

REPORT
OF THE FIRST MEETING OF
THE DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION INSTITUTIONS OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
13-14 May 2009
Istanbul, Republic of Turkey

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have jointly organized the First Meeting of the Development and Cooperation Institutions (DCIs) of the OIC Member States on 13-14 May 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Meeting was inspired by the OIC Ten-Year Programme for Action, which has been adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in December 2005.

Representatives of the DCIs and relevant ministries of the following OIC Member States attended the Meeting: Arab Republic of Egypt (Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (EFTCA)), Republic of Indonesia (National Development Planning Agency), Islamic Republic of Iran, State of Kuwait (Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED)), Malaysia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)), Republic of Tunisia (Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT)), Republic of Turkey, and State of the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD)). The Meeting was also attended by the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group and Ministers from Iran, Pakistan, Qatar and Turkey.

The Meeting was the first initiative within the OIC framework to bring together the representatives of the Development and Cooperation Institutions of the OIC Member States. During the Meeting the representatives of these institutions made valuable discussions and deliberations on various issues of cooperation among themselves with a view to enhancing their vital role in the socio-economic development of the Member States. In the light of these deliberations, it became clear that the following issues should be considered seriously to facilitate the cooperation among these institutions:

- The Development and Cooperation Institutions in the OIC Member States have enormous capacities, experiences and financial resources for achieving higher levels of socio-economic development at both the national and the OIC levels.

- Though the development assistance by the OIC member states add up to very significant amounts, their visibility on a global scale and even on the domestic scale, in some cases, have not been well publicized. The best practices in this respect should be highlighted in order to attract the potential donors.
- It has been emphasized that there is an urgent need for developing appropriate instruments and institutions with a view to exchanging experiences, collecting and disseminating relevant data and sharing them in the international fora.
- Harmonization and alignment are of crucial importance as regards to aid effectiveness which necessitates the close coordination among the donors as well as between the donors and recipients. In this context, organising advisory meetings among the DCIs of the Member States may ensure sustainability of joint action plans.
- There is a need to develop a functional mechanism to facilitate the circulation of information and exchanging of experiences among the DCIs of the Member States with the aim of identifying the priorities of the targeted countries and other key factors for enhancing the impact of development assistance.
- The idea of constituting an Islamic fund for humanitarian aid has been emphasised considering that currently there is no unified body within the OIC framework for humanitarian activities. This fund should not be viewed as a charity fund since no country is considered safe in terms of economy and social structure if the neighbouring countries are under the threat of global challenges.
- It has been emphasised that aid delivery constitutes one of the major problems in terms of conveying humanitarian assistance. Therefore, the above proposed fund could be considered as a vital instrument in effective aid delivery in the OIC Member States. The governments should take the lead for the simplification of aid procedures to encourage voluntary activities in targeted areas.
- Due to the recent financial global crises, there is a strong tendency in developed countries, towards protectionist policies, which will have adverse economic impacts in most OIC Member States. This calls for efficient use of resources in order to attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and minimize capital flight in a timely manner.
- It is clear that financial resources are not the panacea of the problems, faced by the OIC Member States. In this respect, special attention should be given to the development of human resources and technical cooperation as well.
- The importance of project-based operations has been emphasized since by doing so tangible results are more likely to be achieved. In this connection, the priority areas should be determined in a transparent, accountable and concrete manner.

- In order to expand the outreach and credibility of the projects, civil society organizations should be involved in the process of planning and implementation, as development assistance cannot realize its full potential only by governmental initiatives.
- Towards enhancing the level of collaboration and cooperation among the DCIs of the Member States, and improving the impact of development assistance, formation of OIC Development Assistance Committee is vital and an Expert Group meeting should be convened in a timely manner to study the structure, functions and other key components of this important committee.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

(Alphabetical Order)

MEMBER STATES

- Arab Republic of Egypt (Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa (EFTCA))
- Republic of Indonesia (National Development Planning Agency)
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- State of Kuwait (Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED))
- Malaysia
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- State of Qatar
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD))
- Republic of Tunisia (Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT))
- Republic of Turkey (Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA))
- State of the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD))

OIC INSTITUTIONS

- General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)