



OIC/CFM-44/2017/ST/RES/FINAL

RESOLUTIONS

ON

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

ADOPTED BY THE

**44TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF YOUTH, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN A WORLD
OF SOLIDARITY)**

ABIDJAN, REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE

**(16-17 SHAWWAL 1438)
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RESOLUTION NO.1/44-S&T
ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MATTERS

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

Recalling 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,

Referring to the relevant resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 1/43 – S&T on Science and Technology Matters adopted by the 43rd session held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

Also referring to the Final Communiqué adopted by the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016,

Noting with appreciation 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 OIC Member States,

Recognizing the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, regarding natural and human-made disasters, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, improve productivity and competitiveness and ultimately support sustainable development,

Recognizing further 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 ongoing efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan in coordination with COMSTECH and OIC General Secretariat to finalize preparations for the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology; Higher Education; Health; and Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/44-CFM/2017/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, and their commercial application, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest, and transform STI into employment, wealth creation and economic growth activities incorporating all inter-related elements, including knowledge and technology transfer;
2. **Calls upon** the relevant OIC institutions including the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support and assist commercial incubation projects based on scientific and technological innovations of the member states;
3. **Emphasizes** the central role of Governments, with active contributions from stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and research institutions, in creating and supporting an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship and the advancement of science, technology and engineering, in accordance with national priorities;
4. **Recognizes** that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the OIC 2025: Programme of Action;
5. **Takes note** with appreciation of the efforts being made by the Government of Kazakhstan in coordination with the COMSTECH and OIC General Secretariat to host the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology;
6. **Calls upon** all Member States and relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology to be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 10-11 September 2017 for identifying priorities, goals and targets for the advancement and promotion of science, technology and innovation in the OIC Member States;
7. **Further calls upon** all Member States and relevant OIC institutions for their valuable contributions in preparation of the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology to be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 10-11 September 2017;
8. **Reiterates its Call to** 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;
9. **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 1441H for Science and Technology;

10. **Takes note** with appreciation of the IDB specialized programs for Technical Cooperation, Science and Technology and Resource Centers Mapping and **urges** the Member States to take note of the advanced capacities of the Resource Centers identified by the IDB, and consider utilizing their expertise in addressing the local development challenges;
11. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.2/44-S&T
ON
HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

Recalling the relevant Resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 2/43 – S&T on Higher Education Matters adopted by the 43rd session held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

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

Referring to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Islamic Conferences of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, including those adopted by the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14-15 November 2016,

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

Commending the Republic of Mali for hosting the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research in collaboration with ISESCO and OIC General Secretariat, in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14 – 15 November;

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, modern, advanced and specialized technology related subjects and disciplines, networking among higher education institutions, promotion of joint research projects, open and distance learning (ODL) arrangements, scholarship programmes and vocational training programmes;
2. **Welcomes** the offer by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 9th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research in 2018 and **Urges** Member States to actively participate in the Conference;
3. **Expresses** appreciation for the higher education scholarships offered by Governments of Pakistan, Brunei Darussalam and Egypt; and also by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Pakistan.

4. **Invites** Member States to encourage their public and private sector higher education and research institutions to actively collaborate with the OIC for further strengthening and promoting the OIC Educational Exchange Programme;
5. **Emphasizes** the need for active coordination between OIC General Secretariat, ISESCO and IDB to establish a general framework for promoting and advancing higher education through enhanced exchanges, scholarships, sharing of expertise and joint research;
6. **Takes note**, with appreciation, of the efforts of relevant OIC institutions for promoting and advancing higher education in Member States, including ISF's annual grants to IUIU and IUN and IDB's and ISESCO's support for OIC universities as well as their respective programmes;
7. **Reiterates** support for the establishment of an International Islamic University in Kabul, Afghanistan and encourages the efforts of IDB and ISF to contribute to and mobilize financial resources for this purpose; and calls upon the OIC Member States to support this project;
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to dispatch a delegation composed of representatives from General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, Islamic Solidarity Fund as well as interested potential donor Member States to Kabul for consultations with the Afghan officials to explore legal, practical and financial aspects of the project;
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.3/44-S&T
ON
HEALTH MATTERS

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

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

Recalling further the relevant resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) including Resolution No. 3/43 – S&T on Health Matters adopted by the 43rd session of Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

Re-affirming the resolutions and decisions adopted by the successive sessions of ICHM and the Steering Committee on Health, including those adopted by the 5th ICHM held in Istanbul, Turkey on 17 – 19 November 2015,

Bearing in mind the Final Communiqué 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 Declaration issued by the Special Session of First Ladies' Leadership of the OIC Member States on Cancer Control in Istanbul on 14 April 2016, at the margins of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference,

Taking into consideration the Practical Arrangements signed, in May 2016, between 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 the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Sudan for hosting a meeting to Review Funding Gaps and Mobilize Resources for the implementation of priority interventions in the National Cancer Control Programmes of the OIC-IDB-IAEA on 20-22 March 2017,

Appreciating further the Government of Turkey for organizing a Symposium on “Prevention of gynecological malignancies (Women's Cancer)” on 8-10 September 2016,

Appreciating SESRIC for convening a consultative meeting on OIC Maternal Health and Child Survival Project in Casablanca, Morocco on 30 November-01 December, 2016,

Taking note of the Third meeting of the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers' Group hosted by Bio Farma, Indonesia on 14-15 November 2016,

Further taking note, with appreciation, of the efforts made by the Islamic Advisory Group on polio eradication (IAG) including convening of its Third Meeting at the IDB Headquarters on 27 September 2016,

Appreciating the role of relevant OIC institutions especially SESRIC, IDB and ISESCO in carrying out programmes and activities that advance the OIC agenda in the health domain including assisting Member States to strengthen their health systems by improving basic infrastructures, human and technical resources and the provision of health facilities, and of ensuring the accessibility, affordability and quality of health-care services as well as sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation ,

Expressing appreciation for 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 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/44-CFM/2017/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Encourages** Member States and relevant OIC institutions to scale up actions aimed at accelerating progress on all health-related objectives of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, universal access to immunization and key child survival interventions, prevention and treatment services for malaria and tuberculosis, the achievement of which would have the greatest impact on public health and development;
2. **Reaffirms** its strong commitment to the full implementation of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) 2014-2023; **and calls** upon Member States to coordinate their efforts with the respective Lead Country Coordinator Group (LCCG) in implementing activities under each of the six thematic areas of the OIC-SHPA;
3. **Acknowledges** that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century which undermines social and economic development throughout the world and threatens the achievement of internationally agreed development goals; and **reiterates** its call for the Member States to undertake necessary steps to promote healthy life style among their nationals and strengthen control of non-communicable diseases including cancer, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases;

4. **Appreciates** the efforts of some OIC Member States to control the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases and encourages them to share their best practices with other Member States;
5. **Takes note**, with concern, of the increasing cancer burden and limited access to radiotherapy and related cancer services among Member States; and **urges** Member States to support the OIC-IDB-IAEA efforts aimed at assisting interested Member States towards their national cancer control programmes as well as supporting the establishment, upgradation, and/or expansion of the radiotherapy services;
6. **Calls upon** the Member States and OIC institutions to support and benefit from the research activities carried out on health-related issues by research institutions including OIC Centres of Excellence;
7. **Welcomes** the decision of the 3rd Meeting of the Islamic Advisory Group for polio eradication to expand its scope to cover other maternal and child health related interventions and **calls upon** all Member States to continue their efforts to increase coverage of immunization also through sharing of their best practices to ensure that all children are vaccinated against preventable diseases including polio;
8. **Calls upon** IAG and all relevant OIC institutions, within their respective mandates, to provide technical cooperation and assistance to Member States, upon their request, to support their efforts to implement commitments regarding maternal and child health and nutrition,
9. **Calls upon** Member States to support the efforts being made by the OIC Vaccine Manufactures Group to achieve self-reliance in the production and supply of safe and affordable vaccines; and **urges** them to identify and encourage the vaccine manufacturing companies under their respective jurisdictions to join the Group;
10. **Underscores** the need for an early operationalization of Center of Excellence on Vaccine and Biotechnology Products, as offered by the Republic of Indonesia;
11. **Acknowledges** the potential of civil society and the private sector institutions to contribute significantly to the implementation of the OIC health agenda; and **calls upon** 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;
12. **Underscores** the importance of availing adequate resources both technical and financial towards the implementation of the OIC SHPA 2014-2023 and **calls upon** the Working Group on Mobilization of Resources for the Implementation of activities of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) to expedite their work toward holding resource mobilization conference;

13. **Calls upon** Member States to actively participate in the 6th session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers scheduled to be held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 5-7 December 2017;
14. **Requests** the Secretary General to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the next Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

**RESOLUTION NO.4/44-S&T
ON
ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

Recalling the OIC-2025: Program of Action objectives related to Environment adopted by the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 14-15 April 2016,

Recalling further the UN Sustainable Development Goals related to the environment adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015,

Reaffirming the relevant resolutions adopted by the previous sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Resolution No 4/43 – S&T on Environment Matters adopted by the 43rd session held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

Taking into account the resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers including the 6th session 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,

Noting the adoption of the Paris Agreement during the 21st session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Noting further the Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development adopted by 22nd session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco on 7-18 November 2016,

Commending the good organization by the Kingdom of Morocco of the 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22); while hailing the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI launched during the Conference, for the award of a million-dollar International Prize on Climate and Environment, with the aim to bring a new dynamism to climate change response efforts and bolster innovation in addressing this global phenomenon;

Appreciating the efforts of relevant OIC institutions including SESRIC, ISESCO and IDB in providing capacity-building and technical support to Member States in environment-related fields,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science, and Technology and Innovation, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/44-CFM/2017/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Underscores** the need for adequate financing, transfer of technology, and capacity building support for the OIC Member States that are eligible for it as per UNFCCC to address the adverse effects of climate change to the lives and livelihoods of millions of people,
2. **Reaffirms** its commitment to full implementation of the decisions, resolutions and recommendations of the international and OIC fora including the 6th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 18-19 December 2015, regarding environmental protection;
3. **Reiterates** its call to 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;
4. **Calls on** the General Secretariat to coordinate and liaise with relevant international bodies, institutions, mechanisms and initiatives and assist climate vulnerable OIC Member States to enhance their skill and capacity to access the available climate finance for adoption and mitigation;
5. **Calls upon** the relevant OIC institutions including SESRIC, IDB and ISESCO within their respective mandates, to provide technical cooperation and assistance to Member States, upon their request, to support their efforts to implement commitments made under the auspices of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,
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 7th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers to be held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 25-26 October 2017;

8. **Further 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;
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.5/44-S&T
ON
Water Resources Related issues

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

Recalling the provisions of OIC 2025: Programme of Action including the goals related to maximizing the productive use of water and minimizing its destructive impact,

Bearing in mind the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development particularly Sustainable Development Goal No 6 that reaffirmed commitments regarding the right to access to safe drinking water and sanitation therein,

Welcoming to 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,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions including Resolution No 5/43-S&T on OIC Water Vision adopted by the 43rd session held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

Reaffirming further the resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water including that of the 3rd session held in Istanbul, Turkey, 17-19 May, 2016 which adopted the Terms of Reference of the OIC Water Council,

Appreciating the efforts of the OIC relevant institutions including SESRIC, IDB and ISESCO in advancing the OIC agenda in the domain of water resources management,

Underscoring the significance of cooperation between the OIC Member States for the implementation of the OIC Water Vision including cooperation on water and sanitation,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Science and Technology, Higher Education, Health, Water Resources and Environment Sectors (OIC/44-CFM/2017/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Stresses** the important role of the international cooperation and technical assistance provided by Member States, the OIC relevant institutions, international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in particular in the timely achievement of the OIC-2025: Programme of Action and Sustainable Development Goal related to water and sanitation.
2. **Underscores** the need for an early implementation of the OIC Water Vision as well as the OIC-2025: Programme of Action goals related to maximizing the productive use of water and minimizing its destructive impact;

3. **Calls upon** the OIC General Secretariat in coordination with the Chair of the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water Affairs to expedite the convening of the 1st Meeting of the OIC Water Council to discuss, inter alia, mechanisms for the implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision.
4. **Commends the** Member States which have conveyed their designated focal points for the OIC Water Vision; and **Calls upon** those which have not yet appointed their respective national focal points to do so at the earliest opportunity;
5. **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.
6. **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; and **encourages** Member States to continue to respond favourably to requests by SESRIC for the necessary updates and questionnaires regarding needs and capacities available to them in the field of water resources management;
7. **Welcomes** the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water in 2018;
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.6/44-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION (COMSTECH)

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

Recalling its previous resolutions including Resolution No. 6/43-S&T on the activities of Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) adopted by the 43rd session held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

Recalling further the resolutions and recommendations of the successive Meetings of the General Assembly of COMSTECH including the 15th Meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 31 May- 1 June, 2016,

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

Appreciating COMSTECH for its efforts to help the Member States in the field of Science and Technology, Higher Education, Food Security, Health and the Environment by organizing 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,

Taking note, with appreciation, of the ongoing collaboration between COMSTECH and various institutions and foundations within and outside the OIC including collaboration with Lindau Council of Nobel Laureates Meetings; The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS); and International Foundation for Science (IFS),

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

1. **Reiterates** its call for 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. **Re-affirms** the role of COMSTECH in working out a coordinated implementation strategy of the provisions of the OIC Vision 1441H and the OIC 2025: Program of Action pertaining to Science and Technology;
3. **Commends** COMSTECH for promoting international co-operation among scientists by signing agreements and facilitating exchanges of experts and information 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. **Takes note** of the ongoing work on COMSTECH Science Report Project which includes mapping of top scientific research centers and technological capabilities of the Member States as endorsed by the 15th Meeting of COMSTECH General Assembly; and **calls upon** IDB and other relevant OIC institutions to collaborate with COMSTECH in this regard;
5. **Expresses** profound gratitude to the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its continued support and facilitation to the COMSTECH and **requests** other Member States and relevant OIC institutions to generously support COMSTECH enabling it to expand its programs in various fields of science and technology;
6. **Reiterates** its call to COMSTECH to work closely with the Government of Kazakhstan and OIC General Secretariat for the effective organisation of the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology due to be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 7-11 September 2017;
7. **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.7/44-S&T
ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC UNIVERSITIES

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

Recalling its relevant resolutions including Resolution No. 7/43 – S&T on Activities of the OIC Universities adopted by the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

Referring to resolutions of the successive sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research including the 8th held in Bamako, Mali, on 14-15 November 2016,

Acknowledging, with appreciation and profound gratitude, the continued support and assistance rendered by the Governments of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Niger and Uganda to the respective OIC universities,

Further expressing gratitude to the OIC Member States, relevant OIC institutions and NGOs for their support and provision of assistance including contribution to the establishment of relevant Waqf and other income generating projects to the OIC universities,

Taking note with satisfaction 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/44-CFM/2017/ST/SG-REP):

1. **Acknowledges** the role of the OIC universities in disseminating knowledge and research in the fields relevant to the needs of Member States and contributing to the human resource development in the Member States concerned;
2. **Reiterates** its appeal to Member States to continue donating generously to the OIC universities including contributions to their respective waqf projects for further development of their academic programmes and infrastructure and addressing other specific needs;
3. **Commends highly** 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

4. **Expresses** its gratitude to the Government of the host country: the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the support it renders to IUT including the financial contribution for the construction of the first phase of the female dormitory project in a timely manner,
5. **Reiterates** its Calls for the Member States to settle their current and arrear mandatory contributions to IUT; and **invites** the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to contribute generously to the IUT Endowment Fund for its early activation and use;
6. **Commends** the admission of female students in the regular undergraduate engineering programmes of the university in the academic year 2016-17;
7. **Appreciates** the decision of the Governing Board of IUT to revise the hiring criteria for the faculty members to attract quality faculty under Regular Faculty Scheme;
8. **Takes note** of the introduction of new academic programmes, substitution of higher diploma with under graduate degree, faculties and departments in the university and **urges** the management to plan the expansion of academic programmes in accordance with the available resources;
9. **Further takes note** of the setting up of a new office of accreditation and quality assurance and **expresses** hope that this will expedite IUT's efforts to obtain accreditation by national, regional and international accreditation agencies for engineering and technology;
10. **Welcomes** the recruitment of staff and students from other Member States and **Urges** management to further increase the number of students from other Member States thereby stressing the international character of the university;

Islamic University in Niger (IUN)

11. **Commends** highly the Government of the host country: the Republic of Niger for the support and assistance it continues to render to IUN including the donation of additional 125,000 square metres of land for the construction of female educational facilities at the IUN;
12. **Commends further** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the financial assistance it renders to IUN including the financial donation of US \$ 1 million announced during the Islamic Summit Meetings;
13. **Takes note**, with satisfaction, 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;

14. **Reiterates** its request to the Member States and relevant OIC institutions to support the IUN through all possible means to improve its infrastructure, academic programmes and welfare of the faculty;
15. **Welcomes** the interest generated by the establishment of the new college of Agriculture; and **commends** ISF for creating a specific budgetary provision for this purpose;
16. **Takes** note of the progress in the implementation of IUN strategic plan (2015-2025) which aims at modernizing the university with a view to attaining the level of higher education institutions;
17. **Calls on** SESRIC and IUN to operationalize the memorandum of cooperation signed between the two aimed at promoting vocational training at IUN;

Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)

18. **Expresses** thanks and gratitude to the Government of the host country: the Republic of Uganda for the support it continues to render to IUIU including the visit of the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports of the Republic of Uganda on 10 February, 2017 to lay foundation stone for the new library;
19. **Commends** the assistance given to IUIU by the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) of US\$ 1 million annually, IDB, University of Lahore, Pakistan, Doctors Worldwide, Turkey, SESRIC and TIKa of Turkey, AMAL Foundation of Malaysia, and the Habib Family in Jeddah and **calls upon** public and private sector institutions and universities to consider extending similar support to IUIU in meeting its requirements;
20. **Acknowledges** IDB's approval of US\$14.58 million as Istisna'a financing for construction of the Phase I of the new waqf project for the University to be built in Kampala, Uganda, on the land donated by the Government of Uganda; and **calls upon** Member States and OIC institutions to donate the remaining US\$65 million needed for construction of the rest of the buildings of the Waqf;
21. **Takes note**, with satisfaction, of the commencement of construction of the new library using US\$ 973,644.13 donated by the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and **calls upon** other Member States to give voluntary financial and material assistance to the University;
22. **Takes note further**, with appreciation, launching of a Tailoring Unit, sponsored by SENA Foundation of Turkey, at the IUIU Females' Campus by the First Lady of Turkey on 1st June, 2016;
23. **Appreciates** the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt for seconding staff to IUIU and **urges** other Member States to consider seconding academic staff to IUIU especially in medical and engineering fields;

24. **Requests** the Federal Government of Nigeria to resume seconding academic staff to IUIU under the Technical Aid Corps (TAC) Volunteers Scheme from which IUIU has benefitted immensely in the past;
25. **Expresses** satisfaction with the steady increase in the number of students and expansion of facilities at IUIU and **urges** the university to continue its efforts for providing educational opportunities for the Muslim communities in English-speaking African countries;
26. **Notes** the huge demand for medical professionals in Africa and **calls upon** Member States, relevant OIC Institutions and NGOs to extend financial and material support to the University to start academic programmes in Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences;
27. **Requests** Member States, OIC relevant institutions and individual philanthropists to continue providing sustainable financial support to IUIU to improve staff welfare and also to enable the University to acquire the facilities they need to provide quality education to the youth of Africa.
28. 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. 8/44-S&T
ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIC INSTITUTIONS
OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
HIGHER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

Recalling Resolution No 8/43 – 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 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

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 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 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;

2. **Further 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 ;
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 on 14 April 2016;
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;
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. **Endorses** the SESRIC strategic plan 2017-2019, which has been adopted by the 39th meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRIC on 10th April 2017;

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,

Taking note of the outcome of the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14 – 15 November 2016,

Taking note of the report submitted by ISESCO:

1. **Takes note** with appreciation of ISESCO initiatives in various domains including 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;
2. **Reaffirms** its call for ISESCO to actively participate in the implementation of the OIC- SHPA 2014-2023 by sharing lessons learnt from its Action Plans and joining in the implementation of priority activities related to health on the six thematic areas of the Programme;
3. **Acknowledges** ISESCO's continued 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;
4. **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;
5. **Takes note** of the projects and initiatives in the domain of higher education and scientific research adopted by the 8th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Bamako, Republic of Mali on 14 – 15 November 2016 and requests ISESCO in coordination with OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions to ensure implementation in timely and effective implementation;

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

Noting with appreciation the commitment of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) towards addressing the needs of 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;

Appreciating IDB for the financial support extended towards the preparation of various documents such as the Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation project; OIC-SHPA 2014-2023; and OIC Water Vision;

Appreciating further IDB's continued efforts in enhancing collaboration among OIC Member States, through its Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), Science and Technology operations plus the Reverse Linkage mechanism,

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. **Commends** IDB's initiative to scale up its Technical Cooperation Program by introducing the Reverse Linkage mechanism, which enables the Member States to exchange expertise, knowledge, technology and solutions among themselves with the objective of building local capacity to address development challenges, while sharing the project cost; and **urges** the Member States to propose to the Bank Reverse Linkage projects through the IDB's official channel in the respective countries,
2. **Appreciates** the efforts and initiatives of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for promoting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the Member Countries, including project financing and its specialized programs for Technical Cooperation, Science and Technology and Resource Centers Mapping,
3. **Takes note** of capacities of the Resource Centers identified by the IDB, and **urges** Member States to utilize there capacities and expertise in addressing the local development challenges;
4. **Reiterates** its call for IDB to assist Member States in improving quality of education by allocating more grants for capacity building and development projects;
5. **Further Requests** IDB to continue its support to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and other national, regional and international partners in combating diseases and epidemics and assisting quality research projects in this regard;

ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IAS)

Bearing in mind that the IAS is an international forum of the science community of the OIC 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 2016;

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 activity 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 launch a new international task force on the subject of the 'Culture of Science' in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions as well as international partners.

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.9/44-S&T
ON
MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE SAND AND DUST STORM
IN SOME MEMBER STATES

The Forty Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

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,

Having considered UNGA resolutions: A/RES/70/195 entitled “combating sand and dust storms”, A/RES/71/219 entitled: “combating sand and dust storms”, E/ESCAP/RES/72/7 entitled “Regional Cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the pacific” and UNEA resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.21 on dust and sand storms;

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. 9/43-S&T on Mainstreaming Efforts to Combat the Sand and Dust Storm adopted by the 43rd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016,

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,

Welcoming the International Workshop on Sand and Dust Storms organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey in Istanbul on 4-6 October 2016, in cooperation with Secretariat of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification, UNEP and WMO;

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 dialogue 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. **Welcomes** the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with UNEP, UNDP and DESA to hold an international conference to combat sand and dust storms on 3-5 July 2017 based on UNGA resolutions and encourages Member States to actively participate in this important event;
8. **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;
9. **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;
10. **Decides** to remain seized with the matter.

RESOLUTION NO.10/44-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 Forth Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity), held in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on 10-11 July 2017 (16-17 Shawwal 1438 H).

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 “Building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through the Multi-partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea” 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. **Calls on** Member States, IDB and other Donors to intensify their participation in restoration of the regions of the Aral Sea and the Former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site.
7. **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;
8. **Requests** the Secretary General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next session of Council of Foreign Ministers.
