

***REPORT***

***OF***

***FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF  
ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION FOR FOOD SECURITY  
(IOFS)***

***NUR-SULTAN (VIDEO-CONFERENCE),  
22 APRIL 2020***



***Ref. No OIC/IOFS/2020/REP-EXEC.BOARD***  
**Report**  
**of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Board of IOFS**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Board of the Islamic Organization for Food Security was held on 22 April 2020 vide video conference due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by seven (7) members of the Executive Board as follows, with the Board member from Burkina Faso unavoidable absent due to technical reasons:

**Attendees:**

1. HE. Abdulaziz A. Alhowaish (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Chairman)
2. HE. Nurbek Dairbekov (Republic of Kazakhstan – Member)
3. HE. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren (Republic of Turkey – Member)
4. HE. Fabureh Amie (Republic of the Gambia – Member)
5. HE. Md. Hajiqlul Islam (People's Republic of Bangladesh – Member)
6. HE. Majed Binkamal (United Arab Emirates – Acting Member)
7. HE. Yerlan Baidaulet (DG, IOFS – Member)

**Opening of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Board**

- a) Following recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the meeting was opened by His Excellency, Mr. Abdulaziz A. Alhowaish, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in his capacity as the Chairman of IOFS Executive Board.
- b) The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and congratulated them on the commencement of the Holy Month of Ramadan. He also highlighted the importance of the meeting at a period when the entire world is grappling with the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the critical areas of human and food securities and exploring ways and means to respond to their attendant challenges.
- c) The meeting approved its Agenda and Work Programme.

- d) His Excellency, Mr. Yerlan Baidaulet IOFS Director General presented the Report of the activities of IOFS, dwelling on the various activities of the Secretariat since the last Executive Board meeting.

**1. IOFS Response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

- e) The meeting reviewed the Memorandum on the Proposed Response of IOFS for addressing the food security crisis in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, which was issued by the Secretariat on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020. While commending the Secretariat for timely producing an appropriate response to the likely food security crisis in the wake of the global coronavirus pandemic, Board members expressed their satisfaction with the various steps advisories and initiatives contained in the Memorandum.
- f) The meeting encouraged all IOFS member states to implement the various actions contained in the Memorandum, particularly those aspects bearing on providing emergency food assistance to fellow member states as well as some food palliatives to cushion the effect the lockdown and social distancing measures resulting from COVID-19 pandemic on the poor and vulnerable segments of populations of member states. The meeting urged the Secretariat to secure the support of member states towards the implementation of all measures aimed at ensuring that food trade across borders are not affected by any national measures taken as a result of the on-going pandemic.
- g) While commending member states which have already provided food assistance during this period, the meeting requested the Secretariat to obtain the emergency requirements of member states on food security to enable further actions by member states and other agencies.

**2. Membership, Administrative, Financial and Organic Matters**

- h) The meeting reviewed the details on the 2019 budget performance and updates on assessed mandatory contributions by member states. The meeting took note of the fact that Kazakhstan has duly remitted its mandatory contribution for 2020 financial year. While commending the Government of Kazakhstan for this spectacular gesture, members of the Board undertook, on behalf of their respective countries, to ensure payment of their assessed contributions for 2020 as soon as possible. The meeting, thereafter, called on all member states to pay their assessed contributions in a timely manner to enhance the proper functioning of the Organisation.

**3. Executive Programme for OIC Plan of Action on Development of Strategic Commodities**

- i) Having listened to the presentation of DG, IOFS on this Programme and upon review of the various mechanisms being put in place for the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Development of Strategic Commodities (Rice, Wheat and Cassava), the meeting approved the Draft Resolution to be submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of IOFS.

- j) The meeting also urged the DG to continue to be guided by the provisions of the said Draft Resolution towards promoting intra-IOFS efforts on the development of strategic agricultural commodities and to ensure increased food system resilience in member states.
- k) Similarly, the meeting endorsed the Draft Resolution on Promoting Value-Chain Development of Palm-Oil and urged concrete actions on promotion of South-South Cooperation and capacity development in the palm-oil sub-sector.

#### **4. Draft Protocol on OIC Food Security Reserve**

- l) The Executive Board listened to the presentation of the DG on actions taken on the validation of the Draft OIC Food Security Reserve and in the light of the pending resolution of the 8<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development. Accordingly, the meeting discussed and recommended the Draft Resolution on Implementation of Food Security Reserve for approval of IOFS General Assembly. In this regard, the meeting acknowledged the fact that all inputs of member states are being reflected in the draft Protocol, including the need for necessary feasibility studies on the proposed regional food security reserve.
- m) The meeting agreed with the statement of Chairman of the Board that creating a regional strategic food security reserve should be given due priority, especially in the light of the emerging challenges presented by COVID-19 pandemic and the need for emergency food interventions in IOFS member states. In the same vein, the meeting underscored the importance of supporting member states to create their national strategic food security reserves.

#### **5. Post-Harvest Losses and Food Waste**

- n) Considering the importance of addressing post-harvest losses and mitigating food waste, the meeting discussed the various ideas on the creation of a mechanism for addressing post-harvest and food losses in member states, including the negative effects, which the colossal amount of food waste has on food availability in member states. Consequently, the meeting endorsed the relevant Draft Resolution on Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA), as a private sector initiative in support of food system development in member states. In this regard, the Chairman promised to provide details of the on-going Saudi campaign on mitigating food waste and food loss to enable the Secretariat share this useful experience with other IOFS member states. In this regard, the meeting took note of the need to collaborate with all stakeholders in the activities of the proposed IFPA, including the ICCIA and other relevant institutions dealing with private sector matters.

#### **6. Development of National Gene Banks**

- o) The Executive Board acknowledged the on-going arrangements towards convening a Workshop on Development of National Gene Banks under the theme: “Promoting Intra-OIC Food Security through Agricultural Biodiversity”, scheduled for Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 5-7 July 2020. The Workshop is in collaboration with the

Government of United Arab Emirates, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), and the Islamic Development Bank. The meeting emphasized the need for scaling up the progressive introduction of science, technology and innovation in the development of food security programmes in OIC member states.

**7. Water Use Management for Food and Agriculture**

- p) In the area of water-use management and the promotion of modern irrigation systems, the meeting commended the proposal to convene a Roundtable on Water-Use Management in OIC Member States, scheduled for Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in October 2020 during the 8<sup>th</sup> OIC Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water. The meeting agreed on the need to develop an effective mechanism for intra-OIC cooperation on water management, including the popularisation of modern irrigation systems within the OIC space. Accordingly, the meeting commended the on-going collaboration with ICBA and related agencies on the activities of the Workshop.

**8. Promotion of Agri-Trade and Investment and Halal Food Development**

- q) The meeting also commended the elaboration of a Framework of Action on Promotion of Agri-trade and Investment among OIC member states, aimed at ensuring trade facilitation, promotion and financing and development of food production capacity of member states. While endorsing the Draft Resolution on this subject, the meeting urged the Secretariat to accord priority to market access and increased food trade among IOFS member states, including the developing a robust Halal Food process.

**9. Any Other Business**

**Presentation of IOFS Food Balance**

- r) The meeting also listened to a detailed presentation on the operationalisation of IOFS Food Balance Portal and commended the Secretariat for providing adequate data and statistics in support of food system analysis of member states. The meeting also urged the Secretariat to include relevant data on food waste and food loss. The meeting urged all member states to provide the Secretariat with their respective national data to enhance the authenticity of data available on the portal.

**VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chairman and members of the Executive Board expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and his staff for their efforts and excellent arrangements, which facilitated the success of the first video-conference meeting.

**Adopted by IOFS Board Members on 22 April 2020**