



OIC/8ICTM/2013/MIN/REP

**REPORT OF
THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS**

**BANJUL, REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
04-06 December 2013**

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)

1. The Eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia on 04-06 December 2013 (01-03 Safar 1435H).
2. The proceedings of the Session was preceded by a ceremony at State House of The Gambia on 04 December 2013 during which H.E. Sheikh Professor Dr. Alhaji Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, President of the Republic of The Gambia conferred the insignia of distinguished officer of the Order of the Republic of The Gambia award on H. E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC in recognition of his illustrious service to the Muslim Ummah.
3. The Conference was attended by 28 member states, comprising Ministers in charge of Tourism and heads of delegation. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, an observer State also participated in the Conference. Other attendees include representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, OIC institutions, regional and international Organizations. List of participants are attached in **Annex-I**.
4. At outset, the Meeting observed a minute of silence in honor of the Late President Nelson Madiba Mandela, the iconic African and international leader, who passed away in South Africa on 05 December 2013.

OPENING CEREMONY

5. Following the traditional recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Mr. Morteza Rahmani, Deputy Head of Tourism at the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation and Head of delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his capacity as Chairman of the Seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, delivered an opening speech. Mr. Rahmani underscored the various activities of the OIC in the area of tourism, dwelling on the progress realized in the execution of the diverse projects and programmes of the Organisation during his country's chairmanship of ICTM.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

6. The Conference elected the following members of the Bureau:
 - Chairman: Republic of The Gambia
 - Vice Chairman : Malaysia
 - Vice Chairman : Republic of Tunisia
 - Vice Chairman : State of Palestine
 - Rapporteur : Islamic Republic of Iran

7. In her welcome speech as chairperson of the Session, H.E. Mrs. Fatou Mass Jobe Njie, Minister of Tourism and Culture of Republic of The Gambia underscored the great opportunity afforded by the Conference for the Ministers and other stakeholders to share their respective diverse experiences in the domain of tourism. In reference to the theme of the Conference namely: Fostering Wealth Creation through Tourism Development”, the Minister emphasized the vital role of tourism as a major contributor to employment generation and wealth creation, including improving the livelihood of the populations of OIC member states.
8. His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, in his opening address expressed gratitude to H.E. Al-Haj Dr. Yahya Jammeh, President of Republic of The Gambia, the esteemed Government and people of The Gambia for their generous initiative to host the Conference at a momentous time, when the issue of tourism development and poverty alleviation was on top of the agenda of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.
9. The Secretary General pointed out those OIC activities in the domain of tourism had considerably increased since the adoption of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, due to a number of strategies that the General Secretariat had adopted chief among them the promotion of triangular partnership. In this regard, the Secretary General hailed the joint efforts between the OIC and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and concerned member states in developing the tourism infrastructure through the implementation of the project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa. The statements are attached as **Annex-II**.
10. In his Statement read out by the Guest of Honour, H. E. Ajaratou Dr. Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice President and Minister of Women Affairs of the Gambia, H.E. the President of the Republic of The Gambia, Sheikh Professor Dr. Alhaji Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, urged the Conference to come up with practical and actionable programmes and projects that will help member states in improving their respective social and economic conditions.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

11. The Conference adopted its Agenda and Work Programme, which are attached in **Annex III** and **Annex IV**, respectively.
12. The Chairman of the Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) preparatory to the Eighth Session of the ICTM presented the report on the SOM, held in Banjul, on 04-05 December 2013. The meeting adopted the report of the SOM which is attached in **Annex V**.

13. During the General Debate the delegations deliberated on a number of issues concerning the promotion of tourism among OIC member states, emphasizing the need for tourism infrastructure development; policy and standard harmonization; promotion of Shariah-compliant tourism products; increasing competitiveness among SMEs in OIC member states; and facilitation of movement of tourists among the OIC member states as major steps towards realization of the objectives set in the OIC Framework for Development of Tourism.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MECHANISM AND CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF OIC CITY OF TOURISM

14. After effecting several amendments, the Conference approved the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism attached as **Annex-VI**.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MECHANISM AND CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF OIC SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FOR HANDICRAFTS

15. The Conference also reviewed the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts and approved the said document. It agreed that IRCICA should implement this Mechanism in line with its mandate as a subsidiary institution of the OIC, charged with developing Islamic arts, history and culture. The approved Mechanism is attached as **Annex- VII**.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL BY THE BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF “THE HERITAGE CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

16. The Conference reviewed the proposition by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries as an international specialized institution against the background of the similarity between the mandate of the proposed Centre and the functions of such existing OIC institutions as IRCICA and ISESCO. The Conference, therefore, agreed that the Iranian proposal be considered for further necessary actions, by these two institutions within their respective mandates. The proposal is attached as **Annex-VIII**.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TOURISM BETWEEN OIC MEMBER STATES

17. The Conference elected the following member states to the re-constituted Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Framework on Tourism:

1. Republic of The Gambia
2. Republic of Iraq
3. Malaysia
4. Republic of Niger
5. State of Palestine
6. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
7. Republic of Senegal
8. Republic of Turkey
9. Republic of Uganda

ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AND THE REPORT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

18. The Conference adopted the Resolution on Development of Tourism among OIC member states as well as the Report of the Senior Officials preparatory to the 8th Session of ICTM. The documents are attached in **Annex IX & X**.

VENUE OF THE 9TH ICTM

19. The Conference welcomed the offer by the Government of the Republic of Niger to host the 9th Session of ICTM in 2015 and urged Member States to actively participate in the Session.

VOTE OF THANKS

20. The Conference expressed its profound gratitude to Sheikh Professor Dr. Alhaji Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, President of Republic of The Gambia for having patronized the Eighth Session of the ICTM and for all the facilities accorded to all delegations since they arrived in the beautiful city of Banjul. The Conference also expressed its gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of The Gambia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the participants and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the Meeting.
21. The Conference further expressed its gratitude to the General Secretariat of the OIC under the able leadership of its Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, for their dedicated and tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the Eighth Session of the ICTM.
22. At the end of the proceedings, the participants addressed their vote of thanks to H.E. Mrs. Fatou Mass Jobe Njie, Minister of Tourism and Culture of Republic of The Gambia and Chairperson of the Eighth Session of the ICTM and congratulated her for her excellent steering of the deliberations.

Banjul, 6th December 2013
