



Islamic Organization
for Food Security
Mangilik Yel ave.
55/21 AIFC, unit C4.2
Nur-Sultan, 010000
Republic of Kazakhstan

l'Organisation Islamique pour
la Sécurité Alimentaire
Mangilik Yel ave.
55/21 AIFC, unité C4.2
Nur-Sultan, 010000
République du Kazakhstan

المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي
بنائة
AIFC, unit C4.2
21/55 Mangilik Yel
010000
نور سلطان
جمهورية كازاخستان

info@iofs.org.kz tel: +7 (7172) 99-99-00 fax: +7 (7172) 99-99-75 www.iofs.org.kz



SPECIAL WEB CONFERENCE FOR THE WORLD ISLAMIC TRADE FORUM

SPEAKING NOTES BY IOFS DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Participants of the Web Conference

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

I express my deep gratitude to the first World Islamic Trade Forum and its official Secretariat the International Strategy Institute for inviting me to this important event and granting the opportunity to deliver the keynote speech.

I am very delighted to participate at this session and would like to start my words with congratulations of whole Muslim brothers and sisters with the Holy month of Ramadan.

May Allah grant us patience and endurance during this extreme period of pandemic!!!

As I observed from the agenda of the session, one of the items devoted to the issue whether a religion can be a uniting call for global societies? What kind of societies do we want for humanity?

In this regard, we would like to say that Allah blessed ourself to be Muslims and we are proud of being the part of Muslim Ummah. And I strongly believe that Islam having being the religion of peace, prosperity and solidarity, unites global societies. I am of opinion, however, that world faces the issue of misunderstanding the Islam all over the globe. Therefore, I believe that we should elaborate a comprehensive Doctrine of Islamic Revival, a doctrine aiming at facilitating and promoting the basic principles of Renaissance of Islamic Civilization. As you know, its success was already in our history. Muslims all together should explore and define joint Islamic values proposition which are needed in current circumstances. We should determine prominent scholars and critical thinkers, who could shape the core vision of Islamic Revival. We should be able to facilitate the principles of Islamic post-civilization in all areas mainstreaming multilateral interest-free economic relations, to combat with social inequality, to create the sustainable, robust, and resilient systems of human behaving including food security and mutual trade.

Now, let me step forward to the topic of Islamic Trade. As far as Islamic trade is concerned, we should all know that there were many challenges in this domain before COVID-19. The pandemic inevitably strikes very hardly international trade relations and the situation will worsen unfortunately. Such obstacles as Absence or High cost of logistics and transportation, Financial Exclusion, Paucity of Intra-OIC and Foreign Direct Investments, Tariff and Non-Tariff Trade Barriers, Technical Barriers are among others.

The Islamic Organisation for Food Security, in the capacity of specialized organisation of OIC, is dealing with wide range of issues to facilitate the trade relations with OIC Members.

Let me initiate you into IOFS Islamic Trade Agenda

The 5th Executive Board of IOFS has approved the Framework of Action on facilitation of Food Trade. The major areas of intervention by IOFS to ensure the establishing an unified OIC food trade market, in the short and medium terms, can be summarized in 7 principles as follows:

1. *Implementation of OIC Trade-Related Instruments*

The various OIC multilateral projects and mechanisms (like OIC TPS and IOFS Food Balance Database) for trade and economic promotion stipulates various national and international measures aimed at promoting trade and investment among its member states.

2. *Food Trade Events*

Muslim states are invited to encourage the staging of food and agriculture trade fairs and now online trade forums like the current one with the active participation of fellow member states. This activity will ensure regular interaction among all stakeholders in the food sector, including the public, private, local, community, farmers, pastoralists, youth and women, for better food market promotion.

3. *Islamic Trade Financing, Investment and Export Credits*

The services of the various OIC institutions, notable IsDB Group (ITFC, ICIEC and ICD) as well as national financing agencies within the OIC member states are required to ensure support for Sharia-compliant trade activities in the food sector, in collaboration with IOFS. In addition, member states shall promote regular contacts among their trade and investment promotion agencies for the purpose of export and investment promotion in the food sector.

4. *Regulation of Halal Standards, Accreditation and Certification Procedures*

IOFS member states require better national regulatory frameworks for the promotion of the Halal market, including livestock and organic vegetable processing. Awareness campaigns at the local and national levels are needed to popularize the Halal Food market, while ensuring that proper codification of standards and certification procedures within the national legislative environment on food safety and phytosanitary measures.

5. *Food Processing and Post-Harvest Losses*

Going by the extant recommendations on the viability of establishing the international Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA) as a B2B (private sector) activity for addressing post-harvest losses and food waste, Muslim states are invited to validate the proposal for the early take-off of IFPA, though mobilisation of the various OIC national Chambers of Commerce and other stakeholders in this subsector.

6. *Value-Chain Approach to Development of Food and Strategic Agricultural Commodities*

Support for development of domestic productive capacities of member states should form the fulcrum of intra-OIC cooperation in the field of harmonized food supply chains. Middle-Income countries of the OIC, which are endowed in the production of certain agri-food products are invited to assist other less endowed member states through technology transfer, South-South and triangular cooperation. The various multilateral financial institutions both at national and intra-OIC levels should engage to support “reverse linkage” projects for active intra-OIC collaboration.

7. Transport Corridor Development and Telecommunication

The development of local, national and regional transport corridor is crucial to trade facilitation among member states. The same goes for telecommunication and technology transfer. A considerable attention would be placed on the development of the multimodal transport segment, including air, sea, rail and road transportation. Greater attention would also be placed on the development of the transport corridor in the 12 landlocked countries of the OIC, especially those in Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dear colleagues,

The outbreak of the global Corona Virus pandemic is arguably the most devastating public health challenge in modern history, considering its far-reaching consequences on human and national security as well as social, political and economic development. It has registered its untold effects on almost all sectors of human lives and livelihood, including health, food security, tourism and education. Accordingly, more than 213 countries and territories have since been affected by this global pandemic. With this crisis engendering an expected global GDP decline of 3-8% and a job loss exceeding almost 200 million to date, the world is fast experiencing an untold human and economic disaster owing to an imminent economic recession that may surpass the Recession of 2007-2008. This is more so as the inevitability of the attendant social distancing and quarantine regime have led to a near paralysis of all sectors of human economic activities, including the untold disruption of the food supply chain as recently stated in a Joint Communique by WHO, WTO and FAO.

Expectedly, the continued global socio-economic decline in all sectors tends towards a negative growth, which already registered more than 821 million hungry people as at 2017, with more than 64.5 million people suffering from acute hunger in member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Given this unfavourable state of affairs, there is a need for concerted efforts among state, international and corporate stakeholders within the Muslim World to pool resources to address the debilitating effects of COVID19 pandemic, especially in the area of food security, owing to the substantial break in food supply chain, food shortages and food price spikes.

In this regard, the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), which is specialised institution of the OIC, has already elaborated MEMORANDUM ON THE PROPOSED RESPONSE OF ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY (IOFS) addressing the emerging food security crisis, attendant on the outbreak and aftermath of COVID19 pandemic. This Memorandum spells out the various national, intra-OIC and international responses, which could be put in place to ensure collective but coordinated actions in the most effective manner. IOFS along with other international institutions already coordinated campaigns of providing aids to Afghanistan, Suriname and Mozambique. My colleague, H.E. Dr. Hameed Opeloyeru will today speak in more details about IOFS Responses during panel discussions on the topic of Global Food Crisis amidst Covid-19.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I tried to shape basics in my speech on a very high-level view. However, we are open-minded to discuss in more details any time on separate basis.

I thank you all! Please take care and maasalama.