



Resolution

Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water

**Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
14-16 October 2018**



RESOLUTION NO. 1/4-ICWM/2018

The Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water (Steps on the Road), held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt from 14-16 October 2018 (5-7 Safar 1440H),

Underscoring the significance of cooperation among Member States for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision, including cooperation related to Water Resources to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation in addition to cooperation in sharing of knowledge and exchange of experiences to address water-related challenges in the OIC Member States;

Referring to the OIC 2025: Program of Action adopted by the Thirteen Islamic Summit held in Istanbul in April 2016, which called upon Member states to strengthen cooperation for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision and attainment of the goals and targets defined therein;

Welcoming the adoption of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 by the first OIC Summit on the science & technology held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 September, 2017.

Recalling the resolutions of the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for water (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-19 May 2016), which inter-alia approved the Terms of Reference for the OIC Water Council and also requested Member States to designate national focal points;

Recalling the Implementation Plan of OIC Water Vision as a main outcome of the 1st OIC Water Council Meeting held in Istanbul (15-16 November 2017);

Recalling relevant resolutions adopted by successive sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) particularly Resolution No. 45/5 – S & T on OIC Water Vision adopted by the 45th Session of CFM held in the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 5-6 May 2018;

Recognizing the importance of water-use efficiency, better water infrastructure and access to a safe and affordable drinking water and equitable adequate sanitation and hygiene for all;

Recalling the Ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, particularly for the commitment of improving cooperation across borders in transboundary waters;

Mindful of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by United Nations particularly Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation and its associated targets related to increasing



water–use efficiency across all sectors to ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity challenge;

Concerned by the adverse impacts of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), water scarcity and climate change on food security, particularly when it leads to increase pressure on surface and ground water resources to cause degradation of water quality and outbreak of waterborne diseases;

Recognizing that water is a cross cutting issue and asserting the importance of ensuring sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality by 2030;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028;

Recognizing the importance of creating partnerships at the national, regional and global levels, as appropriate, among stakeholders from the public and private sectors, members of civil society and academia for improving integrated water resources management;

Emphasizing that riparian countries are entitled to use transboundary water according to the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of water without causing significant harm;

Acknowledging the importance of allocating adequate financial resources for the development of water infrastructure and emphasizing need for mobilizing additional financial resources in the form of domestic and international public and private funding;

Appreciating SESRIC for preparing the OIC water Report 2018 that took stock of the present situation of water and highlighted challenges faced by the OIC Member States;

Further taking note of the panel discussions on enhancing integrated water resources management to achieve sustainable development goals during this session, and

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General;

1. **Encourages** the Member States to implement the OIC Water Vision;



2. Decides the composition of the Water Council for two year term (2019-2020) as follows; Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Morocco, Yemen, Somalia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, OIC General Secretariat; and relevant OIC institutions and international organizations as observers;
3. **Reaffirms** the rights of the Palestinian people for sovereignty over their national resources, including land and water; and condemns Israeli practices of stealing Palestinian water resources; and requests the international community to assume its responsibilities in compelling Israel to strictly abide by its obligations under international law including international humanitarian law and to halt all its illegal policies in the occupied Palestinian territory;
4. **Appreciates** the OIC Member States and other donor financial institutions including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), which made pledges during the Donors' Conference held in March 2018 in Brussels to support the Central Water Desalination Plant Programme in Gaza and calls for expeditious realization of those pledges;
5. **Requests** the OIC Member States to provide the needed financial and technical support to implement the strategic plan of the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in order to enable the Government of Palestine to continue providing and developing water and sanitation services to the Palestinian people.
6. **Encourages** OIC Member States to enhance transboundary cooperation and coordination among the riparian states to achieve mutual benefits.
7. **Takes note** of the outcome of the panel discussions on enhancing integrated water resources management to achieve sustainable development goals and calls upon the OIC Water Council to suggest practical measures for the implementation of the recommendations made;
8. **Calls upon** Member States to prepare and adopt national strategies and plans and align their implementation activities for the achievement of the water related SDGs particularly No. 6 and its targets as well as the objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water For Sustainable Development 2018-2028";



9. **Emphasizes** the importance of active coordination among the national focal points (NFP) of the Member States, OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions for the implementation of OIC Water Vision and reiterates its request to the Member States that have not designated NFPs to do the same at the earliest;
10. **Commends** SESRIC for the Preparation and dissemination of a specific capacity building questionnaire on water resources among the Member States to share necessary information with SESRIC;
11. **Calls upon** the Member States, OIC institutions and relevant national and civil society organizations as appropriate to actively arrange and participate in the programmes for capacity building and human resource development in the water related areas;
12. **Welcomes** the establishment of a network of water-related institutes and training and research centers in the Member States to facilitate exchange of Knowledge, experiences and best practices in the domain of water among the Member States;
13. **Calls upon** the Member States, OIC General Secretariat and other OIC relevant institutions to help the educational and research institutes working on water-related issues in the Member States to share and enhance knowledge and to carry out collaborative research activities;
14. **Encourages** the OIC institutions, international financial institutions including the IDB, and other international partners to coordinate their efforts for assisting the OIC Member States , particularly the Least Developed OIC Countries and OIC countries facing water scarcity, to pursue the implementation of the OIC Water Vision and SDGs;
15. **Mandates** the OIC Secretary General to consult Member States about the venue for hosting the 5th session of Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water in 2020;
16. **Requests** the Secretary General to take appropriate steps for the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water.
