



Organization of Islamic Cooperation

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**DHAKA DECLARATION
ADOPTED
BY
THE TENTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
TOURISM MINISTERS**

DHAKA, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

5-7 FEBRUARY 2018

Dhaka Declaration
Tenth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers
Dhaka, The People's Republic of Bangladesh, 5-6 February 2018

We, the Tourism Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the OIC Member States, meeting at the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, from 5-7 February 2018, have undertaken a review of the implementation of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism Among OIC Member States and the resolutions adopted at previous conferences with a view to promoting socio-economic development in OIC member States through the development of tourism,

We reaffirm our commitments to the provisions of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action adopted by the Thirteenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 April 2016, and recognize the important role of tourism for intercultural exchanges, preservation, conservation and popularization of Islamic tourism and Islamic historical and cultural heritage, promotion of better knowledge and mutual understanding among civilizations, as well as the overall improvement of the image of Islam,

We reiterate the relevance of sustainable tourism to the actualisation of OIC poverty eradication strategies and policies and as a potential contributor to sustainable development and express satisfaction at the outcomes of the Workshop on the Future Tourism development in Konya, and International Symposium on Konya in Islamic Civilization, held in Konya, Republic of Turkey on 15-16 November 2016 and on 17-19 December 2016 respectively, for the commemoration of the OIC City of Tourism Award 2017,

We are pleased to note the steady growth of intra-OIC tourism as indicated in the number of OIC tourist arrivals, which averaged 34.8 percent of the total OIC international tourist arrivals in 2013, including the growing popularization of Islamic tourism brand,

We welcome the launching of Madinah Al Munawwarah as OIC City of Tourism 2017, held in Madinah on 18 February 2017, and express appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its efforts in facilitating the successful launch of the various activities aimed at promoting intra-OIC tourism within the awardee city,

We recognize the strong interlinkage between tourism and many other sectors of national economies, as well as the vital role the tourism can play in integrating the economies of the Member States,

We commend the Secretary General for his detailed Progress Report on the implementation of ICTM resolutions as well as the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among Member States,

We reviewed extensively the recommendations contained in the Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States, presented by SESRIC, and approved these recommendations, which will guide our future activities aimed at promoting Islamic tourism as a global business brand,

We also reviewed the various findings of the Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market, presented by ICDT, and endorsed major recommendations with a request to the Secretary General to submit appropriate implementable modalities thereon,

We acknowledge the proposal of the People's Republic of Bangladesh placed in the presentation on "Human Resource Development on Tourism and Certification respectively". Accordingly, we welcome the proposal to establish an institute in Bangladesh as part of the capacity building for skill development and certification of tourism stakeholders among the member states. The Islamic University of Technology (IUT) would prepare a comprehensive concept document to be submitted to the ministers in an upcoming session,

We commend the elaborate plans made by relevant OIC institutions for the commemoration of Tabriz, as the OIC City of Tourism 2018 which includes the ICDT proposal of the organization of the "Islamic Clothing Fashion Expo and Conference" in collaboration with the relevant authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and we urge OIC Member States to announce their respective plans in this regard,

We recognize the importance of investment in tourism and hospitality sectors for the development of Islamic Tourism among the Member States raised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), apex body safeguarding the interest of the private sector in trade and industry in Bangladesh,

While calling on OIC Member States to encourage their private sector entities to invest individually and jointly in the tourism infrastructure and development projects in member states, we request the Secretary General and relevant OIC institutions to support Member States in organizing annual events on Islamic tourism in order to promote intra-OIC tourist flows, through visa facilitation to the extent permitted by the laws of each Member State, investment promotion, branding and standardization, and capacity building,

We appreciate the project proposal presented by the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Preservation, Conservation and Sustainable Development of Islamic Culture and Heritage. We also strongly recommend for Technical and Financial Assistance from the OIC Secretariat to materialize the proposed project in Bangladesh,

We welcome the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the 3rd OIC Tourism Fair in 2018 and welcome the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 4th OIC Tourism Fair in 2019,

Having examined the various entrees submitted for the OIC City of Tourism 2019 and 2020 awards, we approve the selection of Dhaka (People's Republic of Bangladesh) and Gabala (Republic of Azerbaijan) as OIC City of Tourism for 2019 and 2020 respectively,

In order to galvanize tourism activities in the selected OIC City of Tourism, we request Secretary General to ensure that commemoration of OIC City of Tourism includes two major activities namely:

- (1) Cultural/Arts/Heritage Festival;
- (2) Development of one tourism infrastructure project.

We call on Member States, IDB Group and other funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions to actively participate in the Second Donors' Conference to be organized in 2018 in a bid to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa,

Welcomes the Muslim Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (MYFDC)'s election of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif as Muslim Your Capital for the year 2018,

We express our profound gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their warm reception, generous hospitality and the excellent arrangements, which contributed to the successful conclusion of the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers,

We also express our deep appreciation to the OIC Secretary General and heads of OIC institutions for their invaluable contributions and support to the 10th ICTM.

Issued in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh on 6th day of February 2018