



OIC Labour Centre/GA-2023/Rep/Final

**REPORT
OF THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE OIC LABOUR CENTRE**

**BAKU, REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
22nd NOVEMBER, 2023
8TH JUMADA AL AWAL 1445 H**

**REPORT
OF THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE OIC LABOUR CENTRE**

1. The inaugural session of the General Assembly of the OIC Labour Centre was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 22nd November, 2023. The inaugural session was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 21st November, 2023.

2. Delegations from seven OIC Member States, which signed/ratified the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre, attended the inaugural session. The representatives from OIC Member States, relevant OIC institutions as well as regional and international organizations attended the session as observers. List of participants is attached hereto as *Annex-I*.

OPENING CEREMONY

3. Following a recitation from the Holy Quran, H.E. Mr. Sahil Babayev, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan, opened the session and welcomed all delegates to the inaugural session. He stressed the commitment of the Republic of Azerbaijan to support the OIC Labour Centre as far as possible. He called upon other Member States to support the Centre.

4. On this occasion, H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, the Secretary General of the OIC, emphasized the importance of intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of labour, employment and social protection. The Secretary General expressed his conviction that the newly established specialized OIC institution would significantly contribute towards consolidating national and regional solutions to the development challenges through workforce enhancement and decent work promotion in our respective countries while addressing the socio-economic disparities among the various segments of our populations.

Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the General Assembly

5. The General Assembly, in accordance with the Article 10 (2.1) of the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre, unanimously elected the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the General Assembly as follows:

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| 1. | Republic of Azerbaijan | – Chairman; |
| 2. | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | – Vice-Chairman. |

6. The election of the Vice Chairman to represent the African Group will be done at the next General Assembly meeting.

WORKING SESSION

Agenda and Work Programme

7. The General Assembly approved the agenda and work programme as recommended by SOM.

Statements by Regional Groups

8. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Republic of Türkiye and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia addressed the inaugural session on behalf of the OIC Asian and Arab Regional Groups respectively.

Presentation of the Report of SOM

9. The Chairman of the SOM, preparatory to General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Anar Karimov, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, presented the report of the SOM, held in Baku, on 21st November, 2023. The General Assembly accepted the report, which is attached as ***Annex-II***.

Election of Members of the Executive Board of the OIC Labour Centre

10. The General Assembly, in accordance with the Article 10 (2.2) and Article 12 (1) of the Statute of the OIC Labour Centre, elected the Members of the Executive Board of the OIC Labour Centre for a term of three years effective from 22nd November 2023 as follows:

- 1) Republic of Azerbaijan;
- 2) Republic of Türkiye;
- 3) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- 4) Republic of Benin;
- 5) Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- 6) Republic of the Sudan;
- 7) Republic of Togo;
- 8) Kingdom of Bahrain;
- 9) State of Libya;
- 10) Kingdom of Morocco; and
- 11) Director-General of the Labour Centre (Non-Voting Member).

Election of Director General of the OIC Labour Centre

11. The General Assembly, in accordance with the Article 10 (2.5) and Article 13 (2) of the OIC Labour Centre Statute and upon recommendation of SOM, elected Mr. Azar Bayramov, a national of Azerbaijan, as the Director-General of the OIC Labour Centre for a period of 3 years, effective from 22nd November, 2023.

Approval of the Budget of the Secretariat of the OIC Labour Centre for 2023-2026 and the Interim Organizational Structure of the OIC Labour Centre

12. The General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Azerbaijan to cover the running cost of the Secretariat of the OIC labour Centre for the next three years (2023-2026). In this regard, Azerbaijan has approved an amount of US\$ 1 million as a take-off grant to cover the expenses of the Secretariat for the budget year 2023-2026, starting from 1st December, 2023. The details of the budget will be decided upon by the Executive Board in consultation with the Director General of the Centre.

13. The General Assembly invited Member States to expedite the necessary ratification of the Statute to enable them make regular contributions to both the administrative and operational budgets of the Centre. It also called on Member States to make voluntary contributions and donations in accordance with Article 16 of the OIC Labour Centre Statute.

14. The General Assembly also approved the Interim Organizational Structure of the OIC Labour Centre as recommended by SOM and attached in the ***Annex-III***.

Adoption of the Resolutions

15. The meeting unanimously adopted the Resolutions of the Inaugural Session of the General Assembly as attached hereto in the ***Annex-IV***.

Messages of appreciation from Director General of the OIC Labour Centre

16. The newly elected Director General of the OIC Labour Centre Mr. Azar Bayramov addressed the General Assembly and expressed appreciation for the confidence accorded to him. He promised to do his best to fulfil the mandate of the Centre.

Vote of Thanks

17. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed appreciation to H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his support and high patronage of the inaugural session of the General Assembly and for all the facilities accorded all delegations since they arrived in the city of Baku. The General Assembly also expressed its gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegates and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the session.

18. The General Assembly also commended the OIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha and the entire personnel of the OIC General Secretariat for their respective support towards the successful outcome of the General Assembly.

**Adopted in Baku,
22nd November 2023**