

OIC/IOFS/2021/REP-EXEC.BOARD

REPORT

OF

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

***NUR-SULTAN (VIDEO-CONFERENCE),
07 JUNE 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 7th Meeting of the Executive Board of IOFS

The 7th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Islamic Organization for Food Security was held on 07 June 2021 vide video conference due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by six (6) members of the Executive Board as follows:

Attendees:

1. HE. Abdulaziz A. Alhowaish (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Chairman)
2. HE. Ruslan Manatayev (Republic of Kazakhstan – Member)
3. HE. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren (Republic of Turkey – Member)
4. HE. Zeba Momini (Burkina Faso – Member)
5. HE. Md. Shahiduzzaman Faruki (People's Republic of Bangladesh – Member)
6. HE. Yerlan Baidalet (DG, IOFS – Member)

Apologized:

1. HE. Fabureh Amie (Republic of the Gambia – Member)
2. HE. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi (United Arab Emirates – Member)

Representatives from the Republic of the Gambia and the United Arab Emirates were apologized from attending for good reasons. However, pursuant to Art.3 para 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the IOFS, two thirds (2/3) of the Member States shall constitute the quorum for the meetings of the IOFS. Therefore, the condition of the quorum has been met.

Furthermore, HE. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi (UAE) has sent all remarks and recommendations upon items under consideration by email prior the meeting. The Secretariat will take into considerations these remarks and amend documents in due

course or provide clarifications by email.

Opening of the 7th meeting of the Executive Board

Following 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.

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and greeted the new board members from Kazakhstan and Bangladesh.

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 of the activities of IOFS, dwelling on the various activities of the Secretariat since the previous Executive Board meeting.

2. Membership

2.1. The meeting noted with satisfaction the velocity of joining by new Member States and underlined the efforts of the Secretariat in expanding IOFS within OIC region. Tunisia, Morocco signed the IOFS Statute whilst Libya ratified the same in the first half of 2021 and thus these diplomatic acts mark very good tendencies.

2.2. With regard to international cooperation, the meeting commended the level of work being carried out by the Secretariat and Director General and acknowledged that the international cooperation itself is multi-tier as concerns bilateral work with states, OIC institutes and organisations as well as cooperation with non-OIC entities. The meeting endorses the commenced interaction with UN entities such as FAO, WFP and IFAD and requests to enhance close work with said entities. In the same way, the meeting affirms that notwithstanding the nature and subject of the cooperation vary in a wide spectrum of 16 IOFS programmes mandates, holistically the cooperation is aimed at achieving the purposes of food security sustainability.

3. Finance & Governance

3.1. In line with statutory requirements and relevant decision of the 3rd General Assembly, IOFS successfully held the first pioneer (online) meeting of the Financial Control Committee on 05 April 2021. The FCC as per earlier due

authorization was constituted by three members from Kazakhstan, Bangladesh and UAE, who collectively elected Hon'ble Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Hashmi representing UAE as a Chairman of the FCC.

- 3.2. The FCC guided by the internal financial regulations and in compliance with international public accounting standards examined and audited all the relevant books and records. Having observed the financial statements and carefully listened to the report by the Mr. Safwan Alsaaidh, Finance Manager of the IOFS, the meeting appreciated the Secretariat and FCC for well-done job and declared that the report and financial statements must be deemed as approved for submission to the upcoming General Assembly session.
- 3.3. The meeting estimated the implementation of the budget for 2021 as well as observed the budget for 2022, 2023, 2024. The Executive Board approved the budget for 2022, and approved indicative figures for 2023, 2024.
- 3.4. Upon the intervention of HE. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren (Turkey), the meeting requested to provide some additional information on internal figures of the budget and sought some clarifications on the Financial Regulations. Particularly, Turkey requested to add the justification column in the comparison table as these amendments could be misunderstood by the Member States as decreasing the powers of the Executive Board and General Assembly. It was agreed that Turkey will send written comments and questions by email and the Secretariat will address all questions along with others also raised by UAE before the meeting upon this item.
- 3.5. It is worth noting that the amendments are relevant and unavoidable indeed as there is a necessity to align with the rules and established practices of the OIC and also correct inconsistencies of translation. The Board agreed that the Secretariat will address all questions and comments of Turkey upon Financial Regulations and Personnel Regulations before submitting the final versions to the 4th General Assembly. Also, due regards shall be given to comments of esteemed UAE sent via email especially related to Personnel Regulations amendments.
- 3.6. Bearing in mind the IOFS is a relatively new organization which internal culture is just being formulated and ramped up, the Executive Board endorsed the emergence of the important fundamental document such as the IOFS Corporate Governance Code. The document was approved and requested to be submitted to the session of the General Assembly.
- 3.7. HE. Abdulaziz A. Alhowaish, the Chairman of the Board asked to highlight appreciation in the relevant Resolution to those Member States which have transferred their mandatory contributions. Also, His Excellency, Chair

underlined the importance of the upcoming United Nations World Food Security Summit scheduled for September 2021, New York, USA, and requested the Secretariat to actively involved in the endeavor and call the IOFS Member States to partake.

4. Progress review of the IOFS 16 programmes

- 4.1. The Executive Board listened very carefully to the presentation of Dr. Ismail, the Director of the programme office, who summarised actions taken on the implementation of the approved programmes.
- 4.2. The meeting indeed highlighted the importance of timely implementation of said initiatives as they assist to tackle food emergencies and inadequacies. The OIC has several states with ineffective food systems. Furthermore, the severe consequences of the global pandemic have already hit humanity and jeopardize further the sustainability of the food supply.
- 4.3. The meeting has listened to reporters and reviewed the progress of the execution steps on programmes. The efforts and inputs of all stakeholders are very much appreciated and the Board looks ahead outcomes of these interventions positively with high expectations.

5. Follow up on Resolutions of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of General Assembly and preliminary review of draft resolutions of the 4th meeting of General Assembly

- 5.1. The meeting underlined the importance of the constant follow-up track by the Secretariat regarding the approved decisions of the supreme executive body so as to timely evaluate the interim deliverables, determine constraints and obstacles, and move forward consistently. Having reviewed the follow-up checklist, the meeting took note and requested the Secretariat to keep conducting this task.
- 5.2. The meeting undertook an interim evaluation of the processes and implementation phases of all commitments mainly related to the IOFS Action Plan and to the adopted IOFS programmes. The interim high-level evaluation by the Board is needed in order to take action as a result of that judgment, such as adjusting or modifying actions.
- 5.3. The Board noted the results cannot be finally gauged at this early stage, however, highlighted that the whole momentum of all activities and undertakings is heading towards the right direction.

6. Recommendations of the IOFS to the main executive organs of OIC (CFM)

- 6.1. The meeting having brainstormed the good-faith initiatives of the Secretariat,

decided to embed the initiatives of the IOFS within the agenda of the upcoming 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to be held in Islamabad. The initiatives are conceptually two-folded, as the first proposes to merge the mandates of the OIC Ministerial Conference on food security and agricultural development and General Assembly of IOFS; and the second is the purely programme-orientated and aiming at enhancing the impact and coverage of the executing programmes.

- 6.2. The meeting acknowledged the IOFS needs augmented support of the CFM. HE. Ahmet Volkan Gungoren (Turkey), however, shared concerns related to the possibility of merging the OIC Ministerial Conference on food security and agricultural development and General Assembly of IOFS on the ground that this initiative may not meet procedural compliance requirements accepted in the OIC, the nature and scope of mandates differences, and that several states have not joined IOFS yet. Even though the other members of the Board commented that the outcomes of the initiatives could substantially increase the effectiveness of the entire OIC in the field of food security since it avoids duplication and may empower the IOFS, it agreed that the matter will be discussed with Turkey bilaterally with involvements of officials within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that the recommendation will be pending.

7. Strategic Vision of the IOFS 2031

- 7.1. The meeting paid due attention on presentation of the Strategic Vision of the IOFS and appreciated the harmonization of all vital elements in it, i.e.: 1) the strategic pillars, 2) strategic objectives and goals, and 3) already commenced IOFS strategic programmes. In formulation of strategic vision and long-term operational activities, it is foremost to have the Islamic core values such as peace, enlightenment, integrity, respect, collaboration, sustainability of nature, and innovation which have been fairly underlined as the foundation block.
- 7.2. Also, the establishment of linkage to OIC Strategy & Action Plan 2016-25 in elaborating the long vision of IOFS is found to be relevant. That is to mean that the IOFS in implementing its strategic activities will choose profound, cohesive and concert approaches with OIC institutions unto whole goals. The Board envisages that the synchrony and coherence of the IOFS Strategy with the OIC Strategy & Action Plan 2016-25 will give the multiple effect in aiming at the settled goals.
- 7.3. The Board while appreciating DG of IOFS for the outstanding presentation, requests to continue the work and finalise it in the form of the comprehensive and high-quality Strategy document preferably before the upcoming 4th session of the IOFS General Assembly.

8. Any Other Institutional matters

- 8.1. The Board supported DG of IOFS proposal of determination the Anniversary Day of IOFS date to be the 11th December as the Statute of IOFS was adopted on December 11, 2013, during the 40th session of CFM in Conakry, Guinea. The Board also approved the necessity to prepare the Guidelines for the Procurement of the Consultancy Services of the IOFS.
- 8.2. In light of very awkward latest results of the 2021 Global Food Security Index (GFSI), which indeed do not replicate reality and tangible achievements, it is proposed to consider the possibility of establishment the independent food security index under the IOFS in coordination with its partners and the pool of experts.
- 8.3. The Board appreciated the initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, for the announcement of establishing the Green Saudi Initiative, beside the Green Middle East Initiative and expressed readiness to work with the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in implementing the initiative.
- 8.4. Also, DG raised the issue of hosting the 5th General Assembly session. Taking the geographical rotation principle, it will be the turn for the African region. However, in case no state from the African region expresses the interest, we may consider the other Member States even the ones who have already hosted.

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 meeting.

Adopted by IOFS Board Members on 07 June 2021