



**OIC/5-ICLM/2023/FINAL**

**REPORT  
OF THE  
5<sup>TH</sup> ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF LABOUR MINISTERS**

**BAKU, REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023  
9<sup>TH</sup> JUMADA AL AWAL 1445 H**

**REPORT  
OF  
THE FIFTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF LABOUR MINISTERS**

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) under the theme “*Innovative Solutions and Digitalization of Labour and Employment Services in OIC Member States*” was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023. The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), preparatory to the 4<sup>th</sup> ICLM, was held in Baku on 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023.
2. Ministers and Heads of Delegation from OIC Member States, OIC institutions, regional and international organizations participated at the Conference.

**OPENING CEREMONY**

3. Following the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur’an, H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abuthnain, Vice-Minister of Human Resources and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in his capacity as Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> ICLM, made his opening remarks, where he expressed appreciation for the support, which OIC Member States accorded his country during the tenure of Saudi Arabia as the Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> ICLM.

**ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

4. The Conference unanimously elected members of its Bureau as follows:
  - Chairman : Republic of Azerbaijan;
  - Vice Chairman : Republic of Cameroon;
  - Vice Chairman : Kingdom of Morocco;
  - Vice Chairman : State of Palestine;
  - Rapporteur : Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AZERBAIJAN**

5. The message of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was read out by Mr. Natik Amirov, Advisor to the President on Economic Reforms. In his message, H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, referred to the Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers, held on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in Baku, which welcomed his initiative to establish an OIC Labour Centre in Baku. In this regard, His Excellency the President commended the efforts of Member States towards operationalization of the OIC Labour Centre during this Conference. He stated that the Centre would play an instrumental role in enhancing collaboration among Member States in the domain of labor, employment and social protection. Emphasizing the importance of focusing on innovative solutions and digitizing the labour market and employment services, H. E. the President also highlighted the efforts of Azerbaijan to digitize social sphere with innovative approaches and modern technologies.

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

6. In his address as the Chairman of the 5<sup>th</sup> ICLM, H.E. Mr. Sahil Babayev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan, thanked Member States for the confidence reposed in his country to assume the Chairmanship of the 5<sup>th</sup> ICLM, emphasizing that Azerbaijan will consolidate on the gains realized during the previous meetings and confirmed his country's strong support in advancing intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection. He also highlighted the policy of the Government of Azerbaijan towards creating employment, especially for vulnerable groups, and improving social protection for all. He stressed his country's commitment to supporting the OIC Labour Centre to enable it fulfill its mandate for the mutual benefit of all OIC Member States.

**SPEECH OF OIC SECRETARY GENERAL**

7. In his speech before the Conference, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, the Secretary General of the OIC, congratulated the President of Azerbaijan and all Member States of OIC for the efforts towards the operationalization of the OIC Labour Centre which would further strengthen the existing cooperation among the Member States in crucial areas of labour, employment and social protection. Expressing appreciation to the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the headquarters of the OIC Labour Centre and allocating funds for its operation, called upon other OIC Member States to join the OIC Labour Centre by acceding to its Statute. Referring to the need to mainstream education, training and skills development of the labour force to improve skills and relevance, called upon the Member States to introduce targeted measures to address the needs of different groups in the labour market to meet the requirements of modern times.

**SIGNING OF THE STATUTE OF OIC LABOUR CENTRE**

8. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Republic of Iraq, State of Palestine, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of Uzbekistan, Burkina Faso, and Republic of Djibouti signed the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre on behalf of their respective Governments. With this signing, the total number of countries that have so far signed the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre became 16.

**MESSAGE OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL**

9. The Director General of the International Labour Organization, H. E. Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, in his video address to the Conference, welcomed the establishment of the OIC Labour Centre in Baku as a significant achievement. In this context, he emphasized the role of the OIC in promoting dialogue and cooperation among its Member States to address the challenges of unemployment and social protection. He looked forward to cooperate with the OIC and its Member States in areas of mutual interest to secure a better and safer future for all.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

10. The Conference adopted the Agenda, which is attached hereto as *Annex I*.

## **VIDEO PRESENTATION ON DOST CENTRE**

11. The meeting received a video presentation on the activities of the DOST Centre established to provide innovative digital services on employment and social protection in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan indicated its readiness to share their experiences with interested OIC Member States.

## **PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SOM**

12. The Chairman of the SOM, preparatory to Ministerial Session, H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, presented the report of the SOM, held in Baku on 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023. The Meeting accepted the report of the SOM, which is attached as *Annex II*.

## **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION**

13. The participating Ministers and Heads of Delegation addressed the Conference on their national experiences on digitalization of employment and social services, improving employability, increasing productivity, welfare and social protection of workers, skills development and training systems, occupational safety and health, youth and women employment, employing people with disabilities and special needs, and movement of workers within OIC Member States, among others.
14. They also spoke on the ongoing crisis in Gaza, which has devastating implications on the labour market, employment prospects and livelihoods in the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory and has resulted in loss of more than 60 percent of the employment opportunities in the Gaza Strip since the start of the crisis. Member States called for full liberation of Palestine, extending support to the State of Palestine to address the grave consequences of the Israel criminal aggression on the Palestine including unemployment, worsening economic conditions and devastated economic infrastructure. They also urged for carrying out an investigation into the flagrant violation of the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian workers, and holding Israel accountable for its war crimes against the Palestinian people.
15. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation also emphasized the role of employment policies to harness the potential of digitalization to contribute to employment generation and improving employment quality and productivity, while also addressing the challenges. The interventions indicated that diverse policies have been introduced in various Member States to ensure the quality of employment, while addressing concerns regarding occupational safety and health standards, social security, and regulation of work. Different skills training programmes and initiatives have also been launched in Member States to target women, young people and marginalized social groups. Aligning the educational institutions curricula to the developing and changing needs of the labour markets, and designing adequate vocational training programs were also highlighted during the interventions.
16. The need to develop joint policies that foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and the growth of small to medium enterprises as well as adaptation of innovative practices contributing to both employment and sustainability were emphasized by the

delegations. Adopting a comprehensive approach to integrate job creation, ensuring rights, maintaining dialogue and social protection to ensure inclusivity for all segments of society were among the other highlights of the interventions.

17. A number of OIC Member States in Sub-Saharan Africa highlighted their efforts towards building resilience in the fight against terrorism, as well as in preserving their territorial integrity and independence, while reiterating the importance of promoting employment in this region, especially for youth.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ICLM**

18. The Conference requested the esteemed OIC Member States to communicate their desire to host the Sixth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers in 2025 to the General Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION**

19. The Conference unanimously adopted the Resolution on the Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection among the OIC Member States, which is attached as *Annex III*.

#### **VOTE OF THANKS**

20. Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed deep appreciation to His Excellency, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his continued support and high patronage of the Conference. They also expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegates and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the Conference.
21. The Conference also commended the OIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha for his sanguine efforts towards the realization of the objectives of the Conference.
22. At the end of the proceedings, the Conference congratulated H.E. Mr. Sahil Babayev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan, on his chairmanship of the Conference and commended his enormous contribution to the success of the Conference.

**Adopted in Baku,  
23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023**