



OIC/MCSD-2/2023/CAIRO-DECLARATION/FINAL

CAIRO DECLARATION

ADOPTED BY THE

**SECOND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE OIC MEMBER STATES
UNDER THE THEME: "SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SECURITY"**

**CAIRO, ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
JUNE 05-06, 2023**

CAIRO DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Social Development and Heads of Delegations of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) participating in the Second Session of the Ministerial Conference on Social Development of the OIC Member States, held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on June 05-06, 2023 (Dhul Qi'dah 16-17, 1444 AH) (Session of Social Justice and Social Security”,

Appreciating the OIC's constructive role in establishing cooperation mechanisms among its Member States and specialized institutions to achieve solidarity and cooperation to protect the economic, social, cultural, information, and educational rights of societies, as per the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural, and Social Rights (ICESCR),

Reaffirming the importance of commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and working to preserve the societal values of the family and the rights of women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and people as one of the pillars of achieving sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of enriching social work by considering the developmental perspective, which seeks to strengthen the economic, social, and cultural rights of citizens, foremost of which is the right to development, as well as promoting the right to form a family and preserve its entity and work to preserve and strengthen the role of the family as the primary and natural pillar of society:

- 1- **Welcome** the resolutions of the 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, especially Resolution No. 4/49-CUL on the protection of the values of the marriage/family institution within the framework of authentic Islamic values and **call on** the OIC Member States and the relevant organs to implement them.
- 2- **Call for** strengthening cooperation with the OIC social development organs and institutions, including the Women Development Organization (WDO) in the OIC Member States and supporting their efforts in this field, especially its efforts to eliminate violence against children, address the issue of child labor, and empower marriage/ family institution, preserve the welfare and social security of older people and persons with disabilities, promote their participation, and ensure their social inclusion.
- 3- **Affirm** our commitment to strengthening cooperation among the Member States in these fields, and **count on** the OIC General Secretariat to put forward programs to enable countries to exchange experiences, coordinate cooperation mechanisms, build capacities on alternative care systems, and formulate a future vision for social care policies.
- 4- **Call on** the Member States to implement the resolutions and recommendations issued by OIC conferences and events concerning achieving social, cultural, and economic development, promoting the concept of volunteer work among youth, and promoting cultural and social values for children and families, through cooperation with the OIC relevant organs and institutions, especially the Islamic World Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), to achieve safety and protection for children, older people, and people with special needs.
- 5- **Stress** also the importance of cooperation between the General Secretariat and the OIC relevant organs to explore mechanisms for working with the Member States on social issues, especially with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center

for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) to strengthen the human capacities of national institutions and assist states in achieving the development goals through organizing training courses and workshops for capacity development.

- 6- **Acknowledge** the importance of cooperation to reduce risks and challenges that may affect the family and children, achieve an appropriate upbringing for children, and increase awareness about societal issues, including population problems, family development, domestic violence, and positive family education.
- 7- **Encourage** dialogue among the OIC Member States, relevant organs and institutions, and emphasize the role of civil society and the private sector to establish cooperation mechanisms and provide suitable job opportunities for young people to eliminate unemployment, address job challenges facing them, promote and support family and children's welfare, and provide support for older persons, persons with disabilities, and women and enable them to participate effectively in various fields and benefit from their contributions to the national action paths.
- 8- **Affirm** the importance of developing oversight mechanisms to monitor bodies concerned with social issues and to follow up and evaluate the extent of implementation of relevant national plans and strategies while maximizing the role of social oversight.
- 9- **Commend** the efforts of the ministries of social development in the Member States to achieve social security, a goal achieved through the cohesion of society and providing programs to care for the most vulnerable and poorest groups. There is also a need to tap into technological developments that contribute to the progress of societies and to identify the challenges and effects of technology use on the social and moral system in society, as one of the challenges of societal security when used in violence against women and children, and to enhance their digital empowerment by bridging the digital divide and creating safe spaces free from electronic violence against them.
- 10- **Stress** the importance of developing slums, providing adequate housing, and providing services that consider human rights, including the provision of essential services such as water, sanitation, and electricity, through the adoption of appropriate government policies and programs committed to protecting the right to adequate housing, one of the elements of social security that reduce poverty, terrorism, and extremism.
- 11- **Support** social protection programs, such as the Takaful and Karama (*Solidarity and Dignity*) Program (in the Arab Republic of Egypt), to achieve social security. Economic empowerment brings the neediest groups out of the circle of poverty and destitution into that of empowerment and production. The interdependence of these programs provides the best means of support, protection, and empowerment for these groups in a way that achieves their best interests, forms good individuals in society, and prevents their deviation.
- 12- **Welcome** the willingness of the Arab Republic of Egypt to transfer its expertise in these areas to the OIC Member States, explore future opportunities for cooperation, and benefit from the expertise and experience of the Egyptian state through the social activities and programs it launched, such as the programs of Takaful and Karama, Hayat Karima (*Decent Life*), The Elderly Companion, The National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family, Mawada (*Cordiality*), and other initiatives and programs.
- 13- **Express** our sincere gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the Second Session of the Ministerial Conference on Social Development, our sincere thanks to H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of Egypt, for placing the Conference under his auspices, and our deep appreciation to the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity for the generous hospitality accorded to the participants.

- 14- **Commend** the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the OIC General Secretariat in successfully organizing the Second Ministerial Conference On Social Development in the OIC Member States.
- 15- **Appreciate** the awareness of the OIC Member States about the need to explore mechanisms to support social development issues and agree to hold a ministerial conference on social development every two years to address social issues related to the family and its role in preserving the community entity, child welfare, and the protection and welfare of older people, and the protection and inclusion of people with disabilities and with special needs.