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**Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Islamic  
Conference of Ministers  
Responsible for Water**

**Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt**

**14-16 October 2018**



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### **Introduction and opening session:**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water (ICMW) was hosted by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Arab Republic of Egypt in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat in Cairo, from 14-16 October 2018.
2. The meeting was attended by 11 Ministers, several Deputy Ministers and high level officials from OIC Member States; relevant OIC Institutions; and international organizations. (List of participants is attached as Annex I).
3. The Ministers participating in the Conference hailed the meeting held with the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H. E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and affirmed His Excellency's forward-looking vision (Egypt Vision) on addressing water-related challenges and urged Member States to cooperate.
4. In his opening remarks, the OIC Secretary General H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Othaimen stressed the need for collective efforts within a framework of cooperation at global, regional and sub-regional levels to address the enormous challenges regarding reliable access to clean water and sanitation and the management of water-related risks. He underscored the efforts of the OIC in addressing the challenges faced by the Member States in the water sector observing that the strength of OIC was in its ability to bring together expertise from diverse countries with unique water characteristics. It also helps in identifying avenues for collaboration and workable mechanisms which are consistent with the political, economic, social and cultural ethos of the Member States.
5. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey, H. E. Akif Özkaldı, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of ICMW, outlined the achievements that had been made in the past two years and the challenges ahead. He pledged Turkey's continued support to carry out activities under the ambit of the implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision, particularly capacity building and collaboration between the research institutes.
6. The Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Dr. Mohammed Abdel Ati, welcomed all delegates to Cairo. He shared Egypt's experience in addressing water-related challenges and welcomed any OIC Member State that may wish to benefit from this experience. He highlighted the support both financial and technical which Egypt was giving to other fellow Member States in the field of water and underscored the importance of exchange of knowledge and technology transfer among Member States. On this occasion, H. E. the Minister announced an offer of one scholarship allocated to each OIC Member State for training in the area of

integrated management of water resources at the Egyptian National Water research Centre (NWRC).

7. In his video message to the Conference, His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Shariff welcomed the Ministers and all delegates to Egypt. He empathized the importance accorded to water in teaching of all religions and shared the teachings of Islam concerning water and its use. The Grand Imam underlined the philosophy of Islam regarding water which is based on two main principles namely public/collective ownership and rational use of water. He cautioned against any claim of monopoly of water resources by any particular person or entity and called for efficient use of water resources and refraining from wastage.

#### **Election of Bureau members and adoption of agenda**

8. Following the inaugural statements, the Conference proceeded to elect its Bureau by acclamation as follows:

Chairman: Arab Republic of Egypt

Vice Chairmen: State of Palestine  
Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Rapporteur: Republic of Turkey

#### **Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work**

9. The Conference adopted its Agenda and Programme of work attached as Annex II & III.

#### **Keynote Speech on "Water footprint as a tool for water resources management"**

10. A Keynote Speech on "Water footprint as a tool for water resources management" was delivered by Prof. Dr. Osama Salam.

#### **Statements by the Heads of Delegation**

11. Participating Ministers and Heads of Delegations made Statements in which they shared their respective experiences in the field of water resource management. They also pointed out the various challenges facing their countries and the measures taken to address those challenges and their expectations from effective and expeditious implementation of the OIC Water Vision.
12. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations also underscored the need for improved coordination, increased financing and improved technologies for such water-related activities and projects as construction of water storage facilities, water and waste water treatment plants, drinking water and sanitation infrastructure.
13. They welcomed the adoption of Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision and called for early operationalization.

#### **Presentation of OIC Water Report 2018 by SESRIC**

14. The Conference took note of the OIC Water Report 2018 prepared by SESRIC. The Conference commended SESRIC for their efforts in providing necessary data which should guide Member States in making their respective national strategies in the field of water resources management. They called on SESRIC to coordinate with Member States before publishing some of the data.

#### **Presentation on IDB strategy for water resources sector**

15. The Conference listened to IsDB Strategy for Water Resources Sector prepared by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The Conference commended the Strategy and expressed hope that it will help the Member States in their efforts toward expedited implementation of the OIC Water Vision.

#### **Panel Discussions**

16. The Conference listened to the panel discussions on "enhancing integrated water resources management to achieve sustainable development goals." The Conference took note of the recommendations made by the panelists and called on the OIC General Secretariat and OIC relevant institutions to follow-up on these recommendations.

#### **Adoption of:**

- Draft Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision
- Draft Resolution on 4<sup>th</sup> ICMW

17. Taking note of the approval of the documents by the Senior Officials Meeting held prior to the Conference on 14 October 2018, the Conference adopted the Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision and the Resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water. The two documents are attached as Annex. V and VI respectively.

#### **Venue and Date of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water**

18. The Conference Mandated 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.

#### **Vote of Thanks**

19. The Conference expressed deep appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt through Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation for the kind hospitality, excellent organization and arrangements for the Conference. The Conference also expressed thanks to the OIC Secretary General and his team for the good preparation of the Conference.