanotechnology (4 sessions) and a joint webinar with Turkish Academy of Sciences TUBA on Biodiversity on 25 September 2021

Acknowledging the publication of the Medical Journal of the IAS as a unique open-source medium for medical research community in the OIC and internationally; and recognized by the WHO Index Medicus, the Turkish Citation Index as well the OIC 's Islamic World Science Citation Center,

Lauding the IAS for its outreach activities with the Inter Academy Partnership (IAP), the International Union of Academies (IUA), Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology (Morocco), the International Science Council (ISC) and the Sustainable Health Equity Movement (SHEM),

Taking note of the report of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS);

1. **Commends** the IAS for successfully concluding its 23rd IAS Conference titled “Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) under Ever Changing Global Events” held 18-19 October 2022 in collaboration with the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology, under the patronage of His Majesty King Muhammad VI of Morocco;
2. **Requests** the IAS to hold webinars on climate change and its impact on agriculture, water, health and biodiversity and to convene virtual training session in 2023 on entrepreneurship and nanotechnology;
3. **Requests** the IAS, with the help and support of the relevant OIC and UN agencies, to publish reports on the STI landscape of OIC countries;
4. **Requests** the IAS to continue to build up its Internal-based visual database of scientific lectures and symposia for the benefit of scientists, scholars and researchers from the OIC and internationally;
5. **Requests** the IAS to maintain the Medical Journal of the IAS and to seek the support of all relevant OIC agencies to strengthen the Journal further;
6. **Requests** the IAS to provide all possible assistance to OIC countries in formulating their national STI policies, in founding their national academies of sciences, and in developing their science advice system;
7. **Requests** the IAS to encourage and support OIC countries in developing their national innovation dashboards; and for the purpose seek the support and collaboration of all relevant OIC agencies;
8. **Urges** the IAS to further strengthen its activities in all domains pertinent to its mandate and responsibilities.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9/49-S&T
ON
MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE SAND AND DUST STORMS IN
SOME MEMBER STATES**

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Referring to the objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation where it demands the Member States to Endeavour to protect and preserve the environment,

Having considered the OIC-2025: Program of Action calling upon Member States to coordinate their environmental policies and positions in international environmental fora so as to prevent adverse effects of such policies on their economic development; and the OIC STI Agenda 2026 which identifies issues pertaining to environment and climate change as one of the priorities,

Recalling further article 3 of the Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development, ratified by Islamic Environment Ministers in Jeddah, on 10-12 June 2002, where it names the environment a gift from Allah and calls upon all individuals and communities to take care of it and promote it,

Having considered UNGA resolutions : A/ RES/70/195 entitled " combating sand and dust storms, A/ RES/ 71/219 entitled " combating sand and dust storms " , A/ RES/72/225 entitled " combating sand and dust storms " , A/RES/77/171 entitled " combating sand and dust storms, E/ESCAP/ RES/72/7 entitled " Regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific, UNEA resolution UNEP/ EA.2/RES.21 on dust and sand storms and ESCAP/78/12/Add.1 entitled " Regional Plan of Action on sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific " ,

Emphasizing the adverse effects of severe and long-standing drought and implications of climate change, in the shape of dust and sand storm in certain Member States, with a special focus on implementing the “Regional Plan of Action on sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific” of ESCAP,

Further taking into account the final report of the Fourth Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for Environment which, among other things, calls on Member States competent authorities to redouble efforts and better coordinate actions to meet the new challenges posed by climate change and deterioration of environmental situation including desertification,

Recalling Resolution No. 9/47-S&T on Mainstreaming Efforts to Combat the Sand and Dust Storms adopted by the 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in *Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 27-28 November 2020 (12-13 Rabi al Thani 1442H)*,

Welcoming the UNEP initiative of Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms including Ministerial Meeting held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 and the Technical Meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 6-7 May 2013, attended by more than 50 countries, relevant UN agencies, regional organizations and other participants,

Welcoming further the International Workshop on Sand and Dust Storms organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Türkiye in Istanbul on 23-25 October 2017, in cooperation with Secretariat of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification, UNEP and WMO,

1. **Expresses** concern over the unprecedented wave of sand and dust tempests and for the considerable losses they have been causing in desert areas in the Member States in both Asia and Africa;
2. **Welcomes** the International Coalition for coordinated action on Sand and Dust Storm launched at United Nations Convention to Combat of Desertification (UNCCD) COP 14 on 6 September 2019;
3. **Welcomes** the first international conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3-5 July 2017, in cooperation with UN agencies, and commends the work of the Islamic Republic of Iran to combat Sand and Dust Storms;
4. **Takes note** of the first international conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3-5 July 2017, in cooperation with UN agencies, and commends the work of the Islamic Republic of Iran to combat Sand and Dust Storms;
5. **Calls on** all the Member States affected in desert areas in Asia and Africa as well as relevant States Parties to engage in a conscientious and constructive dialogue to resolve this problem in an appropriate manner;
6. **Encourages** the relevant OIC Institutions to provide to the Member States capacity building, technical assistance and financial support to combat sand and dust storm;
7. **Appreciates** the participation of the OIC Member States in the UNEP regional project on catalyzing Cooperative Actions to Combat Land Degradation and Dust Storms under the UNEP initiative of Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms and **encourages** other OIC Member States to join the UNEP regional project;
8. **Also expresses** appreciation for the efforts to limit sandstorms and drought in states of the region under the umbrella of a programme developed by the World Meteorological Organization in the context of limiting the impact of climate change;
9. **Reiterates** its support for developing a collective regional mechanism for awareness raising early warning and risk management network enabling the affected countries preparedness and effective response to face the problem in a suitable manner;
10. **Calls upon** all international and regional environmental instruments and institutions, including ROPME, to seriously and rapidly address the issue in a holistic manner and to mobilize their resources, both technically and financially to assist the affected countries;
11. **Appreciates** the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with UNEP, UNDP and DESA for holding an international conference to combat sand and dust storms on 3-5 July 2017 based on UNGA resolutions;
12. **Invites** the Member States to contribute to the reforestation of desert zones in the OIC Member States, and to take firm measures against the abusive cutting of trees and bushfires;
13. **Further** invites the OIC Specialized Institutions such as Islamic Development Bank to take all appropriate measures to develop concrete projects for assisting the affected countries enabling them to overcome the disastrous effects of this phenomenon;
14. **Decides** to remain seized with the matter.

RESOLUTION NO. 10/49-S&T
ON
THE FORMER SEMIPALATINSK NUCLEAR TEST SITE AND THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS AND REHABILITATION OF
THE ARAL SEA REGION

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Taking into consideration UN General Assembly resolution 64/35 “International Day against Nuclear Tests” and also UN General Assembly resolution 63/279 “International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan”,

Taking into account the official document of the UN General Assembly No. A/68/686 title “Program of measures to eliminate consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea and prevent disaster of the ecosystem in the Aral Sea region”,

Recalling resolution No.4/33-S&T on environmental issues adopted by the 33rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, requesting the Islamic Development Bank and charity foundations of the Muslim countries to explore ways and means to evolve a programme providing support to the regions of the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk in coordination with existing international, regional and national programmes,

Expressing serious concern over the consequences of ecological problems of the Aral Sea and former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site,

Taking note of the ex-President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev’s decree of 29 August 1991, the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site had been shut down, having functioned from 1948 to 1991 and produced 456 nuclear tests,

Acknowledging that the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site remains an issue of serious concern for Kazakhstan, in view of its long term hazardous effects on the lives and health of the region’s inhabitants and the environment,

1. **Reiterates** its call upon Member States to observe the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August in order to increase awareness of the effects of nuclear weapons test explosions;
2. **Emphasizes** importance of implementation of the Third Aral Sea Basin Program-3 (ASBP-3) at the Donor Coordination Conference held on December 9, 2010, in Almaty, Kazakhstan in terms of environment protection;
3. **Supports** the activities of the Multi-partner Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the United Nations, aimed at developing international cooperation and mobilizing funds from the donor community to implement targeted projects to improve the environmental and socio-economic situation in the Aral Sea region;
4. **Highly appreciates** the implementation of the joint program of Uzbekistan and the United Nations titled “Building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through the Multi-partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea” aimed at improving the

welfare of the population through the creation of additional sources of income, improvement of healthcare system and development of infrastructure;

5. **Welcomes** the arrangements of the Council of the Heads of the State – Founders of International Fund for Saving of Aral Sea (IFAS), held in Turkmenibashi, Turkmenistan on August 24, 2018 that called for cooperation among IFAS Member States in the field of water resources management;
6. **Supports the initiative** of the Republic of Uzbekistan to declare the Aral Sea region a zone of environmental innovations and technologies; and welcomes the special resolution on the announcement of the Aral Sea region as the “Zone of Environmental Innovations and Technologies” adopted by the proposal of the Republic of Uzbekistan during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly;
7. **Calls on** OIC Member States and donors to actively engage in the implementation of targeted programs/projects in the Aral Sea region and the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site, providing financial and technical support for the implementation of specific investment projects;
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 11/49-S&T
ON
THE DECLARATION OF THE ARAL SEA REGION AS A ZONE OF ECOLOGICAL
INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES

The Forty-Ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Moderation: Key to security and stability) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 16 – 17 March 2023 (24-25 Shaaban 1444H).

Being guided by the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which encourage the adoption of measures aimed at improving living standards, reducing poverty, ensuring full employment, improving conditions for economic and social and development of the Islamic Ummah,

Recalling the report of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which provides information on the trends in advanced technologies and their impact on sustainable development, outlines the lessons learned and best practices from developing countries in capacity-building in science, technology and innovation, as well as the outcomes of the First Islamic Summit on Science and Technology (Astana, September 10 – 11 2017) and 2nd Islamic Summit on Science and Technology (Abu Dhabi, June 16, 2021), which have a special consideration to the necessity to develop science, technology and innovation as a sustainable development factor at the national, regional and global levels,

Recalling paragraph 36 of the Niamey Declaration adopted at the 47th OIC Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Niamey, Republic of Niger, November 27-28, 2020), which states that in the face of the environmental depletion, the increasing challenges of the protection and conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, there is a need for the large-scale scientific research and experiments in a wide range of environmental research areas,

Recalling Resolution No.9/48-S&T on Mainstreaming Efforts to Combat Sand and Dust Storms in Some Member States, which calls upon all Member States affected in desert regions of Asia and Africa to engage in a good-faith and constructive dialogue to address this issue in an appropriate manner,

Recalling Resolution No.10/48-S&T on the Former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site and the International Day against Nuclear Tests and Rehabilitation of the Aral Sea Region, which supports the activities of the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region under the auspices of the United Nations, commends the implementation of the UN-Uzbekistan Joint Program “Building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through the Multi-Partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea”,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/278, adopted on May 18, 2021, on declaring the Aral Sea region a Zone of Ecological Innovations and Technologies, as well as United Nations Resolution 75/266 of March 3, 2021 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Resolution 74/229 of December 19, 2019 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, Resolution 72/283 of June 22, 2018 on strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian Region, Resolution 74/214 of December 19, 2019 on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia, Resolution 70/1 “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” of September 25, 2015, which were supported by all OIC Member States,

Considering that the scientific-technological progress and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play a vital role in the development and in facilitating efforts to address the global problems, for example, the efforts to protect the environment, accelerate economic diversification and transformation, as well as to increase productivity and competitiveness and ultimately support sustainable development, considering also that cooperation and interaction with developing countries in the field of science, technology and innovation, as well as foreign direct investment in developing countries and trade with and between developing countries are fundamental to enhancing their ability to create, receive, understand, select, adapt and use scientific, technical and innovative knowledge,

Taking into account that the negative humanitarian, environmental and socio-economic consequences of the Aral Sea Basin tragedy go far beyond the region and represent a global problem,

Noting the establishing of a Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region under the UN auspices, a fund designed to overcome the negative circumstances of the environmental disaster in the Aral Sea Region and implement projects to improve the socio-economic situation in the region,

Noting the creation of the International Innovation Center of the Aral Sea Basin under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the activities of which at the national level are aimed at improving the ecosystem and sustainable life in saline lands, as well as partnering with international organizations in the development and implementation of innovations and solutions to various problems in the saline environments of the drained bottom of the Aral Sea,

1. **Supports** the initiative to transform the Aral Sea Region from a zone of environmental crisis into a zone of environmental innovations and technologies;
2. **States** its support for ongoing regional activities and initiatives aimed at improving the environmental, social, economic and demographic situation in the Aral Sea Region;
3. **Encourages** the research and advisory activities for further rehabilitation and improvement of the quality of life of the population of the Aral Sea Region;
4. **Confirms** that the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea remains the main international institution, the purpose of which is to solve international economic, social or humanitarian problems in the Aral Sea Region and in the entire Aral Sea Basin, taking into account the interests of all countries in the region;
5. **Invites** the Member States, funds, programs and institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to conduct joint interdisciplinary research in a spirit of cooperation and carry out scientific and innovative cooperation in the Aral Sea Region with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, as well as in the framework of national initiatives such as the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea Region under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and create protective forest plantations on the drained bottom of the Aral Sea;
6. **Underscores** the importance of intensifying regional cooperation in the implementation of joint measures to overcome the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis and to stabilize the ecological situation in the Aral Sea Region, prevent further desertification and mitigate negative environmental and socio-economic consequences through the stable application of forest reclamation of sand formations on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea, which is subject to the processes of ash, salt and dust transfer, as well as the significance of

promoting the socio-economic development and adaptation to climate change, development of ecotourism and the implementation of other measures;

7. **Supports** the UN position on declaring the Aral Sea region a Zone of Ecological Innovations and Technologies and, in this regard, calls on the Member States and institutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement environmentally sound technologies in the Aral Sea Region, to promote a stable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth and use of energy and water saving technologies in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.