

## **STATUTE OF THE OIC WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

### **PREAMBLE:**

The Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Believing that Islam holds women in high esteem and makes their welfare and protection one of its goals,

Guided by the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

In response to the common desire of Member States and the aspirations of our societies to achieve and complement development efforts by developing women, building their capacity, and encouraging their effective participation in the society,

Guided by the Islamic values, strengthened by the gifts of the Islamic civilization to humanity of revering and honouring women, within the framework of the joint Islamic action,

Recognizing the important role that women play in political and socio-economic development of national societies on the basis of justice and equal opportunity,

Confirming the importance of the role of rearing, training, education and rehabilitation of women, as respected partners of men, in the Muslim world, in a fast changing, developing and modernizing world,

Taking into consideration the outcomes and resolutions of various Islamic summits relevant to women's issues and urging women's advancement and the development of their role in the Islamic societies; of the resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Ten-Year Programme of Action derived from the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah al Mukarrama in 2005, and the 1st Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States, held in

Istanbul in 2006 and the 2nd Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States, held in Cairo in 2008 and of the resolution of the 36th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Damascus in 2009 on the establishment and hosting by the Arab Republic of Egypt of a specialized organization concerned with this lofty role including to train, rehabilitate and transfer women's capabilities within the framework of the OIC,

**Have decided:**

## **Chapter 1**

### **General Provisions**

#### **Definitions**

#### **Article 1**

In the present Statute, the following terms shall have the meanings set opposite each one of them:

1. The Organization                      means the Organization for the Development of Women in the OIC Member States.
2. The Council                              means the Council of the Organization for the Development of Women in the OIC Member States.
3. Member States                         means the Member States of the Organization for the Development of Women in the OIC Member States.

## **Article 2**

There shall be created in the Organization of the Islamic Conference a specialized Organization called the Women Development Organization in the Member States of the OIC concerned with the development and promotion of the role of women in the OIC Member States, with capacity, skills and competence building, through various mechanisms, including training, education and rehabilitation, in line with the principles of the Islamic values.

## **Legal Status**

### **Article 3**

An international specialized Organization with legal personality working within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It shall implement the OIC's resolutions and recommendations in the areas of its work.

## **Headquarters**

### **Article 4**

Cairo, the capital of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall be the headquarters of the Organization. The host state shall guarantee the privileges and immunities of the Organization, the representatives of Member States and of the staff of the Organization as stipulated in the headquarters agreement and shall provide the permanent headquarters of the Organization.

## **Objectives of the Organization**

### **Article 5**

The aim of the Organization is to develop women. It shall be concerned with everything necessary to meet its objectives, in particular:

1. Highlight the role of Islam in preserving the rights of the Muslim woman especially at the international fora in which the Organization is involved.

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**Annex I**

2. Develop plans, programmes and projects necessary to implement policies, orientations and decisions of the OIC in the area of women's development, welfare and empowerment in Member States societies.
3. Organize conferences, symposia, workshops and meetings in the area of women's development in the Member States.
4. Conduct courses and training programmes aimed at strengthening and building capacity, skills and competences in the area of women's development and empower them to discharge their mission in the family and society.
5. Support and encourage national efforts in Member States to develop human resources in the area of women's development.
6. Organize activities aimed at upgrading the role of women and ensuring women's full rights in Member States' societies, in line with the Charter and the decisions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
7. Carry out studies to enhance the role of women in Member States.
8. Activate the rights of women enshrined in the OIC Charter by working to remove the restrictions that will enable women to participate in community building.
9. Suggest ways and methods of the society's support for women.
10. Establish an information network that will enable Member States to identify experiences and practices regarding women, including through the cooperation with civil society.

## **Membership**

### **Article 6**

1. Membership shall be opened voluntarily to OIC Member States,
2. Observer States in the OIC may apply for Observer status in the Organization. This is without prejudice to the States and the International Organizations becoming Observers in the OIC in accordance with the OIC Charter.
3. In all cases, voting shall be restricted to Member States of the organization only.

## **Chapter II**

### **Resources**

#### **Article 7**

The resources of the Organization shall consist of the following:

- Contributions of Member States in this Organization according to their respective adopted shares, which shall be determined according to the percentage of each country's contribution to the budget of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, unless the Council decides otherwise.
- Assistance, gift and grants from States, international, regional and nongovernmental Organizations provided they are accepted by the Council.
- Resources obtained in exchange for the services rendered in its area of activity.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference or its Member States that are not members of the Women Development Organization shall not assume any expenses or commitment towards the Organization.

## **Chapter III**

### **Organs of the Organization**

#### **The Council**

##### **Article 8**

1. The Council shall be comprised of Ministers concerned with women's affairs in Member States or those with similar capacities and shall be chaired by the Minister in charge of women's affairs in the State hosting the meeting. The Council shall convene periodically once every two years and may be called to convene in an extraordinary session upon the request of one of the Member States and the approval of one-third of the Members.
2. The Council shall, in its first meeting, adopt its working methods and rules of procedures.

##### **Article 9**

The Council shall define the general policies of the Organization and adopt programmes and implementation plans, the fields of contribution in the financing of its activities and present the organization in international fora, and appoint the Executive Director. It shall issue organizational and administrative rules and regulate human and financial resources and annual budget.

#### **Executive Director**

##### **Article 10**

The Council shall appoint the Executive Director for 4 years, renewable once, from among the candidates nominated by Member States in the Organization. The Executive Director shall be responsible for managing the affairs of the Organization by implementing and following up the policies and resolutions of the Council and implementing the programmes, plans and projects approved by the Council.

## **Chapter IV**

### **Final Provisions**

#### **Article 11**

The provisions of the OIC Charter and working regulations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference shall apply to all cases not covered by this regulation or by the organizational and administrative rules, or by the human and financial resources procedure adopted by the Council.

### **Ratification**

#### **Article 12**

1. The Statute shall be adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC, and shall be submitted to Member States for signature and ratification.
2. The instruments of ratification of this Statute shall be deposited at the General Secretariat of the OIC and the Statute shall enter into force on the day following the ratification of fifteen (15) Member States of the OIC.

### **Amendment**

#### **Article 13**

The Council may consider proposal for amendments to the Statute on the basis of the request of a Member State, provided that a two-third majority of Member States agrees with the proposal, which shall be presented to the next meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers thereafter, for adoption.

## **Withdrawal**

### **Article 14**

1. Any Member State shall have the right to withdraw from the Organization through a notice directed to the Executive Director one year before its withdrawal and conveyed to all Member States.
2. The State seeking withdrawal shall meet its financial obligations up to the end of the financial year in which it presents its withdrawal request, and shall pay to the Organization all other financial obligations it owes.

## **Working Languages**

### **Article 15**

The working languages of the Organization shall be Arabic, English and French and are the languages of this Statute and shall all be legally binding.

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