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THE OIC - 2025

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

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PROGRAMME OF ACTION

INTRODUCTION

1.   The OIC-2025: Programme of Action has been developed on the basis of the vision and principles as enshrined in the Charter of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The directions contained in various declarations, agreements, conventions and resolutions adopted by the OIC fora provide the necessary framework to the development paradigm pursued in this Programme of Action. This document marks the second phase of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) that was initiated in 2005.

2.   Essentially, the goals under various priority areas have been inspired by the overarching Charter principles aimed at promoting and consolidating unity and solidarity among the OIC Member States as they seek to pursue their common interests at the international fora. The Charter upholds the need to preserving and promoting the lofty Islamic values of peace, compassion, tolerance, justice and human dignity as we strive to revitalize Islam's pioneering role in the world and ensure sustainable development, progress and prosperity for the peoples of the Member States.

3.   Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories is a core issue for the OIC. Ending this occupation and securing a comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and other international and regional instruments and initiatives, therefore, remains high on the OIC agenda.

4.   The OIC resolutions and decisions on Jammu and Kashmir, Nagorno-Karabakh, Cyprus, Kosovo and Bosnia, and its resolute support for all efforts aimed at ending the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and Libya as well as its active involvement in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Mali and Cote D'Ivoire, in accordance with its Charter, manifest the relevance of OIC in addressing the challenges faced by the Ummah, including the situation of Muslim communities and minorities in non- Member States.

5.   In the same vein, the Charter accords priority attention to science, technology and innovation, promotion of the rights of women and the creation of conducive conditions for sound

upbringing of children and the youth in an environment free from all forms of intimidation, religious or cultural discrimination.

6.   Development cannot take place in isolation and requires peace as an essential pre-requisite for any progress to be sustainable and meaningful. Hence, the need to address the developmental constraints, created by the multiplicity of inter and intra-state conflicts in some Member States. The OIC has been working assiduously to promote global peace and security and deploying considerable measures to promote intra-OIC trade, investment, Islamic social finance and various other instruments. Likewise, its role as an effective partner in fostering peace and security at national, regional, and international levels in the last four decades holds a promise for the OIC to act as an agent for peace and development in the Muslim world and beyond.

7.   The stature and influence of any organization is dependent on its relevance to the people. Every success, no matter how small, in bringing about a change in the lives of the people adds to the organization's credibility and commensurately enhances its influence. The OIC's agenda and scope of its work, too, has expanded manifolds from a predominantly political domain, to include many new areas of immediate concern relating to human development and well-being. These include socio-economic empowerment, health, good governance, human rights, water and sanitation, to name a few.

8.   The OIC Member States share cultural values and beliefs, and are bound together through unshakable faith in the spiritual, moral and socio-economic values of Islam. Their common creed, shared aspirations, common challenges and development status make a strong argument for collaboration among themselves. Joint Islamic Action, therefore, remains an essential element of the OIC's framework of cooperation and development. In today's globalized world, however, many of the contemporary challenges of poverty, disease, environmental degradation, food security, transnational crime, terrorism and alike, necessitate collective responses at the global level. Accordingly, the OIC's strategic vision recognizes the centrality of cooperation and partnership at regional, sub-regional and international levels.

9.   The OIC - 2025: Programme of Action manifests a renewed commitment by the OIC Member States, all institutions in the OIC system, international partners and other stakeholders to working together for a better tomorrow. The goals identified for the next decade (2016-2025) include those on which the work is in progress and also those emerging out of political and

economic developments in the world. In any case, development goals tend to be visionary in character and act as pathfinders. Modalities and means to achieve the goals may undergo change to suit the varying scenarios but the goals of yester years continue to hold good. Meanwhile, the current international efforts towards determining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also have a bearing on the goal posts of the OIC agenda. However, the issues that are of particular interest to the OIC Member States form the core of the OIC-2025.

10.   The Resolution 1/41 on the Status of Implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted by the 41st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Jeddah, 18-19 June 2014) and the Secretary General's Report on the subject set out the contours of this Programme of Action. Pursuant to the said resolution, inputs were invited from all the OIC institutions for the development of this document. It has been revised and updated following the Consultative Meeting of the OIC Institutions convened for this purpose at the General Secretariat on 7-8 December 2014. The OIC Inter-governmental Experts Group held three Meetings in addition to two rounds of Informal Consultations among Member States during 2015 to finalize the Program of Action.

11.   The OIC-2025: Programme of Action is divided into an Introduction and two other sections. Section 1 discusses the rationale for the selection of eighteen domains as priority areas for the 'OIC – 2025'. Section 2 outlines the principles that guided the development of the OIC-2025 and defines the strategic goals under each priority area, which are based on the resolutions adopted by the relevant OIC organs and institutions. Following the adoption of the OIC – 2025: Programme of Action, the General Secretariat, in consultation with the relevant OIC organs, including the Standing Committees and other stakeholders, will propose an implementation plan for each sector to the Member States for their consideration and adoption.

1. PRIORITY AREAS

1.1   Palestine and Al-Quds

12.   The Palestine issue remains the most prominent political challenge at both the regional and international levels. Indeed Israel, the occupying power, persists in defying the will of the international community through its forceful occupation of Palestine and Arab territories since 4th June 1967, and violating international law, international conventions and UN Resolutions.

13.   Israeli authorities constantly pursue to forcibly alter the geographic and demographic character of the land and demographic reality through its prejudicial and unilateral actions of land annexation, home demolition, ethnic cleansing, settlement construction, the judaization of the city of Al-Quds and its isolation from its Palestinian environs. Therefore, it continues to deny the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and carry out unilateral acts that undermine reaching a just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian issue.

14.   Against the backdrop of this thorny situation, the goals set forth in the document illustrate the OIC's anticipated role in defending the just cause of Palestine and extending support for the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and to achieving sovereignty by establishing an independent Palestinian State on the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

1.2   Counter-terrorism, Extremism, Violent Extremism, Radicalization, Sectarianism, & Islamophobia

15.   The rise of terrorism, extremism, violent extremism, radicalization, sectarianism, and Islamophobia figure high among the factors threatening international and regional peace, security and stability.

16.   The legacy of historical injustices done to people colonized or under occupation, and the forced dismantling of their identity and culture, economic deprivation, marginalization, discrimination and the denial of right to self-determination are among various causes leading to the spread of extremism, violent extremism, and terrorism. The Organization is overly concerned that a growing number of its Member States have been victim of heinous terrorist acts for long and recognizes that terrorism cannot be tackled by security or military means alone. Such acts are blatantly against Islamic and universal human values and require a comprehensive solution consistent with the OIC Charter, relevant convention and other international agreements and mechanisms.

17.   The rise of Islamophobia has subjected Muslims to racial profiling and discrimination, negative stereotyping and stigmatization. As a result, Muslims, both indigenous and immigrants, have developed feelings of insecurity in their daily lives and face denial of their basic human rights.

1.3 Moderation, Cultural and Interfaith Harmony

18.   Inter-cultural and interfaith dialogue has been a priority for the OIC in developing a culture of peace and moderation among nations and civilizations. Promoting interfaith harmony remains at the heart of cultural diplomacy of the OIC.

19.   The intercultural dialogue is also an effective tool for combating extremism and intolerance that impede development of a culture of peace and understanding. Such a dialogue needs to be structured and conducted in a manner that reaches the grass roots of society for wider acceptance and deeper impact.   The growing dissension among the followers of different Madhaheb (Schools of Thought) is adding to the fragmentation of society and calls for strengthening of dialogue and consultations among the religious scholars. In this regard, the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to establish King Abdullah Bin Abdelaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna and its activities have been of critical importance in promoting interfaith and interreligious dialogue and harmony. Dialogue makes people more connected, and raises awareness among them of the dangerous implications of hatred, discrimination and violence against people based on their faith, culture and religion.

20.   The primary target and victim of religious and faith-based intolerance has been Islam and the Muslims in particular in some Western societies. The issue has also been on the agenda of the United Nations and other international organisations for some time now. However, to achieve concrete results, it requires sustained and additional efforts on the part of the international community and political commitment on the part of the OIC Member States. In this regard, the OIC in cooperation with Western Countries started the Istanbul Process as a result of the consensually adopted Resolution 16/18 by the Human Rights Council in March 2011. This resolution underscores importance of the responsible use of freedom of speech/expression that does not incite hatred, discrimination and violence based on one's religion or beliefs. This process remains important with a view to achieving the required limitation on the use of freedom of expression within the boundaries prescribed in internationally agreed instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

1.4 Peace and Security

21.   Since its inception in 1969, the OIC has been working assiduously to promote global peace, stability, harmony, security and development. Today, several conflicts and trouble spots are situated in the Muslim world which call for enhancing the role of the Organisation as an effective partner in fostering peace and security at international level. Accordingly, the OIC has been developing mechanisms for effectively addressing important matters concerning peace and security, conflict prevention, mediation, and peaceful resolution of conflicts. Alongside, strengthening the existing mechanisms for the purpose of capacity building of the OIC personnel is necessary in promoting negotiating skills, election monitoring and other related subjects.

22.   Among the gravest threats to international and regional peace, security and stability are the long-standing unresolved conflicts in the Muslim world. As an intergovernmental organisation which acts as the collective voice of the Muslim world, the OIC has a major role to play in facilitating peaceful and just resolution of international disputes involving Muslim peoples, including the Palestinians and the Kashmiris, in a manner that ensures peace building and peace keeping. The Organisation's stature and influence rest heavily on the fundamental principle of Islamic solidarity and fraternity, which brings together the Ummah to strive for the common good. Promoting the welfare of Muslim communities and minorities also remains high on the OIC's agenda for promotion of peace, harmony, and stability.

1.5   Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability

23.   Ozone depletion, loss of diversity, depletion of natural resources and desertification has played an important role in environmental unsustainability. Global warming and climate change is one of the most serious threats to the global environmental sustainability today. Abnormal weather conditions and the unexpected natural disasters such as floods, droughts, dust and sand storms cause death or displacement of many people especially the poor. Furthermore, the rising sea level is an imminent threat for many Member States including the Island States. All OIC Member States are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, the climate – related hazards may vary among the Member States according to their geographic location, degree of reliance on agriculture and adaptive capacities. It is important that all Member States intensify their efforts to address environmental degradation and climate change and pursue a multidimensional approach including utilizing relevant institutions and strengthening cooperation among themselves. Similarly, it is important that sustainable development with its three dimensions, social, economic and environmental, is pursued earnestly and climate change measures are integrated into national policies, strategies and planning.

1.6   Poverty Alleviation

24.   Over the last three decades, there has been great progress in poverty reduction. Robust economic growth, technological advances and globalization of trade and finance played a pivotal role in improving the living standards across the globe especially in the developing countries. Being a substantial part of the developing world, the OIC Member States also witnessed improvement as the proportion of total population living below the extreme poverty line of 1.25$ per day (US$ based on PPP) has declined from 41.1%[1] in 1990 to 22.4 % in 2011, corresponding to a decrease of 18.7 percentage points. However, despite these positive trends, poverty situation remained alarming in many OIC Member States, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

25.   Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and the result of a complex socio-economic and political structure of a particular country often with both internal and external causality connections. It is strongly related with hunger, malnutrition, diseases, illiteracy, and low quality

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[1] *Figures are based on SESRIC's staff calculations taken from sources, including FAO, UNSECO, ILO, UNCTAD, WB, IMF, WIPO, and WHO, among others.*

of life across the developing world. Hence, there is a need for formulating a comprehensive multi-dimensional approach, including the targeted government policies and actions, and contribution of other financial means, such as effective utilization of Islamic social finance (Zakat, Waqf) at national and intra-OIC level to address the problem of poverty in the Member States. Member States need to make active efforts to substantially increase investment in other Member States, particularly the LDCs.

1.7 <u>Trade, Investment and Finance</u>

26.   Greater cooperation in the trade, investment and finance sectors is essential for promoting sustainable development and improving economic wellbeing of people in the OIC Member States. A quick analysis of these sectors in Member States reveal a number of strengths and opportunities as well as some persisting weaknesses. In the area of trade, the size of intra-OIC trade relative to total OIC trade is the most commonly used measure for assessing the level of intra-OIC economic integration and cooperation. Yet, the progress in intra-OIC trade cooperation remains insufficient. The size of intra-OIC merchandise trade relative to total OIC trade was 15% in 2005 and it was recorded at 18.7% in 2013. If the level of trade cooperation is to reach desired levels, there is a need for quick operationalization of trade facilitation schemes such as the OIC Trade Preferential System (OIC-TPS), export credit and investment insurance as well as recognition of standards, technical regulation and conformity assessment procedures.

27.   Increasing inward FDI flows and the rising share of the Member States in global FDI flows is indicative of their growing attractiveness for foreign investors and improving domestic business environment. Furthermore, the external debt burden of the Member States, when measured relative to both their GDP and exports, has been on decline for several years, relieving the Member States from excessive burden of debt servicing, strengthening their international position and presenting opportunities for investment in domestic economy.

28.   Islamic finance sector, with accumulated assets of more than US$ 2 trillion by the end of 2014, still accounts for a tiny portion of global financial system. Inherent strengths of Islamic finance offer significant benefits in term of stability, development, inclusiveness and sustainability in economies where it is practiced. Its growth remains uninterrupted (on average around 20% per annum) amid on-going difficulties in the global financial system. The Member States hold a predominant share, which is in excess of 95%, in the global assets of Islamic finance.

1.8   <u>Agriculture and Food Security</u>

29.   The agriculture sector has critical importance for many Member States, especially for the least developed ones, as agricultural development is among the various prerequisites for economic development and provides livelihood for major part of the OIC population. The OIC Member States as a group are well-endowed with a diverse range of agriculture resources. Currently, they account for 28.8% of agricultural area of the world and 13.5% of the world total renewable water resources.

30.   Without enough and adequate food, it is not possible to climb the ladder of development. It is important to note that effective and sustainable agricultural management and policymaking could play a pivotal role in enhancing the development efforts of the Member States. There is also an obvious need to increase the development of water and sanitation infrastructure, and utilisation of modern technology to address the challenges of maximizing the productive use of water and minimizing its destructive impacts. Need for adopting measures to protect genetic biodiversity also remains high in the Member States.

1.9   Employment, Infrastructure and Industrialization

31.   As a group, the OIC Member States are well-endowed with potential economic resources in different sectors such as agriculture and arable land, energy and mining, human resources, and they form a large strategic trade region. Yet, this inherent potential does not manifest itself in the form of reasonable levels of economic and human development. Having accounted for 22.6 per cent of the world's total population in 2013, the 57 OIC Member States produced only 11.2 per cent of the world total GDP. Currently, average GDP per capita in the Member States is recorded at US$ 6,076 in 2013 which is US$ 1,234 and US$ 6,290 lesser than the other developing countries and world averages respectively. The average real GDP per capita growth rate in the OIC Member States was recorded at 1.8 per cent in 2013 compared to 2.2 per cent in the world and 4.1 per cent in other developing countries.

32.   The ineffective use of available factors of production in the Member States also manifests itself in the productivity indicators such as labour and total factor productivity growth rates. Between 2001 and 2012, the annualized labour productivity growth rate of the Member States, on average, was measured as 0.84% whereas the average of other developing countries was 1.27% in the same period. In a similar vein, total factor productivity growth rate in the Member States, on average, was smaller (2.53%) compared with other developing countries (4.39%) over the period 2001-2012. In 2014, average unemployment rates in the Member States were recorded at 7.6 % compared to 5.1 % in other developing countries and 5.9% in the world. The figures on youth unemployment in the Member States are even less promising with a rate of 15.6 per cent compared to 10.9 per cent in other developing countries and 12.9 per cent in the world.

33.   Developed countries reached their current level of prosperity through transforming their economies from an agriculture-based first to an industry-based, and then knowledge and services-based economies and making available a resilient and reliable infrastructure. The OIC Member States are home to almost two-thirds of the world's crude oil and natural gas reserves. Yet, in terms of refining capacity of energy products, industrial energy use efficiency, popular access to energy, there is still a significant distance to cover. Access to reliable, modern and affordable sources of energy is a prerequisite for poverty eradication and promoting economic growth. The OIC Member States need to enhance their efforts for infrastructure development in the LDCs.

34.   As a group, the OIC Member States have a high potential for the development of a sustainable international tourism sector. Accordingly, this sector can make tangible contribution in promoting socio-economic development as well as strengthening the bonds of solidarity among the people. Therefore, the OIC Member States are required to make efforts to considerably increase intra-OIC investment in the tourism sector, particularly in the LDCs.

1.10   Science, Technology and Innovation

35.   Research in science and technology is the key to progress towards a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy. R&D intensity (i.e. GERD as a percentage of GDP) reflects the innovative capacity of a country in that a higher R&D intensity indicates that relatively more resources are devoted to the development of new products or production processes. Currently, the Member States spend 0.46% of their GDP on R&D on average while the averages for the world and non-OIC developing countries are *2.3 %* and *8.1%* respectively.

36.   The availability of abundant and highly qualified researchers is also an essential condition to foster innovation and promote the scientific and technological development of a country. The OIC Member States, on average, fall behind the world average in terms of researchers per million people: 615 vs. 1604, respectively. To a certain extent, the performance in academic research can be well reflected by the number of scientific articles published in indexed journals. Producing over 109,000 articles in 2013, the share of OIC in the global scientific output is 6.1% in 2013 while its share was 2.2% with 20242 articles in 2000.

37.   Intellectual property rights, especially patents, are the key factors contributing to advances in innovation and scientific development. According to the patent applications data, 2.35 billion patent applications were made in the world including regional patent offices. With a total of 34,933 applications, the OIC Member States constituted 1.5% of the global patent applications. High-technology exports (HTE) are products with high R&D intensity, which mostly depend on an advanced technological infrastructure and inward FDI in high-tech industries. Based on the latest available data, OIC Member States export 76 billion USD worth of high-technology products, which constituted 3.8% of the global HTE.

1.11   Education

38.   Education and life-long learning are the core of human capital formation and central to development of a society. Net Enrolment Rates (NERs) in primary schools have displayed a rather stable trend all over the world since 2000 and reached 84.1% in 2013 while the average NER in the Member States was around 78.4% during this period. This indicates that almost one-fifth of the children in the Member States who are at their primary school age have not registered in primary schools – as compared to only 4.1 % in developed countries. The average secondary school NER in the OIC Member States has increased from 46% to 51.2% between 2000 and 2011 though the attained level is not sufficient to consider secondary education system as fairly inclusive. In terms of tertiary institution Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), the OIC Member States, with an average rate of 22.6% as of 2013, lagged behind other developing countries (24.9%) and

far behind the developed countries (78.0%). In the same year, the world average GER was 29.4%.

39.   With an average adult literacy rate of 72.3%, the OIC Member States as a group lagged behind the world average of 82% and also the other developing countries' average of 84.5%. Despite being an important strength, young population faces considerable challenges in their social and economic situations in a significant number of Member States. Inadequate education and lack of required skills make it especially difficult for youth in finding jobs in the labour market. It is necessary that the Member State*s* enhance the share of their annual GDP for *the* education sector.

1.12   Health

40.   Development of modern and sustainable health systems is one of the main drivers of socio-economic progress across the globe. Generally, maternal, new-born and child health (MNCH) correlates very strongly with the quality of health care services and preventive measures. It is considered as an important indicator for an overall coverage and effectiveness of a health care system and status of socio-economic conditions in a country/region. Over the last two decades, many Member States have witnessed significant improvement in health care coverage and services and, consequently, recorded declining trends in maternal, new-born and child mortality rates. According to the WHO figures, maternal mortality ratio has declined from *520* deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to *293* deaths in *2013* (a decline of *43.7 %*). Infant mortality ratio has declined from *84* deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to *47* deaths in *2013* (a decline of *44.2%*).

41.   Progress in achieving universal health care coverage remained highly uneven in the OIC Member States. In many of them, health care system is facing various problems and challenges related to ensuring adequate financing resources and infrastructure, workforce and International Health Regulations. According to the latest estimates, in *2012*, total expenditures on health accounted for only *4.4*   per cent of their GDP (compared to *6.0* per cent in other developing countries and *10.2* per cent in the world. There were only 26 health personnel (physicians, nurses and midwives) per 10,000 people in *2008-2012*. At the individual country level, only 28 OIC Member States meet the critical threshold of 23 health personnel per 10,000 people, generally considered necessary to deliver essential health services. On the other hand, *23.9* per cent of OIC population was without access to improved water resources whereas   *39.7* per cent was without access to sanitation facilities in *2013*. In order to address these difficult challenges, allocation of *higher share* of the annual GDP for health sector is essential.

1.13   Advancement and Empowerment of Women, Family Welfare and Social Security

42.   The women advancement and empowerment, including the family welfare, youth capacity building, child and maternal health, protection of the elderly and the establishment of Organisation for Women Development are among the areas of major attention by the Member

States. Despite improvement in the status of women in all socio-economic, political and cultural fields over the past decade, there are still gaps and challenges to be addressed. The good health conditions of women are critical for both the overall health of the family as well as the future generations. In particular, discrimination, abuse, poverty and violence against women are detrimental to women's physical, mental and emotional health. Women experience discrimination both in education and labour markets. Therefore, significant policy-measures are needed to effectively reduce the gap among men and women (in terms of access to education) to a standard 2% level by 2025. In the OIC Member States, the average labour force participation among female population is currently around 45%, whereas it is 56% in developed countries with the world average being around 60%. As such, by 2025, the OIC Member States need to attain the world average through increase of the average labour force participation among female population by 15%.

43.   The insufficient labour force participation among women results in the exclusion of women from social security systems in some Member States and their deprivation of full social security rights. In particular, women in the agricultural sector remain unprotected and usually cannot officially register for social security services. In 2011, 25% of the female labour force in the OIC Member States worked in the agricultural sector, whereas the world average was 13.2%. Likewise, only 28.2% of economically active women work in the non-agriculture sector in the Member States while in other developing countries and the world, 40% and 45% respectively of economically active women work in the non-agricultural sector. Moreover, strengthening the engagement of civil society on issues of women empowerment, protection and strengthening of the family, youth capacity building and entrepreneurship, further promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, and elderly care is necessary for an inclusive and sustainable community development in the Member States.

1.14   Joint Islamic Humanitarian Action

44.   Over the last four decades, the world has witnessed a considerable increase in the frequency of natural disasters. The number of natural disasters has increased from less than 100 disasters annually, in the 1970's, to 450 disasters in the 2000's. During the same period, the OIC Member States were not an exception, they even experienced relatively steeper, upward trend, whereby the number of natural disasters in these countries increased from 20 disasters per year in the 1970s to almost 120 disasters in the 2000s.

45.   It is, therefore, clear that the Member States are facing increasingly more challenges with respect to natural hazards and conflicts. Developmental gains accumulated over many years are exposed to greater risks of devastation with the onset of a disaster. Just to cite some statistics; on average, the cost of natural disasters in the Member States during the period 1970-2011 is estimated at US$140 billion. Accordingly, the economic damage of natural disasters in the group of OIC countries, as percentage of GDP, increased on average, from 0.11% in the 1970's to 1.25% in the 2000s.

46.   The major drivers of such fast increase in the number of natural disaster incidents among the OIC Member States were floods, epidemics, earthquakes, storm, wet mass earth movements and droughts. Given this state of affairs, disaster risk management and other humanitarian crises should be considered as one of the top priority areas of cooperation for the Member States, including implementation of the global framework in reducing disaster risk.

47.   The increasing burden of natural disasters and various conflicts in many Member States necessitate strengthening joint Islamic Humanitarian Action, developing adequate disaster response mechanisms, and enhancing Member States' resilience against disasters by developing integrated and inclusive measures that reduce vulnerability to disaster and increase preparedness for response and recovery.

1.15   Human Rights, Good Governance and Accountability

48.   Human rights are part and parcel of our religion and a prescribed way of life. Islam was the first religion that laid down universal fundamental rights for humanity, which are to be observed and respected in all circumstances. Islam calls for full equality among human beings regardless of their race, religion, language, ethnic origin or social status, etc. and places *'hukook ul ibad'* or 'rights of the people" on a very high pedestal. The OIC Charter contains specific provisions for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights of women, children, youth, elderly and people with special needs as well as the preservation of Islamic family values. It calls upon all Member States to uphold and promote, at the national and international levels, good governance, democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

49.   OIC Member States have been constructively contributing to the international human rights edifice at various regional and international forums. The OIC established an Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), as one of its principal organs, which is working as an independent advisory body to the OIC for the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Member States; consolidating respect for the Islamic culture and noble values and promoting inter-civilizational dialogue, consistent with the OIC Charter. While the OIC Member States can take satisfaction over their achievements and commitments, there undoubtedly remains a lot to be completed in terms of ensuring the benefits of these commitments to reach their populations at all level. Accordingly, there is a strong need for not only renewing the commitment to promoting and protecting all universally accepted human rights but also to make sure that these commitments are translated into concrete actions on the ground. It is important that the observance of all human universal rights and freedoms flow together with Islamic values thus offering a coherent and strong system aimed at facilitating the full enjoyment of all human rights, realization of full human potential, good governance and reforms.

1.16   Media and Public Diplomacy

50.   Print, broadcast and social media are the most effective tool and source for the dissemination of information and shaping of public opinion. Many good causes and issues failed to make impact in the absence of strong media support. The Muslim world recognizes the centrality of this medium for fair and objective portrayal of Muslim issues and causes as well as the true image of Islam. Accordingly, the OIC along with the relevant institutions is in the process of putting in place an elaborate strategy for effective public outreach and employing media for promoting the goals and objectives of the Organisation.

51.   In this regard, the Member States need to invest accordingly to develop the information infrastructure in their countries and in revitalizing the OIC media institutions to promote solidarity and unity for furthering joint Islamic actions in all fields.

1.17   ICT and Digital Information Structure

52.   ICT at the present time drives economic growth, innovation, education, and productivity, and plays a critical role in virtually all aspects of business. Having adequate skilled ICT professionals is a critical foundation for OIC Member States to build future economic growth and to position OIC for e-governance, e-commerce and business improvements. This medium, however, requires necessary security at all levels of ICT applications. Greater collaboration is needed among the Member States to promote digital information structure and provide information security including integrity, privacy and assurance.

53.   Projects to equip the Organization with the latest developments in the ICT sector and raising Cyber-security awareness such as child online protection, training programmes, conferences and seminars within academia are part of its overall ICT policy. This also includes protecting the top level domain (TLD) names with Islamic Identities at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), subject to a well coordinated approach among all OIC Member States.

1.18   OIC Institutional Reforms

54.   The OIC's reform agenda flows from its commitment to the Joint Islamic Action and its centrality to the programmes and activities being pursued by the Organisation and its institutions. Any measure that improves and strengthens the Organization's ability to meet new demands and better plan its activities contributes to the reform process set out by the OIC fora on various occasions. In this regard, the TYPOA-2005 outlined various measures for reform and restructuring, which have been implemented to a large extent.

55.   Reform and development are both mutually reinforcing and constitute a continuous process. The success of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action will heavily depend on the readiness of all stakeholders to put in place an environment where improvement is welcomed. This necessitates constant emphasis on rationalizing our structures, systems and

procedures, where necessary, building dynamic work force and promoting synergy and harmonisation, efficiency, cost effectiveness and professionalism at all levels.

2. PRINCIPLES AND GOALS FOR THE OIC-2025

56.   Before the specific goals are defined, the following principles remain central to the development and implementation of the OIC - 2025:

-       **Reflective of the aspirations of the peoples of the Member States**. It is important that the OIC-2025: Programme of Action fully responds to the aspirations of the peoples of the Member States, in accordance with the OIC Charter and principles, in addressing all issues of direct interest to them. In doing so, enhancing the well-being of the people remains crucial to the OIC programmes and activities.

-       **Islamic solidarity, partnership and cooperation.** The existing strong historical and cultural affinities among the peoples in OIC Member States need to be leveraged to enhance cooperation on the political, social and economic plane.

-       **Country ownership and leadership.** Mainstreaming of OIC projects by the Member States in their national priorities is important to demonstrate ownership and commitment to fostering and contributing to the effective realization of the OIC objectives as enshrined in the OIC Charter and other multilateral instruments.

-       **Collective approach for identification of targets and implementation of projects.** This relates to the need for inclusiveness and general mobilization of all Member States to enhance the spirit of cooperation among OIC Member States. Similarly, the adoption of a multi-stakeholders approach will enrich both the elaboration and implementation process of all envisaged actions.

-       **Good Governance**. A sound legal framework is necessary for the achievement of durable peace and stability, which should inspire actions in different spheres. Efforts should be geared towards creating enabling environment for active participation of all relevant stakeholders and providing the legislative and judicial framework for the eradication of corruption in all its forms, as well as for proper dispensation of justice.

-       **Effective coordination and synergy.** Effective coordination and synergy in the activities of OIC institutions and organs is necessary for optimal utilization of scarce resources and eliminating overlapping and duplication. Emphasis should be placed on avoiding duplication and overlapping in the implementation of existing multilateral instruments executed among the Member States through the relevant OIC organs and institutions.

-       The goals in the Programme will be implemented in harmony with the existing OIC agreements/strategies/plans of action, including those of the OIC Standing Committees, namely Al Quds Committee, COMIAC, COMCEC, and COMSTECH, and other framework documents between the Member States.

57. The goals listed in the succeeding sections emanate from the directions contained in various declarations, agreements, resolutions and decisions adopted by the OIC fora at different levels.

2.1   **Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif**

Goals:

2.1.1   Make all efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab Territories; the Syrian Golan Heights and the remaining Lebanese territories, in compliance with Security Council Resolutions, International Law, Madrid Principles, UN charter and resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative; as well as intensify action at the international level to lift the Israeli blockade on Gaza Strip.

      i)   Take all possible international-law-consistent actions to pursue war crimes and violations of international law, committed by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people, their homeland and the holy places, in all international fora and institutions concerned with international criminal law.

      ii)   Emphasize the importance to abide strictly by the unified position among OIC Member States on the issue of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif , and vote in favor of all draft resolutions, decisions and recommendations in all international fora, especially in the UN Security Council and the other relevant organs; and enact a boycott, divestment and sanction strategy against Israel, at all levels, until it complies with international law and UN resolutions, and end its colonization, apartheid and occupation policies against the Palestinian people, consistent with the legal obligations of OIC Member States.

2.1.2   Support and empower the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to return and establishment of independent State of Palestine, on the pre-June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital;

      i)   Extend full support for the efforts to expand its international recognition of the State of Palestine; and promote the right of the State of Palestine to join all international institutions, treaties and UN Agencies as embodiment of its international entity.

      ii)   Support the Palestinian national unity, and strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and enhance international solidarity with them and contribute to economic growth, welfare and human development in the state of Palestine along with activating and strengthening the existing financial support mechanisms, namely the Al-Aqsa and al-Quds Funds, Bayt Mal al-Quds al-Sharif Agency, and the Islamic Financial Safety Net in support of the Palestinian Government's Budget.

iii) Maintain support for UNRWA to enable it to carry out its mandate, and mobilize international pressure on Israel to comply with UN resolution No. 194 as to enable the Palestinian refugees exercise their rights including the right to return to their homes and repatriation.

2.1.3 Support the city of Al-Quds as the capital of the State of Palestine, preserve its heritage as well as its Arab and Islamic identity and protect its Islamic and Christian holy places.

i) Reaffirm the Hashemite historical care and custodianship of the holy places in East Jerusalem, which are legally framed by the agreement signed between His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, and His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas on 31 March 2013.

ii) Reaffirm the role of Al-Quds Committee chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of the Kingdom of Morocco, in supporting Al-Quds al-Sharif, and enhancing the steadfastness of its Palestinian citizens; mobilize financial resources to implement the Strategic Development Plan on East Jerusalem as well as the five-year plan (2014-2018) of Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency; and promote the centrality and importance of the city of Jerusalem for the Muslim Ummah.

iii) Cooperate with international organizations, especially UNESCO, to implement the resolutions related to East Jerusalem as well as to preserve its Arab and Islamic identity and protect its holy places, as well as adopt and support binding international resolutions to protect the Palestinian rights in East Jerusalem as a capital of the Palestinian state.

2.2 Counter-terrorism, Extremism, Violent Extremism, Radicalization, Sectarianism, & Islamophobia

Goals

2.2.1 Establish counter-terrorism partnerships with a view to strengthening international efforts to combat all aspects of terrorism, and strengthen cooperation with States and international and regional organizations.

2.2.2 Revisit the Convention on Combating Terrorism adopted in 1999 to lay down proper mechanisms to counter the new trends of terrorism.

2.2.3 Formulate a new paradigm for inter-religious, inter-sectarian and intra-sectarian tolerance for promotion of understanding and moderation through dialogue and encourage initiatives of King Abdullah bin Abdelaziz Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in this regard.

2.2.4   Combat Islamophobia, intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

2.2.5   Encourage youth forums and programs to infuse values and combat extremism and all types of social evils.

2.2.6   Improve the utilization of ICT for countering the misuse of Cyberspace in terrorist acts and recruiting for terrorism purposes.

2.2.7   Counter the misuse of cyberspace for terrorism purposes, including recruitment and financing, and for cyber espionage campaigns by illegal organizations.

2.3   Moderation, Inter-Cultural and Interfaith Dialogue and Harmony

2.3.1   Disseminate the correct message and information about Islam as a religion of moderation and tolerance.

2.3.2   Reenergize dialogue, harmony and mutual respect among different schools of thought (Madhaheb), religions, cultures and civilizations.

2.3.3   Develop framework for promoting meaningful partnership between OIC, civil society institutions and think tanks to strategize the ways and means for their contribution towards enhancing social harmony, progress and development in the Member States.

2.3.4   Build bridges and encourage consultations among the followers of different schools of thought (Madhaheb) to promote mutual respect, recognition, tolerance and understanding to prevent growing dissention in the Muslim societies.

2.4   Peace and Security

Goals:

2.4.1   Strengthen the bonds of Islamic Solidarity to promote peace, security, friendship and understanding in the Islamic world and beyond.

2.4.2   Pursue a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Resolutions.

2.4.3   Urge Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders and to withdraw its armed forces immediately, completely and unconditionally from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan and to secure the inalienable right of the Azerbaijani population expelled from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to return to their homes.

2.4.4   Support the efforts of the Turkish Cypriot Leader and the Greek Cypriot Leader for a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue at the earliest; contributing to enhancing the capacities of the constituent Turkish Cypriot State, which will be an equal

partner with the constituent Greek Cypriot State in the new partnership state to be formed within the settlement framework.

2.4.5   Enhance the role of the OIC in peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention through preventive diplomacy, promotion of dialogue and mediation.

2.4 Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability

Goals:

2.5.1   Protect and preserve the environment, promote sustainable production and consumption patterns and enhance capacities for disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2.5.2   Enhance collaboration among the Member States and international partners in environmental protection and conservation, including the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

2.5.3   Maximize the productive use of water and minimize its destructive impact.

2.5.4   Strengthen cooperation for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision and attainment of the goals and targets defined therein.

2.6   **Poverty Alleviation**

Goals:

2.6.1   Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all and by 2025 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

2.6.2   Decrease by two-thirds the prevalence of extreme poverty in the Member States, currently measured as people living on less than US$1.25 a day.

2.6.3   Reduce at least by one-third the proportion of population of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.

2.6.4   Promote equitable share to economic resources for men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.

2.6.5   Create sound policy frameworks, at national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions.

2.7 Trade, Investment and Finance

i. *Intra-OIC Trade and Investment*

Goals:

2.7.1 Promote trade exchanges among the OIC Member States.

2.7.2 Promote and establish free trade and export processing zones in OIC Member States, and facilitate intra-OIC investments, including inward FDI flows by the public and private sectors.

2.7.3 Enhance partnership among public and private companies within and among OIC countries.

2.7.4 Develop partnerships between the productive sectors of the Member States in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the production and exporting entities.

2.7.5 Increase production and competitiveness of products in the Member States.

2.7.6 Further increase intra-OIC trade by 6% up from the current percentage in 2015.

2.7.7 Implement the Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC), and encourage OIC Member States in other Regional Trade Agreements (RTA) areas to join TPS-OIC and intensify efforts to ensure its success.

2.7.8 Implement vigorously the General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States and similar multilateral instruments on trade and investment.

2.7.9 Continue implementing the COMCEC Strategy for Building an Interdependent Islamic World, in its entire sectors towards increasing the intra-OIC trade and investment with a view to be overarching goal of enhancing the economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States.

ii. *Islamic Finance Development*

Goals:

2.7.10 Develop sound and well-regulated Islamic financial system and related prudent institutions to ensure orderly development of Islamic finance.

2.7.11 Facilitate the flow of financial resources and direct foreign and portfolio investment flows among the OIC Member States.

2.7.12 Develop and promote Islamic financial products to advance socio-economic development in OIC Member States.

2.7.13 Promote cooperation in Islamic Banking and Finance such as regulations, adoption of standards, sharia governance mechanism and product development.

2.8 Agriculture and Food Security

Goals:

2.8.1 Increase agricultural productivity and profitability of farming systems to achieve sustainable food and nutrition security in the OIC Member States.

2.8.2 Develop food production systems based on agricultural diversification, conservation of water, and efficient use of land.

2.8.3 Improve the policy environment and regulatory framework to develop agricultural sector and food production.

2.8.4 Promote the optimization of utilization of land and other natural resources for agricultural sector and food production.

2.8.5 Promote and support intra-OIC investment in agricultural sector and food production.

2.8.6 Consolidate the structures of the Islamic Organization for Food Security to achieve its objectives of coordinating intra-OIC food security operations.

2.9 Employment, Infrastructure and Industrialization:

i) Industry

Goals:

2.9.1 Increase local productive and export capability of OIC Member States with a focus on value added sectors in agriculture, manufacturing, maritime and services.

2.9.2 Increase the value addition in natural resource-based industries paying special attention to employment generation, Science, Technology and Innovation development, and the sharing of technology.

2.9.3 Develop and facilitate green industry and industries based on blue economy.

ii) Transport

Goals:

2.9.4 Reduce costs of export/import and improve services through development of adequate transport corridors and networks so as to increase the competitiveness of OIC Member States.

29.5   Establish safe, secure and interconnected multimodal transport corridors and networks among the Member States to facilitate trade, social and cultural exchanges among them.

iii)   *Energy*

Goals:

29.6   Enhance capacities of OIC Member States in energy production, trade and distribution with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all.

2.9.7   Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

2.9.8   Increase the share of electricity generation through alternative renewable energy sources.

iv)   *Tourism*

Goals:

2.9.9   Publicize and highlight the opportunities and possibilities of investment which exist in OIC Member States and the best practices of some Member States in tourism sector.

2.9.10 Establish alliances between tourism stakeholders with a view to strengthening joint tourism marketing and promoting cooperation efforts at the sub-regions level as well as at the level of the OIC region as a whole.

2.9.11 Enhance the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the expansion and upgrading of the existing tourist capacities and activities and for the construction of new facilities of appropriate quality and service standards, using up-to-date technologies.

2.9.12 Promote regional and cross-border tourism projects in the Member States to attract investments.

2.9.13 Promote awareness about Islamic tourism services in the Member States and beyond.

v)   *Labour, Employment and Social Protection*

Goals:

2.9.14 Promote the exchange of information and best practices as well as strategies, polices and experiences in the area of occupational safety and health, employment, social protection and migration, with a view to promoting a culture of prevention and control of occupational hazards.

2.9.15 Promote labour protection, which comprises decent conditions of work, including wages, working time and occupational safety and health, essential components of decent work.

2.9.16 Improve information transparency on employment statistics and promote vocational training programmes.

vi) *Entrepreneurship and SMEs development*

Goal:

2.9.17 Develop a dynamic and well-functioning private sector for increasing investment and trade, economic growth, industrialization and structural transformation.

2.9.18 Increase the contribution of SMEs to the overall economic growth and development of OIC Member States and enhance their competitiveness and dynamism by facilitating their access to information, market, human resource development and skills, finance as well as technology.

2.9.19 Promote and encourage women's SMEs.

2.10 Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I)

Goal:

2.10.1 Advance the development and utilization of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development through encouraging research, technological capabilities in all sectors, innovation and domestic technology development by ensuring a conducive policy environment, in line with the decisions of the relevant OIC organs and fora, including the COMSTECH and the OIC Vision 1441H for Science and Technology.

2.11 Education

Goal:

2.11.1 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels and promote life-long learning opportunities that advance knowledge and skills needed for gainful employment, entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable development.

2.12 Health

Goals:

2.12.1 Ensure healthy lives, improve social determinants of health and promote well-being for all at all ages through equitable access to health care.

2.12.2 Enhance cooperation in eradicating and containing major communicable and non-communicable diseases, collaborate on vaccine production and, where necessary, utilize relevant centers of excellence.

2.12.3 Enhance cooperation between the Member States and international partners for establishment of strategies regarding human resource management and financial aspects of the Strategic Health Programme of Action.

2.13 **Advancement and Empowerment of Women, Family Welfare, and Social Security**

Goals:

2.13.1 Promote gender equality-and family empowerment.

2.13.2 Promote youth capacity building and youth exchange programs.

2.13.3 Improve strategies for youth employment, provision of quality education, entrepreneurship and vocational skills development.

2.13.4 Encourage policies for promoting family and social security.

2.13.5 Develop effective and reliable social services for family, women, children, elderly, and people with special needs.

2.13.6 Develop appropriate legislative and administrative measures to fight against violence against women.

2.13.7 Improve policy framework to address social and emotional needs of women and children.

2.14 **Joint Islamic Humanitarian Action**

Goals:

2.14.1 Strengthen joint Islamic humanitarian action.

2.14.2 Enhance cooperation and coordination with partners at the regional and international levels, particularly the UN agencies, on refugees and IDPs in Member States.

2.15 **Human Rights, Good Governance and Accountability**

Goals:

2.15.1 Enhance OIC's engagement on promotion and protection of universal human rights as well as effectively portraying the OIC's vision of moderation, tolerance, and protection of

the rights guaranteed in the Islamic faith, harmony and modernization, in cooperation and dialogue with Member States.

2.15.2 Safeguard the rights, dignity and religious and cultural identity of Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-Member States, in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

2.15.3 Make efforts that OIC Member States take a united stand at the UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other international fora.

2.15.4 Update and refine, in consultation with OIC Member States, the existing OIC human rights instruments vis-à-vis universal human rights instruments, as and where required.

2.15.5 Strengthen the global discourse on Right to Development and its effective implementation.

2.15.6 Promote knowledge and share experience about best practices in good governance, justice, due process, equality of opportunity, accountability, and rule of law.

2.16   Media and Public Diplomacy

Goals:

2.16.1 Encourage interaction with the print, broadcast and online media to improve the coverage of developments in the Muslim world by projecting the OIC perspective.

2.16.2 Encourage comprehensive media engagement (newspapers, TV channels, radio stations, online and social media) to extensively cover OIC programmes and activities as well as issues of interest and concern to the Muslim world.

2.16.3 Enhance public diplomacy through the media, conferences, exhibitions, cultural events, lectures, academic programmes and events, and ensure easy access to information by the public.

2.16.4 Strengthen coordination between OIC media institutions on issues of special interest to the Ummah.

2.17   ICT and Digital Information Structure

Goals:

2.17.1 Promote ICT skills and digital technologies and information structure.

2.17.2 Advance the use of ICT as a tool for inclusive economic growth, e-governance and social and human development and access to knowledge and technology.

2.17.3 Protect and preserve the Generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) names with Islamic Identities in The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

2.18 OIC Institutional Reforms

Goals:

2.18.1 Establish a relationship of cooperation and partnership among OIC organs and institutions in line with the provisions of the Charter.

2.18.2 Implement the existing frameworks of cooperation and partnership between the General Secretariat and the OIC institutions, including Standing Committees, with due regard to the provisions of the Charter, ensuring synergy, eliminating duplication and overlap in the OIC activities, highlighting clear roles for policy making, implementation, follow up and coordination.

2.18.3 Develop workforce specialising in strategic and foresight planning, monitoring the emerging needs of the Member States in various fields and overcoming the challenges in implementing its programmes.

2.18.4 Implement the Charter's provision on the payment of contributions towards the budgets of the General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs by the Member States proportionate to their national incomes.

2.18.5 Expedite ratification of the OIC Charter and other conventions and agreements.

2.18.6 Transform the General Secretariat and the OIC subsidiary organs, where needed, into modern institutions fully competent to act in support of the OIC and its objectives.