

REPORT

OF

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

***NUR-SULTAN (VIDEO-CONFERENCE),
28 OCTOBER 2020***



Islamic Organization for Food Security
l'Organisation Islamique pour la Sécurité Alimentaire
المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي

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Report
of the 6th Meeting of the Executive Board of IOFS

The 6th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Islamic Organization for Food Security was held on 28 October 2020 vide video conference due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by all 8 Members of the Executive Board as follows:

Attendees:

1. HE. Abdulaziz A. Alhawaish (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Chairman)
2. HE. Nurbek Dairbekov (Republic of Kazakhstan – Member)
3. HE. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren (Republic of Turkey – Member)
4. HE. Zeba Momini (Burkina Faso – Member)
5. HE. Musa M. Humma (Republic of the Gambia – Member)
6. HE. Md. Hajiql Islam (People's Republic of Bangladesh – Member)
7. HE. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi (United Arab Emirates – Member)
8. HE. Yerlan Baidalet (DG, IOFS – Member)

Opening of the 6th meeting of the Executive Board

Following recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the meeting was opened by His Excellency, Hon'ble Eng. Abdulaziz A. Alhawaish, 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.

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting. He has put a spotlight on all programmes that will shape the strategic vision of the IOFS for the long-term period and enable resilience of the OIC food systems. These programmes have versatility in their final destinations as they impact on many aspects that international community currently dealing with, such as, food security, agriculture and rural development, climate change, poverty alleviation, sustainable food systems, intra-OIC trade, private sector development,

finance and investment, transportation and logistics, and many others.

The Chairman once again stated that this meeting is preparatory session for the upcoming 3rd General Assembly scheduled for 2-3 December 2020 technically hosted by esteemed Turkey. The meeting approved its Agenda and Work Programme.

His Excellency, Mr. Yerlan Baidaulet IOFS Director General presented the Report of the activities of IOFS.

1. Membership, Administrative, Financial Matters

- 1.1. The meeting reviewed the details on budget performance and listened to Director General's report on this matter and approved following statements:
 - Financial statement on 2019,
 - Revised budget for 2020,
 - Financial statement for 10 months of the 2020,
- 1.2. The meeting also deemed it appropriate that the formula of calculating mandatory contributions by IOFS Member States and the scale of IOFS contributions should be revised in order to maintain the accurate and fair distribution.
- 1.3. The meeting commended voluntary contribution of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and transfer of the first tranche in the amount of 400 000 USD out of pledged 2 million USD payable over 5 years and took note with satisfaction of the fact that transfers of mandatory contributions of the esteemed Republic of Kazakhstan, the State of United Arab Emirates, the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh to the budget of IOFS have been duly conducted.
- 1.4. The meeting welcomed and congratulated the ratification of IOFS Statute by the Republic of Mali, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Turkey and appreciated day-to-day efforts of the Secretariat on expanding the IOFS and raising awareness about IOFS and its programmes. As for now the IOFS has 34 Member States that have signed the Statute and 15 of them have ratified the same. The meeting hopes and expects that in foreseen future the number of IOFS Members will increase sufficiently.
- 1.5. The meeting upon the comments of esteemed Turkey, underlined that the mandatory contribution of Turkey to be paid retrospectively after completion of its domestic legal processes and it was reaffirmed that ratification note has reservation indicating that *"Turkey declares that it will not apply the Statute prior to the completion of its domestic approval process"*. In this regard the mandatory contribution of esteemed Turkey is also expected to be transferred by the end of 2020.
- 1.6. The meeting reaffirmed the 4th Executive Board meeting where it was agreed to create a Financial Control Committee (FCC) made up of representatives from three Member States, for a three-year period and on a rotational basis. By virtue of equitable geographical distribution approach in the appointment of the FCC, the

meeting agreed to appoint the Republic of Kazakhstan, the State of United Arab Emirates, the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh as members of FCC. The meeting requested relevant Member States to appoint natural persons and convene the meeting of the Financial Control Committee in first half of 2021 with technical support of the IOFS Secretariat.

- 1.7. The meeting upon comments of esteemed UAE, advised the Director General of IOFS to manage wisely the human and finance resources in order to be able to develop the entire agenda taking into account their quantity via concentrating on several programmes that would have tangible outputs and strengthen the role of the IOFS. The meeting agreed to take priority-orientated approach in terms of developing programmes in a high-quality manner.
- 1.8. While the activities of the Secretariat upon the collecting of the mandatory contributions of Members States were supported, it was advised to set a benchmarking approach to facilitate the IOFS. It was also advised to further strengthen the financial reports with vision of utilization of remaining cash balances as well as financial reserves enabling the organization operate properly during extreme periods such as global pandemic we are currently exposing worldwide.

2. OIC Plan of Action on Development of Strategic Commodities (Wheat, Cassava and Rice, +...)

- 2.1. Having properly listened the report of DG and studied the concepts, the meeting acknowledged the far-reaching and extensive potential effect of the programme. The meeting realized that OIC Plan of Action for Development of Strategic Commodities (Rice, Wheat and Cassava) as an initiative appeared several years ago and has similar features with the executed OIC Five Year Cotton Action Plan (2007-2011). Inspired by the programme on cotton and scrutinized the obtained experiences, the meeting endorsed the programme on development of *Wheat, Cassava and Rice, + ... + Palm-Oil* and requested the Secretariat to step up the potential of the programme; in the same vein the creation of several elements of further implementation mechanisms was welcomed, particularly the Steering Committees and the Centers of Excellence. These important incorporated vehicles would stand at the frontline, discuss issues, explore possibilities of running the programme, and bring together all solutions in order to develop strategic commodities across the OIC region. The meeting appreciated the Secretariat for its efforts of conducting the series of online workshops on the matters of Strategic Commodities and advised to start with two or three pilot-testing Centers of Excellence. In case of positive outcomes and their usefulness, the number of centers could be increased. Also, the meeting urged the Secretariat to put some clarifications in terms of sources of financing, budgeting and other technical matters of these centers.
- 2.2. An *ad-hoc* food basket of each OIC Member State was advised to be determined that either may be incorporated to this programme or developed as a separate one. It could determine and explore the potentials of a various of commodities of every state and

the role of IOFS could be to increase the capacity building of every single state in terms of these commodities.

3. Establishment of the OIC Food Security Reserve

- 3.1. The Executive Board is aware that the idea for establishing the OIC Food Security Reserves generated during the 4th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 14-16 January by the adopted Resolution No. 1/4 MFSAD. The meeting underlined the importance of this programme and acknowledged the statutory objective of creation of food security reserves. The meeting acknowledged the Islamic Solidarity philosophy underpinning the programme and sharpened its meaningfulness since it would scale-up the intra-OIC “*South-South Cooperation*” in terms of humanitarian aid interventions. The Grain Fund was presented as a basic element of OIC Food Security Reserves, which is based on Islamic forward and Takaful (insurance) transactions.
- 3.2. The meeting endorsed efforts of Secretariat regarding work has done and requested in coordination with Member States and experts to address several issues such as quality standards for reserved products, expenses related to the relevant storage, preservation, and specify all technical and financial details during the formation process. The meeting upon the comments of esteemed Bangladesh also requested the Secretariat to conduct in-depth studies and analysis of the pros and cons from the experiences of the existing food reserve banks as it was indicated that many of the food reserve banks, for instance in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan do not operate in proper manner. The meeting also deemed it appropriate to underline the work done by the Secretariat in terms of proposing the new approach enabling transboundary share of reserves among OIC countries, commissioning an international consulting firm that will shape the mechanisms, collecting the relevant data, the on-going discussions with a various public and finance institutions.

4. Establishment of the Islamic Food Processing Association

- 4.1. The meeting reaffirmed the legal basis of the IFPA initiative with particular underlines on the Resolution OIC/ICAM-5/2010/RES/FINAL adopted by the 5th OIC Ministerial Conference on Promoting Food Security and Agricultural Development, held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan on 26-28 October 2010 and the Resolution № IOFS/GA/1-14-2019 of the 2nd General Assembly of IOFS held in Jeddah, KSA on 18-19 August 2019. The meeting endorsed all activities of the Secretariat with regards to preliminary coordination with Member States as well as other OIC fellow organisations including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) towards establishment of the IFPA as a full-fledge subsidiary of the IOFS. The meeting also welcomed the decision of the Director General to engage an international consulting firm with expertise in OIC and global agri-food supply chains, Dinar Standard, based in Dubai, UAE to prepare a feasibility study and business plan for the establishment and operations of IFPA. The Report of the consultant will ease further navigation and

guidance of basic strategic steps.

- 4.2. The meeting familiarized with the interim summary presentation of the consulting firm as well as underlined the RESOLUTION No.2/46-E of the 46th CFM session held in Abu Dhabi, State of the United Arab Emirates, indicating the successful launching of the Astana International Financial Center (AIFC) in Kazakhstan and encouraging all Member States to take advantage of the facilities of AIFC, namely AIFC Stock Exchange (AIX), Islamic Finance, Green Finance, and etc. Though Board Members supported the idea to establish the IFPA within the AIFC, the Chairman had some concerns regarding the framework, type of the subsidiary and the G2B relations. The meeting came to conclusion that this idea needs more scrutiny. The meeting requested the Secretariat to complete the feasibility study by the consultant as soon as practicable and to conduct in-depth study of the subject within the already opened the Project Office in the IOFS Secretariat and eventually come back with updates.

5. Food Security Governance (new)

- 5.1. It is no doubt that human rights to healthy food, sufficiently nutritionally reach food, sustainable food accessibility, and availability stipulated and cemented at different normative acts including statutes of international human rights organisations and national constitutions. The *Zero-Hunger* goal remains of the main destination our Organisation and the Member States are pursuing. The governments and special state bodies are primarily found as the high-level securer and guarantor of these rights for their citizens and residents. In these circumstances, a robust food security governance appears on the proscenium as the element of securing the national interests of any state. The adequate food system delivers food pillars and protects those human rights to food. The Food Security Governance should be deemed as a multisectoral paradigm and fortunately, the OIC has several Members, who were able to erect good-office on this matter, establish, and now maintain its sound governance. Unfortunately, whilst some Member States enjoy their hard work results, some still stand at the beginning with a poor understanding of how to build these systems. The meeting very welcomed the new programme aiming at building up a better institutional food security capacity among the OIC Member States, which will ensure good practices in Food Security Governance.
- 5.2. Furthermore, the COMCEC report namely “*Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries*” which was presented during the 15th Meeting of COMCEC Agriculture Working Group could be examined very carefully by IOFS as it very much matches the objectives of this programme. The Report has been kindly distributed by esteemed Turkey.
- 5.3. Also, the meeting commended the readiness of esteemed UAE to provide capacity building support on three dimensions in this regard, namely on National Strategy and Policy, Strengthening Institutional Framework, and Implementation of the effective mechanisms.

6. IOFS Programmes on Science, Technology and Innovation

- 6.1. The Secretariat of IOFS 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 IsDB has successfully convened and conducted the Workshop on Development of National Gene Banks under the theme: “Promoting Intra-OIC Food Security through Agricultural Biodiversity”, on 5-6 July 2020, technically supported by esteemed UAE. The workshop 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.
- 6.2. While appreciating all organisers of the event, the meeting distinguished positive outcomes of the event and requested the Secretariat in coordination with the Member States and relevant OIC and international institutions to actively implement the Plan of action which was worked out in the Workshop, particularly regarding the establishment of the Technical Committee on Development of Gene Banks, as well as to follow the recommendations of the experts, and further determine the common vision upon mechanisms for conservation and sharing of genetic resources for food and agriculture within the OIC region. The meeting also requested the Secretariat in coordination with the Member States to maintain close cooperation and professional network among national genetic bank stakeholders in order to exchange best practices, knowledge, and experiences aiming at the creation of one genetic resource multiplication center.
- 6.3. Turkey has kindly proposed a “*Research and Innovation Programme*” that requires both funding and non-funding measures instead of the establishment of Seed Wakf model. This programme should be the biggest research and innovation programme in OIC/IOFS member states and it would be worth to study this initiative.
- 6.4. The water management and sanitation are essential for food and nutrition security, energy and environment. Having acknowledged that the arid and semi-arid land are expanding in the majority of OIC countries as a result of climate change and other anthropologic activities, the robust water management in agriculture area is becoming critical. As the meeting may recall, it was planned to convene a Roundtable on Water-Use Management in OIC Member States in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in October 2020 during the 8th OIC Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water. However, due to current circumstances the whole forum was postponed till further notice. Notwithstanding with that, the meeting eulogized the Secretariat for commencing the programme and efforts of partnering with OIC Institutions, Organizing, desire to run the series of workshops on water management in agriculture, and further requested to explore the possibility to convene the said roundtable at the level of experts from all OIC Member States. The meeting also agreed to study the experience of Turkey in water management.
- 6.5. The meeting was indeed alarmed by the terrible damages caused by an unprecedented

locust outbreak early this year. It was announced that eight countries in the East African region were badly hurt apart of other Asian countries such as Iran and Pakistan in Asia. The estimated loss of crops and livestock was put at US\$15 billion and jeopardize the stability of food production across the region. This kind of risks is unavoidable, however manageable in respect of its mitigation, including capacity development, early warning systems and cross-boundary support, among others.

- 6.6. Compilation of status reports on the pest control and counter locust measures in OIC Member States, in collaboration with national and international research institutions; Increasing capacity of Member States to strengthen national policies and regulations on prediction, monitoring and management of locusts and pest control; Facilitation of exchange of research and studies on counter locust invasion measures and pest control, including organisation of periodic workshops among relevant national centers of excellence in this domain could be found as auspicious and effective tactic tools of the task-execution and maintenance of food system sustainability . The meeting appreciated the fact that the Secretariat has already started the study of the matter and requested to work out the implementation mechanisms in coordination with Member States and other OIC institutions.

7. Promotion of Agri-Trade and Investment and Halal Food Development

- 7.1. While the meeting underscored the importance of pool of intra-OIC Economic Treaties namely: The General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation, the OIC Agreement for Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments, and the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System, it also stated that food investment promotion in cooperation with ad-hoc national investment agencies could ramp-up the potential of a state. Therefore, the meeting endorsed the commencement by Secretariat of the new programme titled “the National Food Sectors Development in cooperation with state investment agencies”. Accordingly, under this programme the main focus will fall on investment support into national food sectors and establishing food supply chains.
- 7.2. 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 in coordination and strategic partnership with SMIIC, IHAF and other international organisations.

8. Food Humanitarian Programmes

- 8.1. The meeting acknowledged that Food Humanitarian Programmes meet one of the fundamental statutory objectives of the IOFS in terms of making necessary humanitarian assistance to the needy communities and people across the OIC. The meeting, having studied the basic concepts, welcomed the new programmes aiming at mitigating negative impacts of a various man-made as well as natural extremes that people face including the notorious COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Furthermore, the new programme titled “*Qurbani Meat initiative*” enables simplification and facilitation of a religious ritual sacrifice and slaughter of qurbani

animal via advanced IT & blockchain solutions. These programmes are multi-goal orientated as they pursue several purposes and are in line with the economic, religious, agri-economic dimensions.

- 8.2. The Hon'ble Chairman, who is representing esteemed Saudi Arabia requested the Secretariat to coordinate and communicate with the Islamic Development Bank and "*The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Project For Utilization of Hady & Adahi*" regarding "*Adahi Meat Initiative*" to develop a feasibility study in order to achieve integration with other existing projects and joint Islamic work.

9. Enhancement of IOFS Food Balance Database

- 9.1. It is notable that throughout the years of 2019 and 2020 the database was sufficiently perfected. The meeting observed the Progress Report on the Food Balance Database and underlined the on-going efforts of the Secretariat in advancing and developing the database that plays a crucial role in terms of assessment and monitoring the food security situation, dynamics and tendencies in member states as well as in entire OIC region. The meeting urged the Secretariat to keep conducting scaling-up the database performance and specifically seek the right source of information depending on what improvements the IOFS database are needed (for instance the Chatham House could be found useful for food export and import data). Also, the database may be improved by additional analytical report that would help to maximize intra-OIC food trade.

10. Date and Venue of 4th General Assembly

- 10.1. The meeting agreed that the 4th General Assembly shall take place in Nur-Sultan, the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2021 and requested H.E. Mr. Nurbek Dairbekov, the Member of the Board, representing the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to conduct all arrangements including technical preparations, event budgeting in coordination with the Secretariat of IOFS.

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 this video-conference meeting.

Adopted by IOFS Board Members on 28 October 2020