



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

**Speaking Notes for
H.E. Mr. Yerlan Baidalet, Director General, of
the Islamic Organization for Food Security
(IOFS)**

**At the Islamic Commission for Economic,
Culture & Social affairs**

Jeddah, 12 January 2022

Excellencies Distinguished Participants

Assalamu alaikum warahmatu Allah wabarakatuh,

I feel honored and privileged to be with all of you today at the ongoing meeting of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural & Social Affairs (ICECS).

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the current Chairman of the ICECS and mention briefly on the IOFS inputs to the implementation of resolutions of the previous Sessions of OIC CFM.

Despite the fact that the IOFS is a young organization and began its actual activities only in the fall of 2019, and also taking into account the limitations and difficulties associated with Covid-19, it should be noted that 2021 was quite busy year.

I deem it appropriate to report that IOFS through its programming activities designated to boost the cooperation with MCs, national, regional, and international organizations for the benefits of agriculture sector and the welfare of the people. IOFS (even having membership of 36 countries) works actively with all OIC MCs and OIC institutions.

The 3rd General Assembly in Ankara, December 2020, approved the IOFS Strategic Framework composed of 16 programmes divided into such 5 pillars as i) OIC Plan of Action for Strategic Commodities, ii) OIC Food Security Reserve, iii) OIC Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Agenda 2026, iv) Intra-OIC Agro-Food Trade & Investment Promotion, and v) OIC Food Humanitarian Programmes. And the 4th General Assembly in Nur-Sultan, September 2021, has approved IOFS 10-years Strategic Vision 2031 which is also based on 5 pillars with clear plans to accommodate additionally the most advanced agri- and biotechnologies and to give deep attention to the effect of climate change in agriculture among other important sectors.

A) IOFS Activities in 2021

In April-December 2021 IOFS held 32 activities within the framework of all 16 IOFS programmes, including some of them as follow:

1) Plant and Animal Gene Banks

In the light of continuous IOFS efforts to meet its commitments to implement the outcome of the **Dubai Declaration 2020 on the development of national gene banks** in Member States and on Operative Paragraph 31 of the 2nd OIC Summit on Science and Technology on 16 June 2021, the Secretariat conducted in cooperation with **COMSTECH three training workshops** to mobilize genetic resource specialists in **Asia, Africa, and the Arab** regions. These meetings were preparatory for the **International Forum on genebanks** in COMSTECH Headquarters in Islamabad, Pakistan that both OIC institutions organized in November 2021.

2) Development of Strategic Commodities

As per the previous resolutions of the previous OIC ministerial conferences on food security and agricultural development (incl. 8th one in Istanbul, October 2021), IOFS together with all OIC MCs via Centers of Excellence (CoEs) strives for systemic development of strategic commodities. It is worth mentioning that in 2021 the CoEs for **Wheat** held one meeting in Turkey and a training workshop in Kazakhstan. In these two events, IOFS was able to gather 160 participants from Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Bangladesh, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. It happened in cooperation with ICBA, KAUST, FAO, CIMMYT, and ICARDA. The **Rice** CoE held an important meeting in cooperation with BIRRI and gathered Indonesia, Malaysia, Suriname, Guyana, United Arab Emirates, Senegal, Iran, and Kazakhstan.

IOFS, jointly with the National Root Crops Research Institute of Nigeria (NRCRI,) has held the First Meeting of CoE for Cassava for Sub Saharan Group II on September 23, 2021. There were around 70 representatives of Scientific Research Institutes, local authorities, and experts of the sector. In November 2021 IOFS held a first meeting of CoE on Palm Oil (with participation of 9 member countries and several specialized institutions).

3) Safe and Healthy Food

On June, 2021 IOFS conducted the first Expert Council meeting on Food Safety and Halal Food jointly with Kazakh National Agrarian Research University, in Almaty.

On July, 2021 the second Expert Group Meeting for Food Safety and Halal Food with the participation of academic scientists, researchers, and representatives from Central Asia countries, such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The experts discussed and enhanced the Food Safety and Halal Food Methodology Action plan. This step will promote the methodological base of the concept "**from Gene to Fork modality**," including harmonization, integration, and promotion of safe and healthy food in member countries. By close consideration, such issues as food safety and traceability are key components of the methodology.

4) Water Management in Agriculture:

On August, 2021, IOFS Secretariat, together with the Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU) within its **Regional Water Hub** facilities and with the support of the Islamic Development Bank, organized in Almaty the 2-day Water-in-Agriculture Training Program for **10 West African** (online) and **6 Central Asian** Member Countries.

5) Agri Food Investment and Trade

In June and in August, 2021, IOFS conducted two online International Conferences to enhance cross-border Agri-Food Investments and Trade in OIC Countries with focus on cooperation of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) of member countries. Both events were attended by more than 250 representatives of governmental bodies, interested IPA's, institutional investors, and specialized institutions of the OIC (ITFC, ICIEC, ICDT, ICCIA) and BADEA.

6) International IFPA

IOFS as a Group was formed upon registering in AIFC (under English laws) in December 2020 its 100% subsidiary entity, the International Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA). Now IFPA has around 30 Honorary members and 10 corporate members. On 3rd September 2021, the IOFS Director General, as IFPA Chairman, signed three Strategic Partnership agreements with ITFC, ICD, and ICIEC. IOFS Secretariat as G2G platform jointly with IFPA as B2B mechanism continue to promote cross-border trade and investments in basic agricultural, incl. small farmers, and food industrial sectors with a special focus on establishing and synergizing food clusters in OIC member countries via OIC institutions as ICDT and IsDB Group, quasi-government entities as IPA's and ECAs, as well as, with local and international agri-food associations.

With regard to the approved Strategic Framework, IOFS have launched other programs as Food Security Reserves, Grain Fund (the feasibility study is being completed) as well as other STI Agenda 2026 activities.

B)

1) The Fourth General Assembly

One of major outcomes of the 4th General Assembly, hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan on 08-09 September 2021, was the unanimous adoption of the IOFS 2031 Strategic Plan, which establishes an inspiring and long-term Vision with key goals for IOFS's role in OIC Member States food security agenda. The Strategy is based on an evaluation of global and OIC Member States specific long-term (through 2031) socio-economic and food security macro-trends that will shape and effect food security globally and within OIC region.

2) Intra-OIC Cooperation

In order to promote joint cooperation at the level of OIC institutions, IOFS Director-General is engaging the various OIC institutions on the following main issues:

Afghanistan Food Security Programme (AFSP)

The 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC CFM on the "Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan" launched an Afghanistan Food Security Programme, and in paragraph 18 and 19 requested the IOFS to undertake necessary work in this regard using the capacity of the Organization's Food Security Reserves, when necessary, as well as encourages OIC Member States, international donors, the UN Funds and

Programmes and other international actors to generously contribute to the Afghanistan Food Security Programme.

The IOFS, as an OIC specialized institution for food security, proposes upon close coordination with OIC General Secretariat (incl. OIC Kabul Office), IsDB Group, ICIC, IIFA etc.) the Relief Program for Afghanistan, which consists of several initiatives, including supporting activities in cooperation with the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan, IOFS Cooperation with OIC and International Organizations, UN Agencies and international donors, initiatives in Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan through IOFS Programs, such as IOFS Flour for Humanity programme, IOFS Food Security Reserves, International IFPA, and Grain Fund.

- a) Agricultural Trade and Investment with particular reference to financing, promotion and facilitation of agricultural products and support for smallholder farmers (IsDB, ICDT, ITFC), export insurance and promotion in the food sector (ICIEC);
- b) Steering and Project Committees to be formed in cooperation IsDB (under the OIC Plan of Action for Strategic Commodities)
- c) Regional Food Security Reserve (especially, in the Asian sub-group with its 11 member countries (incl. Afghanistan as a main Humanitarian Reserve beneficiary) and Grain Fund (to be launched in 2022 after completion of the feasibility study);

Year of Africa

It is important to note that it was decided that 4th General Assembly has approved to announce **2022 as the "IOFS Year of Africa"**, and the IOFS is inviting all Member States and relevant OIC Institutions to actively participate and financially contribute for the successful holding of all related programmes that are to be held in African Member States (the Road Map incl.all events and measures was approved by the 8th Executive Board Meeting of IOFS in December 2021), including the holding of the 5th IOFS General Assembly in Autumn of 2022 in one of African member countries.

OIC Food System Talent Development and Education

Within the implementation of the Program "OIC Food System Talent Development" under the Strategic Vision 2031, the IOFS pays the significant attention to the development of human capital for sustainable food security, supporting smallholder farmers through extension, strengthening the role of universities, raising awareness on food and nutrition security from the early ages among member states of OIC.

Following this commitment, the IOFS Secretariat in cooperation with the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) plans to organize the OIC Food Security Education Forum in May 2022 in Dubai, UAE, in cooperation with OIC Institutions, international organizations and agricultural universities of member states. All interested parties could contact the IOFS HQ (info@iofs.org.kz).

Thank you for your attention.

Waleikum wassalam.