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**ASTANA DECLARATION**

**OF THE**

**FIRST SUMMIT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION  
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**“SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION  
AND MODERNIZATION IN ISLAMIC WORLD”**

**ASTANA – REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
10-11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**ASTANA DECLARATION OF THE FIRST SUMMIT  
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**“SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION  
AND MODERNIZATION IN ISLAMIC WORLD”**

We, the Heads of State and Government and the Official Delegations of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have gathered at the First OIC Summit on Science & Technology in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 10-11 September 2017 to emphasize our commitment to make science and technology our cherished goal in this Century. For us, it will be a journey back to the essentials of our civilization.

2. We express thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the first OIC Summit on Science and Technology and appreciate his leadership efforts and initiatives aimed at further strengthening the role of the OIC in the international arena, the rapprochement, mutual understanding and harnessing the economic, scientific and technological potential of the Ummah.

3. We congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan on the successful holding of the International “Astana EXPO 2017” a specialized exhibition, aimed at showcasing innovative technologies in the field of renewable energy and highlighting the importance of introducing advance alternative energy-saving technologies by developing countries.

4. We appreciate the stewardship of H.E. Mamnoon Hussain the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of COMSTECH in furthering the goals of COMSTECH to the benefit of the Member States by strengthening scientific and technological cooperation among the Member States, especially COMSTECH’s role in capacity building, policy formulation, and implementation;

5. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and objectives enshrined in the OIC Charter, particularly advancing the acquisition and popularization of knowledge in consonance with the lofty ideals of Islam to achieve intellectual excellence; and enhancing and developing science and technology and encouraging research and cooperation among Member States in these fields.

6. We agree among ourselves to individually and collectively pursue cooperation among our countries for sustainable development of our peoples, and to confront the societal challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

7. We affirm our resolve to eradicate extreme poverty from our society including poverty of the mind, and to bring forth the creative and innovative strengths of all our peoples, being mindful of the disruptive nature of modern science and its emerging relationship with society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

8. We reaffirm further our commitment to make knowledge and its application an essential feature of the way we live and work and take important decisions.
9. We commit our nations to enhance their collective capabilities in science and technology and the positive social and economic spillovers which result from their intelligent application.
10. We acknowledge the need to increase the investment in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and that the transfer of science and technology is one of the principal ways of accelerating the economic development of developing countries;
11. We are conscious of the need to create a complete and well integrated enabling ecosystem that inter-alia include incentives for all stakeholders, result oriented performance evaluation and rules for protecting intellectual property for strengthening STI capabilities.
12. We urge OIC Member States to work for the development, review and implementation of STI policies, programs and action plans at sub-regional and national levels for harnessing the potential of STI for gainful employment, human capital development and inclusive growth.
13. We agree to take necessary measures for the practical implementation of the recommendations of OIC S&T Agenda 2026. In this regard we urge all Member States to prepare joint programs and proposals, through active consultation with leading academics, scientists and technologists,
14. We express our resolve to reach the goals of OIC S&T Agenda 2026 through a focused series of initiatives and programs in education, skills development, basic and applied sciences, and big science which will be implemented through multi-national and multi-institutional stakeholders in the Member States.
15. We underscore the need of further strengthening the culture of education and science, especially for youth and women, in the Islamic world. It will pave way for social and economic modernization and leading to the progress and prosperity of our peoples and countries;
16. We encourage Member States to make universities and other institutions of higher learning, particularly scientific research institutions, as centers of excellence so that they can play an effective role in developing within the society a culture of inquiry, intellectual pursuit and merit.
17. We reaffirm our commitment to increase the allocation of funding on development of education, science, health and water to achieve the goals set forth in OIC 2025: Plan of Action and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030).

18. We urge the Member States to develop a joint policy framework to facilitate movement and employment of professionals, mutual recognition of diplomas, the inflow of new technologies and projects. In this regard we welcome the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan “The Islamic Infrastructure Integration” aimed at ensuring the integration of the infrastructure in the field of transport, energy, trade and investment.

19. We encourage interested Member States to work together in developing programs for ‘big’ science, as outlined in OIC S&T Agenda 2026, which are multidisciplinary in nature and content.

20. We call on OIC Member States to actively promote and support collaborative research programs in the field of agriculture, food security, conservation of ecosystems, including the fight against drought, desertification, effective management of water resources and others.

21. We call for reviewing the security of digital content by examining and harmonizing existing laws, policies and response related to Cyber-security in the Member States, keeping in mind its profound implications for all affairs of state and the emergence of meta-data.

22. We welcome the role of the Islamic Organization for Food Security and emphasize the importance of supporting its activities in accordance with General Assembly resolutions of the Islamic Organization for Food Security held in April 2016 in Astana.

23. We commend the concerted efforts by OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions particularly IAS, ICCIA, IDB, ISESCO and SESRIC in promoting intra-OIC cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation. We call upon the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC institutions to continue and strengthen their cooperation for promoting STI in Member States.

24. We take note with appreciation of the launching of the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund by the IDB which will significantly contribute to the implementation of the OIC Agenda 2026 for Science, Technology and Innovation as well as address the development needs of the OIC member states. We, therefore, call upon the Member States to contribute to the Fund.

25. We request the Chairman of COMSTECH in cooperation with the OIC Secretary General to put in place institutional mechanisms for effective overseeing of the implementation of OIC S&T Agenda 2026.

26. We welcome the offer of the Government of Uzbekistan to host the Second OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Uzbekistan. We mandate OIC General Secretariat and COMSTECH to work with the Government of Uzbekistan to make necessary preparations for the convening of the Second OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Uzbekistan.