

OIC/IOFS/2022/REP-EXEC.BOARD

REPORT

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

***ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
10 JUNE 2022***



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

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Report

of the 9th Meeting of the Executive Board of IOFS

The 9th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Islamic Organization for Food Security was held on 10 June 2022. The meeting was attended by eight (8) members of the Executive Board as follows:

Attendees:

1. HE. Abdulaziz A. Alhowaish (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Chairman)
2. HE. Baglan Bekbauov (Republic of Kazakhstan – Member)
3. HE. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren (Republic of Turkey – Member)
4. HE. Aicha Diallo (Burkina Faso – Member)
5. HE. Mussa Humma (the Republic of the Gambia – Member) – participated online via Zoom link.
6. HE. Md. Shahiduzzaman Faruki (People's Republic of Bangladesh – Member)
7. HE. Majid Bin Kamal (The United Arab Emirates – Member)
8. HE. Yerlan Baidaulet (DG, IOFS – Member)

Opening of the 9th 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. 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.

His Excellency, Mr. Abdulaziz A. Alhowaish, Chairman of the Board, welcomed

all members. The meeting approved its Agenda and Work Programme.

1. Report of the Director-General

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

2. Report on the Financial Matters

2.1. Mr. Safwan Alsaadeh, CFO, reported on the outcomes of the Financial Control Committee (FCC) of IOFS which was held on 31 March 2022 and the Financial Statements of IOFS for 2021. The Board approved all the above-said reports as well as the budget quotation for 2022, 2023, and 2024 and the new Reserve Account Policy for submission to the 5th IOFS General Assembly.

3. IOFS Strategic Programmes: an overview of the implementation

3.1. The Board members have listened to Dr. Ismail Aly Mohamed Abdelhamid, Director of Programmes & Projects Office regarding the implementation activities of the IOFS Strategic Programmes and shared their insights in this regard. As of today, IOFS is dealing with the main 16 programs distinguished by 5 pillars according to the strategic framework of the IOFS. His Excellency, Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren intervened and shared his opinion that the Food Security Reserve Programme is a huge one and the concept itself is not ready to be presented to Ministers, therefore requires further perfection on the level of experts.

3.2. Mr. Raffiuddin Shikoh, Managing Partner of the Strategy Insights Inc. presented the results of the IOFS Grain Fund feasibility study on behalf of the consortium consisting of three consulting firms, namely the Strategy Insights Inc., Hermon Consulting, and Algebra Commodities. The said Fund was initiated by the IOFS during the 2nd General Assembly which would provide the necessary financial products to help the Member States become more food secure and self-sufficient in essential commodities. The goals could be set to reduce vulnerability to the volatility of global food prices; to mitigate adverse impacts of food price inflation through compensation for damage and/or financial loss; to reduce dependency on global the agriculture and food markets by increasing the OIC food production system, and to provide humanitarian aid during food crises and food price shocks. The Board requested the consortium and the Secretariat to work out a more detailed approach, especially with regard to state finance matters and present the implementation schemes.

4. Afghanistan Food Security Programme: a flow review

- 4.1. Mr. Abdula Manafi Mutualo, Senior Liaison Officer reported on the activities under the Afghanistan Food Security Programme that have been specifically mandated by the 17th Extraordinary CFM on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan on 18-19 December 2021, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in which a comprehensive Resolution was adopted by the participating Member States, which launched an “Afghanistan Food Security Programme” and identified the IOFS for taking necessary efforts for the implementation of this Programme. In fact, within the AFSP, in the immediate response, the IOFS puts forward four (4) Projects, as follows:
- Supply of Wheat Flour to Afghanistan (which includes an IOFS-Kazakhstan Initiative);
 - IOFS-ICIC Partnership for Afghanistan Emergency Food Support; and
 - Model Case for Cereals Cultivation and Flour Production.
 - Potable Water Cleaning facilities for several rural areas
- 4.2. His Excellency, Mr. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren highlighted the issues related to humanitarian projects along with food security reserve systems that must engage other Member States’ official bodies apart from agricultural state bodies. Therefore, the Board underlined that it would be worth requesting the OIC support that inevitably empowers these humanitarian and social programmes.

5. Year of Africa: a flow review

- 5.1. The Board listened very carefully to the report of Mr. Abdula Manafi Mutualo, on the Year of Africa initiative. As we well know the situation in Africa is bleak as the FAO Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020, published on 30 June 2021, stated that Africa was not on track to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets to end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round and to end all forms of malnutrition. The number of hungry people on the continent has risen by 47.9 million since 2014 and now stands at 250.3 million, or nearly one-fifth of the population. IOFS by the statutory capacity is activating various events that could foster food security in the African region. The Board commended activities and requested to continue the useful activities under the Year of Africa.

6. The 5th General Assembly: date, venue, and potential side events

- 6.1. Director General updated the status of this matter and informed the Board he is conducting consultations with the several Member States in Africa who

could potentially host the said event. The results of these negotiations will be informed in due course. Furthermore, Chairman outlined that this kind of event must be conducted without unnecessary financial spending, and if needed the 5th General Assembly could be held in online mode.

7. Other business

- 7.1. As for other businesses one important issue was discussed which is the establishment of regional offices. One of the offers was to consider the establishment of a regional office in Turkiye with seconded staff having in mind that in this country strong teams are already working with FAO, IFAD, and others. As per Chairman, at this stage of IOFS development, the regional offices are not in desperate need. This matter must be evaluated properly and a Member State who wishes to host the regional office must put eligible and feasible reasons in order to consider the proposal. The Board requested Secretariat to review the issue and initiate a more detailed vision in this regard along with the vested Member States.
- 7.2. Another issue that has been raised by Chairman is whether Article 12 (1) of the IOFS Statute could be amended. As we know, currently Members of the Executive Board are elected for a period of 3 years, renewable once. The said amendments could extend the serving period of the Executive Board Members and omit the renewable limitations. Having stated the fact that only several IOFS Member States contribute to the budget and partake active role in the operational aspect of the IOFS, it would be worth reconsidering the matter. The Board requested Secretariat to conduct an additional analysis of the matter and escalate the issue during the upcoming General Assembly and put the matter on the vote.

Nota Bene (update as of 12 August 2022): in reflection on the raised issue, the esteemed Republic of Kazakhstan, in the capacity of the hosting country, proposes the position of **Honorary Chair** of the IOFS Executive Board (The Note Verbale is enclosed). This position could be granted to the Member State and contributed a lot in terms of financial sustainability and institutional maturity of IOFS. The Honorary Chair is supposed to be the symbolic and well-respected post that could deliver a huge input, which, however, will not intervene in the work of a valid current Chairman of the Executive Board. This proposal must be considered by the IOFS General Assembly and legitimated by its Resolution with no change of the Statute.

- 7.3. Director-General also raised several issues under the umbrella of other businesses, and one of them is to rename the Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security CAS-AFS, the University of Agriculture

Faisalabad, Pakistan (UAF) to the IOFS Center of Agriculture Science and commence close work with the Center. The Board requested to supply a detailed report after the visit of Dr. Ismail Aly Mohamed Abdelhamid to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and then review the matter again.

- 7.4. The Board requested Secretariat to circulate among states and promote the provisions of the Almaty High-Level Forum Declaration with special focus on the genetic resource framework that has been highlighted throughout of wordings of the Declaration.
- 7.5. The Board also requested to initiate the fixing of the **11th December** as the OIC FOOD SECURITY DAY by virtue of the fact that at this date the Statute adopted by the 40th Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, the Republic of Guinea on 09-11 December 2013. The Secretariat should work with the OIC GS and the Member States in due course.
- 7.6. Also there should be work done by the Secretariat in terms of adjusting the salary scale in order to create a favorable working environment for professionals.

VOTE OF THANKS

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

Adopted by IOFS Board Members on 10 June 2022