

*OIC/IOFS/2021/REP-EXEC.BOARD*

***REPORT***

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

***NUR-SULTAN (VIDEO-CONFERENCE),  
08 DECEMBER 2021***



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

***Ref. No OIC/IOFS/2021/REP-EXEC.BOARD***

**Report**

**of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Board of IOFS**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Board of the Islamic Organization for Food Security was held on 08 December 2021 via video conference due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by eight (8) members of the Executive Board as follows:

**Attendees:**

1. HE. Abdulaziz A. Alhawaish (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Chairman)
2. HE. Zhenis Osserbai (Republic of Kazakhstan – Member)
3. HE. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren (Republic of Turkey – Member)
4. HE. Aicha Diallo (Burkina Faso – Member)
5. HE. Mussa Humma (Republic of the Gambia – Member)
6. HE. Md. Shahiduzzaman Faruki (People's Republic of Bangladesh – Member)
7. HE. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi (The State of the United Arab Emirates – Member)
8. HE. Yerlan Baidalet (DG, IOFS – Member)

**Opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Board**

Following the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, the meeting was traditionally opened by His Excellency, Mr. 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.

His Excellency, Mr. Abdulaziz A. Alhowaish, Chairman of the Board, welcomed all members and greeted the new Board members from Kazakhstan and Burkina Faso.

The meeting approved its Agenda and Work Programme.

### **1. Report of the Director General**

1.1. His Excellency, Mr. Yerlan Baidalet IOFS Director General presented the Report of the activities of IOFS, dwelling on the various activities of the Secretariat since the previous Executive Board meeting.

### **2. Strategy IOFS 2031: Implementation**

2.1. The meeting noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Secretariat in working closely with fellow consultancy firm Dinar Standard in analysing and forming the 10-year IOFS Strategy. The Board members have listened to Director General and the consultant regarding further implementation activities and shared their insights in this regard. Mr. Chairman underlined the document's importance and requested special attention on evaluation and monitoring the strategy in the mid-term future. He also asked to obtain final feedbacks from the Member States by the next General Assembly. His Excellency, Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren, requested the consultant to summarise the action plan in a straightforward table with targets, activities, partners, and timelines as per proposed frames of 2, 5 10 years.

### **3. OIC 8th MCFSAD: Outcomes**

3.1. Director General reported on the actual outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agriculture Development held in Istanbul, Turkey. The OIC Programmes of Action on the Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities and the OIC Food Security Reserve System are the foremost assignments that OIC General Secretariat requested IOFS to discharge in the foreseen future. Director General informed that the Secretariat has been working on two said above programmes and briefed on interim results of the programmes execution. Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren noted that the meeting was very successful despite severe restrictions and inconvenience due to the coronavirus pandemic. High-level officials from OIC member states and OIC institutions have attended the meeting. There were many bilateral meetings and side events during the meeting where IOFS took an active role and exchanged beneficial opinions and initiatives. The Board appreciated the Government of Turkey for an excellent arrangement of the essential 8th OIC MCFSAD.

### **4. IOFS as a group of entities**

- 4.1. The Board listened very carefully to the reports of Director General and consultants on the performance of IFPA, Grain Fund, and Halal Platform. Director General summarised actions taken on the implementation of these ventures. The meeting has outlined the progress of the execution steps on IFPA and Grain Fund. The efforts and inputs of all stakeholders are very much appreciated. The Board indeed highlighted the importance of timely implementation of said initiatives as they assist in tackling food emergencies and inadequacies.
- 4.2. In his intervention, His Excellency, Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the accomplished work related to the Grain Fund feasibility study. While highlighting the role of sound private entities in driving the Grain Fund, Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi requested to facilitate and motivate private sector actors to be involved in the mechanisms of the Grain Fund. Concerning the IFPA and Grain Fund programmes, the Board requested to work in the same direction and update the progress during the next meeting. Also to catalyze on enhancing the trade of grains between the OIC countries as a motive for financial institutes to provide funding and financing products.
- 4.3. Regarding the Halal agenda, Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren, in his intervention, mentioned the role of SMIIC and requested to work in coordination with this organisation in all halal related matters. Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren proposed to invite SMIIC for our next meeting to get its insights and harmonise the activities of IOFS. Additionally, Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren informed that he would assist in establishing ties between IFPA and several food industry unions in Turkey.
- 4.4. Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi shared his view that the landscape of the halal industry is mature with many organs in charge, so IOFS does not need to create any platforms or entities that could complicate the existing framework. Furthermore, Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi is aware from his executive practice of vast challenges of the intra-OIC halal issues due to its sensitivity, lack of mutual recognition wills among countries, and significant deviation in the perception of the halal standards. The Board recommended cooperating with existing bodies who have extensive experiences in the matter, such as IHAF and SMIIC.
- 4.5. Mr. Chairman acknowledges that the halal agenda is the area where there are a lot of sensitive and uncompromised issues that appear among Muslim countries. Therefore, these discussions are deemed to be preliminary ones. Mr. Chairman requested the Secretariat to bring together for further discussions

other stakeholders under the umbrella of OIC that deal with the matter. He also asked to follow the Board Members' instructions and develop an updated framework that serves all vested parties.

## **5. IOFS in Africa: Roadmap discussion**

- 5.1. The meeting paid due attention to developing and building resilient food systems in Africa; therefore, IOFS will take special activities in Africa during 2022. Having reviewed the Concept Note, the Board approved it and requested the Secretariat to keep conducting this task.

## **6. Other business**

- 6.1. As other businesses Director General raised several following matters: a) the Secretariat will arrange the 9<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan probably in June 2022 provided there are no any restrictions for travels; b) the Secretariat has been working with Member States in respect of hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly approximately in September 2022; c) the matter that requires due attention is the extraordinary meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on 18-19 December in Islamabad, Pakistan, upon the humanitarian issues in Afghanistan. IOFS will discuss the implementation of the Flour for Humanity and the Regional Food Security Reserve initiatives to serve the vulnerable group of people in Afghanistan.
- 6.2. Mr. Chairman articulated that IOFS must always increase its capacity, and the talented people should comprise the core of human resources that will drive the organisation. Thus, IOFS must have competitive allowances, remunerations, and conditions to attract high-level professional experts and prepare the updated IOFS staff's salary scales for the next Board meeting. The Secretariat should align the revised salary scale with other OIC and international organisations.
- 6.3. Mr. Chairman highlighted the role of IOFS in formulating the agenda of OIC Ministerial Conferences of food security and agricultural development; consequently, IOFS must not only be deeply engaged but also must champion those conferences. Mr. Chairman brings to the table the matter of renaming the organisation – Islamic Organization for Food Security and Agriculture (IOFSA). The organisation's renaming does not contradict the mission and mandate, and there are no statutory collisions in this regard. Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren, however, proposed to communicate the raised matter with the OIC General Secretariat and reserves the right not to provide his opinion upon the point. The Board requested the Secretariat to preliminary discuss this matter with the OIC General Secretariat, ensure its support and inform the Board in due course.

## **VOTE OF THANKS**

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

**Adopted by IOFS Board Members on 08 December 2021**