



OIC/6-WCOD/2016/REP/FINAL

**Report
of the
Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the
Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States
on the Theme of
“Status of Women in OIC Member States in light of Current Challenges”**

**Istanbul, Republic of Turkey
1-3 Safar 1438 A.H.
1-3 November 2016**

**Report
of the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference
on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States**

“Status of Women in OIC Member States in light of Current Challenges”

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The Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the .1
Development of OIC Member States was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, over
the period 1-3 November 2016, at the kind invitation of the Republic of Turkey.

Delegations from 44 OIC Member States, along with the representatives of the OIC .2
General Secretariat, as well as of the OIC subsidiary, specialized and affiliated organs
(Annex 1) took part in this Conference.

Opening session:

The proceedings of the Conference started with the recitation of verses from the Holy .3
Quran, followed by displaying a video on the events of 15 July 2016 in Turkey.

During the opening session, the participants listened to an address given by H.E. Mr. .4
Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, in which he highlighted
the challenges faced by the Islamic Ummah with regard to women empowerment and
advancement, in general, and women in armed conflicts and colonized areas, in
particular. Mr. Erdogan also called on the participants to determine the approaches to
meet those challenges, expressing his country’s readiness, in its capacity as
Chairperson of the current session of the Islamic Summit Conference, to work to
promote the role of the OIC in resolving conflicts, ensuring security in the Member
States, and activating economic and political cooperation among the Member States.

For his part, the Assistant Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Hameed Opeloyeru, .5
underlined in the address he read out on behalf of the OIC Secretary General, that the

challenges faced by the Member States with regard to women empowerment require more cooperation between the Member States and the organizations operating in the field, highlighting that this session is the first to be held after the adoption of OIC second Ten Year Programme of Action 2016-2025, and that the General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Member States, reviewed the OIC Plan on the Advancement of Women (OPAAW), in implementation of the recommendations by the fifth session of the Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States, and Resolution #4/42 by the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, to make it in line with the OIC Ten Year Action Programme 2016-2025.

The participants also listened to two addresses by H.E. Ms. Hijran Huseynova .6
 , Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women, and Child Affairs, .7
 representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the fifth session of the Conference, and H.E. Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya, Minister of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey.

Election of the Bureau:

The Conference approved the bureau elected by the Meeting of Senior Officials as follows:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| The Republic of Turkey: | Chairperson |
| The Republic of Sudan
Burkina Faso
The State of Palestine | Vice-Chairperson |
| The Republic of Azerbaijan | Rapporteur |

Hence, H.E. Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya, the Minister of Family and Social Policies of .8
 the Republic of Turkey, chaired the Conference after her election, and gave an address,
 at the beginning of which, she welcomed the participants in the Republic of Turkey.
 She also welcomed the adoption by the Meeting of Senior Officials of the proposition
 of her country to establish the Women Advisory Cmmittee.

The Conference adopted its agenda and programme proposed by the Meeting of Senior .9
 Officials (Annex 2).

Deliberations:

The participating delegations reviewed the Member States' policies and efforts with regard to women advancement and empowerment and highlighted the achievements made with respect to the implementation of OPAAW. Likewise, the Conference allowed the participating delegations to exchange expertise in the field.

The Conference called on the OIC Secretary General to exert more efforts to release the girls kidnapped from their school since 2014, in Northeast Nigeria by Boko Haram, and allow them to return to their families and schools.

The Conference reviewed the amended OIC Plan on the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its implementation mechanisms and discussed its evaluation and follow-up indicators.

A number of Member States signed the statute of OIC Women Advisory Council, on the sidelines of the Conference (Annex 3).

Resolutions:

The Conference adopted the following resolutions (Annex 4): .14

Resolution 1/6-W on the expedition of the completion of the ratification procedures of the statute of the OIC Women Advisory Council. .a

Resolution 2/6-W on welcoming the appointment of OIC Goodwill Ambassadors for Family Values Preservation and Women Advancement and Empowerment in the OIC Member States. .b

Resolution 3/6-W on the adoption of the amended OIC Plan on the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its implementation mechanisms. .c

Resolution 4/6-W on the establishment of the Women Advisory Council. .d

The Conference adopted Istanbul Declaration prepared by the host country (Annex 5). The Egyptian delegation stated that it cannot readily subscribe to the Istanbul Declaration, since the latter was not discussed during the Conference. .15

The Conference adopted the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting Preparatory to the Sixth Session of the Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States (Annex 6). .16

The Conference welcomed the offers made by the heads of delegation of the .17 participating Member States to host meetings and conferences on issues related to women advancement in the Islamic countries.

The Conference praised the ex-Secretary General Mr. Iyad Madani, for the special .18 attention he devoted to the issues of women in the OIC Member States.

The Conference lauded the leading role of H.E. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, Ex-President of .19 the Islamic Development Bank Development, and congratulated H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar, the new president of IsDB Group.

Date and venue of the seventh session of the Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States

The Conference welcomed the offer of Burkina Faso to host the seventh session of the .20 Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States, due to be held in 2018.

In implementation of the recommendation by the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, .21 held in Istanbul, a panel discussion on “Muslim Women’s advocacy and the commitment to empower them in the OIC Member States” was held. During the panel, presentations by experts and specialists in women’s issues were given and in-depth discussions took place among the participating delegations.

At the end of the first day of the Conference, the participating delegations made a visit .22 to the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, followed by a dinner held by H.E. Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya, the Minister of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey, in honor of the delegations.

Vote of thanks

The Conference expressed its profound thanks to H.E. President Recep Tayyip .23 Erdogan and his consort, Mrs. Emine Erdogan, for their generous support to ensure the success of this Conference, as well as to the government and people of Turkey, for the good organization and for providing the necessary facilities during the days of the Conference. It also thanked the General Secretariat for its efforts and contributions that helped in the success of the Conference.

Istanbul, 3 November 2016