



Report the First Meeting of OIC Water Council

Istanbul, Turkey

16 November 2017

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the Third Islamic Conference of Water Ministers (ICWM) held in Istanbul, Turkey on 17-19 May 2016 to establish the OIC Water Council, the First Meeting of the OIC Water Council was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 16 November 2017. The meeting was attended by Ministers and high level delegations from Members of the OIC Water Council: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda. The Meeting was also attended by the OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions namely: The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISECO) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) as well as observer institutions: the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWARDAM), and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). The list of participants is attached hereto as **Annex-I**.
 2. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroglu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.
 3. The Meeting begun by observing one minute of silence and prayer for the victims of the earthquake that hit the border areas of Iraq and Iran on 13 November 2017.

II. Opening

4. In his opening remarks, the Chairman welcomed the participants to the Republic of Turkey and commended their efforts as regards cooperation in the field of Water. He underscored the need for cooperation; mutual love and respect in the spirit of Islamic solidarity. He wished the participants fruitful deliberations.
 5. The representative of the OIC General Secretariat, H.E. Amb. Muhammad Naeem Khan, Assistant Secretary General (Science & Technology) called for strengthening of intra-OIC cooperation in the field of water so as to alleviate adverse effects of water and maximize its benefits. He reassured that OIC General Secretariat and relevant OIC institutions will continue to widen the scope of their programmes and activities in the field of water in accordance with the priorities to be defined by the Member States.

III. Election of the Bureau

6. The Meeting unanimously elected the Bureau as follow:

Chairman: Republic of Turkey

Vice Chairman: Arab Republic of Egypt
Vice Chairman Federal Republic of Nigeria
Rapporteur: People's Republic of Bangladesh

IV. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

7. The agenda and Programme of Work for the meeting were adopted by consensus and are attached hereto as **Annex-II & Annex-III** respectively.

V. Presentation by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs in the Republic of Turkey

8. Mr. Akif Özkaldı, Undersecretary, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Republic of Turkey made a presentation on “Water Aid Perspective of Turkish Government”. He mentioned that Government of Turkey is carrying out a number of activities in water sector in different countries such as Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Burkina Faso and Niger. The activities inter-alia include borehole drilling; hydro geological investigation; granting of well drilling machines and equipment; construction of dams; identification of water needs in different settlements and training and capacity building programs. The activities included. The presentation is attached hereto as **Annex- IV**.

VI. Presentation by SESRIC

9. Mr. Fadil Farsin made a presentation on the role of SESRIC in the implementation of the OIC Water Vision within the framework of its mandate. He highlighted some of the activities that SESRIC has carried out including establishment and management of OIC Water Portal; compilation of a roster of experts in the field of water within the OIC Member States; carrying out capacity building programmes; and publication of OIC Water Reports. SESRIC presentation is attached hereto as **Annex- V**.

VII. Statements by Heads of delegation

10. The Heads of delegation of Uganda, Iraq, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Guinea, Egypt, Iran, Azerbaijan, Tunisia, Turkey and Nigeria delivered their statements. In their statements, the Heads of Delegation shared the experiences and challenges faced by their countries in water resources management. They all underscored the need for intra-OIC cooperation for optimum use of water in OIC Member States.

VIII. Consideration and adoption of the proposed Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision

11. The meeting considered the proposed Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision. The members commended the quality of the document and thanked the OIC General Secretariat and the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) for the efforts made in preparing the Plan. The Members discussed all provisions of the implantation plan in detail and proposed certain amendments which were duly incorporated. The meeting approved the updated implementation plan which is attached hereto as **Annex-VI**.

VIII. Date and Venue of the 2nd Meeting of OIC Water Council

12. The representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt conveyed his country's offer to host the Second Meeting of the OIC Water Council on a date to be agreed upon through appropriate channels.

IX. Any Other Business

13. Under this agenda item, H.E. Mr. Reza Ardakanian, Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran explained the ways through which the OIC Member States may contribute to the effective implementation of the UN resolution on water issues.

X. Vote of Thanks

14. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of Turkey through the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey for the warm hospitality extended to the participants and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

Istanbul, 16 November 2017