CONCLUSIONS

OF

THE FIRST MEETING OF LABOUR MINISTERS OF OIC MEMBER STATES, ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2011

The General Secretariat of Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, organized the First Meeting of Labour Ministers of OIC Member States at the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) in Istanbul, Turkey, on 10 September 2011, on the sidelines of the 19th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, which took place in Istanbul, Turkey, on 11-15 September 2011.

2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Adel Bin Muhammad Bin Fakeih, Minister of Labour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and attended by Ministers and High-Level Officials from OIC Member States, as well as specialized regional and international organizations (list of participants is attached hereto as Annex).

3. In his opening address, the Chairman expressed the desire to share his country's experiences, particularly its recent national initiatives on aiding job seekers.

4. On his part, H.E. Mr.Faruk Celik, Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, called for pro-active and concerted intra-OIC actions towards improving working conditions of the labour force in a rapidly globalizing world.

5. In his keynote address, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the OIC Secretary General urged Member States to actively identify with OIC Programmes on Poverty Alleviation, Agriculture, Rural Development and Social Safety Nets, the Role of Private Sector, Micro-Finance, Youth and Women Empowerment, and the Education for Employment scheme.

6. The Meeting was also addressed by Messrs. Assane Diop, Executive Director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and Errol Frank Stoove, President of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), respectively.

Presentations

7. The main presentations at the Meeting were delivered by: 1) Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for the Islamic Countries (SESRIC) on the theme "State of Occupational Safety and Health in OIC Member States"; and 2) Islamic

Development Bank (IDB) on "Addressing Unemployment in the OIC Member States" and "Education for Employment Scheme".

8. The meeting listened to various interventions by the delegations of Afghanistan, Algeria Egypt, Comoros, Malaysia, Palestine and Senegal.

Conclusions

9. Following the above-mentioned presentations and interventions, the Meeting reached the following conclusions:

(i) Welcoming the convening of the First Meeting of Ministers of Labour in OIC Member States on the sidelines of 19th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Istanbul, Turkey, the Meeting saw the need for holding meetings of OIC Ministers of Labour on a regular basis, in order to exchange views and coordinate policies on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in particular, and social development, in general;

(ii) Promoting vocational education and training programmes in order to enhance the productivity of labour. It, therefore, commended the programmes undertaken by SESRIC and IDB towards addressing the contemporary problems of skills mismatch and inadequate capacity in OIC Member States;

(iii) The need for creating a global partnership to address unemployment and expressed commitment to scale up OIC collaboration with its international partners, including ILO and ISSA on OHS issues and social protection;

(iv) Welcoming SESRIC's initiative on establishing an OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) that aims at establishing closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge and experience; and at conducting joint research projects and training programmes among the relevant institutions in the area of Occupational Safety and Health in OIC Member States;

(v) Taking note of the proposal by Afghanistan to host the next World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Kabul in 2014.

Vote of Thanks

10. The Meeting expressed appreciation to H.E. Mr. Adel Bin Muhammad Bin Fakeih, Minister of Labour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E.Mr.Faruk Celik, the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Turkey and H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the OIC Secretary General, for their patronage and for their invaluable contributions to the success of the meeting. The Meeting also thanked the Director General and staff of the IRCICA for their warm reception and generous hospitality.

Made in Istanbul, Turkey **10 September 2011**