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**RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG
THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

ADOPTED BY

**THE 9TH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
OF TOURISM MINISTERS (ICTM)**

**NIAMEY, REPUBLIC OF NIGER
21-23 DECEMBER 2015**



RESOLUTION
ON
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AMONG
THE OIC MEMBER STATES

The Ninth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held from 21 to 23 December 2015, in Niamey, Republic of Niger,

Recalling the General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States of the OIC, adopted as per Resolution No.1/8-E of the Eighth Session of CFM held in Tripoli, Libya on 16-22 May 1977,

Pursuant to the OIC Ten-Year Programme Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Summit, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in December 2005,

Re-affirming the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States adopted by the Sixth Session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on 29 June- 2 July 2008,

Also re-affirming the resolutions adopted by the various sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), particularly, resolution No. No 1/42-E of the Forty Second Session of CFM, held in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, on 27-28 May 2015,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the previous Sessions of the ICTM,

Conscious of the central role of tourism in promoting economic, social and cultural interactions among nations, and in contributing to international peace, security and understanding,

Re-iterating the relevance of sustainable tourism to the actualisation of OIC poverty eradication strategies and policies and as a potential contributor to sustainable development,

Considering the outcome of the Forth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism for the implementation of the Framework Document on Tourism, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 3 June 2014, particularly the selection of the OIC Cities of Tourism for 2015 (Al-Quds Al-Sherif, Palestine) and 2016 (Konya, Turkey),

Also considering the outcome of the Fifth Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism, held in Niamey, Republic of Niger on 22 December 2015 with regard to the selection of the OIC City of Tourism Awardees for 2017 and 2018 respectively,

Expressing appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for organising the Second Meeting of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 16-17 December 2013,

Also expressing appreciation to the State of the United Arab Emirates for hosting the “2nd OIC Tourism and Travel Fair” in Sharjah, on 8-10 December 2015, and commending the role of ICDT in this regard,

Commending IRCICA for the successful organization of the International Conference on Preservation of Islamic Heritage in Al-Quds, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 27-28 November 2014 as well as the Exhibition on “Al-Quds in the Memory” held in Ramallah, State of Palestine, on 4-5 January 2015 on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of the OIC City of Tourism 2015, which is Al-Quds Al-Sherif,

Noting with appreciation of the efforts of IRCICA in the implementation the Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts,

Taking note of the activities of the relevant OIC institutions towards implementation of the resolutions of the ICTM, particularly those relating to the commemoration of Al-Quds Al Sherif, as the OIC City of Tourism 2015, capacity-building programmes in the domain of tourism within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, and implementation of the Regional Project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”,

Considering the recommendations of the Workshop on Exploring Tourism Potential of Al-Quds Al-Sherif City” held on 24-25 November 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey,

Taking note of the Report and Recommendations of the First OIC International Forum on Islamic Tourism, held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, on 2-3 June 2014, and commending SESRIC for its presentation on Islamic Tourism in OIC Member States,

Also taking note of the Reports presented by the Republic of Turkey and Malaysia on Tourism Occupational Skill Standards, and OIC Tourism Marketing Strategy respectively,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the ICTM resolutions on tourism development:

1. **Expresses** appreciation to H.E. Issoufou Mouhamadou, for his patronage of the Conference and for the facilities provided by the Nigerien Government to ensure the success of the Conference.
2. **Commends** the opening speech of H.E. Issoufou Mouhamadou, which addressed the problems of tourism in its human, economic, security, cultural and religious

- dimension, and **decides** to consider the document as a reference document of the Conference.
3. **Approves** the Executive Programme for the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among Member States 2016-2017 and **undertakes** to implement the projects and actions in a timely fashion.
 4. **Invites** relevant OIC institutions to support the implementation of the Executive Programme for the Implementation of the OIC Framework, including the establishment of an OIC Tourism Portal and the staging of cultural festivals in OIC Member States.
 5. **Renews** commitment to increase public awareness about existing tourist attractions in their countries through exchange of documentary films and allocation of airtime by OIC Member States.
 6. **Approves** the selection of Madinah al-Munawwara as the OIC City of Tourism, 2017, and Tabriz as the OIC City of Tourism, 2018.
 7. **Commends** the elaborate plans by the relevant OIC institutions for the commemoration of Konya City, Turkey as the OIC City of Tourism 2016 and **urges** OIC Member States to announce their respective plans in this regard.
 8. **Agrees** to consider nominations by member states for OIC City of Tourism Award only upon ascertaining that none of their cities has won the Award within the past five years.
 9. **Approves** the establishment of a Working Group on Islamic Tourism comprising the Republic of Indonesia (Coordinator), People's Republic of Bangladesh, SESRIC, and IUT, and **welcomes** the offer of SESRIC to carry out a project on "Strategic Plan for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries".
 10. **Requests** the General Secretariat to convene a meeting to elaborate an appropriate plan of action for the implementation of the valuable report on OIC Tourism Marketing Strategy.
 11. **Condemns** the spate of destruction, theft and pillage of historical and heritage monuments and artefacts due to acts of terrorism, and armed extremism which have affected OIC member states, particularly Iraq, and other countries and **requests** the Secretary General in collaboration with international stakeholders to work for the repatriation of these stolen artefacts and restoration of the destroyed monuments.
 12. **Welcomes** the offers of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 3rd and 4th Tourism Fairs of the OIC Member States to be jointly organized by the ICDT in 2017 and 2019 respectively, and **urges** Member States to actively participate in these events.

13. **Calls upon** the OIC Member States and private sector entities to actively participate in the Fourth Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum, to be held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 14-15 January, 2016.
14. **Requests** the participating Member States in the “Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” to submit the respective national segments of the project to the 13th Steering Committee Meeting, to be held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco on 15-17 February, 2016.
15. **Welcomes** the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to host, and ICDT and SESRIC to organize, a Training Seminar on the “Training workshop on setting-up bankable tourism project” in Casablanca, Morocco, on 15-17 February 2016, as well as the 13th Steering Committee Meeting of the Project, and **requests** the concerned Member States to actively participate in these events.
16. **Calls on** the Member States, IDB Group and other funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector and concerned OIC institutions to actively participate in the Second Donors’ Conference to be organized in 2016 in a bid to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Regional Project in West Africa.
17. **Emphasises** the need to rigorously implement earlier ICTM resolutions on the Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts and the Heritage Center for Islamic Countries.
18. **Also calls** on all Member States and concerned OIC institutions to promote Islamic Tourism through the development of Sharia-compliant hotel and resorts, Halal food, entertainment and sport facilities, in addition to branding Islamic Tourism in the international fora.
19. **Expresses** its profound thanks and gratitude the Government and the people of Republic of Niger for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the successful conclusion of the Ninth Session of the ICTM.
20. **Welcomes** the offer by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to host the Tenth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) in 2017.
21. **Requests** the OIC Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this Resolution and submit a report to the Tenth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.

Niamey, 23 December 2015