



OIC/CFM-43/2016/ST/RES/FINAL

RESOLUTIONS

ON

**HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT SECTORS**

SUBMITTED TO THE

43RD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

***(SESSION OF EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT-PATH TO
PEACE AND CREATIVITY)***

TASHKENT, REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

**(18-19 OCTOBER 2016)
(17-18 MUHARRAM 1438H)**

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RESOLUTION NO.1/43-S&T
ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MATTERS

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Referring to the OIC Vision 1441H for Science and Technology adopted by the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference held in Putrajaya in October 2003 and the OIC 2025: Programme of Action adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016,

Recalling the relevant Resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 1/42 - S&T on Science and Technology Matters adopted by the 42nd session held in Kuwait, 27-28 May 2015,

Also Recalling the Final Communiqués adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016,

Appreciating the efforts of the COMSTECH and the activities and programmes of ISESCO, SESRIC, IAS, IDB and ICCI in the field of the development and promotion of science and technology in the Islamic World,

Referring to the Final Communiqué and recommendations adopted by the 15th General Assembly of COMTECH regarding the Ten Year Programme for strengthening the basic sciences and technology, higher education and skills development, as well as joint multinational big science projects for the period 2016-2015 in OIC Member States,

Acknowledging the importance of development of science, technology and innovation by the Member States in achieving the objectives of OIC 2025: Programme of Action and targets set by UN Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the offer of Government of Kazakhstan to host the OIC Summit on Science and Technology in 2017,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/43-CFM/2016/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Reiterates** its call to the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to continue and further strengthen their programmes and activities for the promotion of science, technology and innovation (STI), including promotion of

R&D, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest, and transform STI into employment and economic growth activities incorporating all inter-related elements, including knowledge and technology transfer;

2. **Calls upon** all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the OIC Summit for Science and Technology scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan in 2017 for identifying priorities, goals and targets for the advancement and promotion of science; technology and innovation in the OIC Member States;
3. **Further Calls upon** COMSTECH to work closely with the Government of Kazakhstan and OIC General Secretariat for making necessary preparations for the OIC Summit on Science and Technology;
4. **Calls upon** all relevant OIC institutions to coordinate their programmes and activities with COMSTECH with a view to achieving synergies and complementarities in the pursuit of the STI-related objectives outlined in the Vision 1441 H and the OIC 2025: Programme of Action;
5. **Encourages** Member States to join and actively collaborate with Science Technology and Innovation Organization (STIO) for the implementation of programmes and activities in the field of science, technology and innovation and also requests members of the STIO to provide the requisite funds for making STIO operational;
6. **Commends** the Islamic Bank (IDB) Group for extending financial support to the Centres of Excellence for Science and Technology and requests IDB, COMSTECH, ISESCO and OIC General Secretariat to expedite the designation of five more Centres of Excellence in accordance with the provisions of the OIC Vision 1441 for Science and Technology;
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.2/43-S&T
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Recalling the relevant Resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 2/42 – S&T on Higher Education Matters adopted by the 42nd session held in Kuwait, 27-28 May 2015 ;

Bearing in mind the Final Communiqués adopted by the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016;

Recalling the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Islamic Conferences of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, including those adopted by the 7th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Rabat, 18-19 December 2014),

Appreciating the contributions of the OIC affiliated universities i.e. Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka, Bangladesh, Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Islamic University in Niger (IUN) and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in promoting higher education, research and development;

Acknowledging the contribution of Member States' public and private universities to the OIC Educational Exchange Programme under which nearly 350 scholarships have so far been announced at graduate, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral levels by various public and private sector universities in the OIC Member States;

Further commending Republic of Senegal for organizing the 3rd Exhibition and Forum of Higher Education Services of the OIC Members States in collaboration with ICDT and ISESCO in Dakar, Senegal on 9-12 May 2016,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water related issues and Environment Sectors (OIC/43-CFM/2016/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Reiterates** its call for the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to continue and further strengthen their programmes and activities in the domain of higher education, including efforts for improvements in curricula, faculties, networking among higher education institutions, promotion of joint research projects, distance learning arrangements, scholarship programmes and vocational training programmes;

2. **Welcomes** the offer by the Republic of Mali to host the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14 - 15 November 2016 and **Urges** Member States to actively participate in the Conference;
3. **Expresses** appreciation for the higher education scholarships offered by Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Turkey, Iran and universities from Member States and Observers; COMSATS Institute for Information Technology (CIIT), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Pakistan, University of Lahore (UOL), The Cyprus International University (CIU), The Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), The European University of Lefke (EUL), The Girne American University (GAU), The Near East University (NEU), The Middle East Technical University METU under the OIC Educational Exchange Programme; and invites Member States to encourage their public and private sector higher education and research institutions to actively collaborate with the OIC for the further strengthening and promoting the OIC Educational Exchange Programme;
4. **Further appreciates** the offer of the Government of Pakistan of 100 Scholarships to the students from Least Developed Countries of OIC;
5. **Requests** Member States to widely disseminate information about the offers of scholarships for the academic session in 2016/2017, received from the Arab Republic of Egypt, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Brunei Darussalam and University of Lahore;
6. **Stresses** the need for ISESCO and OIC General Secretariat to coordinate their efforts within the frameworks of the OIC Educational Exchange Programme and TAFAHUM project on exchange of students, faculty and researchers among universities in the Islamic World, with a view to establishing a general framework for promoting and advancing higher education through enhanced exchanges, scholarships, sharing of expertise and joint research;
7. **Urges** the High-Level Quality and Accreditation Committee to convene its meeting to follow up on the implementation of the 'Key Performance Indicators for Universities in the Islamic World' pursuant to its Terms of Reference adopted by the 7th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Rabat, 18-19 December 2014);-
8. **Appreciates** the efforts of OIC relevant institutions for promoting and advancing higher education in Member States, including ISF's annual grants to both IUIU and IUN and IDB's support for OIC universities as well as its scholarships programmes.

9. **Reiterates its** support for the efforts of IDB to contribute to the establishment of an International Islamic University in Kabul, Afghanistan, as well as efforts by the Bank to mobilize financial resources for this purpose;
10. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.3/43-S&T
ON
HEALTH MATTERS

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Recalling Resolution No. 3/42 - S&T on Health Matters adopted by the 42nd session of Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation held in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait on 27 - 28 May 2015,

Re-affirming the resolutions and decisions adopted by successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) and the Steering Committee on Health, including those adopted by the 5th Islamic Conference of health Ministers (Istanbul, 17 - 19 November 2015),

Recalling the adoption of OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) 2014-2023 by the 4th ICHM held in Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2013,

Bearing in mind the Final Communiqués adopted by the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016;

Further bearing in mind the OIC-2025: Program of Action adopted by the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016;

Appreciating the Republic of Turkey for hosting the 3rd Meeting of Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs) of the OIC-SHPA (14 - 15 November 2015) and the 10th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Health (16 November 2015),

Further appreciating the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the 4th Meeting of Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs) of the OIC- SHPA (29th February - 1st March 2016) and the 11th Meeting of Steering Committee on Health (2nd - 3rd March 2016),

Appreciating convening of Special Session on the First Ladies' Leadership on Cancer Control in OIC Member States at the margins of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference in Istanbul on 14 April 2016,

Welcoming the signing of Practical Arrangement Agreement by the OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to provide assistance to OIC Member States to tackle cancer,

Appreciating SESRIC for convening the First Meeting of experts on mother and child health in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat, UNFPA and other partners in Ankara on 2 - 4 December 2015 for launching the OIC Network on Population and Reproductive, Materials, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH Net),

Welcoming the contributions of NGOs to the implementation of OIC-SHPA 2014-2023,

Recognizing the centrality of Health in OIC 2025: Program of Action and UN Sustainable Development Goals,

Taking note of the second meeting of the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers' Group hosted by Pasture Institute of Tunis on 12-13 May 2015,

Further taking note, with appreciation, of the efforts of Islamic Advisory Group on polio eradication including the convening of International Ulama Conference in Kabul, Afghanistan on 26 - 27 January 2016,

Appreciating the ongoing cooperation in the field of health between the OIC and international partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund to fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), the Stop TB partnership, the Roll Back Malaria, UNICEF, UNFPA and the GAVI Alliance,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment Sectors (OIC/43-CFM/2016/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Calls upon** the Member States to implement the Resolutions and Declarations adopted by the 5th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers;
2. **Further calls upon** the Member States to coordinate their efforts with the respective Lead Country Coordinators (LCCs) in implementing activities under each of the six thematic areas of the OIC-SHPA 2014-2023;
3. **Urges** Member States to identify and encourage the vaccine manufacturing companies under their respective jurisdictions to join the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers' Group;
4. **Calls upon** the OIC General Secretariat to coordinate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for organizing the meeting of Member States to discuss Pooling mechanism for Procurements of pharmaceuticals and vaccines;

5. **Calls** for an early operationalization of Center of Excellence on Vaccine and Biotechnology Products, as offered by the Republic of Indonesia;
6. **Calls upon** the OIC-IDB Steering Committee on Ebola to work with the Member States affected by Ebola virus for the post Ebola recovery activities,
7. **Requests** Member States to utilize the knowledge and experiences of experts in the OIC Network on Population and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH Net),
8. **Calls upon** all Member States to continue their efforts to increase coverage of immunization to ensure that all children are vaccinated against preventable diseases particularly polio,
9. **Requests** for continued support of the Member States for the religious injunctions (Fatwas) of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy regarding the safety and acceptability of polio vaccination in Islam,
10. **Requests** all relevant OIC institutions to coordinate with SESRIC to continue engaging the civil society institutions through the OIC Ibn Sina NGO Health Alliance to compliment the role of the Member States in the implementation of the OIC-SHPA;
11. **Commends** the OIC-IDB-IAEA joint project to tackle Cancer particularly in the Member States from Africa and **calls** for the expansion of the project to cover Member States from other regions,
12. **Reiterates** its call for the Member States to undertake necessary steps to promote healthy life style and strengthen control of non-communicable diseases including technology addictions, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases;
13. **Requests** the Member States to organize national cancer awareness campaign to tackle cancer pursuant to the Istanbul Declaration adopted by the Special Session of First Ladies' Leadership on cancer control held in Istanbul on 14 April 2016;
14. **Welcomes** the offer by the Government of Turkey to organize a Symposium on "Prevention of gynecological malignancies (Women's Cancer)" on 8-10 September 2016;
15. **Requests** SESRIC to intensify its efforts in the field of health research and capacity building activities, in particular cancer and organ transplantation in coordination with the relevant specialized Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations;

16. **Welcomes** the offers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 6th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in 2017 and of Islamic Republic of Iran to host 7th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in 2019;

17. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO.4/43-S&T
ON
ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (...) held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016);

Reaffirming the relevant Resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 4/42 - S&T on Environment Matters adopted by the 42nd session held in Kuwait city, State of Kuwait on 27 - 28 May 2015,

Taking into account the resolutions of the 6th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 18-19 December 2015 that inter-alia adopted Islamic Declaration on Environment Protection and Sustainable Development and environmental governance for environmental sustainability in the Islamic World, *Bearing in mind* the Final Communiqués adopted by the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,

Further bearing in mind the OIC-2025: Program of Action adopted by the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016, *Referring to* the UN Sustainable Development Goals related to the environment adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, and Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/43-CFM/2016/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Calls upon** the Member States to implement the decisions, resolutions and recommendations of the Islamic Conferences of the Environment Ministers, including the 6th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 18-19 December 2015;
2. **Calls upon** Member States to undertake consultations and coordinate their positions to effectively address challenges stemming from climate change and deteriorating environmental conditions, develop environmental policies and

allocate necessary human, technological and economic resources for this purpose so as to make a unified, substantial contribution in these processes;

3. **Welcomes** the adoption of the Paris Agreement during the 21st session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) and **Urges** the Member States to coordinate their positions, for addressing global environmental challenges;
4. **Urges** all Member States to actively participate in the 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) to be hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in the city of Marrakech from 7-18 November , 2016;
5. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to expedite the finalization of the OIC Green Technology Blue Print in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for consideration by the OIC S & T Summit scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan in 2017;
6. **Requests** COMSTECH to accord special attention to the promotion of cooperation among the Member States and related OIC institutions in areas such as environment protection, climate change, renewable energies and green technology;
7. **Calls upon** all OIC Member States to participate in the international specialized exhibition “Astana EXPO-2017 dedicated to future Energy which will give an excellent opportunity for scientific and technological, as well as political and cultural cooperation to achieve the goals of sustainability and energy efficiency;
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.5/43-S&T
ON
Water Resources Related issues

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Reaffirming its Resolution No 5/42-S&T on OIC Water Vision adopted by the 42nd session of Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait city, State of Kuwait on 9-10 Shaban 1436H (Corresponding to 27-28 May 2015),

Bearing in mind the adoption of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, including the reaffirmation of commitments regarding the right to access to safe drinking water and sanitation therein,

Welcoming the contents of the Final Communiqué adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey on 17-19 April 2016 for cooperation among OIC Member States in the field of water resources management,

Welcoming further the adoption of OIC 2025: Programme of Action including the goals related to maximizing the productive use of water and minimize its destructive impact,

Appreciating the efforts of SESRIC for preparing the OIC Water Report 2015 that highlighted the challenges faced by the OIC Member States,

Taking note of the resolution of the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-19 May, 2016) which adopted the Terms of Reference of the OIC Water Council,

Underscoring the significance of cooperation between the OIC Member States for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision including cooperation to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/43-CFM/2016/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Water Council for the implementation of OIC Water Vision and **Calls upon** the OIC General Secretariat to coordinate with the chair of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water for early convening of the first meeting of the OIC Water Council;
2. **Reiterates** the request to the Member States, which have not yet appointed national focal points, to designate and convey the contact details of their

respective national focal points to the OIC General Secretariat at the earliest opportunity;

3. **Encourages** the Member States to share information on their needs and offers for cooperation and the development of a specific water resources capacity building with SESRIC;
4. **Calls upon** Member States to increase cooperation for achieving the targets set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the OIC 2025: Programme of Action relating to water and sanitation;
5. **Welcomes** the establishment of a roster of environmental and water experts by SESRIC to facilitate exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the domain of water among the Member States;
6. **Commends** the role of the UAE in highlighting water issues and finding global sustainable solutions for those who are deprived and in need of water through the UAE Water Aid Foundation; further commends the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid International Prize for Water of USD 1 million to encourage research institutes all over the world to find sustainable, cost-effective and innovative solutions for water problems.
7. **Requests** the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), OIC relevant institutions and international partners to assist the Member States to pursue the implementation of the activities and projects under the OIC Water Vision in a synergetic manner;
8. **Takes note of** the interest evinced by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Egypt to host the fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water;
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.6/43-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
COOPERATION (COMSTECH)

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Recalling its Resolution No. 6/42-S&T on the Activities of Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) adopted by the 42nd session held in Kuwait city, State of Kuwait on 9-10 Shaban 1436H (Corresponding to 27-28 May 2015),

Taking Note of the recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the General Assembly of COMSTECH held at Islamabad, Pakistan on 31 May- 1 June, 2016,

Appreciating the efforts of COMSTECH for updating the Directory of Scientists of OIC Countries that identifies the names, fields, and institutions of the researchers,

Appreciating the Government of Pakistan for its continued support to COMSTECH and the efforts of Coordinator General of COMSTECH for efficient coordination and management of affairs of COMSTECH,

Commending COMSTECH for its efforts to help the Member States in the field of science and technology, Higher Education, Health and the Environment by arranging training workshops that provide opportunities to the researchers from Member States to interact with eminent scientists of the developed countries as well as within the OIC region,

Having considered the activity report of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation):

- 1. Calls upon COMSTECH to take necessary measures for strengthening coordination among the Member States, Centers of Excellence, research institutions and universities in OIC Member States for increased collaborative research, sharing of knowledge and transfer of technology and to develop policy guidelines in this regard;**
- 2. Requests COMSTECH to work for a coordinated strategy for implementation of the provisions of the OIC Vision 1441 H and the OIC 2025: Program of Action pertaining to Science and Technology;**

3. **Welcomes** the signing of the Agreement by COMSTECH with the international research institutes and **Calls upon** COMSTECH to develop more linkages for the benefit of the scientists and researchers of the Member States,
4. **Welcomes** the endorsement of the 15th Meeting of COMSTECH General Assembly of COMSTECH Science Report Project that would include mapping of top scientific research centers and technological capabilities of the Member States and **calls upon** IDB and other relevant OIC institutions to facilitate the completion of Science Report ;
5. **Calls upon** COMSTECH for early finalization of the OIC Green Technology Blue Print and the Renewable Energy Profile of OIC Member States before the OIC Summit on Science and Technology scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan in 2017;
6. **Requests** Islamic Development Bank to generously support COMSTECH enabling it to expand its programs in various fields of science and technology;
7. **Calls upon** the Member States to provide necessary financial support to COMSTECH for execution of the new initiatives it intends to pursue in the coming years.
8. **Calls upon** COMSTECH to work closely with the Government of Kazakhstan and OIC General Secretariat for making necessary preparations for the OIC Summit on Science and Technology in 2017.
9. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.7/43-S&T
ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC UNIVERSITIES

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Recalling Resolution No. 7/42 - S&T on Activities of the OIC Universities adopted by the 42 Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait, on 27-28 May 2015,

Referring to resolutions adopted by the 7th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Rabat, Morocco, on 18-19 December 2014,

Expressing profound gratitude to the Governments of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Niger and Uganda for their continued support for the respective OIC universities,

Further expressing gratitude to the OIC Member States for their support and provision of assistance to the OIC universities including contributions to the relevant Waqfs,

Commending the progressive role being played by the OIC universities for the development of the human resources in various fields,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water related issues and Environment Sectors (OIC/43-CFM/2016/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Reiterates** its call for the OIC universities to devote more attention to dissemination of knowledge and research in the fields relevant to the needs of Member States and disseminate research findings to the potential beneficiaries;
2. **Appeals** to Member States to continue donating generously to the OIC universities including contributions to their respective waqf for further development of their academic programmes and infrastructure and addressing other specific needs;
3. **Commends** the annual grants by the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) to the IUN and IUIU and **encourages** ISF to continue such support for these universities;

Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka, Bangladesh

1. **Acknowledges** the financial contribution of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the construction of the first phase of the female dormitory project (four out of ten storeys);

2. Welcomes the decision of opening the University for admission of female students in regular undergraduate programmes for the first time from the next academic year starting from December 2016;
3. Further welcomes the measures taken by the university which include revamping of the website, modernizing class rooms' facilities and library, raising the number of students and admitting non-residential students;
4. **Congratulates** Prof. Dr. Munaz Ahmed Noor, on being appointed Vice-Chancellor and wishes him success in the execution of his duties;
5. **Urges** the university to take the necessary measures to get accreditation by national, regional and international accreditation agencies for engineering and technology;
6. **Commends** ongoing measures aimed at further internationalizing the composition of staff members and students from Member States;
7. **Reiterates** its call for the university to devote more attention to undertake research relevant to the needs of the Member States and disseminate research findings to the potential beneficiaries;
8. **Calls upon** the Member States to settle their current and arrear mandatory contributions to IUT;
9. **Invites** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions contribute generously to the IUT Endowment Fund;

Islamic University in Niger (IUN)

1. **Commends** highly the donation of additional 125,000 square metres of land by the Government of Niger for the construction of female educational facilities at the IUN and in this regard **welcomes** the signing of a tripartite agreement between the IUN, IDB and Government of Niger for the implementation of the project;
2. **Takes note** of the progress on the commercial center project for IUN financed by the IDB through Waqf Fund and calls on the Member States to donate towards the construction of the second phase of the Waqf;
3. **Welcomes** the establishment of the college of Agriculture and its launching on 01 November 2015 and **commends** the ISF for creating a specific budgetary provision for this purpose;

4. **Reiterates** its call to the IUN to provide regular updates to the CFM on progress in the implementation of its strategic plan (2015-2025) which aims at modernizing the university with a view to attaining the level of higher education institutions;
5. **Welcomes** the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between IUN and SESRIC aimed at promoting vocational training at IUN;
6. **Requests** the Member States to support the IUN through all possible means to improve its infrastructure, academic programmes and the welfare of the faculty;

Islamic University in Uganda

7. **Welcomes** the accreditation of the IUIU Habib Medical School by the East African Medical and Dental Practitioners' Council and **urges** the University administration to continue ensuring quality training of students in the medical school;
8. **Takes note** of the continued growth of students numbers and facilities at the IUIU and **urges** the university to continue making available study opportunities for Muslim communities in English-speaking African countries;
9. **Commends** the assistance being given to the IUIU by the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) of US\$ 1 million annually, IDB, the University of Lahore, Pakistan, Doctors Worldwide, Turkey, SESRIC and TIKA of Turkey, and the Habib Family in Jeddah and **calls upon** public and private sector institutions and universities to consider extending similar support to the IUIU in addressing its requirements;
10. **Appreciates** the Federal Government of Nigeria for seconding academic staff to IUIU under the Technical Aid Corps (TAC) Volunteers Scheme; and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt for similar support; and **urges** the other Member States to consider seconding academic staff to the IUIU especially in medical and engineering fields;
11. **Acknowledges** IDB's approval for US\$14.58 million as an Istisna'a financing for construction of the Phase I of the new waqf for the University to be built in Kampala, Uganda, on the land donated by the Uganda Government;
12. **Commends** the donation of US\$ 973,644.13 by the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for construction of a library at the IUIU Main Campus and **calls upon** other Member States to give voluntary financial and material assistance to the University;
13. **Requests** Member States, OIC relevant institutions and individual philanthropists to continue providing sustainable financial support annually to IUIU to improve staff welfare and also to enable the University to acquire the facilities they need to provide quality education to the youths of Africa.

RESOLUTION NO. 8/43-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC INSTITUTIONS
OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
HIGHER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Recalling Resolution No 8/42 - S&T on the Activities of the OIC Institutions Operating in the Fields of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment adopted by the 41st session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait city, State of Kuwait on 27-28 May 2015,

Bearing in mind the Final Communiqué adopted by the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016,

Commending SESRIC, IDB, ISESCO, STIO, IAS, and ICCI for their activities and programmes in the fields of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment,

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

Appreciating the role of the SESRIC in collating, processing and disseminating socioeconomic statistics including major indicators in the field of science and technology, education, health and environment for the utilization of OIC Member States, ,

Further appreciating SESRIC for preparing technical reports and studies on the issues pertinent to the Member States in several domains including Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment,

Acknowledging capacity building programmes and training activities organized and conducted by SESRIC in the fields of health, environment and water resources management,

Appreciating the contribution of SESRIC in the preparation and implementation of the various OIC studies, programmes and projects,

Taking note of the report by SESRIC:

1. **Appreciates** SESRIC for preparing the OIC Water Report 2015 that took stock of the present situation of water and highlighted the challenges faced by the OIC Member States;
2. **Further appreciates** SESRIC for regularly preparing a report on “Education and Scientific Development in OIC Countries” as a background document for the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research;
3. **Commends** SESRIC for preparing and circulating the report on Status of Cancer in OIC Countries during the Special Session of First Ladies’ Leadership on Cancer Control held in Istanbul on the margins of the 13th Islamic Summit;
4. **Calls upon** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively contribute and participate in the various training programmes in the field of health organized by the SESRIC under the framework of Ibn Sina Health Capacity Building Programme and Ibn Sina NGO Health Alliance;
5. **Stresses** the importance of capacity building programmes and training activities conducted under the umbrella of the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) of SESRIC, tailored for the specific needs of the Member States in the fields of health and water resources management;
6. **Takes** note of the efforts of SESRIC aimed at matching the needs and capacities of relevant national institutions working in the domain of health, water resources management and environment through specific capacity building programmes of the Centre, and **calls upon** the Member States to fully benefit from these programmes by responding to the relevant questionnaires;
7. **Commends** the efforts of SESRIC towards the implementation of the OIC Water Vision through developing an online web portal on water issues and initiating the Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) with the aim of facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the domain of water resources;
8. **Calls upon** the relevant national institutions responsible for water resources management to cooperate with SESRIC in the assignment of the National Focal Points as well as implementation of capacity building and training programs in the area of water management through responding to the relevant questionnaires;

ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ISESCO)

Appreciating the efforts exerted by ISESCO in the field of science and technology, higher education, health and environment,

Acknowledging the efforts of ISESCO in building scientific, technological and innovative capacities in various important and vital areas directly related with socio-economic development of the Member States,

Welcoming the establishment of the Pan-Islamic Research and Education Network (PIREN) as a platform for collaboration between scientists, researchers and education networks and sharing of knowledge, best practices and stimulating joint research,

Welcoming the convening of the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research scheduled to be held Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14 - 15 November 2016,

Taking note of the report submitted by ISESCO:

1. **Welcomes** the dissemination of the report in the Arab Member States on “Transforming Arab Economies: Knowledge and Innovation Road” by ISESCO in collaboration with World Bank and the initiative launched for Arab Member States on the formulation and implementation of well-articulated and coordinated cross-sectional knowledge economies strategies for their countries and **requests** ISESCO to take steps for similar initiatives in the Asian and African Member States;
2. **Takes note** of ISESCO initiatives on space sciences to improve the use of the Earth Observation and expanded application capabilities to the management of natural resources, risk management of natural disasters as well as to advance and promote the sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, including early warning, assessment of food vulnerability, food safety, market efficiency and the desertification aspect;
3. **Stresses** the role of Parliamentarians and their interaction with other institutions in implementation of Scientific, Technological and Innovation agenda(s) and strengthen the parliament’s processes in dealing with science and technology legislation and scrutiny of government policy, and **encourages** ISESCO to enlarge its programmes in this regard;
4. **Urges** ISESCO to actively participate in the implementation of the OIC- SHPA 2014-2023 by sharing lessons learnt from its Action Plans and join activities related to health on the six thematic areas of the Programme;

5. **Acknowledges** ISESCO support for Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) and Islamic University Niger (IUN) and **urges** it to continue supporting them, in accordance with the plan submitted by ISESCO to the General Secretariat which includes actions for strengthening of their academic programmes, performance assessment, supporting STI programmes, capacity-building of faculty and promoting linkages with universities in Member States;
6. **Commends** the efforts of the Federation of Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) in promoting and advancing university education and establishing linkages and partnerships among universities across the Islamic World **and calls upon** the FUIW to take steps for establishing partnerships and linkages between IUIU, IUN and IUT and universities of good standing in the Member States;
7. **Calls upon** Member States and OIC relevant institutions to actively participate in the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research scheduled to be held Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14 - 15 November 2016.

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

Noting with appreciation the commitment of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) towards addressing developmental and financial needs of the OIC Member States in the area of science and technology, higher education, health and environment and its programmes and initiatives in these areas,

Appreciating IDB for focusing on health sector, particularly in the area of combating diseases and epidemics and strengthening human and institutional capacity in various Member States;

Commending IDB Scholarship Programmes aimed to build science-based human capital in Member States as well as Muslim communities in non-Member States,

Appreciating IDB for its financial support extended towards the preparation various studies such as the Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation project, OIC-SHPA 2014-2013, OIC Water Vision and OIC Green energy Blue Print,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary General on the activities of the IDB in the domains of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health and Environment:

1. **Reiterates** its request for IDB to promote STI collaboration among OIC Member States, inter alia, through promoting linkages between the IDB S&T Prize Winning institutions and their counterparts in other OIC countries;

2. **Commends** the IDB assistance for the development of Information Security Management System (ISMS) implementation Framework - a project between Cyber Security Malaysia and the Central Bank of Suriname for the enhancement of the security of information systems in the Central bank of Suriname;
3. **Calls upon** IDB to assist Member States to improve quality of education to allocate more grants for capacity building and development projects;
4. **Requests** IDB to continue supporting Member States in their efforts to combat diseases and epidemics;
5. **Further Requests** IDB to continue its support to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in the fight against polio and to cooperate with the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
6. **Invites IDB** to consider programmes for assisting Member States to move towards high value added economies and embed technology development into the planning processes of Member States;
7. **Encourages** IDB to apply more concessionary rates for R&D funding.

ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IAS)

Bearing in mind that the IAS is an international forum of the science community of the ore that is actively raising the profile of science and science education and promoting networking among the scientists of the OIC as well as with the international science community,

Noting IAS 2015 Declaration issued at the conclusion of the 20th IAS Conference held in Tehran (Iran), 26-27 December 2015, under the title 'Science, Technology and Innovation: Building Humanity's Common Future;' convened in co-operation with the Iranian Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology and the Mustafa Prize Award Commission,

Commending the IAS for co-organizing the seminar on 'Islamic Perspectives on Science's Big Questions,' in collaboration with the UN ESCWA, Jordan's Royal Scientific Society as well as a number of youth organizations in Amman, Jordan, 5 May 20 16;

Further Commending the IAS for publishing the Medical Journal of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences as a unique open-source forum for the medical research community in the OIC and internationally; and recognized by the WHO Index Medicus, the Turkish Citation Index as well the OIC's Islamic World Science Citation Centre,

Taking note of IAS outreach activities with the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) and the International Union of Academies (IUA),

Further taking note of the IAS collaboration with the prestigious Inter-Action Council (IAC), which is a grouping of statesmen who have held the highest office in their own countries, in the domains of the water-energy-food nexus as well as the field of global security,

Acknowledging the support provided to the IAS by a number of OIC Member states including Jordan, Pakistan, Oman, Kuwait and Malaysia,

Taking note of the report of IAS;

1. **Calls upon** the Member States to afford the IAS all possible support to help it achieve its objectives;
2. **Urges** the IAS to further strengthen its activities in all domains pertinent to its mandate and responsibilities;
3. **Requests** the IAS to continue to build up its Internet-based visual database of scientific lectures and symposia for the benefit of scientists, scholars and researchers from the OIC Member States;
4. **Requests** the IAS to maintain the Medical Journal of the IAS and to seek the support of all relevant OIC agencies to strengthen the Journal further;
5. **Reiterates** its call for the IAS to provide all possible assistance to the Member States in formulating their national STI policies and strategies and in founding their national academies of sciences;
6. **Requests** the IAS to continue its 'History of Islamic Science' programme in collaboration with relevant OIC and international organisations;

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ICCI):

Noting the contribution of ICCI to develop a society that is appreciative and supportive of S&T, creating an environment that encourages and rewards ideas, supports science and innovation, promotes entrepreneurship in Member States,

Taking note of the report of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI):

1. **Reiterates its call** for ICCI to support greater industry participation and investments in R&D/technology development activities and promoting and expanding academia-industry linkage programme in OIC Member States including programme to enhance commercialization of R&D;

2. **Requests** ICCI, in collaboration with the IDB and Member States, to identify viable and marketable projects for commercialization of R&D results.

RESOLUTION NO.9/43-S&T
ON
MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE SAND AND DUST STORM
IN SOME MEMBER STATES

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H (Corresponding to 18-19 October 2016),

Referring to the objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation where it demands the Member States to Endeavour to protect and preserve the environment,

Having considered the OIC-2025: Program of Action calling upon Member States to coordinate their environmental policies and positions in international environmental fora so as to prevent adverse effects of such policies on their economic development,

Recalling further article 3 of the Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development, ratified by Islamic Environment Ministers in Jeddah, on 10-12 June 2002, where it names the environment a gift from Allah and calls upon all individuals and communities to take care of it and promote it,

Taking into account the adverse effects of severe and long-standing drought and implications of climate change, in the shape of dust and sand storm in certain Member States,

Further taking into account the final report of the First Meeting of the Islamic Executive Bureau for Environment which, among other things, calls on Member States competent authorities to redouble efforts and better coordinate actions to meet the new challenges posed by climate change and deterioration of environmental situation including desertification,

Recalling Resolution No. 9/42-S&T on Mainstreaming Efforts to Combat the Sand and Dust Storm adopted by the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Kuwait, 27-28 May 2015,

Welcoming the UNEP initiative of Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms including Ministerial Meeting held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 and the Technical Meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 6-7 May 2013, attended by more than 50 countries, relevant UN agencies, regional organizations and other participants,

1. Expresses concern over the unprecedented wave of sand and dust tempests and for the considerable losses they have been causing in desert areas in the Member States in both Asia and Africa;

2. **Calls on** all the Member States affected in desert areas in Asia and Africa to engage in a conscientious and constructive interaction to resolve this problem in an appropriate manner;
3. **Appreciates** the participation of the OIC Member States in the UNEP regional project on Catalyzing Cooperative Actions to Combat Land Degradation and Dust Storms under the UNEP initiative of Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms and encourages other OIC Member States to join the UNEP regional project;
4. **Expresses appreciation** for the efforts to limit sandstorms and drought in states of the region under the umbrella of a programme developed by the World Meteorological Organization in the context of limiting the impact of climate change;
5. **Expresses** its support for developing a collective regional mechanism for awareness raising early warning and risk management network enabling the affected countries to face the problem in a suitable manner;
6. **Calls upon** all international and regional environmental instruments and institutions, including ROPME, to seriously and rapidly address the issue and to mobilize their resources, both technically and financially to assist the affected countries;
7. **Invites** the Member States to contribute to the reforestation of desert zones in the OIC Member States, and to take firm measures against the abusive cutting of trees and bushfires;
8. **Further Invites** the OIC Specialized Agencies such as Islamic Development Bank to take all appropriate measures to develop concrete projects for assisting the affected countries enabling them to overcome the disastrous effects of this phenomenon;
9. **Decides** to remain ceased with the matter.

RESOLUTION NO.10/43-S&T
ON
THE FORMER SEMIPALATINSK
NUCLEAR TEST SITE AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS AND
REHABILITATION OF THE ARAL SEA REGION

The Forty Third Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 17-18 Muharram 1438H Corresponding to (18-19 October 2016),

Taking into consideration UN General Assembly resolution 64/35 “International Day against Nuclear Tests”

Taking into consideration also UN General Assembly resolution 63/279 “International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan”;

Taking into account the official document of the UN General Assembly No. A/68/686 title “Program of measures to eliminate consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea and prevent disaster of the ecosystem in the Aral Sea region”,

Recalling resolution No.4/33-S&T on environmental issues adopted by the 33rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, requesting the Islamic Development Bank and charity foundations of the Muslim countries to explore ways and means to evolve a programme providing support to the regions of the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk in coordination with existing international, regional and national programmes,

Expressing serious concern over the consequences of ecological problems of the Aral Sea and former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site,

Taking note of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev’s decree of 29 August 1991, the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site had been shut down, having functioned from 1949 to 1991 and produced 456 nuclear tests,

Acknowledging that the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site remains an issue of serious concern for Kazakhstan, in view of its long term hazardous effects on the lives and health of the region’s inhabitants and the environment,

1. Reiterates its call upon Member States to observe the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August in order to increase awareness of the effects of nuclear weapons test explosions;

2. **Commends** Member States for their contribution to the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the closing of the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site which was aimed at informing the public about the dangerous consequences of nuclear tests for the lives and health of people and the state of the environment;

3. **Emphasizes** importance of implementation of the Third Aral Sea Basin Program-3 (ASBP-3) at the Donor Coordination Conference held on December 9, 2010, in Almaty, Kazakhstan in terms of environment protection;

4. **Supports** the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan on establishment, under UN auspices, of a special Trust Fund for the Aral Sea and the Aral Sea region, with the main task of coordination of efforts and implementation of targeted programs and projects;

5. **Highly appreciates** the implementation of the joint program of Uzbekistan and the United Nations titled “Ensuring livelihoods of the population suffered by the Aral Sea crisis”, aimed at improving the welfare of the population through the creation of additional sources of income, improvement of healthcare system and development of infrastructure;

6. **Urges** the Islamic Development Bank, the OIC Member States and international donor organizations to continue providing necessary technical and financial support in implementation of Programs directed to address the issues of the Aral Sea and region of the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Testing Site;

7. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the 44th session of Council of Foreign Ministers.
